**Minutes V1.0**

**276th CEOS SECRETARIAT MEETING**

Thursday 18 February 2021

Chaired by NASA

**Participants**

**CEO:** Marie-Claire Greening

**CNES:** Pierric Ferrier

**ESA:** Ivan Petiteville

**EUMETSAT:** Robert Husband

**GEO SEC:** Doug Cripe

**ISRO:** Raj Kumar

**JAXA:** Osamu Ochiai, Yukio Haruyama, Koji Akiyama

**NASA:** Sandra Cauffman (Chair), Christine Bognar, Andy Mitchell, George Dyke, Matthew Steventon, Andy Masciola

**NOAA:** Kerry Sawyer, Albert DeGarmo

**SIT Chair Team:** Adam Lewis, Andreia Siqueira, Jonathon Ross

**SEO:** Brian Killough, Kim Holloway  
**WGCapD:** Nancy Searby, Lauren Childs, Yasha Moz

**WGClimate:** Albrecht von Bargen, Jeff Privette

**WGCV:**  Akihiko Kuze, Philippe Goryl

**WGDisasters:** David Green, Dave Borges, Pierric Ferrier

**WGISS:** Robert Woodcock

1. **Welcome and Introductions, Review of Agenda**

Sandra Cauffman (NASA, CEOS Chair Team) welcomed everyone to SEC-276. She noted the recent email from Selma Cherchali (CNES Principal for CEOS) informing CEOS of the decision by CNES to offer its nomination for the role of 2022 CEOS Chair. Sandra also noted that a number of CEOS Principals have sent very positive responses to CNES upon learning the news.

Sandra thanked JAXA and Yukio Haruyama for publishing the 56th CEOS Newsletter, as well as everyone who contributed articles.

Sandra mentioned various topics that would be covered today, including the Feb. 2-3 annual bilateral meeting between CEOS and GEO, progress on the new CEOS Work Plan, and the SIT-36 meeting. Sandra noted that January and February have been a busy time in CEOS, and the SEC-276 meeting agenda reflects that.

Thereafter, the SEC-276 agenda was accepted without any changes.

1. **Action Status**

Christine Bognar (NASA, CEOS Chair Team) reviewed the status of pending SEC and CEOS Plenary actions and requested updates from the actionees. The following updates were noted:

**272-02:** *CEOS Executive Officer to convene a small group (led by the CEO, and including Brian Killough (SEO), and Jonathon Ross (SIT Chair Team)) to draft a process and policy on the use of logos in CEOS.*

This document was provided in advance of SEC-276 as an attachment to the meeting agenda. It provides guidelines for the use of the CEOS logo, tagline, mission statement, etc. Further reporting will be given during today’s SEO report.

**274-01:** *CEOS Chair Team and CEO to review the CEOS Governance and Processes document, External Request Process Paper and the New Initiatives Process Paper to understand the changes necessary to reflect the changes made to the CEO Terms of Reference.*

Christine Bognar (NASA, CEOS Chair Team) noted that the *CEOS Governance and Processes Document* was reviewed and only needed minor updates. The revised document was distributed previously by Marie-Claire Greening (CEOS Executive Officer), and attached with the agenda for this meeting. Christine also thanked Kerry Sawyer (NOAA) for a recent email with additional feedback.

Christine noted that upon review of the *CEOS Governance and Processes Document*, which was done in response to the 2020 update of the *CEOS Executive Officer (CEO) Terms of Reference*, opportunities were identified to include wording from the revised *CEO Terms of Reference* on the possibility of having a contractor as CEOS Executive Officer. The CEOS website URL references were updated; the *Ad Hoc* Team list was updated to include COAST; and the CEOS Associate member list was updated with the addition of Polska Agencja Kosmiczna (POLSA).

The *CEOS External Request Process Paper* and the *CEOS New Initiatives Process Paper* were also reviewed, and the assessment is that they do not need updating.

There was a short discussion about the CEOS website URL, which was previously an “http” and is now a more secure “https”. Brian Killough offered to check with his SEO team to confirm that people using the previous link are routed to the new “https” URL.

This action will remain open pending a further revision of the document with updates to the membership listing.

**275-03:** *Ivan Petiteville to provide a sample of the proposed CEOS MIM Database quarterly summary report.*

Christine Bognar (NASA, CEOS Chair Team) thanked Ivan Petiteville (ESA) for the sample CEOS MIM Database quarterly report that he provided via the SEC mailing list. Sandra Cauffman (NASA, CEOS Chair Team) also thanked Ivan and ESA for the idea and complimented them on the sample report.

The CEOS Chair Team asked if future quarterly reports will be prepared in consultation with the MIM Database points of contact at the different space agencies. Ivan said “yes”.

There was also a suggestion regarding the choice of words when a mission’s launch readiness date changes (use ‘changed’ rather than ‘slipped’). Ivan said that future MIM Database quarterly reports will use the wording and inputs provided by the MIM Database points of contact at the space agencies.

SEC Agencies were asked to ensure the MIM Database team has up-to-date contact details for their agencies for both the annual MIM survey, and the compilation of future MIM Database quarterly reports.

**CEOS-34-14:** *The newly endorsed Coastal Observations, Applications, Services, and Tools (COAST) Ad Hoc Team to provide final Terms of Reference (in accordance with CEOS Governance and Processes) and a Phase 2 Implementation Plan.*

Raj Kumar (ISRO) noted that the COAST *Ad Hoc* Team Terms of Reference were submitted to the CEOS Chair on December 14. The Phase 2A Implementation Plan was delayed from December, but has now been submitted (10 days ago).

**CEOS-34-17:** *CEOS Secretariat, with representatives of the COVID-19 initiatives, to consider the options and interest in building upon the multilateral COVID-19 activities (including the ESA-NASA-JAXA Tri-Agency Dashboard), and the potential formation of a CEOS activity on EO and COVID-19.*

Christine Bognar noted that this topic was discussed at the 2020 CEOS Plenary and at the CEOS-GEO bilateral meeting. The consensus from these discussions is that there is value in joint dashboards, and that further efforts of this kind are internal considerations and decisions for the agencies involved.

Doug Cripe (GEO Secretariat) reported that Gilberto Camara (GEO Secretariat Director) is generally supportive of extending dashboard activities to other areas and has suggested that further discussions could be explored at some point in the future.

It was agreed that this action can now be closed.

1. **2021 CEOS Chair Theme Implementation Plan**

Sandra Cauffman (NASA, CEOS Chair Team) noted:

* The CEOS Chair Team’s two-page Implementation Plan was distributed with deliverables that the CEOS Chair Team considers achievable this year under the theme of *“Space-based Earth Observation Data for Open Science and Decision Support”.* It was distributed to CEOS Agencies for review and feedback by February 11.
* The CEOS Chair Team appreciates the feedback received to date. These inputs are now being incorporated and an update will be distributed shortly.

Brian Killough (NASA, CEOS Chair Team) said that the edits should be completed soon and an updated document is expected to be distributed to all CEOS Agencies by next week.

Christine Bognar (NASA, CEOS Chair Team) thanked NOAA, USGS, ESA, and members from the VCs and WGs, in particular, for their input.

1. **SIT Chair Report**

Adam Lewis (GA, SIT Co-Chair) reported:

*IOC and the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development Process*

* The SIT Chair and CEO convened a meeting (February 9) that included representatives of the CEOS Chair Team, COVERAGE and COAST to discuss the way forward. The group agreed to recommend the following model to the SEC:
  + The SIT Co-Chairs nominate Paul DiGiacomo (NOAA, COAST *Ad Hoc* Team Co-Lead) and/or Vardis Tsontos/Jorge Vazquez (CEOS Experts, COVERAGE) as joint CEOS liaison points with the IOC and the UN Decade for Ocean Science process.
  + Although the individuals are involved in leading COAST and COVERAGE, which is beneficial, it is not the teams that are being nominated. The individuals are nominated to provide a whole of CEOS liaison point on the broader topic, and will bring relevant matters back to the broader CEOS community for consultation.
  + This joint approach provides different perspectives and some level of redundancy.
  + The nominated liaison points have the autonomy to manage that relationship, including engaging with IOC to understand what CEOS contributions could be, supporting discussions at SEC when scheduled by the CEOS Chair, etc.
  + They are invited to present on this topic on the agendas for SIT-36, the SIT Technical Workshop, and the CEOS Plenary as appropriate and as needed to secure CEOS Agency support.
  + The CEO liaises with them regularly and provides support (e.g., helps with connections to other parts of the CEOS organization, guidance and advice on CEOS processes, etc.).
  + The SIT Chair provides overall guidance and support.
* The SIT Co-Chairs seek SEC concurrence with this approach, and will, subject to SEC concurrence, seek confirmation from Principals during the SIT-36 meeting.

There were no objections to the suggested approach, and it was agreed to proceed as outlined.

*SIT-36*

* The SIT Co-Chairs thank agencies for their comments on the draft SIT-36 objectives document.
* The SIT Chair Team circulated the draft SIT-36 agenda to SEC on February 10, inviting comments at the SEC-276 meeting. The final deadline for comments from SEC will be February 22, after which an updated draft (with SEC comments addressed) will be sent to the broader CEOS community.
* The SIT Chair Team has reached out to Working Group Chairs and Virtual Constellation Leads asking them to start preparations for the SIT-36 Working Group and Virtual Constellation Showcase session. This is a key opportunity for these teams to engage with Principals and the broader CEOS community. The SIT Chair Team would welcome SEC Agency encouragement of their Chairs/Leads to make the most of this opportunity. The first request is to confirm that the Group/Constellation will present, who will present, and what the focus topic will be. Because of restricted agenda time, we will ask for just one main topic and one slide from the teams.

*2021 SIT Technical Workshop*

* The SIT Chair Team has developed the following concept for the 2021 SIT Technical Workshop and would appreciate SEC comments and concurrence:
  + The 2021 SIT Technical Workshop will be a fully virtual event to take place over an approximately two-week period from September 6 to September 16 inclusive.
  + In light of the substantial ‘meeting fatigue’ issues that have become apparent the ‘SIT Technical Workshop Fortnight’ will be arranged as follows:
    - Week 1 commencing September 6 will be informal time for groups to get together, have discussions and prepare materials on specific topics. It will be largely self-organised by the groups themselves, providing maximum flexibility. A SIT Chair Team representative will dial in for sessions whenever possible but there will be no expectations that others will.
    - Week 2 commencing September 13 will be the formal whole-group sessions focusing on items required for CEOS Plenary. During the week, there will be three 2-2.5 hour sessions held in the usual time slots from September 14-16.

*Carbon & Biomass*

* Work continues on addressing the steps identified on the last call of the AFOLU Roadmap team. In particular, there has been good progress on the test country group thread thanks to USGS/SilvaCarbon.
* The ESA SIT Vice-Chair Team has prepared a first draft of the CEOS Global Stocktake Strategy Paper as the main item for discussion on the next Global Stocktake call scheduled for late February.
* The *Aboveground Woody Biomass Product Validation Good Practices Protocol* will be presented for endorsement at SIT-36.
* The biomass multi-mission calibration and validation group, with representatives from GEDI, ICESat-2, NISAR, ESA BIOMASS, field networks, and the MAAP platform, have submitted a proposal for a coordinated activity to provide refined global biomass and biomass change estimates at jurisdictional level in support of the GST. This will be discussed on the coming AFOLU call and with the Contacts and Principals of the key CEOS Agencies that would be asked to engage and support.

*SDGs*

* The SDG-AHT Future workshop was held on February 11, 2021. The workshop reviewed and discussed the three options for the future of the SDG-AHT presented in the synthesis paper v1.3 [here](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1s9UA3Rlp-S6_2Frw5LWhq1yD1t6Xpu1K/view?usp=sharing).

*ARD*

* The CARD4L SAR Webinars were held on February 1 and 2. The two sessions had around 150 participants and received very positive feedback. The webinar is available for viewing on the CEOS YouTube channel [here](https://youtu.be/Pe-7WXle-EI).

1. **CEOS Executive Officer Report**

Marie-Claire Greening (CEOS Executive Officer) reported:

*CEOS 2021-2023 Work Plan*

* The deadline for receipt of 2021-2023 updates to the CEOS Work Plan was February 12. Thanks go to everyone who submitted their updates on time. Reminders have gone out for delayed responses. Any late submissions will be very gratefully received as soon as possible.
* The aim is to do a first pass over the entire document and generate a first draft of the 2021-2023 Work Plan for final review and substantive comment within the next fortnight, then for virtual approval by the end of February.
* The 2021-2023 update to the Work Plan will be a ‘light touch’ as the 2020-2022 Work Plan was endorsed later in 2020 than originally scheduled due to the COVID-19 global pandemic.

*GEO Programme Board (PB-19) Meeting (January 26-28)*

* Marie-Claire attended PB-19 with Andreia Siqueira (GA, PB Principal) and Amy Parker (CSIRO, PB Alternate).

*CEOS-GEO Bilateral Meeting (February 2-3)*

* A comprehensive table summarising the main discussion points, agreements, actions and considerations that resulted from the bilateral consultative meeting between CEOS and GEO was provided in the written report for SEC-276. Readers are directed to the written report for the details that were shared by Marie-Claire during SEC-276.

Doug Cripe (GEO Secretariat) recalled that the GEO Statement on Open Science is currently out for review by the community. CEOS inputs should be sent to Nancy Searby (NASA, WGCapD Chair) by February 24.

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| **276-01** | Doug Cripe (GEO Secretariat) to send the Word version of the draft GEO Statement on Open Science open science statement to Marie-Claire Greening (CEOS Executive Officer) for distribution to CEOS Agencies. | **COMPLETE**  *CEO distributed the Word version of the draft GEO Statement on Open Science to the CEOS mailing lists on February 19.* |

Doug called attention to a document being developed by the GEO community for the GEO ExCom which will encourage increased engagement to support the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development is not yet elevated to a GEO ‘Engagement Priority’ like climate, SDGs, and disaster risk reduction, but the authors of this report aim to encourage the GEO community’s support, in particular through GEO Blue Planet.

Ivan Petiteville (ESA) and Christine Bognar (NASA, CEOS Chair Team) thanked Marie-Claire for the thorough report from the CEOS-GEO Bilateral meeting. Ivan suggested sending the report to the whole CEOS community. Christine Bognar and Adam Lewis (GA, SIT Co-Chair) supported the suggestion.

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| **276-02** | Marie-Claire Greening (CEOS Executive Officer) to share with all CEOS Agencies the report summarising the main discussion points, agreements, actions and considerations that resulted from the bilateral consultative meeting between CEOS and GEO. | **ASAP** |

1. **Working Group Reports**

**WGDisasters**

David Green (NASA, WGDisasters Chair) reported:

* The WGDisasters Wildfire Pilot Implementation Plan will be shared with the CEOS community for review and feedback in early March. Endorsement of the Pilot will be requested during SIT-36.
* The WGDisasters Landslide Demonstrator Implementation Plan will be shared with the CEOS community for review and feedback in early March. Endorsement of the Demonstrator (i.e., evolution from the Pilot) will be requested during SIT-36.
* WGDisasters is still seeking a new Data Coordination Team (DCT) Lead. Pierric Ferrier (CNES) has led DCT activities. A replacement needs to be identified before Pierric becomes WGDisasters Chair at the 35th CEOS Plenary. SEC Action **274-02** remains open.
* WGDisasters is actively looking to identify its next Vice Chair. Early discussions are being held with some CEOS Agencies, but there is no nomination yet. The position remains open for expressions of interest.
* WGDisasters-15 will be a virtual meeting on March 9-11, 2021.

David also thanked CEOS leadership for the opportunity to participate in the CEOS-GEO bilateral meeting.

Christine Bognar (NASA, CEOS Chair Team) asked if there is anything the SEC can do to help resolve the DCT issue. David welcomed SEC support in raising the importance of the DCT role across CEOS and searching for candidates within their agencies. CEOS Agencies that are experienced in data licensing matters would be particularly well suited for the role.

**WGClimate**

Albrecht von Bargen (DLR, WGClimate Chair) reported:

* The ECV Inventory gap analysis is ongoing. It is expected to be completed in Q2 2021. In parallel, preparations for the ECV Inventory update cycle are underway.
* WGClimate representatives attended a recent UNFCCC Research and Systematic Observation (RSO) teleconference.
* The WGClimate Chair attended the meeting of the organisation committee for the GCOS/EUMETSAT Climate Observation Conference 2021. The conference will occur on October 12-14, 2021.
* WGClimate is maintaining the connection to GCOS and is in close contact regarding the formulation/clarification of space measurement requirements. Some areas have been identified where more information is needed, specifically for space agencies.

**WGISS**

Robert Woodcock (CSIRO, WGISS Chair) reported:

* CEOS Earth Analytics Interoperability Laboratory (EAIL): The CEOS EAIL team (WGISS, CSIRO Australia, CSIRO Chile and the CEOS Systems Engineering Office) have populated the CEOS EAIL with a collection of USGS Landsat Collection 2 and Element 84 Sentinel-2 data across a region spanning states of the East Coast of the USA (Virginia and surrounding states). Sentinel-1 ‘Analysis Ready Data’ from Sinergise will be added shortly. This area was selected as a general use area for training Notebooks and interoperability trials in the use of SpatioTemporal Asset Catalog (STAC) and Cloud Optimised GeoTIFFs made directly available on the Cloud. Support mechanisms and outreach to CEOS projects to use the EAIL are now underway, starting with the identification of regions and sensors of interest. Users are expected to be commencing use of the EAIL in the next few weeks.
* The WGISS Open Search Best Practices document has been updated and circulated for review over the past few weeks. No comments were received, which was unusual. WGISS has sent out another review request round to ensure changes are properly communicated and will report back at WGISS-51 (during which the document is planned to be endorsed).
* WGISS-51 planning is well underway with good responses from presenters on the Cloud Formats special topic and Data Preservation and Stewardship Interest Group. The use of Jupyter Notebooks in Earth observation will also be showcased in the Technology Exploration Interest Group. WGISS is collaborating with WGCapD on a webinar about Jupyter Notebooks.

**WGCapD**

Nancy Searby (NASA, WGCapD Chair) reported:

* WGCapD continues to look for a new incoming Chair and Vice Chair. Consultations are ongoing between CEOS leadership, the WGCapD Chair and CEOS Principals on the next steps in identifying members who might be in a position to take on the Chair and Vice Chair roles starting in October 2021.
* The EOTEC DevNet Overview Paper (CEOS Work Plan Deliverable **CB-20-05**) is ready for review, and was presented for information at the CEOS-GEO bilateral meeting. CEOS will be asked to endorse the two-year pilot, and to commit to supporting WGCapD in its efforts to co-lead and provide Secretariat support for the activity.
* A summary of a capacity building assessment survey was shared with WGCapD members at the recent monthly meeting. A further discussion of key takeaways will take place at the upcoming WGCapD-10 annual meeting (March 1-4, 2021).
* A planning team has prepared a provisional agenda for the WGCapD-10 meeting. The meeting will feature a keynote, panels, working sessions and regional exchanges related to the meeting’s theme of *“Building a Vision for the Next Decade”*. To maximize the time for discussions, most member updates will be submitted in video format prior to the meeting.

*Chair and Vice Chair Vacancy Discussion*

Nancy clarified that Pham Thi Mai Thy (VAST-VNSC, WGCapD Vice Chair) has not yet stepped down, but will not be able to take on the Chair role at the 2021 CEOS Plenary as planned. It would be ideal if a new Vice Chair could join the WGCapD leadership team as soon as possible to allow time for mentoring to ease the transition.

Kerry Sawyer (NOAA) asked what contingencies are in place if no successors are found.

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| **276-03** | SEC Agencies to consider potential candidates for the WGCapD Chair and Vice Chair positions. | **ASAP** |

Christine Bognar (NASA, CEOS Chair Team) noted that the WGs are engaging in succession planning now in advance of the plenary as occurs each year. The Working Group Vice Chair position is a four-year commitment (Vice Chair for two years plus Chair for two years). She also noted that the commitment is made at the CEOS Agency level, rather than by an individual.

David Green (NASA, WGDisasters Chair) expressed his appreciation for the support that WGCapD has provided WGDisasters, noting that both of these WGs have a strong interdependency. He noted that this is likely the case across most of the WGs, and suggested that perhaps other CEOS groups need to consider what contingencies they might be able to provide for any activities that could suffer from a lapse in WGCapD leadership. David will discuss this topic with the WGDisasters team. In addition, David said the WGDisasters will consider what general support they might be able to provide to help others take on WGCapD leadership roles, which could be a daunting task in view of the vast portfolio of activities.

*EOTEC DevNet Overview Paper Discussion*

Nancy discussed the network of networks construct and suggested that the paper probably requires a broader explanation/background at the time of distribution. It was agreed that Marie-Claire Greening (CEOS Executive Officer) and Nancy will coordinate via email to agree on the appropriate distribution of the paper and a way forward for its potential endorsement (e.g., at a future SEC meeting or perhaps via virtual endorsement).

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| **276-04** | Marie-Claire Greening (CEOS Executive Officer) and Nancy Searby (NASA, WGCapD Chair) to coordinate via email to agree the appropriate distribution for the EOTEC DevNet Overview Paper and to agree a plan for its endorsement (e.g., at a future SEC meeting or perhaps via virtual endorsement). | **ASAP** |

**WGCV**

Akihiko Kuze (JAXA, WGCV Chair) reported:

* The *Aboveground Woody Biomass Product Validation Good Practices Protocol* developed by the WGCV LPV subgroup is completing review and will be presented for CEOS endorsement at SIT-36.
* A second Biomass Retrieval Inter-comparison eXperiment (BRIX-2) is planned to undertake intercomparisons of biomass algorithms based on a test dataset and in comparison with ground-truth data. Two workshops are planned. The first workshop (in April) will provide an introduction and the second workshop will focus on discussion of the results. BRIX-2 will be based around the ESA-NASA Multi-Mission Algorithm and Analysis Platform (MAAP).
* An LPV subgroup meeting will be held May 26-27. A WGCV whole-team teleconference is being planned for the week of March 8, primarily to prepare for SIT-36. WGCV-49 is planned for June 29 to July 2 as a virtual meeting, with 2-hour sessions each day).

1. **GEO SEC Report**

Doug Cripe (GEO Secretariat) reported on the GEO Knowledge Hub webinar that will be held on February 24. The webinar will consist of a 1.5-hour look at the platform, followed by three case study presentations on land-use, land-cover classification, GEOGLAM and Sen2Agri, and the GEO Human Planet initiative. There will be time for Q & A after each item and a general discussion afterwards. Registration and further information are available at the [GEO website](https://earthobservations.org/gkh_webinars.php).

Doug also reported that the GEO ExCom will be reviewing the Implementation Plan for Urban Resilience. The GEO ExCom will also consider elevating this topic among GEO’s other global priorities, e.g., Sustainable Development Goals, Climate Action, and Disaster Risk Reduction.

1. **SEO Report**

Brian Killough (NASA, SEO) reported:

* SEC Action **272-02**: *CEOS Executive Officer to convene a small group (led by the CEO, and including Brian Killough (SEO), and Jonathon Ross (SIT Chair Team)) to draft a process and policy on the use of logos in CEOS.*
  + The CEOS Branding Guidelines document was developed by a small team (Brian Killough, Kim Holloway, Jonathon Ross, Christine Bognar, Marie-Claire Greening) and is available for SEC review. This document includes guidelines on the use of the CEOS logo, tagline, mission statement, and link to the website. Sec Agencies are asked to review the document by February 26. A final version will be presented for endorsement at the CEOS SIT-36 meeting (March 23-25). The document was distributed with the SEC-276 meeting agenda.

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| **276-05** | CEOS SEC to provide feedback on the CEOS Branding Guidelines to Brian Killough (NASA, SEO). | **February 26** |

* CEOS Copyright: CEOS does not have a copyright on the CEOS name or its logo. Copyright does not generally protect names, slogans, or titles. If CEOS wanted to obtain a copyright (or alternatively a trademark) for its logo, it would not be possible since CEOS is not a formal entity, such as a non-profit organization. Accordingly, we are forced to continue with ‘business as usual’ regarding the CEOS name and logo. Though this has not been an issue in the past, there is always a risk of an outside group using the CEOS name and logo inappropriately or without approval. The CEOS organization needs to remain vigilant of such possibilities and act accordingly.
* CEOS Website: Primary functionality has been restored following the recent security issues. Full editing and access to the CEOS Document Management System is being restored. Requests for editing should be emailed to Kim Holloway (SEO).

1. **AOB, Next Meeting, and Adjourn**

**CEOS Chair 2022**

Sandra Cauffman (NASA, CEOS Chair Team) noted once again that CEOS is delighted with the CNES nomination for 2022 CEOS Chair and emails have been exchanged on next steps. Sandra thanked CNES for stepping forward. She also thanked Pierric Ferrier (CNES), Ivan Petiteville (ESA), and Raj Kumar (ISRO) for their efforts in support of this outcome. Sandra again noted the positive feedback from CEOS Agencies upon hearing of the nomination.

The CEOS Chair Team proposes a SIT-36 special plenary session for CEOS Principals to formally consider the nomination. The SIT Chair Team has kindly agreed with this approach and there is now a placeholder on the SIT-36 agenda.

Christine Bognar (NASA, CEOS Chair Team) indicated that normally confirmation of the 2022 CEOS Chair nomination would have occurred at the 2020 CEOS Plenary meeting, but the nomination had not yet been offered. The discussion cannot wait until the 2021 CEOS Plenary because this is when NASA will transition the chairmanship to the 2022 CEOS Chair.

Pierric thanked Sandra for the feedback and proposal for a SIT-36 special plenary session. He will communicate these messages to Selma Cherchali (CNES Principal for CEOS).

There were no objections or interventions regarding the recommendation to have a special plenary session at SIT-36, so this will be the approach taken.

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| **276-06** | NASA CEOS Chair Team to extend an invitation to SEC-277 and all SEC meetings leading up to the 2021 CEOS Plenary to the prospective 2022 CEOS Chair team from CNES. | **March 5** |

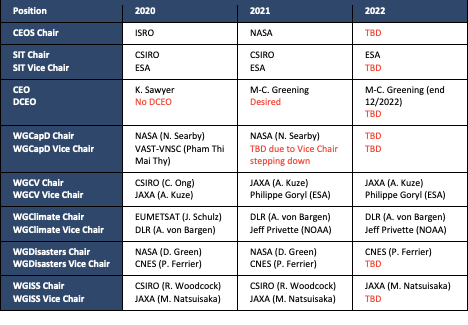
**CEOS Chair 2023**

For 2023, the geographic rotation of the CEOS Chair returns to the Asia-Pacific. Consistent with the CEOS Terms of Reference, a nomination is needed before the 2021 CEOS Plenary.

Osamu Ochiai noted that JAXA has the responsibility as the Asia-Pacific permanent SEC agency to coordinate a nomination. The JAXA team is actively working on this and will keep the SEC informed at future meetings.

**CEOS Leadership Status**

Christine Bognar (NASA, CEOS Chair Team) reviewed the following table:



Marie-Claire Greening’s term as CEOS Executive Officer (CEO) will end on December 31, 2022. The CEOS Chair Team noted there is value in identifying a Deputy CEO (DCEO) to work alongside her and then move into the CEO role at the beginning of 2023.

Christine thanked Raj Kumar (ISRO) for his efforts in seeking a DCEO candidate last year, and noted that there is an open invitation for CEOS Agencies to propose candidates. The NASA CEOS Chair Team will send another email to seek candidates for the DCEO position.

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| **276-07** | NASA CEOS Chair Team to send an email to the CEOS community seeking candidates for the role of Deputy CEOS Executive Officer. | **ASAP** |

It was noted that the SEC earlier discussed the situation in connection with the WGCapD, which is seeking nominees for both, chair and vice chair in time for the 2021 CEOS Plenary.

Christine also noted that the WGDisasters and the WGISS will each engage in normal succession planning to identify their respective nominee for vice chair, and they will let the SEC know if they need help.

**Next Meeting and Adjournment**

Christine Bognar (NASA, CEOS Chair Team) thanked everyone for participating. CEOS SEC-277 will be held on March 18, 2021. The start time for the teleconference will be 7 AM US East.