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Global Geodetic Observing System
Coordinating Board Meeting

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Vienna, Austria

Revisions to Terms-of-Reference

- **Manager of External Relations**
 - Add description of Manager
 - Roles and responsibilities; selection process
- **GGOS Affiliates**
 - Add description of GGOS Affiliate
 - Representation on Consortium, Coordinating Board
- **Science Panel**
 - Add that each Focus Area nominates 1 candidate
 - Corrects omission to ToR that were approved in Prague
- **GGOS Inter-Agency Committee**
 - Remove references to GIAC which has been dissolved
 - GIAC has been effectively replaced by the UN Subcommittee on Geodesy
- **UN-GGIM and Subcommittee on Geodesy**
 - Add description as fundamental supporting element of GGOS
- **GGOS Chair**
 - Give in more detail process by which GGOS Chair is selected
 - Consistent with changes to be made to IAG Bylaws

105 **Section 3: GGOS Structure**

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107 **3.1 Overview of Key GGOS Elements**

108 *3.1.1 Structural Elements*

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110 The organizational structure of GGOS is comprised of the following key elements:

111 *GGOS Consortium*—is the collective voice for all GGOS matters. It will meet annually as possible.

112 The elements of **IAG** have the flexibility to determine and designate two representatives to the
113 GGOS Consortium as each (Service, Commission and Inter-Commission Committees, or other
114 entity) decides. The Consortium is to be comprised of the Chairs of IAG Services and the
115 Directors of the Service’s central offices or Central Bureaus; Presidents and Vice-Presidents of
116 IAG Commissions, Inter-Commission Committees, and other entities essential to GGOS as
117 determined by the Consortium. The GGOS Consortium is the nominating and electing body of
118 elected positions on the GGOS Coordinating Board as noted below. The Chair of GGOS shall act
119 as the Chair of the GGOS Consortium.

120 *GGOS Coordinating Board*—is the central oversight and decision-making body of GGOS, and
121 represents the IAG Services, Commissions, Inter-Commission Committees, and other entities.
122 For a comprehensive list of represented entities, see below.

123 *GGOS Executive Committee*—serves at the direction of the Coordinating Board to accomplish
124 day-to-day activities of GGOS tasks.

125 *GGOS Science Panel*—advises and provides recommendations relating to the scientific content
126 of the GGOS 2020 book to the Coordinating Board; and represents the geodetic and geoscience
127 community at GGOS meetings.

128 *GGOS Coordinating Office*—coordinates the work within GGOS and supports the Chairs, the
129 Executive Committee and the Coordinating Board; **coordinates GGOS external relations.**

130 *GGOS Bureau of Products and Standards*—tracks, reviews, examines, evaluates all actual
131 standards, constants, resolutions and products adopted by IAG or its components and
132 recommends their further use or proposes the necessary updates.

133 *GGOS Bureau of Networks and Observations*—develops a strategy to design, integrate and
134 maintain the fundamental geodetic infrastructure including communication and data flow;
135 monitors the status of the networks and advocates for implementation of core and other co-
136 located network sites and improved network performance.

137 GGOS Affiliates—are national or regional organizations that coordinate geodetic activities in
138 that nation or region. GGOS Affiliates allow increased participation in GGOS, especially by
139 organizations in under-represented areas of Africa, Asia-Pacific, and South and Central America.

140 GGOS Committees, Working Groups and Focus Areas (formerly known as Themes)—address
141 overarching issues common to several or all IAG components, and are a mechanism to bring the
142 various activities of the Services, Commissions and Inter-Commission Committees together, or
143 to link GGOS to external organizations. Focus Areas are cross-disciplinary
144 focus areas where GGOS contributors work together to address broad

145

146 3.1.2 Fundamental Supporting Elements of GGOS

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148 IAG—promotes scientific cooperation and research in geodesy on a global scale
149 to it through its various research bodies. GGOS is the Observing System

150 IAG Services, Commissions and Inter-Commission Committees—are the
151 elements of GGOS.



152 GGOS Inter-Agency Committee (GIAC)—was a forum that sought to generate a unified voice to
153 communicate with Governments and Intergovernmental organizations (GEO, CEOS, UN bodies)
154 in all matters of global and regional spatial reference frames and geodetic research and
155 applications. GIAC was dissolved in August 2016 upon the announcement that the United
156 Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM)
157 Working Group on the Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF) would be elevated to a
158 permanent Subcommittee of the UN-GGIM.

159 United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-
160 GGIM)—led by United Nations Member States, UN-GGIM aims to address global challenges
161 regarding the use of geospatial information and to serve as a body for global policymaking in the
162 field of geospatial information management.

163 UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy (SCG)—provides an intergovernmental forum for
164 cooperation and exchange of dialogue on issues relating to the maintenance, sustainability and
165 enhancement of the Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF).

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167 **3.2 Details of the Structure of GGOS**

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169 **3.2.1. GGOS Consortium**

170 The GGOS Consortium is the voice and essentially the large steering committee of GGOS. It
171 reviews GGOS progress and activities and nominates and votes for the candidates for the
172 elected positions on the GGOS Coordinating Board.

173 The GGOS Consortium is comprised of two designated representatives from each IAG
174 component and one representative from each GGOS Affiliate. The Chair of an IAG Service
175 Governing or Directing Board, and the Director of the Central Bureau or Coordinating Office, as
176 well as Commission and Inter-Commission Committee Presidents and Vice Presidents and Chairs
177 of GGOS Affiliates may be those designated members. However, no person may represent two
178 or more components, and no one may have more than one vote. The presiding Chair of GGOS is
179 ex-officio the Chair of the Consortium. GGOS Consortium decisions are based on consensus.
180 Decisions requiring a vote are decided by simple majority of the votes cast. The quorum is met
181 when at least fifty percent of members are present, but electronic voting is acceptable provided
182 a quorum responds.

183 The Consortium is the electing body for the GGOS Coordinating Board. The Consortium will
184 meet at least once a year. Observers may participate in meetings of the Consortium at the
185 discretion of the Chair.

186 **3.2.2 GGOS Coordinating Board**

187 The Coordinating Board (CB) is the decision making body of GGOS. Decisions are based upon
188 consensus, whenever possible. Decisions requiring a vote are decided by simple majority of the
189 votes cast. The quorum for a valid vote is participation of fifty percent of the voting members of
190 the Coordinating Board. Votes may be held in person at meetings, or by appropriate electronic
191 means at the discretion of the GGOS Executive Committee. The Coordinating Board will meet at
192 least once yearly, although twice yearly is preferable. Observers may participate in meetings of
193 the Coordinating Board at the discretion of the Chair.

194 **Coordinating Board Members**

195 **Voting members:**

196		
197	GGOS Chair (votes in case of a tie)	1
198		
199	GGOS Vice-Chair	1
200		
201	GGOS Science Panel Chair (ex-officio)	1
202		
203	GGOS Coordinating Office Director (ex-officio)	1

204		
205	GGOS Manager of External Relations (ex-officio)	1
206		
207	GGOS Bureau Directors (ex-officio)	2
208		
209	GGOS Affiliate Representatives (elected by the GGOS Affiliates)	2
210		
211	IAG President or designated representative (ex-officio)	1
212		
213	IAG Service Representatives (elected by the Consortium)	4
214		
215	IAG Commission and Inter-Commission Committee	
216	Representatives (elected by the Consortium)	2
217		
218	Members-at-Large (elected by the GGOS CB)	3
219		
220	Total Voting Members	19
221		
222	Non-voting members:	
223	GGOS Committee and Working Group Chairs (ex-officio)	6
224	GGOS Focus Area Leads (ex-officio)	4
225	GGOS Web and Social Media Manager (ex-officio)	1
226	Immediate Past Chair of GGOS (ex officio)	1
227	Total Non-Voting Members	12
228		
229	Total membership of Coordinating Board	19 Voting Members
230		12 Non-Voting Members
231		31 Total members

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Removed:

(1) "Representative of the GIAC (ex-officio) 1"

(2) "Approved observers may also participate at the discretion of the Chair" (this was moved to end of paragraphs on Consortium and Coordinating Board).

3/11/18 8:57 AM

Post

the IAG Bylaws [IAG Bylaw
GGOS Chair.

committee in consultation

236 *Members-at-Large*

237 Members-at-Large are invited to join the Coordinating Board in order to provide balance in
238 representation of geographical regions or unique capabilities. The Chair, with the assistance of
239 the Coordinating Office, appoints an Election Committee to organize the voting process and to
240 ensure availability of the nominated candidates. The Election Committee then presents the final
241 list of Members-at-Large candidates to the CB for a vote.

242 *Appointment of the Chair and Election of Coordinating Board Members*

243 The process for elections to the GGOS Coordinating Board will follow the four-year IAG General
244 Assembly, which takes place during the IUGG General Assembly (see IAG Bylaws for more
245 detail). Candidates nominated to serve on the Coordinating Board as IAG Service, Commission,
246 and Inter-Commission Committee representatives must be members of the GGOS Consortium.
247 The CB elects the Vice-Chair of the GGOS CB by a vote. However, the GGOS Chair is appointed by
248 the IAG Executive Committee in consultation with the GGOS Coordinating Board.

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250 *3.2.3 GGOS Executive Committee*

251 The GGOS Executive Committee (EC) is comprised of the following members:

252	GGOS Chair	1
253	GGOS Vice-Chair	1
254	GGOS Coordinating Office Director	1
255	GGOS Manager of External Relations	1
256	GGOS Bureau Directors	2
257	Voting Members of the CB selected for EC membership	2
258		
259	Total	8

260

261 Every other year, the GGOS Chair submits
262 member spaces to the CB for approval
263 order to be nominated to the EC.

264 The Immediate Past Chair of GGOS, the

265 IAG or his designated representative are all permanently invited guests at meetings of the

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Removed: "The GGOS Chair may nominate an EC member to serve as primary GGOS representative to all GGOS stakeholders, including but not limited to: IAG and its Services, CEOS, GEO, space agencies, the United Nations, university partners, and national mapping agencies. This position will be filled by the GGOS Vice-Chair or other EC member, depending on Chair nomination and CB approval. A secondary or stakeholder-specific GGOS representative may also be nominated, if necessary."

266 Executive Committee. Other observers may be invited to attend EC meetings (or
267 teleconferences) as needed.

268

269 3.2.4 GGOS Science Panel

270 The GGOS Science Panel is an independent and multi-disciplinary advisory board that provides
271 scientific support and guidance to the GGOS steering and coordination entities as requested.
272 This support may include organization of relevant scientific sessions at conferences, workshops,
273 and other events.

274 The IAG Commissions and Inter-Commission Committees each nominate two candidates and the
275 GGOS Focus Areas each nominate one candidate to the Science Panel subject to approval by the
276 CB. The CB may appoint additional Members-at-Large to the Science Panel in order to provide
277 balance in representation of geographical regions or unique capabilities. The immediate past
278 Chair of the Science Panel is a Member of the Science Panel.

279 The Science Panel will elect its own Chair to be approved by the CB.



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282 Removed: "IAG Services, Commissions and Inter-Commission Committees GGOS works
283 with these IAG components to provide the geodetic infrastructure necessary for monitoring
284 the Earth system and global change research. GGOS respects the bylaws and terms of
285 reference for these essential components. GGOS is built on the existing IAG Services and
286 their products. GGOS is not taking over tasks of the existing, and well working IAG
Services. GGOS will provide a framework for existing or future Services and strive to ensure
their long-term stability."

Coordinating Board as
committees for longer periods
and approves their charters.
by their Chairs and confirmed

287 Focus Areas are cross-disciplinary and are meant to consider gaps and needed future products.
288 The GGOS CB approves the Focus Areas. The CB appoints Focus Area leads. Focus Areas outline
289 their charter and propose plans to address the work that they will undertake.

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291 3.2.6 GGOS Coordinating Office

292 The GGOS Coordinating Office (CO) performs the day-to-day activities in support of GGOS, the
293 Executive Committee, the Coordinating Board, and the Science Panel, and ensures coordination
294 of the activities of the various components. The CO ensures information flow, maintains
295 documentation of the GGOS activities, and manages specific assistance functions that enhance
296 the coordination across all areas of GGOS, including inter-services coordination and support for
297 workshops. The CO in its long-term coordination role ensures that the GGOS components
298 contribute to GGOS in a consistent and continuous manner. The CO also maintains, manages,
299 and coordinates the GGOS web presence and outreach.

300 The position of Manager of External Relations resides within the Coordinating Office. The GGOS
301 Manager of External Relations coordinates GGOS engagement with external organizations such
302 as the Group on Earth Observations (GEO), the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites
303 (CEOS), and the International Council for Science (ICSU) World Data System (WDS). The CB elects
304 the Manager of External Relations by a vote.

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306 3.2.7 Bureau of Products and Standards

307 The Bureau of Products and Standards keeps track of the strict observations of adopted geodetic
308 standards, standardized units, fundamental physical constants, resolutions and conventions in
309 all official products provided by the geodetic community. It reviews, examines and evaluates all
310 actual standards, constants, resolutions and conventions adopted by ICSU, IUGG, IAU, IAG and
311 its components including IERS, and recommends further use or proposes the necessary updates.
312 It identifies eventual gaps in standards and products, and initiates steps to close them with, e.g.,
313 resolutions by the IUGG and/or IAG Councils.

314

315 3.2.8 Bureau of Networks and Observations

316 The Bureau of Networks and Observations develops a strategy
317 the fundamental infrastructure in a sustainable way to satisfy
318 requirements identified by the GGOS Science Panel. The Bureau
319 of core and other co-located network sites to satisfy GGOS re-
320 state of the networks and projects future status, and supports
321 critical for the development of data products essential to GGOS. Primary emphasis must be on
322 sustaining the infrastructure needed to maintain the evolving global reference frames, while at
323 the same time ensuring the broader support of the scientific applications of the collected data.
324 Coordinating and implementing the GGOS co-located station network is a key focus for 2010-
325 2020.

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327 3.2.9 GGOS Affiliates

328 A GGOS Affiliate is a national or regional organization that coordinates geodetic activities in that
329 nation or region. GGOS Affiliates provide a forum for multi-technique, space-geodetic
330 discussions, work to improve the quality of space-geodetic observations, and encourages the
331 different agencies in that nation or region that own, operate, and maintain the space-geodetic
332 infrastructure there to collaborate with each other. To become a GGOS Affiliate, interested
333 organizations submit an application to GGOS which is approved by the GGOS CB by a vote.

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