

Fifteen Session of GOOS Steering Committee

25-27 March 2026, INCOIS, Hyderabad, India

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Meetings goals

1. GOOS Reform:
 - Revisit GOOS objectives/deliverables 2030 and be clear of new GOOS objectives/deliverables after reform
 - Agree on the new mission, scope and accountability mechanism
 - Agree revised structure and the challenges to address in implementing this revised structure, noting unresolved differences of opinion where further consultation is required over the next few months
 - Agree on the new governance including role of GRAs and their governance
 - Propose a suggested staged reform transition/ implementation plan with timeline
2. GOOS Workplan:
 - Agree any updates/changes to GOOS 2025-2027 workplan and any relevant decisions in regards to ongoing GOOS work
 - Adoption of GOOS Biodiversity Plan (Strategic level)
3. Preparations for governing body meetings
 - Agree documents to present to IOC and WMO Executive Councils, June 2026 and content and timeline of reform proposal to present to IOC Assembly and WMO Congress for final sign off in 2027

Documents available at Ocean Expert (<https://www.oceanexpert.net/event/4927>):

- [Final draft GOOS Reform Proposal](#)
 - Background reports:
 - [GOOS Reform considerations](#) from GOOS Components and SC members ([reporting template](#))
 - [Reporting against workplan](#) from GOOS Components, Task Teams and Decade programmes ([reporting template](#))
 - [GOOS Biodiversity Strategy 2026-2035](#)
- Other:
- [GOOS 2025 Status report](#)

Timetable

	Day 1 (Wed March 25)	Day 2 (Thurs March 26)	Day 3 (Fri March 27)
09:00 - 10:30	1. Opening 2. GOOS reform - Big picture	Brief report back from GOOS SC discussion 5.3 Report back from Breakout Sessions 5.4 Final discussion	Brief report back from GOOS SC discussion 7. (cont) Progress on the 2025-2027 workplan
10:30 - 11:00	Break	Break	Break
11:00 - 12:30	3. GOOS reform - Mission, scope and accountability mechanism	6. Strengthening collaboration across GOOS, IODE communities	8. Finalising the reform proposal and next steps
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch Break	Lunch Break	Close meeting
13:30 - 15:00	4. GOOS and its “users” with keynote from UNESCAP	7. Progress on the 2025-2027 work plan	
15:00 - 15:30	Break	Break	
15:30 - 17:30	5. Structure and governance 5.1 Introduction 5.2 Role of GRAs 5.3 Infrastructure Coordination Group - breakout groups	Visit to INCOIS Synergetic Ocean Observation, Prediction and Services (SYNOPS) Lab and ocean observation facilities	
17:30 - 18:30	GOOS SC only discussion	GOOS SC only discussion	

15th GOOS Steering Committee Meeting

Annotated Agenda

Available at GOOS-15 event webpage: <https://www.oceanexpert.net/event/4927>

DAY 1 - Wednesday 25 March 2026 | 09:00 - 17:30 (In local time GMT+5.30)

Call in link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81731362210>

1. Opening

Session chair: Bala Nair [Note taker: Joanna]

Aim: Welcome participants; discuss meeting goals and agree on agenda

- 1.1. Welcome and Opening Remarks (Balakrishnan Nair, Director, INCOIS & Vidar Helgesen, Executive Secretary, IOC-UNESCO)
- 1.2. Logistic announcements (Nagaraja)
- 1.3. Meeting goals and SC-15 Agenda approval (David Legler)

Proposed action/decision

- The Steering Committee approved the meeting agenda

2. GOOS reform - the big picture

Session chair: David Legler [Note taker: Jing]

Aim: Setting the scene and vision for the future GOOS,

Presentations:

- GOOS - Looking to the Future - Why reform and how will it make GOOS more effective, efficient and fit for purpose (David)
- Introduction to GOOS reform proposal and process so far (Joanna)

Discussion:

- Are the new goals and objectives for GOOS clear in the proposal
- What are your general comments and concerns
- Any issues to include in discussions during specific agenda items?
- Any suggestions/modifications for action oriented roadmap for reforms

Proposed action/decision

- Steering Committee ...
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3. GOOS reform - mission, scope, accountability mechanism

Session chair: SC Co-chairs [Note taker: Emma]

Aim: Agree on the new mission, scope and accountability mechanism of GOOS

Presentations:

- Introduction to new Mission, Scope and accountability mechanism - (slides 7 - 10 and 24 - 26) (co-chairs)
- Summary of responses on considerations for GOOS reform as provided in SC15 background papers on the above (Joanna)

Discussion:

- Do you agree with the new mission statement? (Y/N/Y-with further discussion needed)
- Do you agree with the new scope? (Y/N/Y-with discussion needed)
- Do you agree with the new accountability mechanism? (Y/N/Y-with changes needed)

- Should there be additional objectives?
- Are the key results/KPIs OK?
 - Do they get us to the vision of GOOS?
- Should there be general key results and/or key results for each component?
 - What should they be?

Proposed action/decision

- Steering Committee ...
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4. GOOS and its “users”

Session chair: Bala Nair and Jerome Aucan [Note taker: Champika and Signe]

Aim: Identify groupings of GOOS users: Raise the visibility/importance of delivering on our GOOS mission / vision; identify groupings of value-chain intermediaries (“primary users”) and existing relationships between GOOS and the intermediaries; Identify the pathways to the users and what we want from these groups

Presentations:

- Introduction to types of user relationships introduced in reform proposal (5 min, Joanna)
- What are the lessons learned about user engagement from
 - GOOS decade programmes (10 min, Emma)

- [Note on GOOS Coastal Ocean Panel from CoastPredict](#)
- Strengthening engagement between UNESCAP and GOOS (5 min, UNESCAP)

Discussion:

- How should GOOS set user engagement priorities (along the different value chains)?
- What lessons has GOOS learnt from user engagement?
- How are we realising the benefits and where?
- What should a future user engagement mechanism look like and how should it help GOOS set observation priorities and meet the suggested KPIs?
- Would a strategy for GOOS data tracking along the value chain be useful?

Proposed action/decision

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5. GOOS reform - Structure and governance

Session chairs: Matias Sifon and Suzan M. El-Gharabawy [Note takers: Jing, Signe]

Aim: Agree revised structure and the challenges to address in implementing this revised structure, noting unresolved differences of opinion where further consultation is required over the next few months

5.1. Introduction (slides 11 - 21)

Presentations:

- Introduction to Structural and Governance Changes (Co-chairs)
- Summary of responses on considerations for GOOS reform as provided in SC15 background papers on the above (Joanna)

5.2. GOOS Regional Alliances role

Presentation:

- Report back from GRA Council Forum (GRA Co-Chairs)

Discussion:

- What is the future role, structure, function, governance of GRAs?

Proposed action/decision

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5.3. Infrastructure Coordination Group

Session Chairs: Albert Fischer and Emma Heslop (in person) and Juliet Hermes and Audrey Darnaude (online)

[Note takers: Champika and Srinivas (in the rooms), and Belen (online)]

Presentations:

- Summary of responses on considerations for GOOS reform and introduction to breakout session

Breakout session considering: (60 min) - 3 groups (one online)

- How do we make the ICG work?
- What is needed - scientifically, technically and resource-wise?
- What are the scope and core functions?

DAY 2 - Thursday 26 March 2026 | 09:00 - 17:30 (In local time GMT+5.30)

Call in link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81731362210>

5.3 (cont) GOOS reform - Structural changes

Reporting back from Breakout session

Discussion:

- How should the ICG work for GOOS?

Proposed action/decision

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5.4. Final discussion [Note takers: Champika, Srinivas and Signe (online)]

Presentation

- Summary of revised structure following Wednesday's discussions

Discussion:

- Will the proposed structure enable GOOS to meet its mission?
- Will the proposed structure provide an effective delivery of OKRs/KPIs?
- How should we approach revision of TOR?
- What are the resource needs to implement new structure and governance?

Proposed action/decision

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6. Strengthening collaboration across GOOS and IODE communities

Session chair: Alvaro Scardilli [Note taker: Signe and Jing]

Aim: clarifying the relationship between GOOS and IODE including within a wider data architecture,

Presentations:

- Update on OCG data strategy (Mathieu/Emma/Albert)
- Update on IODE (IODE Co-chair)

Discussion:

- What should the vision be for the GOOS reform data strategy?
- How can GOOS and IODE build forward together in the context of the GOOS reform and the IOC data architecture?
- What are the key data products (and partners to produce them)?

Proposed action/decision

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7. Progress on the 2025-2027 workplan

Session chair: GOOS Co-chairs [Note taker: Maciej and Emma]

Aim: Agree any updates/changes to GOOS 2025-2027 workplan and any relevant decisions in regards to ongoing GOOS work

Presentation (3 slides) on key updates, next steps and considerations for GOOS SC ([template](#))

- 7.1. **NFPs** (Caroline Cusack & Jing Li)
- 7.2. **GRAs** (GRA Chair)
- 7.3. **OCG and OceanOPS** (OCG Co-chair)

- 7.4. **Biodiversity Plan** (Bioeco Panel Co-chair)
 - 7.4.1. GOOS Biodiversity Strategy 2026-2035
- 7.5. **Carbon & GHG plan** (BGC Panel Co-chair)
- 7.6. **GCOS update including ECVs revision** (OOPC Panel Co-chair)
- 7.7. **Ocean indicators** (Karina, OOPC Panel)
- 7.8. **ETOOFS next steps** (ETOOFS Co-chair)
- 7.9. **Ocean Enterprise Initiative** (3 min video)
- 7.10. **GOOS Decade Programmes** (TBC)
- 7.11. **TT Projects - GOOS Endorsed Project Proposal** (TT member)

Discussion:

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Proposed action/decision

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DAY 3 - Friday 27 March 2026 | 09:00 - 13:30 (In local time GMT+5.30)

Call in link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81731362210>

7. (cont) Progress on the 2025-2027 workplan

8. Finalising the reform proposal and next steps

Session chair: GOOS co-chairs [Notes taker: Jing, Signe]

Aim: Propose a suggested staged reform transition/ implementation plan with timeline. Agree documents to present to IOC and WMO Executive Councils, June 2026 and timeline for presenting proposal to sponsors for final sign off in 2027

Presentations:

- Introduction and presentation of draft implementation plan (co-chairs)
- Timelines to finalise the proposal, considering the issues raised at SC-15 (Joanna)

Discussion:

- What do we present to the Executive Councils of IOC and WMO, June 2026 and timeline?
- How do we strengthen the proposal and implementation plan further to bring it to finalisation to present to the IOC Assembly and WMO Congress in 2027?
- What additional activities are needed, such as workshops with Member States?
- How do we determine and indicate resource needs for implementation?
- Considering governance - how should we coordinate revision and rewriting of the GOOS component TOR?

Proposed action/decision

- The SC welcomed the outline for the GOOS workplan. It requested the GOOS SC supported by the secretariat to provide a final draft by the end of April for review and finalisation by the end of May.
- The SC decided on the following workshops / task teams to finalise the following parts of the proposal: ...

Closing (Co-chairs)