

Open call for obs4MIPs Co-Chair (one position)

Application deadline: 23:59 UTC 17 December 2025

The Earth System Modelling and Observations ([ESMO](#)) Working Group on Observations for Researching Climate ([WGORC](#)) is seeking applications from enthusiastic individuals with a background in observations and/or climate modelling to join the obs4MIPs Steering Panel as a Co-Chair. Full details of the objectives and tasks of the Panel can be found **here**. The Terms of Reference of the panel can be found **here**.

Scope

The obs4MIPs Steering Panel seeks to enable the research community to more effectively use observational products to support/facilitate Earth System Model (ESM) evaluation, research and development. It does so through the provision of information on developing, proposing, and applying observational datasets for model evaluation (see [ODS2.6](#)).

Since the inception of [obs4MIPs](#), delivery of large-to-global-scale [CMIP](#)-aligned gridded products has been the priority. However, major climate intercomparison-related research is increasingly focused on regional scales, requiring higher resolution observational data, and in-situ station reference data products. The Steering Panel is seeking a second co-chair. This is an exciting time to join and provide strategic direction for the Steering Panel as obs4MIPs expands to meet these evolving user requirements.

We are particularly interested in candidates that have skills and interests bridging the observation-modelling interface, with experience in:

- Engaging with the observational and/or modelling communities on user requirements.
- Reference dataset preparation and/or use by the modelling community.
- Coordination/development of open-source code and workflows for community activities.
- Data policy, FAIR data principles, or data processing techniques such as homogenization, bias correction, and uncertainty quantification.

We also welcome applicants with reference data/modelling expertise in land surface, oceans, atmosphere and cryosphere, impacts and adaptation and coupling of the components to improve understanding of Earth Systems. Technical understanding of observational data, preparing data for model evaluation (e.g. using [CMOR](#) or development of ESM community tools utilising references such as [ESMValTool](#)) and understanding of observational data and associated uncertainties are particularly welcome.

Responsibilities of obs4MIPs Steering Panel co-chairs

- To chair meetings of the Panel.
- To provide leadership of the Panel and vision and drive to achieve the Panel's aims and objectives.
- Help guide the technical alignment of observations and model output

- Oversight and ensure coordination of the obs4MIPs project on designated community infrastructure (ESGF), its sustainment and appropriate development to meet scientific need
- High level liaison with ESGF and WCRP activity leaders
- To liaise with and report as needed to the WGORC co-chairs and the ESMO SSG
- Assist in technical areas according to their relevant expertise.
- To make operational decisions about the work of the Panel between meetings.
- To actively promote obs4MIPs and the work of the Steering Panel within their own networks and wider community.
- Work with other Panel members to develop presentations and publications as relevant.
- Commit to embracing diversity, demanding equality, and building capacity for the future within obs4MIPs, in line with WCRP principles.

All obs4MIPs Steering Panel Members are expected to conduct themselves according to the [**WCRP Code of Conduct**](#)

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants should have a minimum of one or more of:

- Post-graduate qualification or relevant experience in climate modelling / climate model analysis.
- Post-graduate qualification or relevant experience in observational data collection and preparation.
- Experience working with data published to the Earth System Grid Federation.

Applicants must:

- Be employed by an organisation or institution involved in climate science.
- Not previously served as a WCRP activity panel member in the past for more than six years.
- Not be a current voting member* of any working group or panel under ESMO, e.g., WGCM, WGORC, CMIP Panel/WIP (Task Teams and ex-officio positions excluded).

*if your committed term as a voting member is ending and you do not plan to renew that position but have served six or less years in WCRP activities, then you can apply to this position.

Diversity and inclusion

WCRP embraces diversity, demands equality, and builds capacity for the future with a commitment to inclusive and representative teams across all areas of activity. The obs4MIPs Steering Panel welcome and strongly encourage applications from countries and institutions not already represented on the Panel.

Time commitment

There are meetings typically every month to discuss dataset proposal review and other Steering Panel related matters. Co-Chairs are expected to commit appropriate time to this activity with a commitment of a minimum 10% FTE. Most meetings will be online, with some out-of-hours working required to meet the challenges of time zone coordination.

Appointments to the Steering Panel will be for an initial term of maximum four-years with up to two, two-year extensions possible. For co-chair positions, where deemed necessary, there will be a handover period with the outgoing co-chair.

Selection process and criteria

All open calls for appointments to the obs4MIPs Panel follow a four-stage selection process:

- 1) Blind review of applications to generate a shortlist, which will then be reviewed in line with WCRP principles. Please adhere to guidance provided on the application form, e.g., removing photographs, any personal details and publication list from your Curriculum Vitae.
- 2) A full review of the shortlisted candidates application will be considered at this stage. The current obs4MIPs Steering Panel will use the initial selection to produce a final, prioritised shortlist.
- 3) For the co-chair position, candidates will also be asked to supply contact details for a supervisor/line manager who can confirm their support for the application.
- 4) Prioritised shortlist submitted as a recommendation to the WGORC for final approval.

Selection procedures align with the relevant clauses (14–19) in the obs4MIPs Panel [Terms of Reference](#). All selection panel members will be asked to identify if they have any conflicts of interest with regard to the shortlist of candidates. They can still assess all shortlisted candidates, but their scoring and views can be disregarded by the selection process for the final prioritised shortlist.

Remuneration

obs4MIPs Steering Panel co-chairs and members **are not paid**. Financial support to travel and participate in person to relevant meetings may be available on a case-by-case basis.

How to apply

Please read the [Terms of Reference](#) and complete the [application form](#). You will be asked to identify three of the Steering Panel objectives where you can contribute.

The deadline for applications/nominations is **23:59 UTC, 17 December 2025**.

Contact information

Please contact the CMIP-IPO (cmip-ipo@esa.int) if you have any questions or require further information.