

# WMO activities in support of international coordination and cooperation on Space Weather

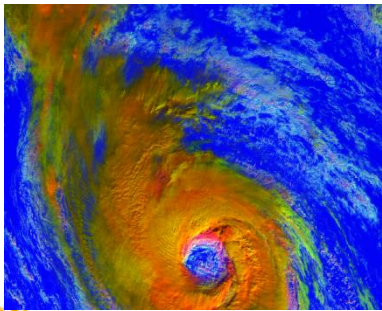


WORLD  
METEOROLOGICAL  
ORGANIZATION

Jérôme Lafeuille  
WMO Space Programme

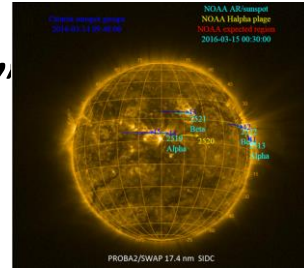
# *World Meteorological Organization*

- Specialized agency of the United Nations for meteorology (weather and climate), operational hydrology and related geophysical sciences.
- 191 Members (States and Territories)
- Based in Geneva, Switzerland



# Key Decisions of WMO Members

- 2011: “a coordinated effort by Members is needed to protect against the global hazards of Space Weather”
- 2015: “to engage in international coordination of operational space weather monitoring and forecasting with a view to support the protection of life, property and critical infrastructures and the impacted economic activities.”
- Enable Members to establish operational space weather services
- Sharing observation data and products, and best practices
- Ensuring interoperability and standardization
- Coordinating a response to ICAO requirements



# Inter-Programme Coordination Team on Space Weather

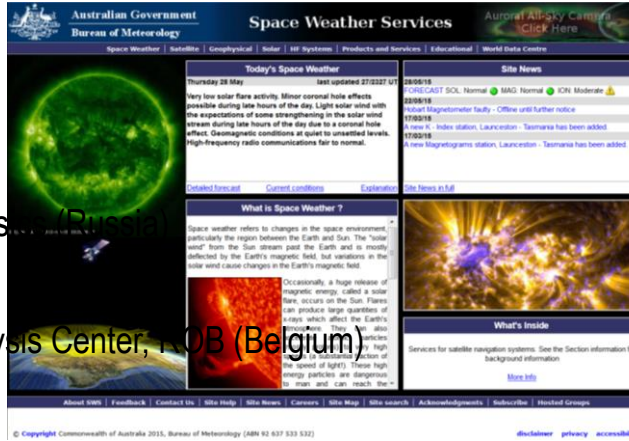
- Established in 2010
- Experts from 26 states and 7 International Organizations
- Co-chairs Dr T. Onsager (NOAA) and Dr X. Zhang (CMA)



# Existing Space Weather Forecast Centres (1)



Bureau of Meteorology(Australia)



CMA(China)



CSWFC (Canada)



Institute of Applied Geophysics (IRG)



Solar Influences Data Analysis Center, ROB (Belgium)



NOAA (USA)



Met Office (UK)



INPE (Brazil)



NICT (Japan)



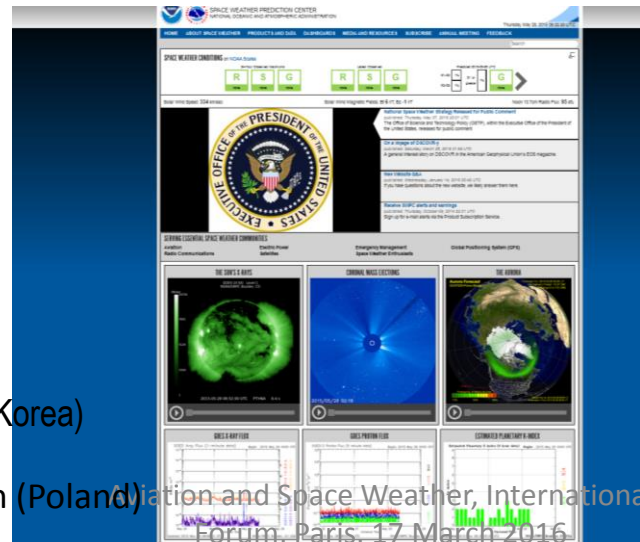
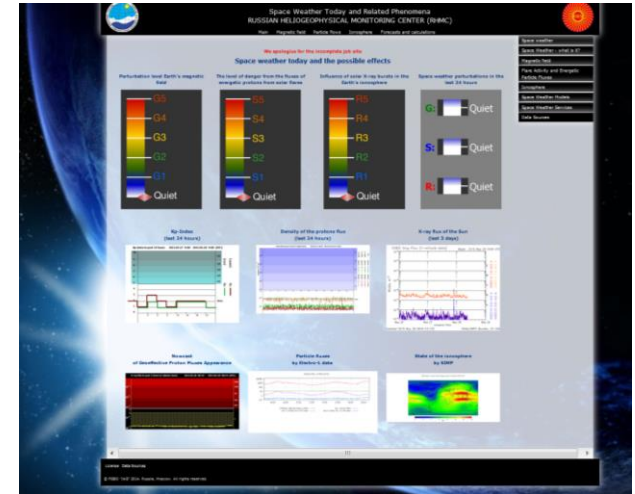
DLR (Germany)



Radio Research Agency (R. Korea)



Center for Space Research (Poland) *International Association of Space Weather, International Forum, Paris, 17 March 2016*



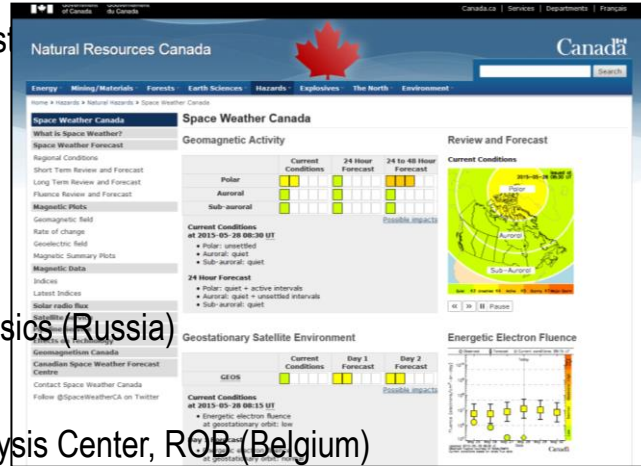
## Met Office Space Weather Operations Centre

- Embedded in Met Office Hazard Centre
  - 24x7x365 – 29 April 14
  - Full capability autumn '14
- Collaborate with academia not replicate
- Operational collaboration with NOAA SWPC & BGS
  - Daily forecast coordination
- Add UK-centric advice and impacts

# Existing Space Weather Forecast Centres (2)



Bureau of Meteorology (Australia)



CMA (China)



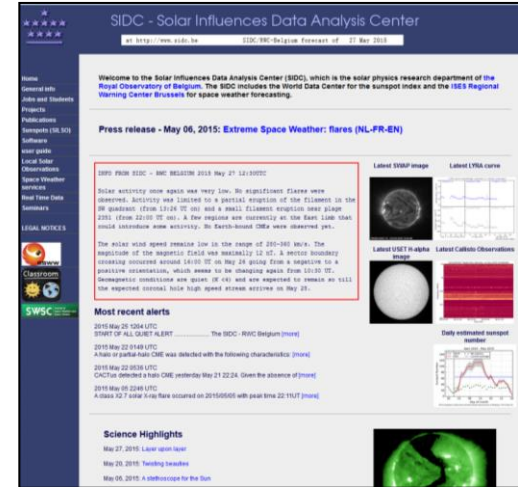
CSWFC (Canada)



Institute of Applied Geophysics (Russia)



Solar Influences Data Analysis Center, ROB (Belgium)



NOAA (USA)



Met Office (UK)



INPE (Brazil)



NICT (Japan)



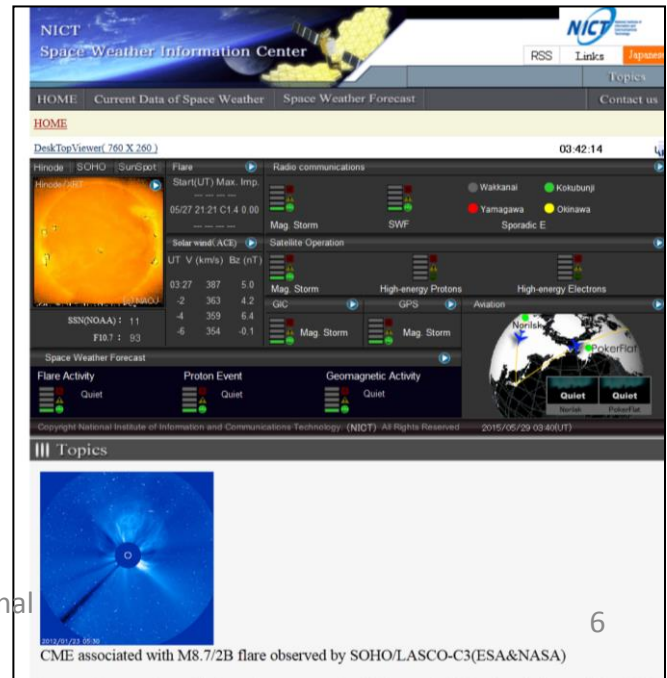
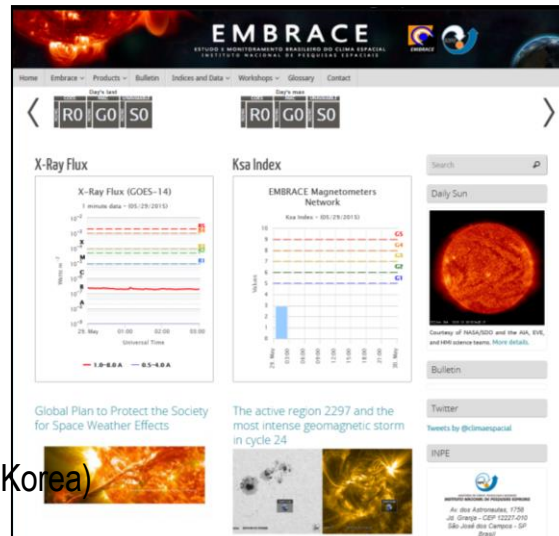
DLR (Germany)



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Center for Space Research (Poland)



Aviation and Space Weather, International Forum, Paris, 17 March 2016

# Existing Space Weather Forecast Centres (3)



Bureau of Meteorology(Australia)



CMA(China)



CSWFC (Canada)



Institute of Applied Geophysics (Russia)



Solar Influences Data Analysis Center, ROB (Belgium)



NOAA (USA)



Met Office (UK)



INPE (Brazil)



NICT (Japan)



DLR (Germany)



Radio Research Agency (R. Korea)



Center for Space Research (Poland) and International Commission on Space Weather, International



Forum, Paris, 17 March 2016

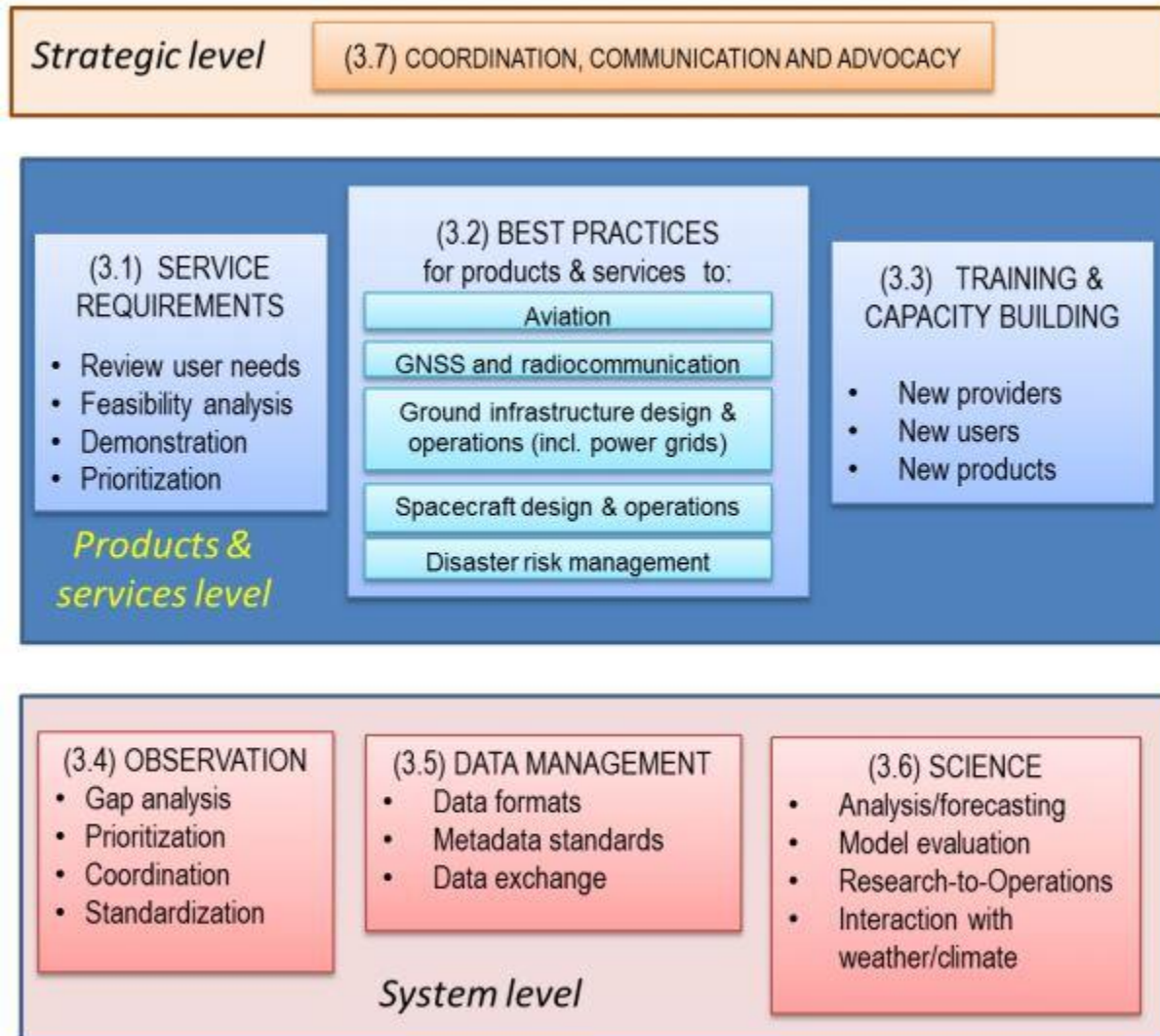
Future plans:

# **WMO FOUR-YEAR PLAN FOR SPACE WEATHER (2016-2019)**



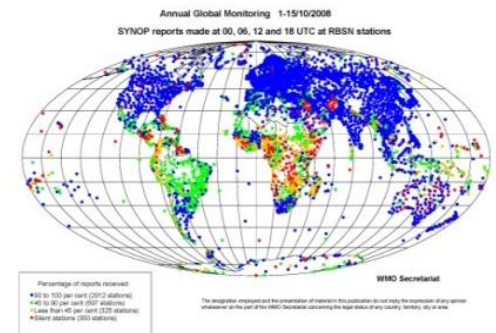
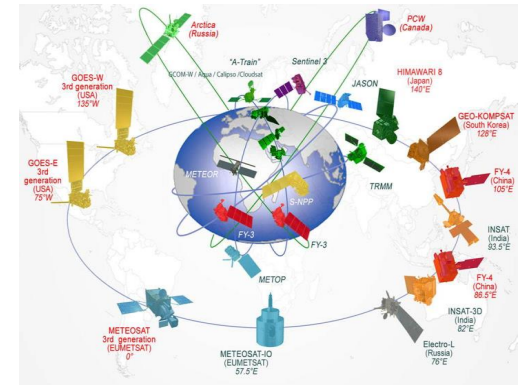
# Four-Year Plan in Support of International Coordination of Operational Space Weather Monitoring and Forecasting

*(Submitted to Exec Council in June 2016 for approval, per request from WMO Congress)*



# Systems Level Activities

- Coordinate observational assets and plans to ensure continuity and interoperability of space weather observations
- Take advantage of integration of meteorological and space weather observations where relevant
- Support information exchange through the WMO Information System (WIS) framework, standards, practices, policies
- Dialogue with meteorological/climate community on modeling and verification



# Service Level Activities

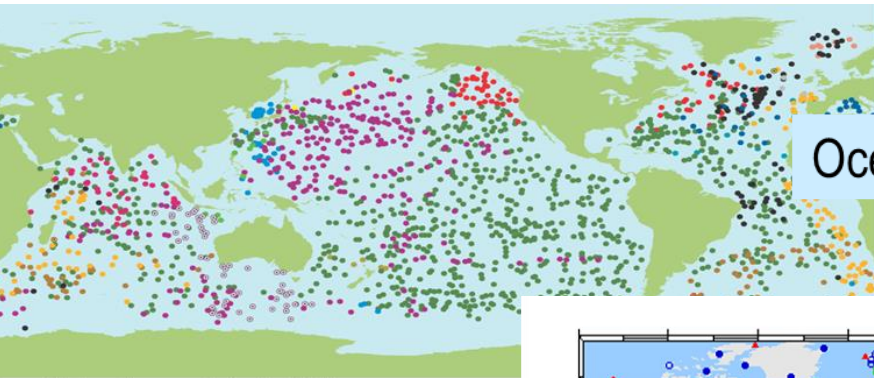
- Organize WMO Members to deliver coordinated services responding to ICAO requirements
- Prepare for extreme events in a multi-hazard Disaster Risk Reduction approach
- Analyze requirements for applications including ionospheric disturbances (radio propagation and GNSS), satellite operations, and ground infrastructure (power grids)
- Provide training on delivery and use of services



Key activity area 1:

# **SPACE WEATHER OBSERVATION**

# WMO Integrated Global Observing System components

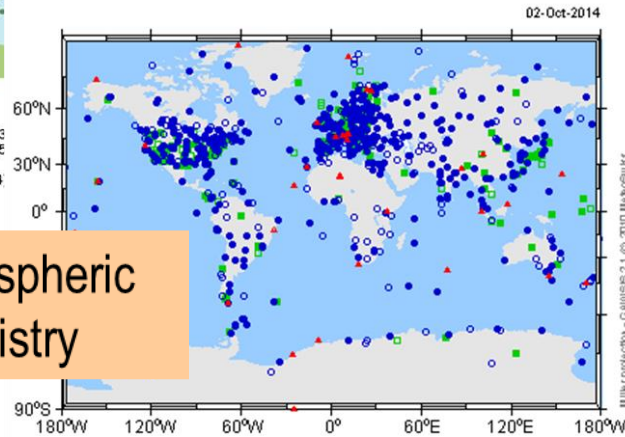


Oceanic buoys

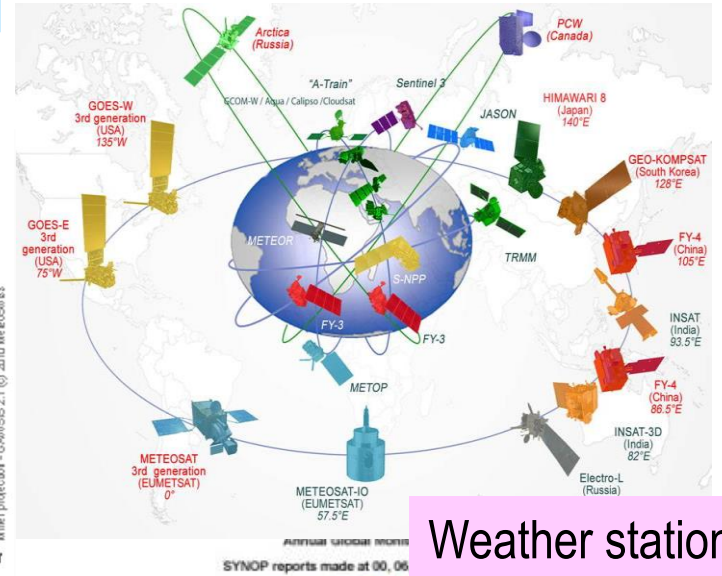
Argo Network, as of April 2005

- AUSTRALIA (56)
- CANADA (75)
- CHINA (11)
- EUROPEAN UNION (30)
- FRANCE (112)
- GERMANY (112)
- INDIA (40)
- IRELAND (1)
- JAPAN (284)
- KOREA (53)
- MAURITIUS (2)
- NETHERLANDS (3)
- NEW ZEALAND (5)
- NORWAY (8)
- RUSSIAN FED. (4)

Atmospheric chemistry



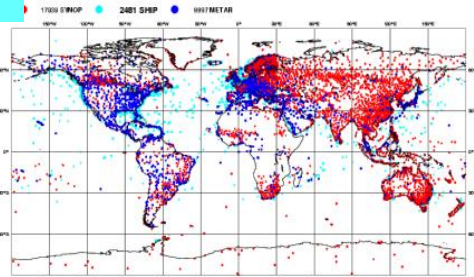
satellites



Weather stations

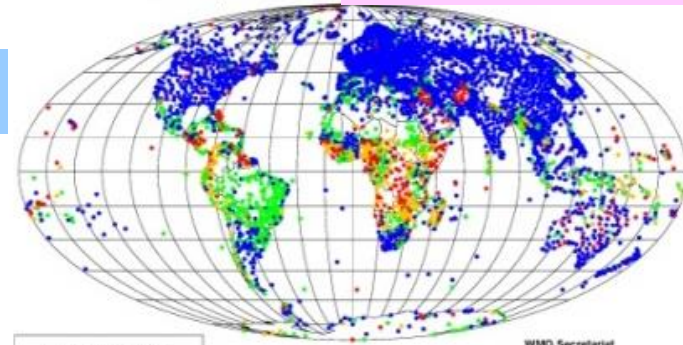
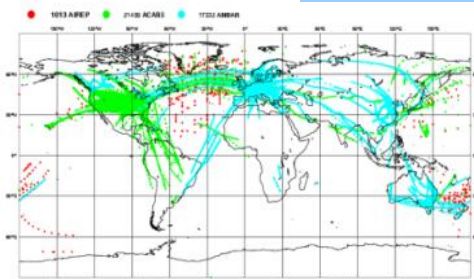
Ships

ECMWF Data Coverage (All obs DA) - SYNOP/SHIP  
19/APR/2010; 00 UTC  
Total number of obs = 30417



Aircrafts

ECMWF Data Coverage (All obs DA) - AIRCRAFT  
05/NOV/2009; 06 UTC  
Total number of obs = 100000



- 60 to 100 per cent (2073 stations)
- 40 to 60 per cent (557 stations)
- Less than 40 per cent (325 stations)
- Blank stations (263 stations)

# International Space Weather Observing Requirements

- Observing requirements are documented in a database and kept under review
- Addressing operational applications (alerts, warnings and forecasts) and climatology needs
- Basis for gap analysis and issuing a “Statement of Guidance” for future observations e.g.:
  - Sun and solar wind
  - Ionosphere
  - Near real time data availability

WMO Observing Requirements Database

Overview: *Space Weather*

Variables measured in this Application

DESCRIPTION

Corresponding Institution: WMO-ISES | Contact Person: Terry Onsager

REQUIREMENTS DEFINED FOR SPACE WEATHER (40) [Export to Excel](#)

ID	Variable	Layer	Uncertainty Goal	Uncertainty Thresh	HR Goal	HR Thresh	VR Goal
576	<a href="#">Cosmic ray neutron flux density</a>	Surf-Earth	5 (%)	25 (%)	1000 km	5000 km	N/A
577	<a href="#">Electron flux density energy spectrum</a>	Geo	5 %	25 %	45 degrees	180 degrees	N/A
578	<a href="#">Electron flux density energy spectrum</a>	Leo	5 %	25 %	45 degrees	180 degrees	N/A
579	<a href="#">Electron flux density energy spectrum</a>	Meo	5 %	25 %	45 degrees	180 degrees	N/A
580	<a href="#">Electron flux density energy spectrum</a>	L1	5 %	25 %	degrees	degrees	N/A
581	<a href="#">foEs</a>	Ionos	0.05 MHz	0.2 MHz	100 km	500 km	N/A
582	<a href="#">foF2</a>	Ionos	0.05 MHz	0.2 MHz	100 km	500 km	N/A
583	<a href="#">h'F</a>	Ionos	1 km	10 km	100 km	500 km	N/A
584	<a href="#">Heavy ion flux density energy and mass spectrum</a>	Geo	0.05 (cm <sup>2</sup> s sr MeV/nuc) <sup>-1</sup>	0.25 (cm <sup>2</sup> s sr MeV/nuc) <sup>-1</sup>	45 degrees	180 degrees	N/A
585	<a href="#">Heavy ion flux density energy and mass spectrum</a>	Leo	0.05 (cm <sup>2</sup> s sr MeV/nuc) <sup>-1</sup>	0.25 (cm <sup>2</sup> s sr MeV/nuc) <sup>-1</sup>	45 degrees	180 degrees	N/A
586	<a href="#">Heavy ion flux density energy and mass spectrum</a>	Meo	0.05 (cm <sup>2</sup> s sr MeV/nuc) <sup>-1</sup>	0.25 (cm <sup>2</sup> s sr MeV/nuc) <sup>-1</sup>	45 degrees	180 degrees	N/A
587	<a href="#">Heavy ion flux density energy and mass</a>	Helio	0.05 (cm <sup>2</sup> s sr MeV/nuc) <sup>-1</sup>	0.25 (cm <sup>2</sup> s sr MeV/nuc) <sup>-1</sup>	360	360 degrees	N/A

<http://www.wmo-sat.info/oscar/applicationareas/view/25>

# WMO Vision for Space-based Observation in 2040 (in progress)

## Tier I operational

- Solar coronagraph and radio-spectrograph, at L1
- In situ plasma, energetic particles, magnetic field (at L1 in solar wind, and GEO)
- In situ plasma, energetic particles at LEO
- GNSS radio-occultation for temperature, humidity and electron density

## Tier II operational

- Solar EUV/X-ray imager, magnetograph, EUV/X-ray irradiance, on the Earth-Sun line (e.g. L1, GEO) and off the Earth-Sun line (e.g. L5, L4)
- Solar coronagraph and heliospheric imager off the Earth-Sun line (e.g. L4, L5)
- Solar wind plasma, energetic particles & magnetic field off Earth-Sun line (e.g. L5)
- Magnetospheric energetic particles (e.g. GEO, HEO, MEO, LEO)
- Enhanced RO constellation for atmospheric/ionospheric soundings

## Tier III, Pathfinders technology demo

- Solar coronal magnetic field imager, solar wind beyond L1
- Ionosphere/thermosphere spectral imager (e.g. GEO, HEO, MEO, LEO)
- Ionospheric electron and major ion density,
- Thermospheric neutral density and constituents

Key activity area 2:

# **SPACE WEATHER SERVICES TO INTERNATIONAL AIR NAVIGATION**



# Support to global air navigation

- WMO together with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) establish the regulatory framework for ***meteorological service for international air navigation*** (ICAO Annex 3 and WMO Technical Regulations, Vol.II)
- To contribute to safety, efficiency and regularity of the air transport
- Organizing/standardizing: observation, warnings, forecast, delivery, quality

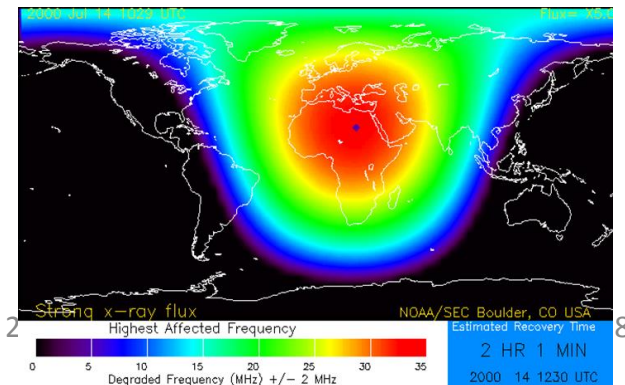


Meteorological information and volcanic ash advisories



# Space weather services to aviation

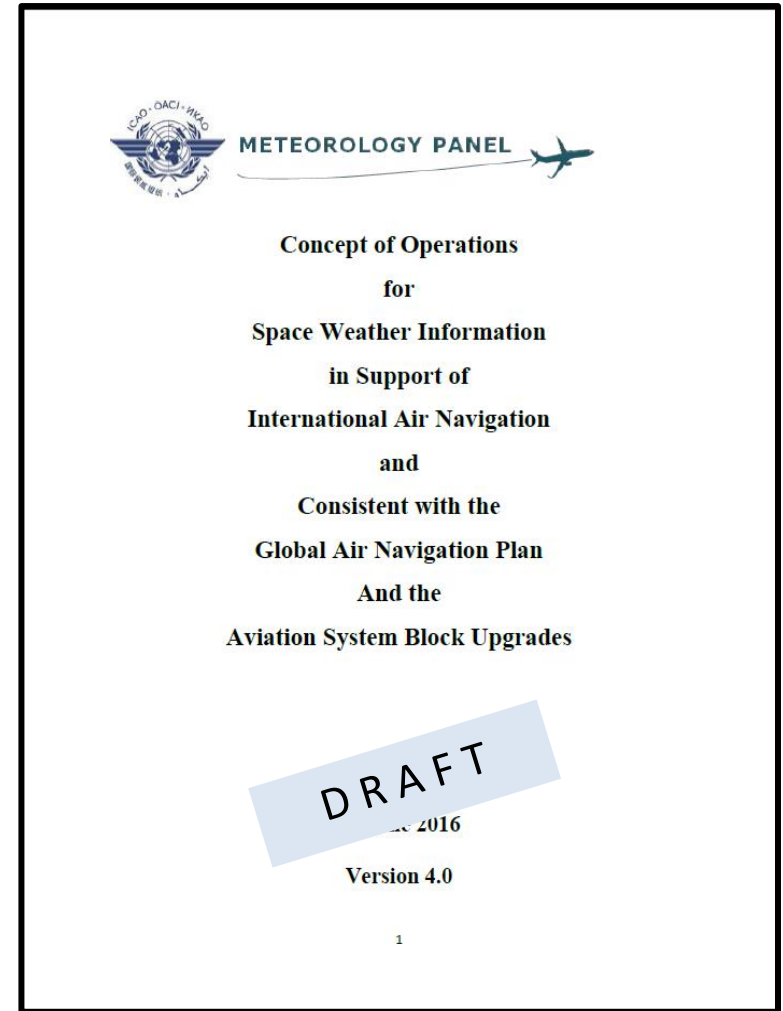
- Space environmental parameters have critical impact
  - Disruption of radio-communication
  - Degradation or loss of GNSS capability
  - Radiation damage to avionics
  - Ionizing radiation dose to crew/passengers
- Monitor these hazards to support decision making to minimize the risk :  
Alert, Warning, Forecast  
When ? How long ? Where ? How severe (in standard scales)?
- Multiple, cross-border users require a global, consistent service



Space Weather as a Global Challenge, 4 April 2000

# Collaboration with ICAO on the definition of space weather services to global aviation

- Concept of Operations (CONOPS) is being refined
- Requirements are being developed
- Aiming at amendment #78 to ICAO Annex 3 to enter in force in Nov 2018



Key activity area 3:

# **DISASTER PREPAREDNESS**

# Disaster preparedness

- Identify SWx in national risk registers
- Multi-hazard early warning schemes
- Preparedness for cascading disasters
- Foster common best practices (hazard scales, data exchange)



## NOAA Space Weather Scales

Category	Effect	Physical measure	Average Frequency (1 cycle = 11 years)
Scale	Descriptor	Duration of event will influence severity of effects	
<b>Geomagnetic Storms</b>			
G 5	Extreme Power systems: widespread voltage control problems and protective system problems can occur, some grid systems may experience complete collapse or blackouts. Transformers may experience damage. Spacecraft operations: may experience extensive surface charging, problems with orientation, uplink/downlink and tracking satellites. Other systems: pipeline currents can reach hundreds of amps, HF (high frequency) radio propagation may be impossible in many areas for one to two days, satellite navigation may be degraded for days, low-frequency radio navigation can be out for hours, and aurora has been seen as low as Florida and southern Texas (typically 40° geomagnetic lat.)**	Kp=9 Kp=9	Number of storm events when Kp level was met; (number of storm days) 4 per cycle (4 days per cycle)
G 4	Severe Power systems: possible widespread voltage control problems and some protective systems will mistakenly trip out key assets from the grid. Spacecraft operations: may experience surface charging and tracking problems, corrections may be needed for orientation problems. Other systems: induced pipeline currents affect preventive measures, HF radio propagation sporadic, satellite navigation degraded for hours, low-frequency radio navigation disrupted, and aurora has been seen as low as Alabama and northern California (typically 45° geomagnetic lat.)**	Kp=8, including a 9.	100 per cycle (60 days per cycle)
G 3	Strong Power systems: voltage corrections may be required, false alarms triggered on some protection devices. Spacecraft operations: surface charging may occur on satellite components, drag may increase on low-Earth-orbit satellites, and corrections may be needed for orientation problems. Other systems: instrument satellite navigation and low-frequency radio navigation problems may occur, HF radio may be interrupted, and aurora has been seen as low as Illinois and Oregon (typically 50° geomagnetic lat.)**	Kp=7	200 per cycle (130 days per cycle)
G 2	Moderate Power systems: high-latitude power systems may experience voltage alarms, long-duration storms may cause transformer damage. Spacecraft operations: corrective actions to orientation may be required by ground control; possible changes in drag affect orbit predictions. Other systems: HF radio propagation can fade at higher latitudes, and aurora has been seen as low as New York and Idaho (typically 55° geomagnetic lat.)**	Kp=6	600 per cycle (350 days per cycle)
G 1	Minor Power systems: weak power grid fluctuations can occur. Spacecraft operations: minor impact on satellite operations possible. Other systems: migratory animals are also affected; aurora is commonly visible at high latitudes (northern Michigan and Maine)**	Kp=5	1700 per cycle (900 days per cycle)

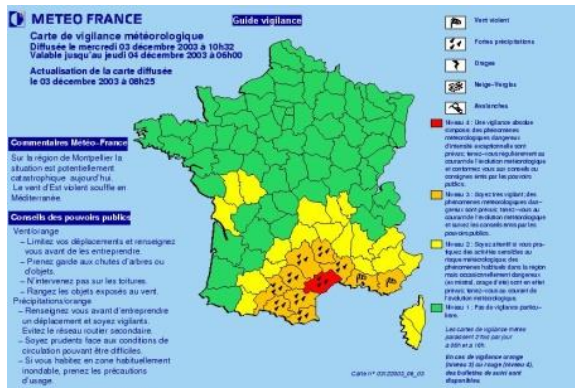
\* Based on this measure, but other physical measures are also considered.  
\*\* The specific locations around the globe, use geomagnetic latitude to determine likely sightings (see [www.swc.noaa.gov/Aurora](http://www.swc.noaa.gov/Aurora))

Category	Effect	Physical measure	Average Frequency (1 cycle = 11 years)
<b>Solar Radiation Storms</b>			
S 5	Extreme Biological: unavoidable high radiation hazard to astronauts on EVA (extra-vehicular activity); high radiation exposure to passengers crew in commercial jets at high latitudes (approximately 100 chess x-rays) is possible. Satellite operations: satellites may be rendered useless, memory impacts can cause loss of control, may cause serious noise in image data, star-trackers may be unable to locate sources; permanent damage to solar panels possible. Other systems: complete blackout of HF (high frequency) communications possible through the polar regions, and position errors make navigation operations extremely difficult.	Flux level of $\geq 10^{10}$ MeV particles (ions)**	Number of events when flux level was met** Fewer than 1 per cycle
S 4	Severe Biological: unavoidable radiation hazard to astronauts on EVA, elevated radiation exposure to passengers and crew in commercial jets at high latitudes (approximately 10 chess x-rays) is possible. Satellite operations: many experience memory device problems and noise on imaging systems; star-tracker problems may cause orientation problems, and solar panel efficiency can be degraded. Other systems: blackout of HF radio communications through the polar regions and increased navigation errors over several days are likely.	$10^9$	3 per cycle
S 3	Strong Biological: radiation hazard avoidance recommended for astronauts on EVA; passengers and crew in commercial jets at high latitudes may receive low-level radiation exposure (approximately 1 chess x-ray). Satellite operations: single-event upsets, noise in imaging systems, and slight reduction of efficiency in solar panel are likely. Other systems: degraded HF radio propagation through the polar regions and navigation position errors likely.	$10^8$	10 per cycle
S 2	Moderate Biological: none. Satellite operations: infrequent single-event upsets possible. Other systems: small effects on HF propagation through the polar regions and navigation at polar cap locations possibly affected.	$10^7$	25 per cycle
S 1	Minor Biological: none. Satellite operations: none. Other systems: minor impacts on HF radio in the polar regions.	$10^6$	50 per cycle

\* Flux levels are 5 minute averages. Flux in particles  $\times$  "cm"  $\times$  "cm" based on this measure, but other physical measures are also considered.  
\*\* These events are rare but can be deadly.

Category	Effect	Physical measure	Average Frequency (1 cycle = 11 years)
<b>Radio Blackouts</b>			
R 5	Extreme HF Radio: Complete HF (high frequency)** radio blackout on the entire sunlit side of the Earth lasting for a number of hours. This results in no HF radio contact with mariners and en route aviators in this sector. Navigation: Low-frequency navigation signals used by maritime and general aviation systems experience outages on the sunlit side of the Earth for many hours, causing loss in positioning. Increased satellite navigation errors in positioning for several hours on the sunlit side of Earth, which may spread into the night side.	X30 (2x10 <sup>10</sup> )	Number of events when flux level was met; (number of storm days) Fewer than 1 per cycle
R 4	Severe HF Radio: HF radio communication blackout on most of the sunlit side of Earth for one to two hours. HF radio contact lost during this time. Navigation: Outages of low-frequency navigation signals cause increased error in positioning for one to two hours. Minor degradation of satellite navigation possible on the sunlit side of Earth.	X10 (10 <sup>10</sup> )	8 per cycle (8 days per cycle)
R 3	Strong HF Radio: Wide area blackout of HF radio communication, loss of radio contact for about an hour on sunlit side of Earth. Navigation: Low-frequency navigation signals degraded for about an hour.	X1 (10 <sup>9</sup> )	175 per cycle (140 days per cycle)
R 2	Moderate HF Radio: Limited blackout of HF radio communication on sunlit side, loss of radio contact for tens of minutes. Navigation: Degradation of low-frequency navigation signals for tens of minutes.	M5 (5x10 <sup>7</sup> )	330 per cycle (300 days per cycle)
R 1	Minor HF Radio: Weak or minor degradation of HF radio communication on sunlit side, occasional loss of radio contact. Navigation: Low-frequency navigation signals degraded for brief intervals.	M1 (10 <sup>5</sup> )	2000 per cycle (950 days per cycle)

\* Flux, measured in the 1.0 to 100 MHz range, is  $W/m^2$ . \*\* Based on this measure, but other physical measures are also considered.  
\*\*\* Other frequencies may also be affected by these conditions.



# Concluding remarks

- «Space Weather» is a science in progress but routine operational services are delivered by centres around the world, to respond to the needs of an increasingly vulnerable society
- International coordination is required to strengthen observations and data exchange, expand best practices and ensure interoperability and standardization
- Support to aviation is among the priority objectives for WMO through ICAO-WMO longstanding collaboration
- Benefits : improved services, leveraging the capability of existing centres, sharing observation/development efforts
- WMO provides collaboration framework for its Members to pursue these goals in synergy with weather/climate services



# Thank you



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METEOROLOGICAL  
ORGANIZATION

Questions:  
[jlafeuille@wmo.int](mailto:jlafeuille@wmo.int)