



Terms of Reference (ToRs) of the GCOS CH Steering Committee

Pursuant to the adoption of the GCOS CH Strategy 2017-2026 (hereafter “Strategy”) by the Direction Board of MeteoSwiss, a GCOS CH Steering Committee (hereafter “StC”) is established.

These ToRs for the StC are effective from the date of adoption of the Strategy. The ToRs shall be revised after a maximum of ten years. Changes to the ToRs require the approval of the Direction Board of MeteoSwiss.

Role and Purpose

The StC is a permanent body. It is the steering body for all activities under the GCOS CH Program.

The StC is independent of the operational tasks of MeteoSwiss and is supported by the Swiss GCOS Office, which serves as its secretariat. It interacts with the Swiss GCOS partner institutions through its participation in the annual National GCOS Roundtable (see Annex).

The StC with the support of the Swiss GCOS Office takes following responsibilities:

- Monitors and reviews the progress made in the implementation of the Strategy, and provides guidance concerning its implementation (yearly cycle);
- Takes into account new and emerging climate science and technologies in support of GCOS CH;
- Optimizes the use of the available financial resources based on the Strategy thus ensuring maximum benefit of the GCOS CH program to climate science and society;
- Defines and regularly reviews a transparent and coherent set of criteria for the selection of projects to be supported through the GCOS CH program;
- Taking into account the Strategy, selects projects to be supported through the GCOS CH program;
- As appropriate, makes high-level recommendations to the attention of key decision makers concerning the evolution of the GCOS CH program, in particular its scope and the use of the financial resources;
- Promotes the implementation of the Strategy with other national and international activities, seeking synergies and avoiding duplications;
- Decides on updates of the Strategy and is responsible for its review.

The StC is committed to take decisions in consensus. In case consensus cannot be reached, a 2/3 majority is needed. If necessary, decisions can also be taken by correspondence. Decisions are taken in consultation with MeteoSwiss.

Membership

Candidates declare their membership following an invitation from MeteoSwiss. Through its selection of members, MeteoSwiss ensures that the StC is representative for a wide range of relevant communities, among others atmospheric and terrestrial science, climate modelling, international perspective, policy perspective, and the satellite community.

The StC is composed of a maximum of seven members, whereas each member is independent in her/his function in the StC and does not represent her/his own institution.

One member is designated by StC to serve as its Chairperson. The Chair serves for a four-year term (see “Term” below) and may declare interest in serving for one additional four-year term.

At least one member is designated by the StC to participate in the annual National GCOS Roundtable.

Members are compensated with a lump sum¹ per meeting in addition to expenses for travel and accommodation.

Observers (without the right to vote) may be invited to the StC meetings as deemed necessary by the StC. The Head of the Measurements and Data Department of MeteoSwiss has a permanent observer status, officially representing the Direction Board of MeteoSwiss.

Term

Members serve the StC for a four-year term. Members may declare interest in serving for one additional four-year term.

Meetings

The meetings of the StC are convened by MeteoSwiss and its Swiss GCOS Office. Meetings are held once a year, or on-demand if required by the Chair of the StC.

In-camera sessions can be called by the Chair of StC.

¹ Guideline is Annex 2 to the federal regulation SR 172.010.1

Annex: Setup of GCOS Switzerland

