

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

Sand and Dust Storm Warning Advisory and Assessment System (SDS-WAS)

Northern Africa - Middle East - Europe (NAMEE) Regional Steering Group (RSG) Meeting

Venue:

Barcelona Supercomputing Center

[Nexus II building](#), 2nd floor, 'Direction' meeting room

Jordi Girona, 29

08034 Barcelona, Spain

WebEx access:

Join: <https://meetings.webex.com/collabs/meetings/join?uid=M9OMBHR8JLX90OX1CF0CPDDAN-2025>

Meeting number: 234 881 062 (no password)

Date and time:

15 March 2018, 16:00-19:00 CET (15:00-18:00 UTC)

PROVISIONAL MINUTES

Participants

Physically: Alexander Baklanov, Slobodan Nickovic, Emilio Cuevas, Carlos Pérez and Lucia Mona (RSG members) and Sara Basart, Vassilis Amiridis, Pavla Dagsson-Waldhauserova, Ana Vukovic, Enric Terradellas, Cihan Dundar and Gurdal Tuncel (invitees)

Remotely: Angela Benedetti and Saviz Sehat (members) and Hesham Abdelghany and Milan Dacic (invitees)

1. Opening of the session

Technical problems make remote participation difficult.

Enric Terradellas volunteers to compile the meeting minutes.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda is adopted without any changes

3. Reporting on current RSG initiatives; establishing eventual new ones in the future

Alexander informs on the trust fund opened at WMO to support SDS-WAS activities. The trust fund is currently empty. The RSG requests interested countries to contribute to this fund.

Discussion on the convenience to update the SDS-WAS Science and Implementation Plan 2015-2020. It should be done following the WMO priorities stated i. e. in the WWRP and GAW

Implementation Plans. Among others, the update will more specifically describe the procedures on establishment of future node centres. Also, there is need to work on the extension of the aerosol-related parameters recognized by GAW so that the list includes the variables used by the dust community.

Lucia presents the current status of the white paper on dust observations. Carlos and Slobodan will contribute with a section on dust mineralogy. Vassilis will also be added as coauthor. His contribution will be relevant, because he is the leader of the InDust working group on observation. It is proposed to submit the final paper to the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society, but other suggestions will be considered. There is intention to publish it as a joint contribution of SDS-WAS and the InDust COST Action. It is expected to do it during the period May 2018 - May 2019.

Ana describes the status of the study of the Tehran haboob of 2014. She mentions the need of high-resolution simulation and better mapping of surface and dust sources.

Sara describes the InDust COST Action, which was initially proposed as a way to finance SDS-WAS-related activity (training, meetings).

4. Past and forthcoming events relevant to NAMEE Node

Enric describes the activity of the Regional Center during the last year. In particular, he mentions that the agreement between AEMET and the BSC to host the Regional Center and the Barcelona Dust forecast Center (RSMC-ASDF) expires in April and that there is no guarantee of continuity. It is decided to propose to the WMO that it sends a letter to the PR of Spain requesting the continuity of the Centers hosted by Spain.

5. Actions toward establishment of the SDS-WAS West Asia (WA) Center / Node

Saviz and Cihan describe the SDS-WAS activity in Iran and Turkey respectively.

Both Turkey and Iran express their intention to host an SDS-WAS Regional Center.

It is agreed that professional recommendation of the attendees at the meeting is: WMO to initiate the meeting with the representatives from West Asia region to establish “Consortium of equals” which will, as unity of countries, forward the request to SDS-WAS steering committee for establishment of West Asia (WA) SDS-WAS node. It is considered that further steps in establishment of this regional center are: WMO to act as neutral representative for this region, and to provide web domain and hosting services, financed from available budgets, if possible, or from extra-budgetary funds. This proposal is option to overcome prolonged delay in agreement between WA countries in selection of representative center for this region. Meeting attendees consider establishment of this region of great importance for future practical use of dust forecasts systems, their improvements and user-oriented developments, since this region as highly vulnerable can use dust forecast capacities to significantly mitigate dust storms negative impacts.

The RSG states that it can opine, especially on scientific capacities, but can not judge political issues. The Barcelona Center could be neutral ground for the new center. Given the technical problems that prevent the discussion with Milan and Hesham, it is decided to convene a monographic meeting within 2 weeks.

6. Collaboration with other UN organizations

7. RSG Membership

It is decided to replace Michael Schulz, Benjamin Lamptey and George Kallos with Vassilis Amiridis, Pavla Dagsson-Waldhauserova, Michael Sofiev and Peter Knippertz. It is proposed to consider user-oriented profiles in the future.

8. Any other business