

## World Data System Scientific Committee (WDS-SC) 2018–2021 Teleconference #7

*Teleconference #7 was held on Wednesday, 6 March 2019 at 13:00 UTC*

### **Summary**

#### **ISC Draft Science Action Plan**

- Comments from the WDS-SC were requested on the draft Science Action Plan of the International Science Council (ISC). The WDS International Programme Office (WDS-IPO) has already sent a letter to the ISC Governing Board (GB) about its Strategic Challenge Domains and identified that WDS can contribute in multiple places.
- The response should identify the areas where WDS can make an impact, where the plan is relevant to WDS, and emphasize things that are unique about WDS in terms of its hands-on role and its certification of Member repositories. It should also state what things WDS will do to help the GB achieve its objectives.
- There are some projects that WDS should absolutely be involved in and a strong statement will be made about WDS willingness to contribute to them. WDS is playing a role in making the science system efficient, and working towards swift and equitable sharing of data through the CoreTrustSeal and the WDS International Technology Office (WDS-ITO), which will be offering brokering-type services to make this available. Thus, WDS is a promoter and implementer of Open Data, and contributes to the challenge domains of the *Digital Revolution* and the *Evolution of Science and Science Systems*.
- The importance of infrastructure should be included under the discussion about global data governance. The research agenda will not achieve the building of infrastructure, it needs investment on a global scale, and is under the purview of ISC. WDS is taking concrete steps towards making it happen through the WDS-ITO which, for example, is contributing to the building of global infrastructure through offering a brokering service.
- The WDS-IPO will put together all of the WDS-SC thoughts, building on the previous letter. A meeting with ISC will also be set up, to discuss the comments and details of what WDS hopes to do.

#### **WDS-ITO Update**

##### **a. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Remit**

- A revised version of the remit of the WDS-ITO's TAC was presented to WDS-SC. The hope is to try to have the initial membership of the TAC in place by the end of June, with its first meeting expected in July.
- Some points of the document were discussed with the WDS-SC, such as the balance of the TAC between representatives of WDS Members and other experts, the nomination and the selection of TAC members, the terms of TAC members, and the voting rights and the responsibilities of members.
- The WDS-SC agreed for the document to be approved by the WDS-SC Chair after its revisions were incorporated.
- A potential cohort of people to recruit from is to be created, with suggestions on who might be included in the first set of appointments. In particular, someone specifically connected to brokering is needed.
- Once the TAC remit document has been finalized it will also be used to put out a request for nominations for TAC membership from the WDS membership.

##### **b. WDS-ITO Mandate**

- The draft mandate is based heavily on the WDS-ITO's original concept documents. The only new section outlines the criteria for choosing projects: to the extent possible, the WDS-ITO will help WDS Members build their own capacity, and will try to avoid duplication of efforts and reuse existing solutions.
- The draft was approved by the WDS-SC as an acting ITO Mandate for the time being, bearing in mind that it might change in the future as things evolve.

##### **c. Survey of WDS Members**

- There are two surveys: a qualitative survey and a fairly quick online survey that re-examines some of the questions from the previous survey of Members conducted by the WDS-IPO in 2013. The online version, which provides the WDS-ITO Associate Director with the current status of the WDS membership to follow up on, was reviewed by the WDS-SC, which decided to make it live and to start admitting responses. The survey will be sent out to WDS Members by the WDS-IPO.

##### **d. WDS-ITO Action Items**

- A review of the Google Dataset Search documentation has been started. The WDS-ITO needs first focus on setting up metadata catalogues for those Members who do not have one before making Members'



metadata catalogues indexed by Google Dataset Search. There is thus a need to know which WDS Members could use help. These questions are in the survey.

- The WDS-IPO has historical information on which Members in the past did not have catalogues, and a meeting with OpenAIRE will be set up to discuss the status of the metadata aggregation they have been developing on WDS' behalf. Google Dataset Search is a newer activity; hence, the WDS-IPO does not have any information on it and this will have to come from the survey or from DANS.

### **Interactions with National Academies & Scientific Unions**

- A comprehensive initial list has been created of organizations within the ISC membership and any known contact details. There are nearly 400 organizations listed, 54 of which are out of scope, duplicated, or have some issues. Those remaining have been prioritized into four groups, and the WDS-IPO has sent out an email to all of them asking for their data contacts to be added to an online form.
- Once the WDS-IPO gains identified data contacts, the WDS one-pager and the Strategic plan will be sent to them to ask for comments. The WDS-IPO will continue this process as it gets more contacts over time.
- There are many bounce-backs received for the cases where the WDS-IPO did not have a reliable starting point; it is working on to find useful email addresses.
- An initial report of this information has been created and will be updated, and a summary will be made before mid-April: the contacts and the types of responses we have received.

### **World Health Organization (WHO) commitment to Open Data & Certification of WHO Data Repositories**

- There was a meeting of the WHO Executive Board at the end of January, to which a WDS-SC member attended. Afterwards, three WHO officials were contacted who had responded positively when the subject of WDS was broached, and they were sent the WDS one-pager and a request for information about their policies when it comes to Open Data and their potential commitment to becoming certified. The verbal response had been that certification might be somewhat of a diplomatic problem, but they were not completely closed to the idea.
- Feedback from these three people is still in the process of being formulated. This will be ongoing work and the WDS-SC will be kept informed. However, a strategy is desirable on how to further engage with them on concrete measures for certification. In the meantime, it was suggested to contact the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and other UN-related organizations to ensure that the health sector is better represented in WDS.
- The initial responses will help the WDS-SC to come up with targeted strategies. Once information is obtained, it will be circulated to the WDS-SC to use this to formulate a strategy. One initial point is WHO data, although public, cannot be used for commercial purposes.

### **Review of Action Items**

- WDS had a call with the CoreTrustSeal Chair regarding the draft letter concerning funding of a staff member for the CoreTrustSeal Secretariat. It will be sent out after making some final changes.
- The Early Career Researcher (ECR) Training Workshop is moving forward well. A room has been organized for free to hold the training, and the accommodation reservation will be completed soon. A webpage asking for ECRs to register interest is to be created, as well as a concrete plan of what the training will involve. The latter will be an Agenda item at the face-to-face Meeting.
- All abstracts that looked to be African-led from the SciDataCon website have been listed so that any repositories WDS might follow-up with about potential certification can be identified.
- The Non-standard Outputs Working Group (WG) had a teleconference, and the notes will be disseminated as soon as possible for discussion (possibly at the 20th WDS-SC Meeting).
- A document on how the WDS-SC can assist the WDS-ECR Network has been created, and it will be added to the Agenda of the subsequent teleconference.
- WDS contacted all the major participants and the organizing committee of the WDS Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Workshop, and asked for feedback on LAC Workshop.
- The idea of having another LAC Workshop in 2020 is something that could be discussed at the face-to-face Meeting. One of the most important consequences of the Workshop was the creation of the WG at the Brazilian Academy of Science (ABC), and people want to be more active in this and in a WG of the National Laboratory of Scientific Computation.
- The WDS-IPO was asked by FORCE11, if—as an international organization that hosts regional events and that has connections in the region—WDS would potentially be interested in being involved with its annual meeting 2020 in Santiago, jointly organized by FORCE11 directors based in Chile and Argentina. The WDS-IPO will discuss this more with FORCE11, and generate a document to present to the WDS-SC.