

World Climate Research Programme

WCRP Procedural Terms and Definitions

6 June 2025

- **Body** – A group of people with a specific purpose or function.
- **Chair** – The leader of a body, usually elected by the members of the body.
- **Co-Chair** – Where there are two or more chairs of a body, they are all equal and known as co-chairs.
- **Core Activities** – WCRP Core Projects, Lighthouse Activities and the Academy.
- **Core Projects** – Perpetual research communities that operate a programme of work, with many projects, panels and activities, on one or more research areas.
- **Conflict of Interest** – A “conflict of interest” refers to any current professional, financial or other interest which could: i) significantly impair the individual’s objectivity in carrying out duties and responsibilities for the [body], or ii) create an unfair advantage for any person or organization. For the purposes of this policy, circumstances that could lead a reasonable person to question an individual’s objectivity, or whether an unfair advantage has been created, constitute a potential conflict of interest. These potential conflicts are subject to disclosure. [as defined by the IPCC in their [Conflict of Interest Policy](#)]
- **Emeritus member** – A former member of a body who retains an honorary membership of the body in an advisory capacity. Emeritus members do not vote. The duration and rules related to this type of membership must be stipulated in the Terms of Reference of the governing body concerned.
- **Ex-officio member** – A member of a body by virtue of occupying an existing position within another organization/body of importance or relevance to the body. Membership is by virtue of the position the individual holds and is not by election or appointment of the individual. Ex-officio members do not vote. The duration and rules related to this type of membership must be stipulated in the Terms of Reference of the governing body concerned.
- **International (Project) Office (IPO)** – An office set up to support a WCRP Core Project or, when approved by the JSC, the work of any other body. IPOs generally support large projects.
- **Joint Scientific Committee (JSC)** – The highest-level committee of WCRP.
- **JSC Officers** – The WCRP JSC Chair, Vice Chair and three other JSC Members, all elected by JSC Members.
- **Liaison** – A person who acts as a link to assist communication or cooperation between two or more bodies, usually having membership of one of those bodies.
- **Lighthouse Activities** – Limited lifetime activities that aim to make critical near-term progress towards meeting WCRP’s strategic priorities.
- **Regular Member** – A member of a body with voting rights.

- **(Scientific) Steering Group** – The body that directs and is responsible for delivering the work of an activity.
- **Support Unit** – An office set up to support the work of any WCRP body. Support Units usually support administration, logistics, capacity development, and other aspects of
- **Task Team** – A subsidiary body that is convened to accomplish a specific task/set of tasks within the planned program of work of a body.
- **Tiger Team** – Another name for a Task Team.
- **Vice Chair** – The vice chair supports the chair of a body. They may be elected or appointed.
- **Working Group** – A subsidiary body that is convened to study and report on a particular work package within the planned program of work of a body.