



Geneva, 12 April 2017

Subject: WCRP support to the Earth System Grid Federation (ESGF)

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP), I write this letter to express the Programme's support to continuous development of the Earth System Grid Federation (ESGF).

ESGF's primary goal is to facilitate advancements in Earth System Science through a tailored software infrastructure for the management, dissemination, and analysis of model output and observational data. Over the last decade, ESGF has become a critical science enabler, providing the research community a common infrastructure to archive and disseminate large volumes of data. ESGF is widely used within WCRP, such the WCRP Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP) - which is starting its 6th phase - for global climate historical simulations and projections, the Coordinated Regional Climate Downscaling Experiment (CORDEX) for regional simulations, obs4MIPs serving gridded observations (Earth Observations primarily but also a growing number of in-situ data sets), and ana4MIPs serving reanalyses data sets from numerous producing centres. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has enjoyed substantial benefit of ESGF in its endeavour for climate assessment through these key WCRP activities.

It should also be emphasized that the EU Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) is adopting and supporting operational ESGF nodes to serve global and regional climate projections for Europe, thereby adopting the Federation as a fit-for-purpose service tool beyond the pure research realm.

WCRP sincerely appreciates and congratulates the Department of Energy (DOE) of USA on its leading effort to develop ESGF, and the international partners for their co-sponsorship; National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Science Foundation (NSF), and international laboratories such as the Max Planck Institute for Meteorology (MPI-M) German Climate Computing Centre (DKRZ), the Australian National University (ANU) National Computational Infrastructure (NCI), Institut Pierre-Simon Laplace (IPSL), and the British Atmospheric Data Center (BADC). The collective contribution of all these entities has offered the fundamental and necessary support to the simulations-observations-reanalyses climate research information nexus.

WCRP therefore looks forward to further development of ESGF for the benefit of climate research and services. I will be at your disposal to provide any additional detail, if needed, on its importance for the Programme.

Yours sincerely,

David Carlson
Director, WCRP