

WORK PROGRAMME PROPOSAL
October 2023 – October 2025



@ESA, 2011, Landsat, Mississippi River Delta, US.

Submitted to the 12th Steering Committee on October 3rd, 2023

PROGRAMME COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN 2023



Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales
(CNES)



Chinese Academy of Sciences
(CAS)



European Space Agency
(ESA)



Italian Space Agency
(ASI)



Slovak Space Office (SSO)
Slovak Investment and Trade development Agency (SARIO)



Swedish National Space Agency
(SNSA)



United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs
(UNOOSA)



United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration
(NOAA)

PREFACE

"Improving the development of these tools [satellites] and their wider use, particularly in the most vulnerable and affected regions, will be paramount to support timely adaptation actions to reduce climate risks in the context of global warming." Marie-Fanny Racault, Chapter 3. Oceans and Coastal Ecosystems and Their Services, IPCC Sixth Assessment report, February 2022.

In 2017, during the first One Planet Summit, the Space for Climate Observatory (SCO) initiative was born to fully leverage the potential of Earth observation data in the adaptation and fight against climate change. Two years later, the French President officially announced its launch during the Paris Air Show, where twenty-three space agencies and international organizations met to sign the Joint Declaration of interest.

Today, with almost fifty partners and more than seventy projects around the world, the network is structured around an international Charter and is recognized as a major player relying on increasingly available satellite data to contribute to the climate effort.

Thanks to the mobilization of numerous scientific organizations alongside public institutions and private companies, the general public and local decision-makers are gradually gaining access to crucial tools to better understand and anticipate present and future climate challenges.

Whether it is a question of monitoring extreme weather events, water and forest management policies, biodiversity protection or prospects for adapting our cities and countryside, the services and platforms of the SCO provide essential decision-making tools for actors and stakeholders. These projects now allow many territories to move forward with resilient actions that are essential to the fight against global warming.

Following the COP27, which reaffirmed the need to step up international efforts to reduce anthropogenic emissions in the short term, and the need to mobilise for the adaptation of the most vulnerable territories to the inevitable consequences of climate change, the SCO International Initiative wishes to provide its expertise and full contribution.

The present Work Programme, in line with the above-mentioned IPCC quote, is the opportunity to foster the emergence of valuable state-of-the-art EO applications through targeted and coordinated actions. To reach more players and territories, SCO members are called upon to **implement a common set of global, regional, national and local actions** fostering cooperation between a wide range of stakeholders. **Coordinated and inclusive response is crucial to combine our ambitions and deploy tools to strengthen adaptation and resilience of vulnerable populations.**

Work Programme 2023-2025_3rd October 2023

The Work Programme will run for the next two years (2023-2025). It includes sections on previous activities, objectives and corresponding activities with a schedule. It encompasses SCO Project activities, Working Group activities, Secretariat activities and national activities of the Signatories whenever possible. The Work Programme is prepared by the Secretariat, reviewed by the Programme Committee and approved by the Steering Committee. Work Programmes are made public by the Secretariat.

The present Work Programme is submitted for the approval of the Steering Committee at its 12th meeting held at the International Astronautical Congress (IAC) 2023 in Baku, Azerbaijan, on October 3rd, 2023.

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1. Programme Committee



Recalling Article 6.2 of the Charter,

The Programme Committee is in charge of overseeing the implementation of SCO activities, with the support of the Secretariat. In particular, it is responsible for:

- drafting the Work Programme (Article 7.1);
- ensuring that SCO Projects match the required criteria (Article 7.2);
- monitoring work within dedicated Working Groups (Article 7.3).
- tracking the progress of SCO Project and Working Group activities towards the achievement of the objectives defined in Article 3 and detailed in the Work Programme;

The Programme Committee is composed of a restricted number of Focal Points and oversees the implementation of SCO activities.

The main ambition of the Programme Committee is to encourage, stimulate and replicate SCO projects, to strengthen the involvement of focal points in the creation of national and regional SCOs, and to raise global awareness of SCO activities and lead the international network.

In the long term, the ambition is that each focal point will be able to foster its national ecosystem and bring forward accredited projects at the international level.

For this purpose, the Programme Committee is mainly in charge of drafting the Work Programme on a biannual basis with the support of the Secretariat.

Therefore, the Programme Committee, with the support of the Secretariat, is responsible for drafting and publishing reports to assess the progress of Work Programmes activities and their results as they reach conclusion. These reports will be presented to the Steering Committee and made publicly available.

2. Work Programme

The Work Programme is the primary instrument used by SCO to facilitate collaboration among its members and with other partners in application of the Charter and the Rules of Procedure.

The Work Programme provides structure and guidance for pragmatic and result-oriented cooperation in mutually agreed thematic fields. With respect to the expected governance outcomes within SCO activities, it is to be executed in the period 2023-2025. The Work Programme summarizes anticipated activities for subsequent years, to be overseen by the Programme Committee. As stated by the Rules of Procedure, it will be updated yearly.

Its aim is threefold:

- to define common objectives and set out a plan for implementation of SCO activities, making the initiative an active and wide forum for all entities using EO for concrete climate applications;
- **to foster and replicate SCO projects;**
- **to increase global awareness of SCO activities, using relevant communication relays, among worldwide stakeholders involved in public decision-making on the impacts of climate change.**

SCO Work Programme activities are largely funded through in-kind contributions from SCO Members, on a voluntary, best-effort basis, supplemented by financial contributions where possible or appropriate.



3. Work Programme overview

Governance and Secretariat activities

OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS	PROJECTED COMPLETION	LEAD	SPONSORS
Implement SCO Governance	Rules of Procedure adoption	From May 24 th , 2023	- Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Programme Committee - Steering Committee - Working Group Chairs
	Programme Committee set-up			
	Working Group structuring			
	Implementing a due diligence framework to review private entities membership applications			
Execute SCO Governance	Prepare and Organize SCO governance meetings	2023-2025	- Programme Committee	- Secretariat
	Provide oversight of Working Groups			

Working group activities related to the development of the SCO Community

OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS	PROJECTED COMPLETION	LEAD	SPONSORS
Increase the number of Signatories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up one-to-one meetings with non-signatories' national agencies Organize awareness sessions Participate in global conferences 	2023 - 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secretariat - Global awareness working group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Steering Committee - Global awareness Working Group Chair (UNOOSA) and its members
Ensure SCO representation/participation within global groups/communities involved in EO sector and/or in climate change impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify EO and/or Climate Change initiatives and international coordination groups Coordinate SCO participation in identified and selected initiatives' working groups 	2023 – 2025	- Global awareness Working Group	- Steering Committee
Develop outreach, awareness raising and communication strategy and plan	Draft a Global Awareness raising strategy	2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secretariat - Global awareness working group - 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Steering Committee - Global awareness Working Group Chair (UNOOSA)

				<i>and its members</i>
Develop SCO awareness raising material	Develop consistent awareness raising material and language Develop unified promotion material incl. presentations, bullet points.	2024	- <i>Global awareness Working Group</i>	- <i>Global awareness Working Group Chair (UNOOSA) and its members</i>
SCO Website	Maintain and Update	2023-2025	- <i>Secretariat</i>	- <i>Secretariat (in-kind contributions from members are welcomed)</i>

In-house activities of the Signatories addressing SCO objectives and implementing SCO core functions

Support national and regional SCOs	Assisting new signatories towards implementation of national and regional SCOs.	2023 - 2025	- <i>Secretariat</i>	- <i>Steering Committee</i>
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SCO project-related activities: Accreditation Process

OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS	PROJECTED COMPLETION	LEAD	SPONSORS
Set up and manage the international accreditation process	Implement the international accreditation process	24 May 2023	- <i>Programme Committee</i>	- <i>Secretariat</i> - <i>national and regional SCOs</i>
	Create an international panel of reviewers. Launch and manage the international call for proposals (reviews, accreditation).	June – October 2023		
	Stimulate national and regional calls for proposals	2023-2025		

SCO project-related activities: Leveraging SCO solutions

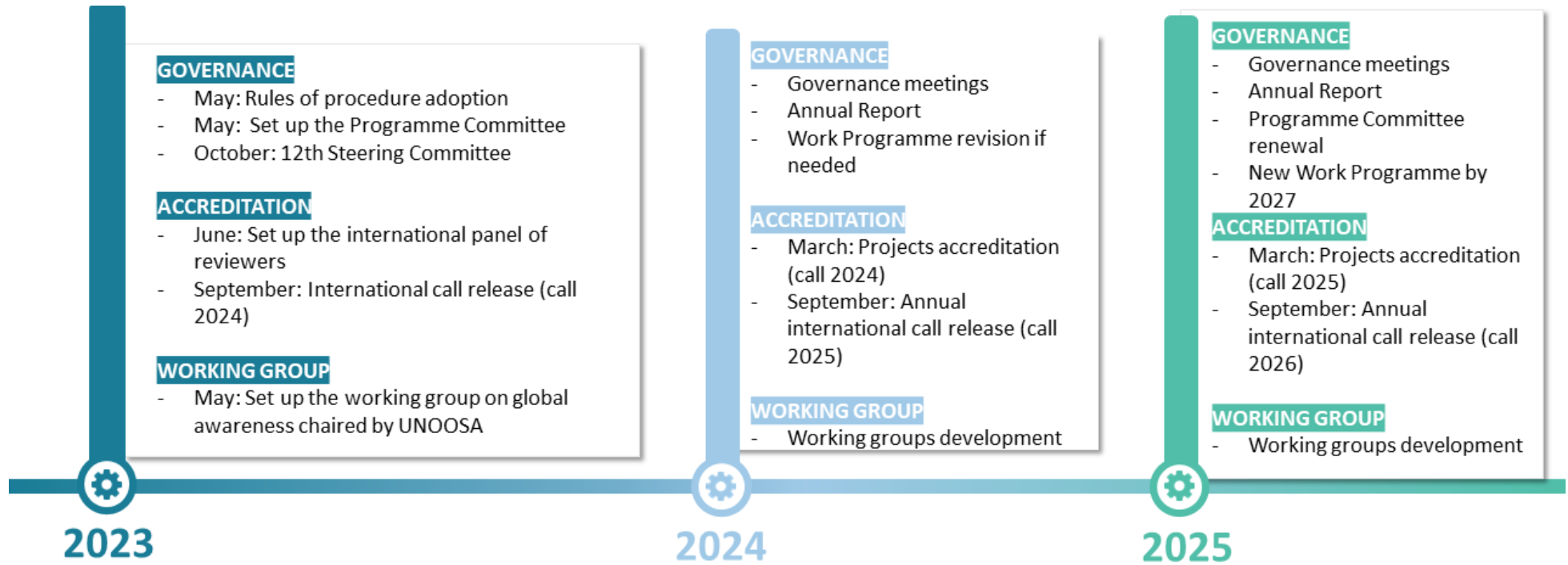
OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS	PROJECTED COMPLETION	LEAD	SPONSORS
Disseminate projects content/ results and facilitate their transfer to additional use cases	Arrange the access to the SCO portfolio from a user perspective, and support and guide the interested users towards the most suited solution to their problem.	2024-2025	- <i>Programme Committee</i> - <i>Secretariat</i> - <i>A dedicated Working Group</i>	- <i>National and regional SCOs</i> - <i>Projects developers and users</i>

	Development of specific material on how to consult the SCO portfolio (to get essential information) and on which steps would be needed to implement projects in new use cases).	2024-2025		
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Reporting and Evaluation

OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS	PROJECTED COMPLETION	LEAD	SPONSORS
Provide SCO activities overview	Annual activity report for Signatories	2023-2025	- Programme Committee	- Working Group Chairs - Secretariat

4. Work Programme Timeline



Mid term objectives 2023 – 2025

- Operate SCO Governance
- Implement SCO Governance
- Increase the number of Signatories
- Support national or regional SCOs
- Ensure SCO representation within worldwide stakeholder involved in EO sector and/or in climate change impacts
- Report SCO activities
- Implement Working group

Annex 1 – Governance and Secretariat activities

OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS
<p>Implement SCO Governance</p>	<p>Rules of Procedure adoption: completed in 2023</p> <p>The first version of the Rules of Procedure (SCO/RP/2023/01) was adopted by consensus on 24 May 2023 during the 11th Steering Committee meeting. The present Rules of Procedure can be revised by a two-thirds majority decision of the Steering Committee. The Rules of Procedure enable the implementation of new deliverables as detailed by the present Work Programme by 2025.</p>
	<p>Programme Committee set-up</p> <p>The first operational Programme Committee was elected with a two-thirds majority of focal points on 24 May 2023 during the 11th Steering Committee meeting. The next Programme Committee will be elected at a Steering Committee meeting in 2025.</p>
	<p>Establishing a Working Group</p> <p>All Focal Points, and Signatories through their Focal Points, may to submit a proposal to create a specific Working Group. The Secretariat will collect proposals from September 2023. The Secretariat will then arrange the review of proposals by the Programme Committee for submission to the Steering Committee. This process will be operated on a regular basis.</p> <p>Working Groups are mainly invited to foster expertise sharing, SCO project replication and promotion of SCO projects at international or regional level.</p>
	<p>Implementing a due diligence framework to review private entities membership applications</p> <p>Since the SCO works as an international network, some focal points have their own due diligence internal process to ensure compliance of the private sector with their proper ethical, social, and environmental requirements. In order to articulate and coordinate these different procedures, the secretariat propose to the Programme Committee to build a unique due diligence process with focal points applicable to the initiative. To steer this process, UNDP offered its expertise.</p> <p>The main objectives of this process, to be commonly built, are to (i) avoid duplication of efforts between SCO members having their own due diligence process, (ii) provide for an easy to steer and light process, (iii) ensure a coherent and consistent assessment of the private sector involvement within the initiative.</p>
<p>Operate SCO Governance</p>	<p>Prepare and Organize SCO governance meetings</p> <p><u>Steering Committee:</u> Secretariat will organize all Steering Committee meetings in accordance with the present Work Programme.</p> <p><u>Programme Committee:</u> Secretariat will organize Programme Committee meetings at least four (4) times a year.</p> <p><u>International Panel of reviewers in charge of reviewing SCO calls:</u> Secretariat will organize the coordination meeting of the panel as well as SCO project applicant pitches prior to accreditation. This panel will be renewed annually.</p>

	<p><u>Working Groups</u> The Secretariat will assist Working Group Chairs in their activities to the greatest extent feasible.</p>
	<p>Oversee Working Groups The Programme Committee tracks the progress of Working Group activities towards the achievement of the objectives defined in Article 3 of the Charter and detailed in the Work Programme.</p>

Annex 2 – Working group activities related to the development of the SCO Community

OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS
<p>Increase the number of Signatories</p>	<p>Set up one-to-one meetings with non-signatories’ national agencies and organizations by the Secretariat</p> <p>The objective for this mandate is to strengthen existing international as well as local partnerships, and to forge new ones, such as the existing partnership with the Group on Earth Observations (GEO). Formal relationships are envisioned with climate-related institutions and initiatives: United Nations institutions, Conference of the Parties, World Meteorological Organization, World Climate Research Programme, Committee on Earth Observation Satellites, Destination Earth, European Commission (especially the Directorate General for Climate Action), European Centre for Medium-range Weather Forecasts, European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites, European Space Agency, Global Development Assistance Programme, etc.</p> <p>In terms of geographical reach, South America, Africa and the Indo-Pacific region are priorities.</p> <p>Alongside local, national, regional and international policies, the scientific community, space agencies and civil society, new stakeholders are targeted as future partners. New Space companies focused on Earth-observation satellite data and climate services are identified as crucial partners both in Europe and globally. The New Space industry is expected to continue to grow and to drive innovation through advances in satellite technology and data analytics, in response to increasing demand for climate monitoring and mitigation solutions. Their involvement in the SCO will spur development of innovative solutions with state-of-the-art technologies. Beyond innovation, the involvement of the private sector will ensure the long-term viability of SCO projects by initiating a sustainable service business model.</p> <p>The SCO envisions coordinating with major international conferences (Conference of the Parties, for instance) and congresses (International Astronautical Congress, for instance) to organize SCO Charter signing ceremonies.</p> <p>Accordingly, the Working Group dedicated to SCO global awareness, steered by UNOOSA, is particularly identified as an enabling tool for extending SCO partnerships.</p>
<p>Ensure SCO representation/participation within global groups/communities involved in EO sector and/or in climate change impacts</p>	<p>Identify EO and/or Climate Change initiatives and international coordination groups Coordinate SCO participation in identified and selected initiatives’ working groups</p> <p>These objectives are to be pursued by the Working Group dedicated to SCO global awareness steered by UNOOSA and Focal Points more broadly.</p>
<p>Develop outreach, awareness raising and</p>	<p>Develop and design a strategy to support the goals and objectives of the SCO through comprehensive awareness efforts and focussed communications.</p>

<p>communication strategy and plan</p>	<p>For the gradual development of the SCO Community it is essential that thorough thought is given to the development of a coherent strategy for fostering active engagement and collaboration among all its audience and stakeholders involved. Dedicated planning of outreach and awareness raising activities incl. agreed communication is essential to develop an active, attractive and goal oriented SCO community. The purpose of this SCO strategy will be to define communication priorities, objectives, target audience, key messages and determine the necessary tools and vehicles for the communication and programme requirements.</p> <p>Additionally, this strategy shall be used to promote and communicate the SCO to key audiences and stakeholders by clearly identifying the SCO benefits to internal, external and public stakeholders. This strategy should furthermore guide and lead towards a comprehensive SCO awareness raising material production which can be aligned, modified and coordinated in conjunction with the various SCO activities and its planned development in the coming years.</p>
<p>Develop SCO awareness raising material</p>	<p>Develop a set of material to support awareness-raising efforts and allowing the SCO community to share the key facts about the SCO efforts.</p> <p>Building on the strategy a set of key awareness raising materials should be developed to support the growth of the SCO community as well as for outreach and awareness raising at different occasions. This effort can include, but is not limited to, the definition of unified language, promotion guidance, set of articles, interviews, promotion guidelines, standardized presentation material.</p>
<p>SCO Website</p>	<p>Maintenance and updating</p> <p>The Secretariat is in charge of maintaining and updating the SCO website. SCO members are encouraged to share, with the Secretariat, information on their actions within the initiative and their climate-related national actions. National and regional SCOs are invited to create their webpage on SCO website with the support of the Secretariat.</p>

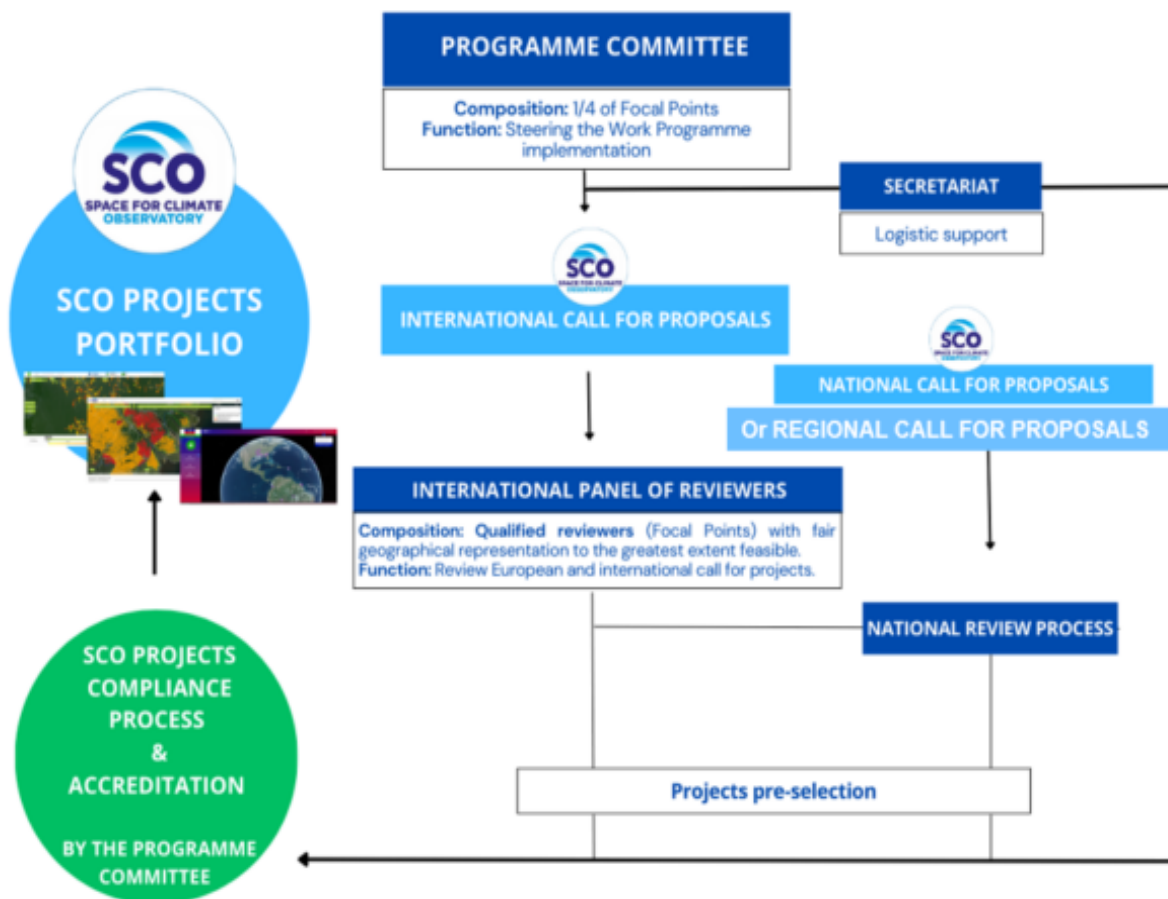
Annex 3 - In-house activities of the Signatories addressing SCO objectives and implementing SCO core functions

OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS
<p>Support national and regional SCOs</p>	<p>Assisting new signatories toward implementation of national and regional SCOs</p> <p>Focal Points are invited to implement national and regional SCOs with support from the Secretariat. Upon the request of Focal Points, the Secretariat can accompany them to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • create a community of stakeholders; • arrange discussion forums; • use appropriate communication resources. <p>National and regional members are expected to coordinate and encourage involvement of their national ecosystem within the initiative to bridge the gap between science, industry and end-users through the development of SCO project solutions that foster local ecological planning capabilities.</p> <p>National and regional ecosystems are invited to respond to the SCO international call and to fund a dedicated SCO national and regional call, whenever appropriate and feasible.</p> <p>National or regional members are also encouraged to use relevant communication relays to raise awareness of SCO activities (relaying SCO international calls, SCO events, hosting dedicated webinars or workshops).</p>

Annex 4 – SCO project-related activities: Accreditation process

OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS
Set up and manage the international accreditation process	<p>Implement the international accreditation process</p> <p>This mandate will be the opportunity to issue international calls for projects led by SCO members. SCO international calls will be open to all countries.</p> <p>This tool aims to foster and spawn SCO projects and enable them to be replicated, to multiply the number of national and regional SCO branches and drive the SCO international network in order to share results from the first completed projects.</p> <p>SCO will launch its first international call for projects on 4 September 2023 to accredit the development of EO-based operational tools for climate adaptation, mitigation and monitoring.</p> <p>The SCO Programme Committee, with support from international experts, is in charge of steering international calls.</p> <p>Further annual international calls are expected in 2024 and 2025.</p>
	<p>Create an international panel of reviewers Launch and manage the international call for proposals (reviews, accreditation)</p> <p>To operate international accreditation, a panel of reviewers will be established in 2023. This panel will be dedicated to reviewing annual international calls.</p> <p>To implement this panel, the Secretariat will send out a registration application form to all Focal Points, to canvass their interest in joining the international panel of reviewers. Focal Points are expected to submit their proposals from June 2023.</p> <p>Priority will be given to new members on a rotating basis and to the greatest extent feasible. This panel will be overseen and reviewed annually by the Programme Committee.</p>
	<p>Stimulate national and regional calls for proposals</p> <p>SCO members can put together independent national calls dedicated to SCO projects, according to their specific needs and budget. National calls are open to nationals of the country steering and financing the call.</p> <p>National and regional calls for proposals within the SCO will be submitted to their national and regional internal review process with their own financial support. Every initiative is welcome within the SCO as long as it complies with SCO criteria. Accredited projects will be presented to the Programme Committee for final approval.</p> <p>To date, two independent national SCO calls for projects have been issued in the United Kingdom and in France.</p>

Figure 1. SCO accreditation process



Annex 5 - SCO project-related activities: Leveraging SCO solutions

OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS
<p>Disseminate projects content/ results and facilitate their transfer to additional use cases</p>	<p>Arrange the access to the SCO portfolio from a user perspective, and support and guide the interested users towards the most suited solution to their problem.</p>
	<p>Development of specific material on how to consult the SCO portfolio (to get essential information) and on which steps would be needed to implement projects in new use cases.</p>

Annex 6 – Reporting and Evaluation

OBJECTIVES	ACTIONS
<p>Provide SCO activities overview</p>	<p>Annual activity report for Signatories</p> <p>The Programme Committee tracks progress of SCO Project and Working Group activities towards the achievement of the objectives defined in Article 3 of the Charter. SCO project applicants and Working Group Chairs are thus required to report on their activities on a yearly basis.</p> <p>A progress report on SCO activities overseen by the Programme Committee aims to be presented to the Steering Committee on a yearly basis.</p>

