

# Global South Inclusion in the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP)

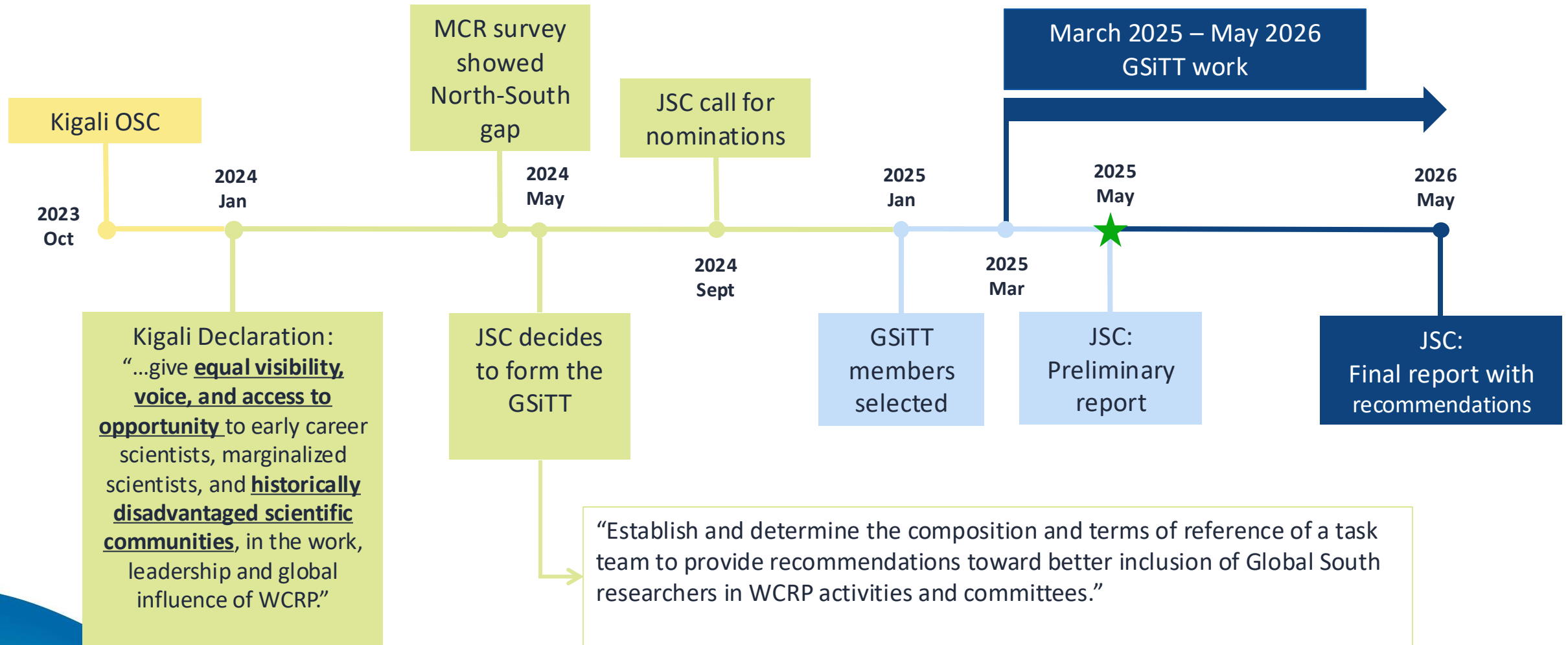
Global South Inclusion Task Team (GSiTT)  
May 2025

# Presentation Outline

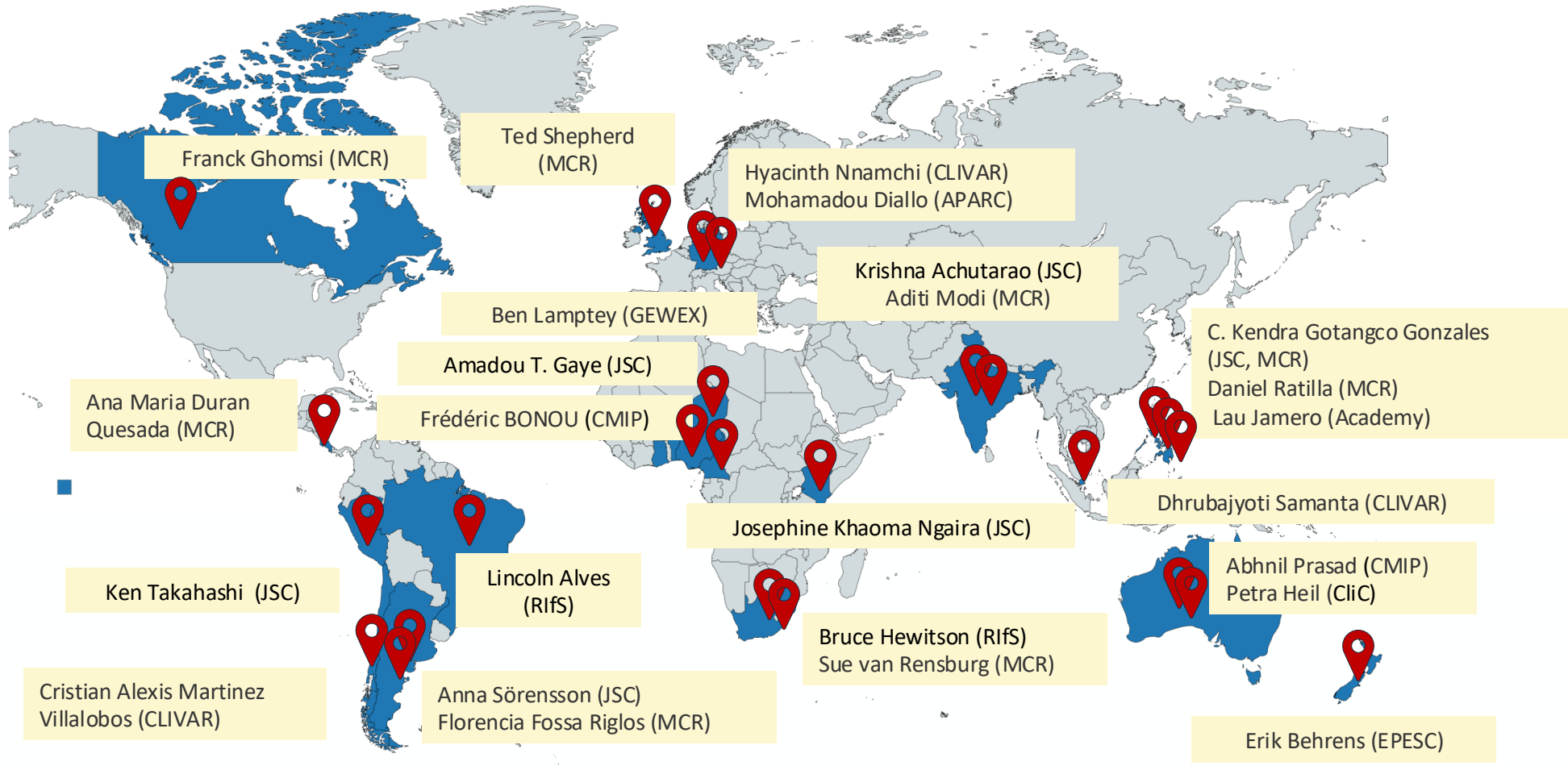
1. Background, Initial goals, Participants, and Timeline of the GSiTT
2. The Global South concept
3. Current participation of the Global South in WCRP
4. The Importance of Inclusion
5. Barriers to participation
6. Ways forward
7. Summary and revised goals

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# The Global South inclusion Task Team: Members



## CORE PROJECTS

- Atmospheric Processes and their Role in Climate (APARC)
- Climate and Cryosphere (CLIC)
- Climate and Ocean Variability, Predictability and Change (CLIVAR)
- Earth System Modelling and Observations (ESMO)
- Global Energy and Water Exchanges (GEWEX)
- Regional Information for Society (RfS)

## LIGHTHOUSE ACTIVITIES

- Digital Earths (DE)
- Explaining and Predicting Earth System Change (EPESC)
- Global Precipitation Experiment (GPEx)
- My Climate Risk (MCR)
- Research on Climate Intervention (CI)
- Safe Landing Climates (SLC)

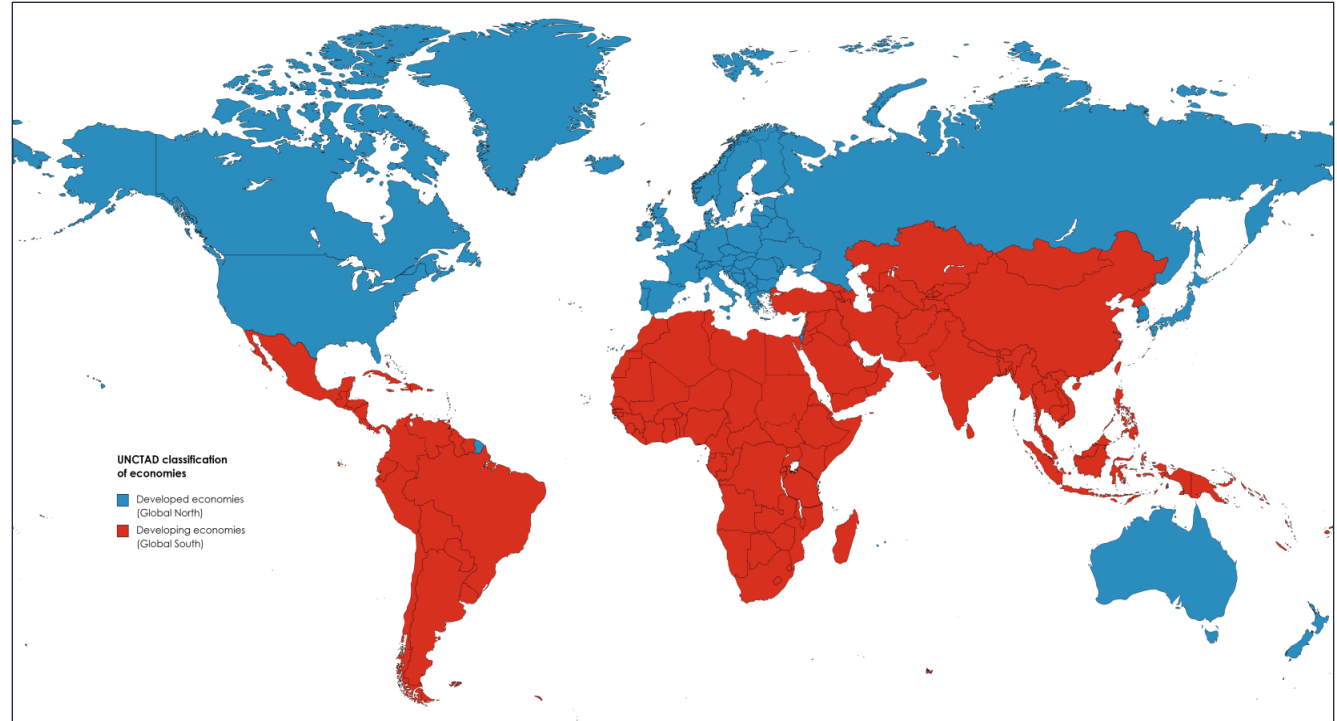
## ACADEMY

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# The Global South concept

- Greater vulnerability to climate change
- Less influence on global decisions
- Less representation in international climate science



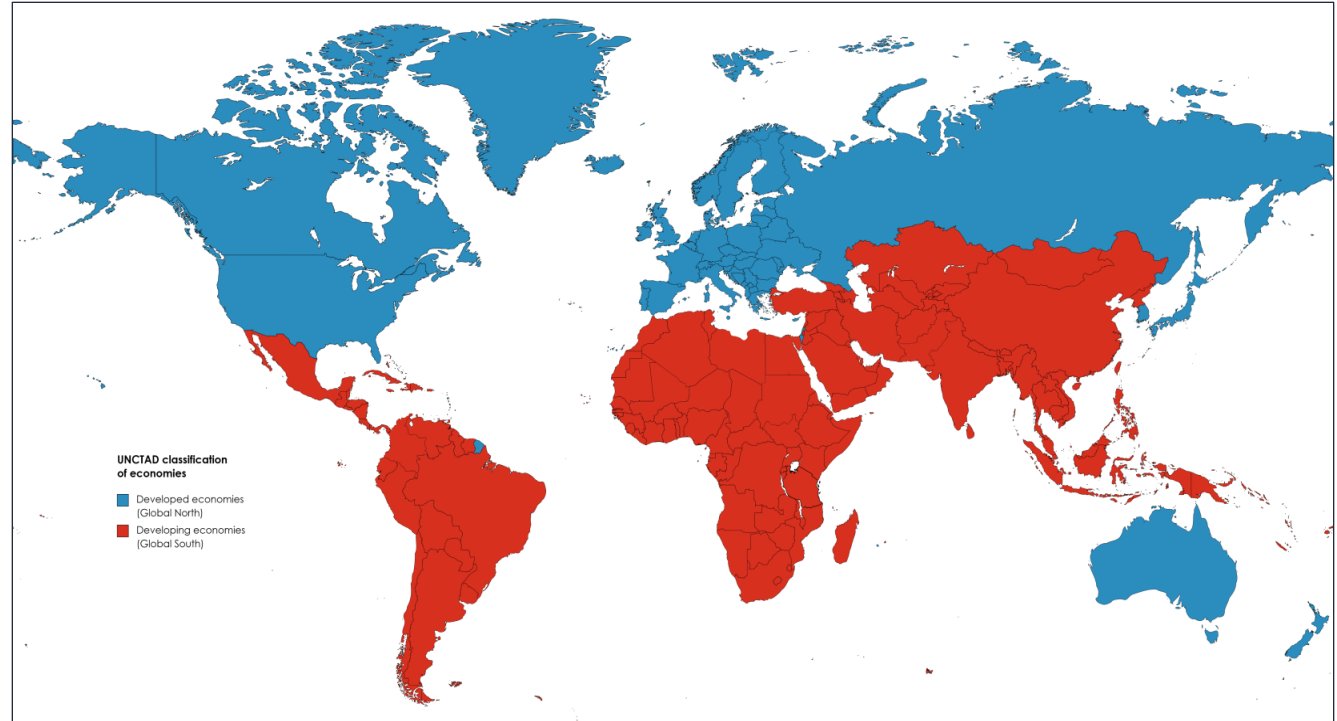


# The Global South concept

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The terms Global North and South capture the dimensions and implications of global **asymmetric power relationships** and is therefore richer and more useful than economic indices such as GDP.

**Example of power asymmetry** is the use of Global North metrics when assessing the career and competence of Global South scientists.





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# Global North – South Balance in the JSC

Chair and Vice-Chair has always been from Global North

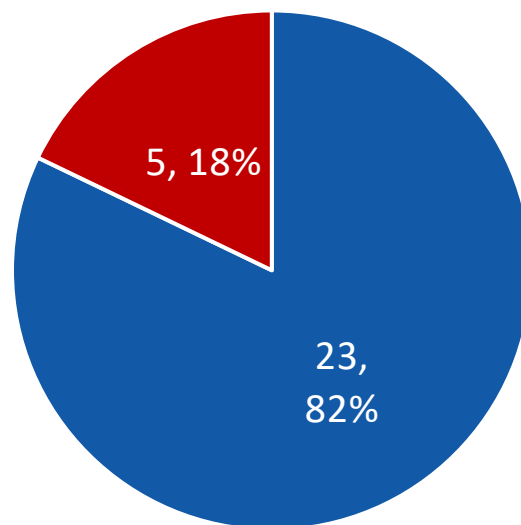
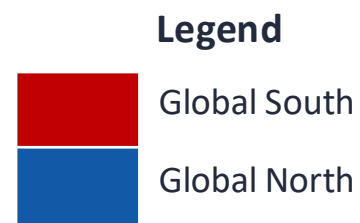
Only one Officer has been from the Global South

|           | Chair / Vice-chair |              | Officer      |              | Ordinary Members |              |
|-----------|--------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|
|           | Global North       | Global South | Global North | Global South | Global North     | Global South |
| 2017-2018 | 2                  | 0            | 2            | 1            | 8                | 5            |
| 2019-2010 | 2                  | 0            | 3            | 0            | 7                | 5            |
| 2021      | 2                  | 0            | 3            | 0            | 7                | 6            |
| 2022      | 2                  | 0            | 3            | 0            | 6                | 5            |
| 2023      | 2                  | 0            | 3            | 0            | 6                | 6            |
| 2024      | 2                  | 0            | 3            | 0            | 5                | 6            |
| 2025      | 2                  | 0            | -*           | -*           | 6                | 9            |

Global South ordinary membership has been constant but **increased this year.**

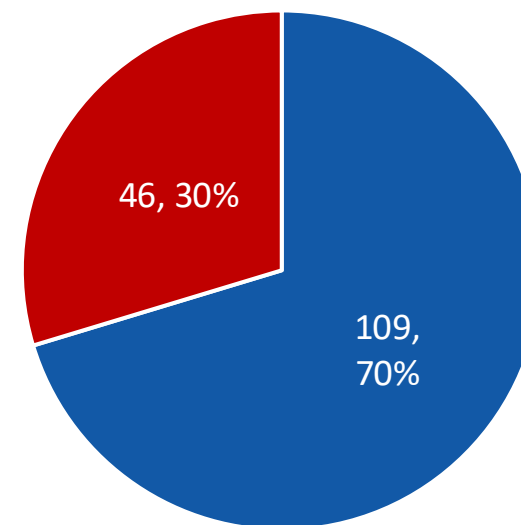
# Global North – South Balance in the SSC/Gs of the Core Activities (CPs, LHAs, Academy)

Number of **Co-Chairs** from GS and GN  
(n=28)



9 out of 13 SSC/Gs have Global North Co-Chairs only

Number of **members** from GS and GN  
(n=155)



7 SSC/Gs include only 0-3 Global South ordinary members

# Guidelines on Membership and Responsibilities of WCRP High-level Steering Committees



Diversity criterion:

*"at least **one third** of all members should be resident in countries **not designated as high-income economies**"*

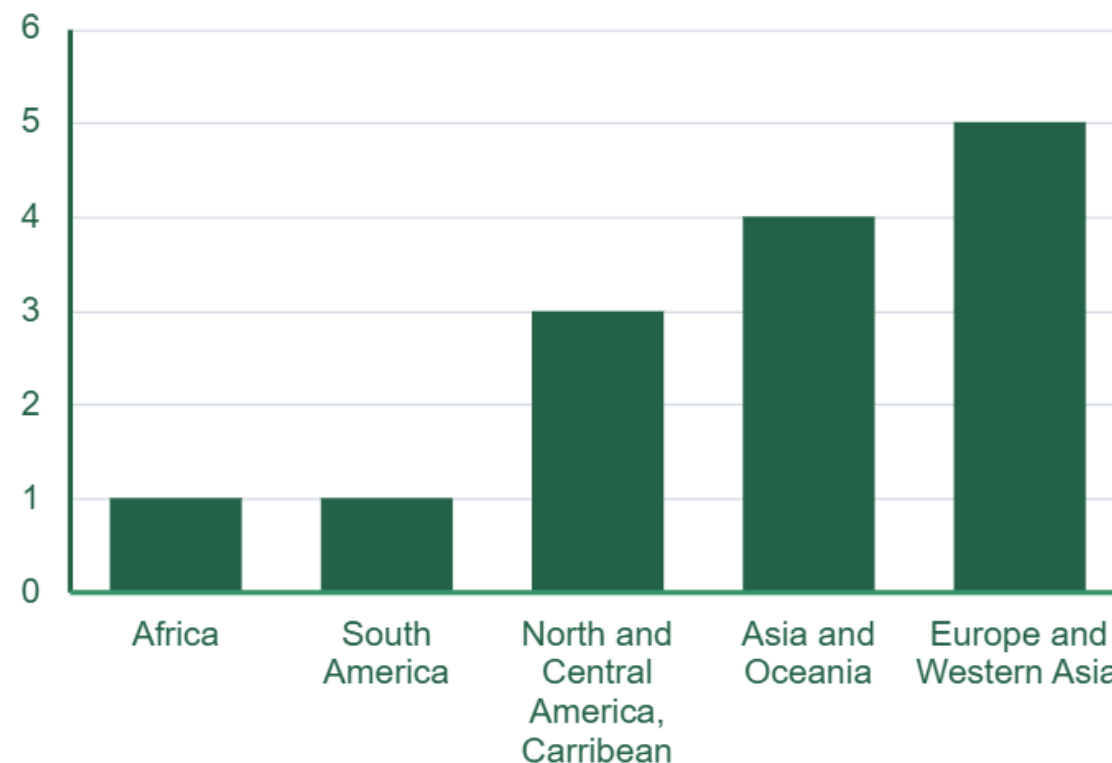
# Guidelines on Membership and Responsibilities of WCRP High-level Steering Committees



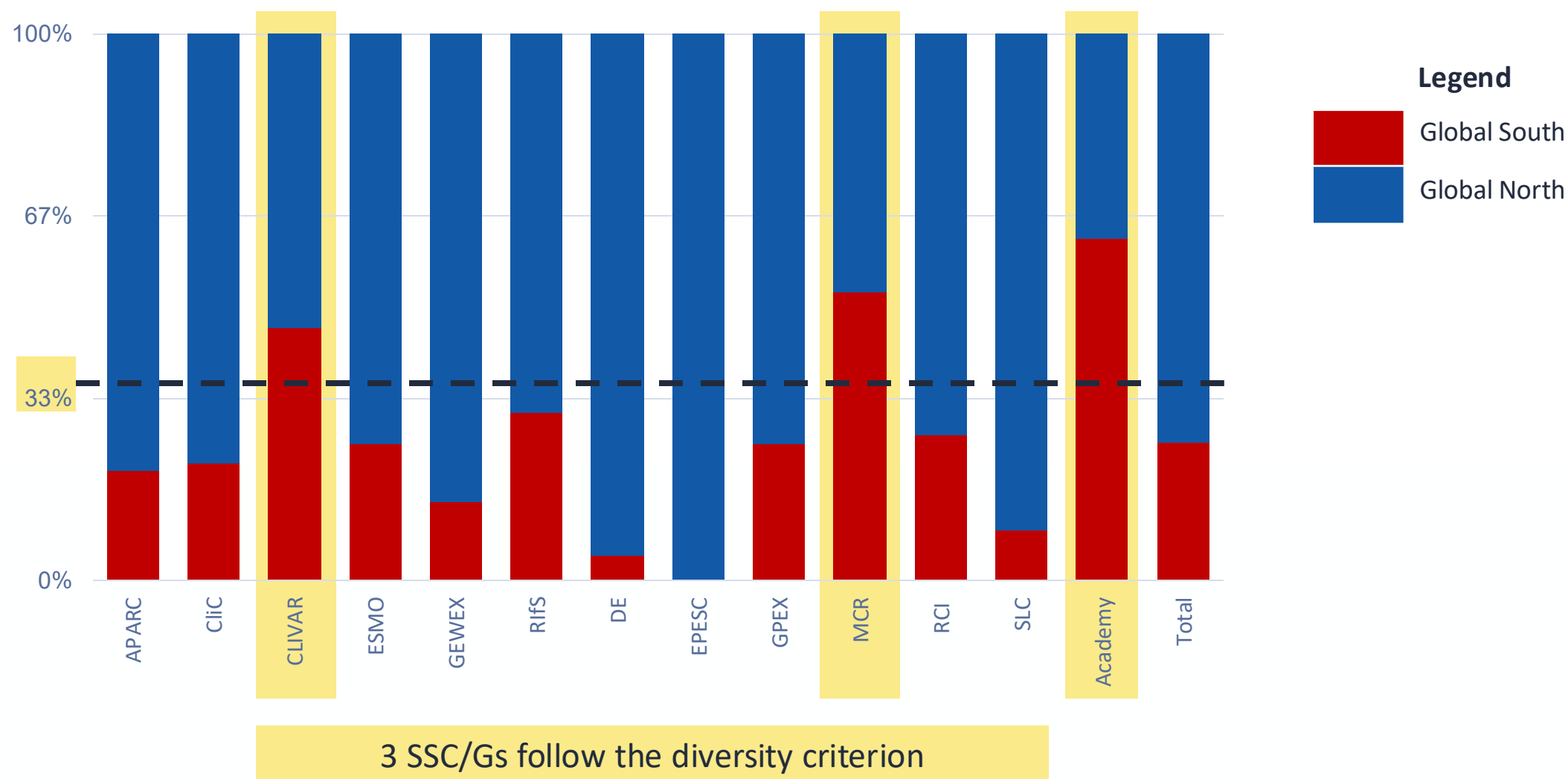
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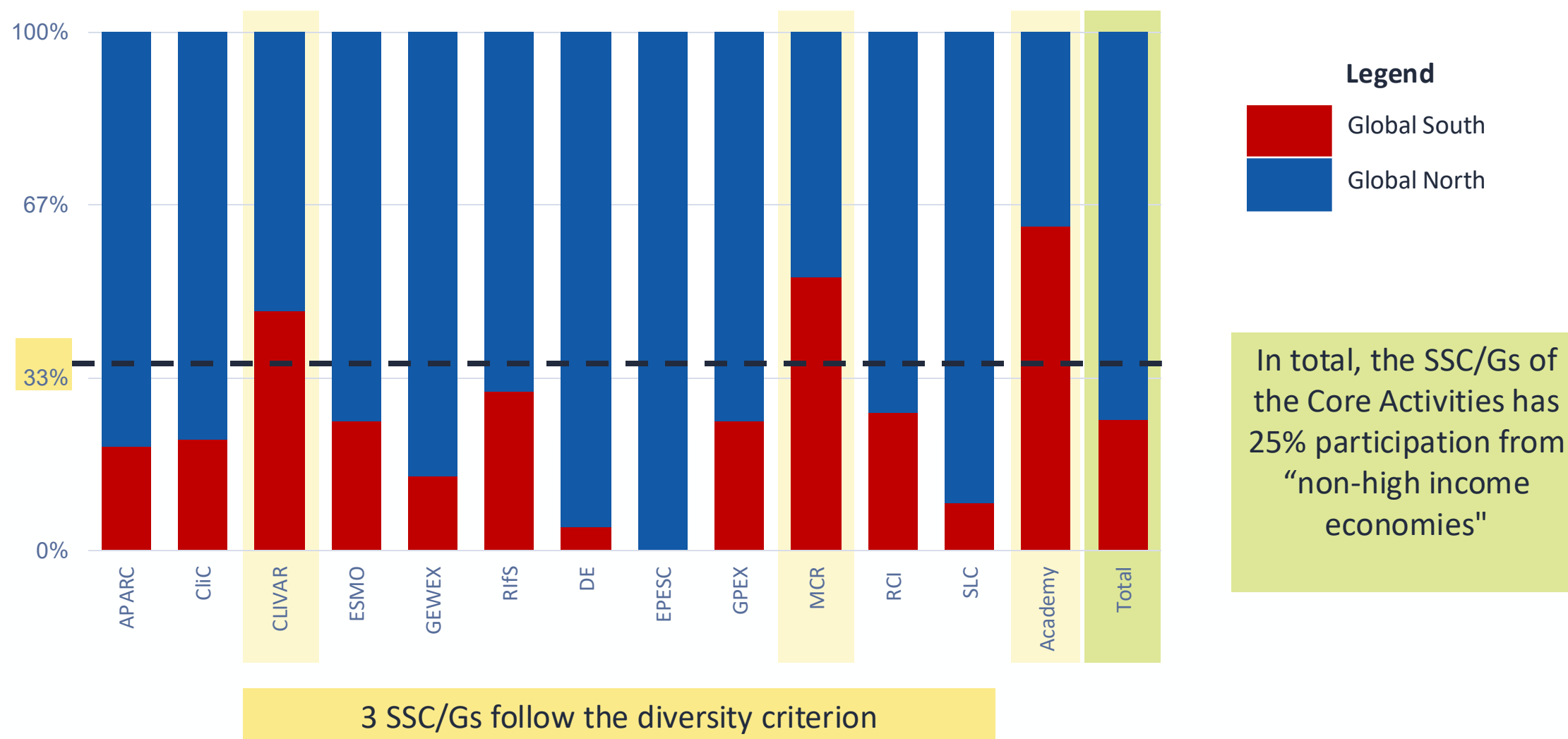
Geographical Distribution



# Guidelines on Membership and Responsibilities of WCRP High-level Steering Committees



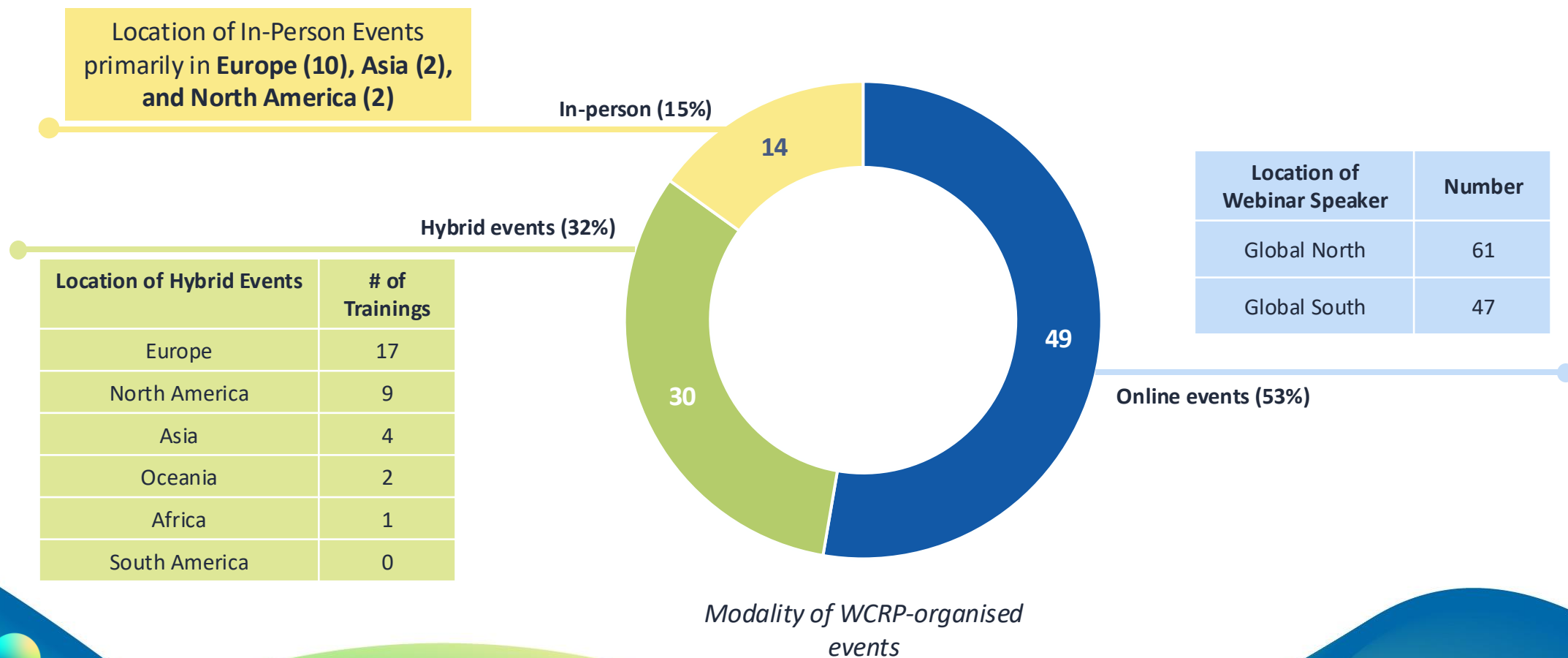
# Guidelines on Membership and Responsibilities of WCRP High-level Steering Committees





# Global South Stocktaking of WCRP Events (2021-2024)

By Academy: L. Jamero & F San Juan



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# The importance of Global South inclusion in WCRP



Emphasis on the word “World” in WCRP



WCRP’s Mission:  
To develop, share, and apply the climate knowledge that contributes to societal well-being



CC impacts are more severe in the Global South



Meaningful participation and representation



Including Global South research priorities in WCRP

**WCRP**

World Climate  
Research Programme



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# Barriers of participation of the Global South in WCRP

- Human capacity of the Global South and its visibility to WCRP

- Unequal knowledge about and access to research networks

- Nature of WCRP as voluntary work

- Funding Limitations, Visas, Carbon footprint

- Technological capacities

- Brain Drain

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# Ways forward

The GSiTT is tasked to provide recommendations to the WCRP leadership at the JSC 2026. The **recommendations** will be based on evidence from well-designed activities during the coming year.

- **Both quantitative and qualitative surveys** may be employed to capture widespread trends
- **Virtual Regional Workshops:** These workshops are considered as a complement to the surveys, to delve deeper into issues and insights that might emerge from the survey results.
- The **pan-Africa RfS-CORDEX strategic meeting** in Sept 2025 will be an in-person opportunity to engage.



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# Summary and revised goals

- The barriers mentioned of the Global South scientists might not be fully comprehensible to Global North scientists. A goal for the GSiTT is to promote meaningful exchange for common understanding.
- Inclusion means playing a key role in decision making in WCRP. This includes a higher proportion of Global South scientists in leadership positions. Our goal is for Global South scientists to play a more active role in the development of the next Strategic Scientific Plan.

# Thank You



[www.wcrp-climate.org](http://www.wcrp-climate.org)

