



SAHF Strategic Direction for Observations for Improved Forecasting

Related document(s): SAHF Observations [Strategy 2030](#) and [Roadmap](#)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Surface-based observations contribute substantially to NWP performance, but current availability is insufficient. More observations from South Asia would improve global NWP and forecasting quality, particularly in the data-sparse regions themselves, but also over the rest of the globe.

1.2 EUMETSAT has re-positioned its Meteosat-9 meteorological satellite over the Indian Ocean, providing crucial data for monitoring severe weather events. In addition, available satellite data in the region from India, Korea, Japan and China are still under-utilized by SAHF members.

1.3 Some SAHF members have been investing in radar networks, but at this stage there is no data exchange nor radar composite.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The SAHF WG/OBS proposes a 2030 vision as: "Regional integration of high-quality observations to best represent the state of the atmosphere at any place in South Asia and at any time in three dimensions".

2.2 The SAHF WG/OBS developed an SAHF Observations Strategy 2030 founded on three main Pillars/Strategic Directions, as follows:

- *Pillar 1: Improved Availability and Quality* – main goal: establishing a South Asia Regional Basic Observing Network (RBON) and ensuring calibration facilities in the region.
- *Pillar 2: Data and Knowledge Exchange* – main goal: ensuring operational use of a data exchange platform compatible with international standards, and availability of a pool of observation experts.
- *Pillar 3: Integration and Optimal Use* – main goal: optimizing the use of satellite and radar data in the region.

This document has been prepared with the financial support from World Bank's Resilient Asia Program, funded by the UK government's Foreign Commonwealth Development Office (FCDO). This funding is delivered through Climate Action for a Resilient Asia (CARA), the UK's flagship regional programme to build climate resilience in South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific islands.

2.3 The SAHF WG/OBS developed an associated Roadmap which describes the actions required to achieve the goals set in the SAHF OBS Strategy 2030, with related timelines, required partnerships, and financial resources.

2.4 To implement regional Observations Strategy 2030 and Roadmap, there are critical decisions to be made focused on:

- Alignment with the RA II-18(I) Resolution 4.4./2 for the implementation of a Regional Basic Observing Network (RBON).
- Consider the plans of OBS currently under implementation by SOFF-WMO, support from Donors (World Bank and others) over SA
- Establishing data-sharing agreements and protocols among SAHF members.
- Making DataEx compatible with WIS2.0 for data exchange among SAHF members with guidance of IMD
- Engaging EUMETSAT and other satellite data providers in SAHF activities.

ACTION REQUIRED BY THE SAHF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

2.5 The SAHF Executive Council is invited to:

- (a) Review, and propose amendments (as appropriate), to the draft Observations Strategy 2030 proposed by the SAHF WG/OBS and endorse it.
- (b) Review, and propose amendments (as appropriate), to the draft Roadmap proposed by the SAHF WG/OBS and endorse it.
- (c) Decide on actions to be taken to address each of the aspects outlined in paragraph 2.4.

2.6 The SAHF Executive Council is invited to consider, and revise the following resolutions for adoption:

- Endorses and adopts the Observations Strategy 2030 and Roadmap for implementation.
- Agree that SAHF be considered a sub-region of RA II to facilitate and expedite the RBON implementation, considering the RA II-18(I) Resolution 4.4./2¹ for the implementation of a RBON in RA II.
- Agree that DataEx will continue to be used for data exchange among SAHF members; but at the same time, requested RIMES and WMO to develop a work plan to make DataEx compatible with WIS2Box and submit it to SAHF EC by September 2025 for consideration.
- Request RIMES, in coordination with partners, to liaise with EUMETSAT and other satellite data providers on their plans for making data available in the region and their training opportunities, and report back to SAHF EC by Q4 2025 for consideration and defining further actions.

¹ <https://meetings.wmo.int/ra-2-18/SitePages/Session%20Information.aspx>

