

*For decision by the  
GOOS Steering Committee intersessional meeting 28 October 2022*

Following GOOS SC 11 Decision 1, proposed Terms of Reference (see Annex) and an indicative timeline of work (below) for a Task Team to evolve GOOS governance are submitted for approval by the Steering Committee.

<b>WHAT</b>	<b>WHEN</b>	<b>WHO</b>
ToR approved by the GOOS SC	28 October 2022	GOOS SC
Publicize the Call (including Circular letters)	4 November 2022	Secretariat
<b>Call for Candidates open: 4 November 2022 - 5 January 2023</b>		
Evaluation of 10 external candidates	2nd week of January 2023	TT on Governance Process
List of external candidates sent to co-sponsors for approval	15 January 2023	Secretariat
4 members nominated by GOOS SC and approval of final list (10+4)	15 January 2023	GOOS SC
<b>The TT can start at the end of January 2023</b>		

## Annex

# Terms of Reference of a TT to Evolve GOOS Governance

### ***Introduction***

*Championing effective governance for GOOS is one of the Strategic Objectives adopted in the GOOS 2030 Strategy. In the lead-up to OceanObs'19 GOOS held a governance workshop and led a session at OO'19 on governance which requested GOOS to continue on this work in line with our Strategy. In 2020, GOOS commissioned a report by consultant Neville Smith on the support structures for sustained ocean observing systems, including but not limited to support for the GOOS core team components. The GOOS Steering Committee in its first session in 2021 considered the report and decided to set up a small team among stakeholders to guide the initial steps in a process of change. This team met 4 times remotely to define a process for a future Task Team to Evolve GOOS Governance. This document is the outcome of those meetings and describes the Terms of Reference for the Evolve GOOS Governance Task Team.*

### ***Purpose***

The Evolve GOOS Governance Task Team will come up with recommendations for evolving the governance of GOOS, such that following these recommendations will lead to an improved governance system for GOOS, that has broad support across the value chain of the global ocean observing system. The process should involve assessment of potential models for governance and consultation with key stakeholders, including GOOS's four sponsors.

### ***Proposed scope for GOOS***

Following [GOOS SC 11 Decision 1](#), the scope of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) *"is focused on ocean observations, data and metadata flow - that is mainly managed by observers - and the strategic coordination with operational ocean forecasting systems, from requirement setting and the taking of observations, to delivery of data, to data management systems, and the regular assessment of the observing system against requirements. The scope includes maintaining, growing and developing the appropriate connections to enable a fully integrated and sustained ocean observing system, at national, regional and global scales, as envisioned in the Global Ocean Observing System 2030 Strategy. This could include connection to end users and other partners in the observational 'value chain'\* for co-design, assessment, and evolution of a fit for purpose ocean observing system. The ultimate goal is to serve users across climate, weather and hazard warnings, blue economy, and ocean health, increasingly with a focus on coastal areas and regional seas"*.

The Evolve GOOS Governance Task Team can use the scope outlined above, as a starting point, but are free to reassess this scope in light of discussions with stakeholders and partners.

*\* from execution of observations, through forecasting, assessment, and data management, to service and product delivery to users*



## **Activities**

The task team will:

- **Explore governance function and strategic aim of the governance** and define the principles of the future GOOS governance.
- **Discuss potential models, deciding on a small selection of governance options for GOOS**
- **Review the models with key GOOS stakeholders**, including the four GOOS sponsors, implementers and funders of GOOS, and evaluate the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of these potential models
- **Create recommendations for evolving GOOS Governance**, with a clear rationale for the path chosen, implications for GOOS structure, and how GOOS can assess the success of the evolved Governance

The work of the TT will be overseen by GOOS co-sponsors, who should agree with the final recommendations provided by the TT.

## **Membership**

The task team will have 14 members: 4 members from GOOS Steering Committee and 10 members from the wider GOOS community, selected through an open call.

Membership should ensure geographical and gender balance, as well as diversity across the value chain.

The team will select its chair, with preference for one independent of GOOS.

## **Expertise required**

*E.g. Understanding of ocean observations and needs, ocean policy, and ocean services.*

## **Stakeholders**

The groups of stakeholders and GOOS related communities that should be consulted during the process of defining a new governance for GOOS should include:

- The four GOOS Sponsors (IOC, WMO, UNEP, ISC)
- Leadership of national, regional, institutional ocean observing systems
- GOOS Regional Alliances (GRAs)
- Major (intermediary) users of ocean data, those that supply end users with services, e.g., ECMWF, WMO SERCOM, CMEMS, CBD, WoD, NWP, Hydrographic offices/Navy
- Leadership of GOOS components (GOOS panels, OCG, ETOOFS...)
- Key partners in data management, and modeling, assessments, product provision, e.g., IODE, OceanPredict, WMO INFCOM
- Other key Partners: Satellite Community (e.g CEOS); POGO; GEO
- Small Island Developing States (SIDS)
- ECOP (Early Career Ocean Professionals)
- Non-professional, community science
- Coastal communities in Global South

## ***Budget***

The team will require support with governance expertise, and a call for a consultant to support the work of the team and the stakeholder consultation will be issued by the GOOS Office.

## ***Duration***

Recommendations to the co-sponsors of GCOS to be completed by Q4 2024, to be considered by their governing bodies with a view to adopting mutually compatible decisions on GOOS.

## ***Modalities of work***

- At least one face-to-face meeting
- By correspondence
- By tele/video conference (expected frequency: bimonthly)

## ***Expected outputs to be delivered to the IOC, WMO, ISC and UNEP governing bodies***

- Preliminary report on progress to GOOS SC: Q4 2023
- Recommendations to the co-sponsors of GOOS to be completed by Q4 2024