Global State of Systematic Weather and Climate Observation

Inception Workshop

10–11 September 2026 | Hybrid format | WMO Headquarters, Geneva

Building a coalition of public- and private-sector partners spanning science, policy, finance and industry to co-create the world's leading reference report on the foundational value and financing of systematic observation for early warnings and climate action.

WHAT TO EXPECT?

A highly interactive hybrid workshop to kick-start the coalition. Each session will include:
Presentations — Brief presentation to introduce the agenda items.
Interactive discussion — Participants will engage through Mentimeter and open discussion, sharing their perspectives and suggestions.
Key takeaways — Summary of discussion outcomes.

DAY 1 - WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT?

09:00 — **In-person registration and coffee**

09:30 — **01 Setting the scene**

Co-chairs: Dr. Thelma Krug, Chair of GCOS Steering Commitee, and Markus Repnik, Director, SOFF Secretariat

- Opening remarks by Thomas Asare, Assistant Secretary-General, WMO
- The initiative at a glance
- Initiative partners and workshop participants
- Workshop objectives, agenda and working arrangements

10:00 — **02 The scientific foundation - Global Observing System state, gaps and risks**

Co-chairs: Dr. Michael Staudinger, Former WMO Regional President, Dr. Peter Thorne, GCOS Deputy Chair, and Dr. Anthony Rea, WMO Senior Director, Earth Systems Data and Predictions

- GCOS Status Report and High-Priority Actions
- The value chain from observations to action
- What is at stake?

12:00 — **Lunch break**

13:15 — **03 The value of systematic observation**

Co-chairs: Prof. John Firth, University of Liverpool, Former CEO - Acclimatise, and Laura Paterson, WMO Representative and Coordinator to the UN New York

- Macro- and socio-economic value
- Private sector value
- Humanitarian value

14:45 — **04 Financing Systematic Observation**

Co-chairs: Dr. Albert Fischer, Director, WMO Integrated Global Observing System, and Adaiana Lima, Innovative Finance Officer, SOFF Secretariat

- Institutional and financial overview
- Envisioning the future

15:30 **Coffee break**

15:45 05 **Creating the coalition**

Co-chairs: Dr. Thelma Krug, Chair of GCOS Steering Commitee, and Markus Repnik, Director, SOFF Secretariat

- Objectives
- Partners
- Approach
- Report and beyond

17:15-17:30 06 **Day 1 synthesis**

All co-chairs and participants

DAY 2 - HOW TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN?

09:30 07 **Report purpose and audience**

Co-chairs: Prof. John Firth, University of Liverpool, Former CEO - Acclimatise, and Ilaria Rapido Ragozzino, Communications Lead, SOFF Secretariat

10:00 08 **Report scope and initial structure**

Facilitators: Laura Paterson, WMO Representative and Coordinator to the UN New York, Dr. Michael Staudinger, Former WMO Regional President, Prof. John Firth, University of Liverpool, Former CEO - Acclimatise, Roberta Boscolo, Climate and Energy Lead, WMO, Adaiana Lima, Innovative Finance Officer, SOFF Secretariat

- Observations as the Foundation
- Systematic Observation as Critical Global Infrastructure

11:15 **Coffee break**

11:30 08 **Continuation of session 8**

- Global Risks and Benefits
- Financing a Global Infrastructure and Public Good

12:30 **Lunch break**

13:30 09 **Arrangements**

Co-chairs: Dr. Thelma Krug, Chair of GCOS Steering Commitee, and Markus Repnik, Director, SOFF Secretariat

- Envisioned working group arrangements
- Report writing
- Communications and media
- Resource requirements
- Partners' commitments and contributions
- Production timeline

15:15-15:30 10 **Conclusions and next steps**

All co-chairs and participants

- Workshop summary and next steps
- Closing remarks by Prof. Celeste Saulo, Secretary-General, WMO