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| WEATHER CLIMATE WATER | **World Meteorological Organization**  **COMMISSION FOR OBSERVATION, INFRASTRUCTURE AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS**  **Third Session** 15 to 19 April 2024, Geneva | **INFCOM-3/Doc. 7.3** |
| Submitted by: President of the Commission  21.II.2024  **DRAFT 1** |

**AGENDA ITEM 7: STRATEGIC PRIORITIES**

**AGENDA ITEM 7.3: Environmental sustainability**

# ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

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| **Summary** |
| **Document presented by:** President of the Commission  **Strategic objective 2024–2027:** 5.4: “Environmental sustainability” and 2.1: “Optimize the acquisition of Earth system observation data through the WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS)”  **Financial and administrative implications:** Strategic and Operating Plans 2024–2027  **Key implementers:**  INFCOM, Secretariat  **Time frame:** 2024–2026 (until INFCOM-4)  **Action expected:** Review and approve the proposed draft decision |

# DRAFT DECISION

## Draft Decision 7.3/1 (INFCOM-3)

### Study Group on Environmental Sustainability

**The Commission for Observation, Infrastructure and Information Systems decides:**

(1) To adhere to WMO’s commitment to achieve a sustainable, net zero and resilient world for all, including an environmentally sustainable approach to weather and climate, as stated in the WMO Strategic Plan (2024–2027);

(2) To recall that INFCOM activities contribute to reducing the environmental impact of a range of activities;

(3) To follow a balanced approach enabling it to deliver on its core mandate while ensuring that environmentally sustainable approaches can be implemented to reduce the overall environmental impact related to its activities;

(4) To recognize the need for development of guidance material on implementation of environmental sustainability practices to support all Members;

(5) To emphasize the importance of the close cooperation with industry for developing and implementing environmentally sustainable observing systems and methods;

(6) To establish a Study Group on Environmental Sustainability (SG-EnvS) with the Terms of Reference provided in the [annex](#annex) to the present decision, which is proposed to be adopted as part of the annex to [draft Resolution 6.2/1 (INFCOM-3)](https://meetings.wmo.int/INFCOM-3/English/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2FINFCOM%2D3%2FEnglish%2F1%2E%20DRAFTS%20FOR%20DISCUSSION&FolderCTID=0x0120004D58D6EBC5C7054898FF36E91D58C193&View=%7B84F6CC21%2D2DD6%2D403B%2DB16A%2D97A4B833DE2B%7D);

(7) To request all INFCOM Standing Committees and Advisory Groups to take environmental sustainability into account in the development and implementation of their activities.

See [annex](#annex) to the present decision.

See [INFCOM-3/INF. 7.3](https://meetings.wmo.int/INFCOM-3/InformationDocuments/Forms/AllItems.aspx) for more information.

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Decision justification: Environmental Sustainability is identified as strategic objectives 5.4 of the Long Term Goal 5 and as one of the focus areas of Objective 2.1 of Long Term Goal 2 of the *[WMO Strategic Plan 2024–2027](https://library.wmo.int/records/item/68578-wmo-strategic-plan-2024-2027)* (WMO-No. 1336), adopted by [Resolution 2 (Cg-19)](https://library.wmo.int/idviewer/67177/21) - WMO Strategic Plan 2024–2027. Until now, INFCOM activities related to environmental sustainability were coordinated by a focal point, in collaboration with one INFCOM vice-president and were addressing environmentally friendly strategies in the context of the implementation of the Global Basic Observing Network (GBON). The WMO Strategic Plan (2024–2027) adopted a much more ambitious goal related to environmental sustainability to achieve net zero. Consequently, the mandate of INFCOM in this area is consequently widened to all its activities and requires stronger collaboration across the commission to achieve the desired outcome. Establishing a Study Group on Environmental Sustainability will enable to share expertise on this new area of work and will help in implementing a coordinated approach across all INFCOM subsidiary bodies. Decision 5.1 (INFCOM-MG-H2) had also concurred on the need to widen environmental sustainability activities in INFCOM.

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## Annex to draft Decision 7.3/1 (INFCOM-3)

*[This will be adopted as part of the annex to* [*draft Resolution 6.2/1 (INFCOM-3)*](https://meetings.wmo.int/INFCOM-3/English/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2FINFCOM%2D3%2FEnglish%2F1%2E%20DRAFTS%20FOR%20DISCUSSION&FolderCTID=0x0120004D58D6EBC5C7054898FF36E91D58C193&View=%7B84F6CC21%2D2DD6%2D403B%2DB16A%2D97A4B833DE2B%7D)*]*

## Terms of Reference for the Study Group on Environmental Sustainability (SG-EnvS)

### 1. Purpose

Environmental Sustainability is identified as one of the strategic objectives under the Long Term Goal 5 of [*WMO Strategic Plan (2024–2027)*](https://library.wmo.int/records/item/68578-wmo-strategic-plan-2024-2027)(WMO-No. 1336) adopted by [Resolution 2 (Cg-19)](https://library.wmo.int/idviewer/67177/21) - WMO Strategic Plan 2024–2027. In addition, one of the focus areas of Objective 2.1 of Long Term Goal 2 is indicated as “Environmentally sustainable design of WMO observing programmes ensured”.

The Study Group on Environmental Sustainability (SG-EnvS) is established to address the environmental impact of WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS), WMO Information System (WIS) and WMO Integrated Processing and Prediction System (WIPPS), and to develop feasible proposals and recommendations to minimize those impacts without jeopardizing the benefits brought by those systems. SG-EnvS will report to the INFCOM Management Group.

The SG-EnvS will enable the development of a coordinated approach throughout the commission and help share experiences in this new area of work that is relevant to all INFCOM groups.

### 2. Composition

SG-EnvS will comprise a chair or co-chairs with expertise in environmental sustainability related to WIGOS, WIS and/or WIPPS and experts representing INFCOM subsidiary bodies (to be nominated by the relevant subsidiary body) taking into account gender and regional diversity:

* One representative from each Standing Committees;
* One representative from each Advisory Group;
* One representative from HMEI;
* Representative of other Study Group/Advisory groups depending on groups being adopted by INFCOM-3, if required, to represent all domains and activity areas;
* Additional experts in case of need to ensure appropriate gender and regional diversity.

### 3. Modality of work

The work will be conducted by electronic correspondence and teleconferences, with the possibility of holding physical meetings when deemed appropriate by the president and if resources are available. Physical meetings will be held in conjunction with other related events and activities (e.g. World Meteorological Technology Expo).

### 4. Deliverables

The SG-EnvS will conduct the following tasks and deliver the associated deliverables to INFCOM, at the latest at its fourth session:

* Develop a roadmap on how to address the environmental sustainability goals stated in the WMO Strategic Plan with respect to INFCOM activities, including:
  + Recommendations on how to minimize the environmental impact of WIGOS, WIS and WIPPS systems;
  + List of activities related to environmental sustainability to be conducted by INFCOM during its next intersessional period (2026–2027);
* Conduct workshops to share best practices on environmental sustainability to provide a platform for exchange of ideas, best practices and the development of collective strategies;
* Collect best practices related to reducing the environmental impact of WIGOS, WIS and WIPPS and share them with Members;
* Work with the representative of each Standing Committee and Advisory Group to ensure appropriate teams are tasked and/or established to follow-up on proposed activities for 2026–2027 onwards.

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