Call for applications: GOOS Observations Coordination Group Vice Chair WMO/WIGOS

The Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) is seeking applications for **Vice Chair WMO/WIGOS for** its Observations Coordination Group (OCG). The work of the OCG is at the heart of strengthening, streamlining, and evolving GOOS to be responsive to the needs of Member States and other users.

GOOS is the major ocean observing programmatic element of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) Medium-term Strategy 2022–2029 and the WMO-IOC Collaborative Strategy. GOOS is the global locus for ocean observing coordination. The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO is lead sponsor of GOOS and collaborates closely with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) as well as United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and International Science Council (ISC) as co-sponsors.

GOOS supports ocean observing frameworks and coordinating infrastructure, it works with 84 contributing nations, observing networks, institutions, and a community of scientists, technicians and practitioners to strengthen the global ocean observing system through standards, best practices, FAIR and open data implementation, and co-design towards a fit-for-purpose ocean observing information delivery system. GOOS advocates across the United Nations on the critical need for ocean observations to safely navigate the future. GOOS also connects with policy around climate, weather and hazard warnings, biodiversity, coastal resilience and a sustainable blue economy, to ensure that the global ocean observing system meets stakeholder needs for ocean information.

The WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS) is a WMO priority as the overarching framework for all observing systems, promoting an integrated, modernized approach to space-and surface-based observations and predictions using the latest scientific and technical advances, within which GOOS is a key component.

The OCG works to guide and strengthen the implementation of GOOS and relevant aspects of WMO observing systems through coordinating across the global ocean observing networks (see the OCG Terms of Reference, membership, governance, and operating principles here). The work of the OCG is expanding and becoming more complex as societal demand for ocean information is increasing and the number of global ocean observing networks and connections with the private sector are also increasing.

The OCG vision is to support the delivery of a fit-for-purpose, integrated, and coherent Global Ocean Observing System of networks. There are now 13 mature ocean observing networks and 4 emerging observing networks. The OCG also manages the Work Plan of the IOC-WMO Joint

Operational Centre – OceanOPS – which provides services to GOOS, WMO, and to the global ocean observing networks. The OCG develops actions under 8 current foci:

- Defining and responding to observing system needs
- Observing Advances
- Standards and Best Practices
- Data Management
- OceanOPS
- Metrics
- Environmental Stewardship
- Capacity Development

Insight into the current work of the OCG can be gained from the most recent annual meeting, OCG-17.

The OCG Vice Chair WMO/WIGOS acts as a bridge between the meteorological and oceanographic communities, and undertakes the activities as detailed in Annex 1. This is an important role for the OCG, GOOS, and WMO, and ensuring operational delivery of metadata and data into the WIGOS and WMO Information System (WIS2.0) is a primary function. A number of the GOOS global networks have their roots in delivering both oceanic and marine meteorological data, including the Voluntary Observing Ships (VOS, the oldest network), drifting, moored and tsunami buoys , and Automated Shipboard Aerological Programme (ASAP). Oceanographic networks including profiling floats (Argo), Animal Borne Sensors (AniBOS), moored buoys (DBCP and OceanSITES), sea level gauges (GLOSS), and the new emerging networks, the Fishing Vessel Observing Network (FVON) and Uncrewed Vehicles (SUN Fleet), also have important roles in gathering data vital to weather and hazard forecasting, and almost all networks deliver data vital for climate knowledge and adaptation.

WMO is a complex organisation and works with observations across ocean, atmosphere, cryosphere and terrestrial realms; a key element of the role is understanding WMO policy and ensuring that processes are aligned and not replicated.

The OCG Vice Chair WMO/WIGOS is an active role and requires someone who has experience in ocean observing and meteorology as well as some understanding of WMO priorities. It is anticipated that the role will take 10% of a normal working week.

The OCG meets annually, in person, for 3.5 days and meets at online Roundtable meetings three times a year. The Vice Chair is a member of the OCG Executive and works with the OCG Co-Chairs and the OCG Vice Chairs for Data Management, Stakeholder Engagement, and Standards and Best Practices, OceanOPS and the IOC and WMO secretariats to evolve the work. The OCG Executive meets biweekly online.

The ideal candidates will have management experience in ocean observing, knowledge of the work of WMO/WIGOS, GOOS, OCG, and the global ocean observing networks. The set of attributes and skills that GOOS is seeking are laid out in Annex 1, and the commitments in Annex 2. The OCG Vice Chair WMO/WIGOS is appointed for a term of up to 5 years. It is anticipated that the role will be appointed in April 2027.

The candidate cannot currently hold a leadership position in a global observing network.

Application process

Applicants are kindly requested to send their CV and covering letter, indicating how they meet the required experience and skills, as outlined in Annex 1. In addition, applicants are requested to include confirmation that they have, or anticipate receiving, permission from their employer (as relevant) to undertake this role.

Please send applications via email to Ms Olena Titorchuk (o.titorchuk@unesco.org) no later than 15 February 2027. Any questions about the role can be addressed to Mrs Champika Gallage (cgallage@wmo.int).

The selection will be made shortly after the deadline, and candidates will be invited to interview for the appointment right after.

Annex 1

Terms of Reference for the OCG Vice Chair WMO/WIGOS

The OCG Vice Chair WMO/WIGOS will act as a bridge between the oceanographic and meteorological communities, and will undertake the following activities:

- Encourage and support the OCG ocean observing networks in becoming consistent with WIGOS principles and standards.
- Encourage and support the OCG ocean observing networks in delivering their observations data into the WMO Information System (WIS), and encouraging a shift from the Global Telecommunications System (GTS, being decommissioned by 2033) to the now-operational WIS 2.0.
- Encourage and support the OCG ocean observing networks in delivering their observational metadata to OceanOPS for synchronization with WIGOS metadata systems.
- Support essential variables based assessment and monitoring across the OCG networks and OceanOPS to encourage better cross-network coordination and design.
- Brings WMO and its Members perspectives into discussions within the OCG.
- Be the lead for OCG in discussions around other WMO and WIGOS initiatives (e.g. GBON, RRR), as required.
- Participate in various OCG meetings, its annual meeting, OCG Executive Calls, Roundtables and Task Team calls as appropriate.
- Represent OCG's intersectionality with WMO in various WMO and GOOS fora and events as appropriate.

The Vice Chair will work with other OCG members and representatives, WMO and IOC relevant groups (e.g. INFCOM's SC-ON, relevant JCB sub-groups,with OceanOPS and the OCG Vice Chairs for Data and Information and Standards and Best Practices on matters relating to data metadata and standards).

<u>Expertise required</u>

- Familiarity with WMO policies and procedures.
- Some experience with GOOS, the work of the OCG, and one or more of the GOOS observing networks.
- Expertise in national meteorological services' marine observations and familiarity with their modelling capabilities and services
- Familiarity with the global infrastructure of WIGOS, WIS, and the processing and prediction system WIPPS
- Experience or exposure to regional or international observing coordination would be advantageous.

Skills required

- Ability to communicate with diverse stakeholders.
- Analytical thinking and decision-making.

Experience that would be advantageous

- Systems thinking and a system-wide perspective is important.
- Appreciation of private and public sector roles in advancing ocean observing.
- Knowledge of, and interest in, the application and impact of ocean observing for end users through value chains.

Annex 2
Commitments and practical information

The OCG includes the Co-Chairs, the Vice Chairs of Data Management, Standards and Best Practices, and WMO/WIGOS, the OceanOPS Manager, IOC and WMO secretariats, an ECOP/developing country focal point, and the leadership of the 13 mature global ocean observing networks and 4 emerging networks.

See the OCG Terms of Reference, membership, governance, and operating principles here.

Meetings:

- The OCG meets annually, generally in person, for 3.5 days to report on progress, discuss emerging topics, make decisions, and develop the annual work plan.
- There are also 3 OCG Roundtables (online) per annum, these are forums to evolve the OCGs work and interact on emerging issues.
- The OCG Executive Committee, which includes the Co-Chairs, Vice Chairs, OceanOPS, ECOP/developing country focal point, and IOC and WMO secretariats, meets biweekly online to evolve actions, Task Teams, plan meetings, respond to questions and issues as they arise, and track work plan.

Other commitments

- The Vice Chairs can also lead OCG Task Team/s as relevant/required, working with the secretariat and ensuring work is inline with long-term goals of OCG.

The role requires on average approximately 10% of a normal working week.