Key Messages Workshop 3 “Filling the Gaps in Global Data Coverage” on 14 Oct. 2020:

GBON – recognizes that Global NWP is at the center of WMO activities. Increasingly an Earth System Modelling approach is used, with associated data requirements.

SOFF – a new financial framework for funding of GBON compliance, long term, committed and sustainability

Workshop presentation made the case for extension of GBON/SOFF to climate, ocean and atmosphere composition, including GHG monitoring in support of the Paris Agreement on climate change.

- Our data needs do not respect country boundaries.
- Target the funding for data sparse regions!
- Deep ocean observations, and ocean health (bio geo chemistry), tropical ocean, coastal
- Operationalising of GAW, in support of GHG monitoring for the Paris Agreement.
- Coupling – e.g. exchanges (fluxes) between ocean/atm, land/atm

- Ways forward- GBON, SOFF, Co-design, connecting with stakeholder communities, work politically (EEZs, PA, …)
- Satellite, in-situ synergies, and gaps (More about this today!)
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The most essential data gaps that need to be filled:
- Continuously assess observation requirements, compare with capabilities, assess gaps, mitigate gaps.
- Sustainable funding beyond time-bound projects - an overarching need
- Data rescue needed and new observations needed in all domains

What should WMO do to fill them?
- Data policy could be transformative; also for exchange of climate data
- Sustainable, long-term finance is crucial – the SOFF (Systematic Observations Financing Facility) should:
  - Ensure financing beyond time-bound individual projects – SOFF results-based long-term support is needed to contribute to O&M costs
  - Use long-term data sharing as a measure of success
  - Focus on data sparse areas and developing countries with the largest capacity gaps
- Strong interest in expanding GBON/SOFF into marine observations, and atmospheric monitoring

Three linked steps to improving data exchange:
- Demonstrate the value of global data exchange - to make the case for investment in all domains: private and public
- Policies, regulations and standards
- Strengthen national capability, including through sustainable finance
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Background

Speaker list, key questions, ... on following slides.
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This online workshop examined the strengths and weaknesses of WMO’s approach to addressing gaps in the coverage of global observing systems, as well as emerging requirements and current approaches.

There were approximately 235 stakeholders participating.

Co-Chairs:
- Daouda Konate, WMO Regional President Africa, Director General of the NMS of Côte d’Ivoire
- Erik Andersson, Programme Officer EU Policies, Copernicus Expert, European Commission

Speakers:
- Peter Thorne, Maynooth University, Ireland
- Vincent-Henri Peuch, Director of Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service, ECMWF
- Emma Heslop, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO and GOOS
- Anthony Rea, Director, Infrastructure Department, WMO
- Markus Repnik, Director, Development Partnerships, WMO
- Lars Peter Riishojgaard, Director, Earth Systems, WMO
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Discussions centered around the following topics:

1. **Technical, financial and political opportunities and obstacles.**
   The need for data exchange in meteorology and related Earth science disciplines is well understood and, in principle, uncontroversial. What are some of the main **benefits of improving data exchange**, and why isn’t it happening already?

2. **The Global Basic Observing System (GBON) and implications for data availability.**
   GBON is an example of a WMO-led initiative to improve exchange of observational data for a specific purpose. The workshop looked at the GBON background, its implications, opportunities and challenges. It also explored how Earth system monitoring and prediction is acting as a driver for **expansion of the GBON approach** into other domains and discipline areas.
Discussions centered around the following topics:

3. **The role of the private sector in addressing data requirements.**
   How can the private sector help to fill the gaps in global data coverage? Can rules of engagement be identified that will allow public and private providers of observational data to coexist productively and with mutual benefits?

4. **Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) in developing countries, and other capacity-development issues.**
   How can we ensure that all 193 WMO Members will be able to benefit from improved data exchange, in terms of improved service delivery and generally strengthened expertise in Earth system monitoring and prediction?

5. **Innovation and partnership for development assistance.**
   What are the main technical and financial challenges encountered in filling the data-coverage gap? Who pays, if there are few (or no) local resources available, and why?