Evolution of the Global Observing System

John Eyre and Jerome Lafeuille

In 2002, the Commission for Basic Systems (CBS) of WMO adopted a “Vision for the Global Observing System (GOS) to 2015”. This vision covers both space-based and ground-based observing systems. Since 2002, there has been considerable development in thinking about the future of the GOS: the potential of several new observing systems to make substantial contributions to the GOS has emerged, and the GOS has been asked to respond to user requirements for an increased range of applications, in particular those of climate monitoring. These developments have prompted an activity within WMO to refresh the Vision for the GOS. By the end of 2008, CBS is expected to endorse a new “Vision for the GOS in 2025”, following discussion with a wide range of stakeholders. A draft of the new Vision for the GOS will be presented, with particular emphasis on the space-based component and on those systems in which ITWG members have considerable expertise. ITWG will be invited to comment on this draft, as part of the current discussion process.