

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space Scientific and Technical Subcommittee 61st Session

Agenda Item 9: “Space Weather”, January-February 2024

Statement by Dr. Jesse Andries from WMO, on behalf of the WMO, COSPAR and ISES

Honorable Chair, Distinguished Delegates,

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to report on progress in international coordination and collaboration on global space weather services. I am presenting the following report on behalf of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) and the International Space Environment Service (ISES).

The Final Report of the Expert Group on Space Weather ([A/AC.105/C.1/L.401](#)), adopted by the Subcommittee at its 59th Session and endorsed by the Committee at its 65th Session in 2022, contained a number of recommendations. Recommendation 1 from the Final Report called for WMO, COSPAR and ISES to lead efforts to improve the global coordination of space weather activities in consultation and collaboration with other relevant actors and international organizations, including COPUOS. By a letter from UNOOSA dated 1st July 2022 the three organizations were invited to act on that Recommendation. At the STSC 60th Session in 2023, COSPAR provided an update and reported on the drafting of the ‘WMO-ISES-COSPAR Coimbra Declaration’, an international partnership between the three organizations to take an active role in advancing international coordination towards the goal of improved international space weather capabilities. It is my pleasure to provide Member States with a further update on these collaboration activities.

Following the STSC 60th Session, WMO, ISES and COSPAR endorsed and published the above mentioned ‘[Coimbra Declaration](#)’, and, as was announced in last year’s report, proceeded with bringing together several other international organizations engaged in space weather at an International Space Weather Coordination Forum (ISWCF). The Forum was held at WMO, Geneva on the 17th November 2023. The aim was to explore pathways to increased coordination of activities, reducing duplication of effort, and to identify areas where coordination is lacking. The following items were discussed at the Forum:

1. Mapping of the complex space weather landscape of international organizations involved in the space weather endeavor, in order to help in identifying the relevant international organizations to consult or partner up with and in particular in order to help in identifying gaps in coordination;

2. The need for an International Agency Space Weather Coordination Group (IASWCG), a forum where agencies that fund space weather research missions could come together to share their plans and coordinate research missions relevant to space weather;
3. The benefits of umbrella organizations that in strategic space weather discussions advocate the interests of institutes and organizations maintaining ground-based observing networks;
4. Approaches in engagement with end-users;
5. Cross-cutting coordination themes such as measurement requirements, standards and interoperability, as well as how top-down and bottom-up activities can interface more effectively.

Following the ISWCF, general consensus was expressed by the participants on a 'Statement of Intent' outlining the intent of participants to work together in the future on a number of focus areas.

A Summary of the ISWCF and the 'Statement of Intent' is being published on the websites of the three organizations.

WMO, COSPAR and ISES aim to build on the success of the ISWCF through carrying out joint activities and forging and encouraging stronger and more active partnerships with other international space weather actors. The organizations envision a way forward to provide better services by aligning activities and preventing duplication of effort. Through improved coordination, we aim to enhance the scientific knowledge of the space environment and increase global resilience and readiness against the challenge of space weather.

In closing, Chair, the WMO-ISES-COSPAR partners would welcome any feedback from COPUOS Member States on the progress to date. We further welcome the active participation of Member States in developing an optimal and globally harmonized strategy to mitigating the adverse impacts from space weather.

Thank you, Chair.