

**Name or GOOS Component:**

GOOS Regional Alliance Council

**Report submitted by:**

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## Considerations for the GOOS Reform proposal

Draft proposal: <https://oceanexpert.org/document/37899>

### Mission, scope and accountability mechanism

(slides 7 - 10 and 24 - 26)

**What are your concerns regarding the reform proposal on mission, scope and accountability mechanism?**

GRA importance to GOOS in fulfilment of the GOOS mission must be recognized but is missing in aspects of the accountability mechanism description. GRAs are a foundational component of GOOS and should appear throughout the reform documentation as such.

**If you don't agree with the proposal - what is the alternative? Why?**

GRAs appear in the reporting structure diagram but they should be added to the reporting structure document that tracks objectives and targets. A set of key results should be developed that are appropriate for the GRAs, recognizing their uniqueness while also recognizing the value they bring to sustained global ocean observing.

**How do we make it work? What does the implementation look like? (including with respect to your component)**

First step is to ensure GRAs are visible in reform documentation. GRAs and GOOS office can then iterate on a set of key results that support GOOS objectives while also being appropriate and achievable for the GRAs.

### Proposed structural changes nr. 1-5

(slides 11 - 19)

**What are your concerns regarding the reform proposal on the first five structural changes?**

No specific concerns with the first five structural changes.

**If you don't agree with the proposal - what is the alternative? Why?**

**How do we make it work? What does the implementation look like?** (including with respect to your component)

**Proposed structural change: Infrastructure Coordination Group (ICG)**  
(slide 20)

**What are your concerns regarding the reform proposal on the ICG?**

It will be necessary to define what it means for ICG to 'coordinate all ocean observing data providers', and to do so in consultation with GRAs given their role as observers and data providers and also as a conduit for observations and data.

**If you don't agree with the proposal - what is the alternative? Why?**

Consult with the GRA council to define what and how ICG will coordinate efforts guided by GRAs.

**How do we make it work? What does the implementation look like?** (including with respect to your component)

It will be important to have agreement across GOOS components about the coordination role of ICG - what it is and what it is not - to ensure buy-in and alignment.

**Proposed structural change: NFP role and interaction model**  
(slide 21)

**What are your concerns regarding the reform proposal on NFP role and interaction?**

NFPs are designated by MS, and it could be that the designation is not sufficiently aware of GOOS. It's recognized that NFPs are needed for better interaction and communication between GOOS and Member States.

**If you don't agree with the proposal - what is the alternative? Why?**

**How do we make it work? What does the implementation look like?** (including with respect to your component)

Design of Guidelines for NFPs is a priority. This will allow for clear instructions on what is expected and general guidance for working on the objectives mandated by GOOS.

It's a very positive aspect of the reform and needs to be improved to have more benefits from the relationship with MS.

**Proposed structural change: GOOS Regional Alliances**

(slides 22-23)

**How do you see the future role of GRAs in GOOS?**

I see a more energized GRA with better communications with GOOS SC and other GOOS groups. Discussion during the last GRA Forum XII allowed to identify needs, gaps and challenges for the short and medium term.

More integration and collaboration between GRAs and other GOOS components is needed and can be achieved with the correct guidance from GOOS and GRA Council.

**How do we make it work? What does the implementation look like?** (including with respect to your component)

Keeping GRAs under the structure of GOOS will allow to refresh ToR and adapt to the GOOS reform.

GRA Council will have to take the lead in following the actions proposed to make it work.

**Governance**

(slides 27 - 33)

**What are your concerns regarding the proposed governance?**

The heading of slide 27 is 'Proposed governance structure will deliver accountability and transparent decision-making to support Member States in achieving its commitments to multilateral agreements'. Member States commitments for ocean observing go beyond those required by multilateral agreements. The key governance principles are not specific to the needs of multilateral agreements. Suggest revising the overarching message to state that 'Proposed governance structure will deliver accountability and transparent decision-making to

support Member States in achieving their commitments to national and global priorities for ocean science and stewardship' - or similar.

**If you don't agree with the proposal - what is the alternative? Why?**

Suggestion embedded above

**How do we make it work? What does the implementation look like?** (including with respect to your component)

**Draft Implementation Plan**

(slides 34 - 36) Transition GRAs (if applicable)

**What are your concerns regarding the proposed implementation plan?**

This will need to be modified to reflect the commitment of GOOS to GRAs as a core component of the global observing system.

**If you don't agree with the proposal - what is the alternative? Why?**

Remove workstream to 'Transition GRAs'. Consider additional opportunities for GRA Council or GRA engagement in meetings of GOOS components to strengthen engagement of GOOS components with GRAs (and vice versa).

**How do we make it work? What does the implementation look like?** (including with respect to your component)

**Any additional considerations for the GOOS SC on GOOS reform?**

Not at this time.