

Summary of the ICG20 First Planning Meeting

9 February 2026

14:00 – 15:20 Hybrid Meeting

The first planning and organizational meeting for the 20th Meeting of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (**ICG20**) was held on February 9, 2026. I have attended the meeting remotely.

Chaired by **Dr. Manish Sakena** of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) in a hybrid format from Vienna, the meeting focused on reviewing past progress from ICG19, outlining preparations for the upcoming annual meeting in India, and receiving technical updates from various working groups.

Review of ICG19 and the Providers Forum

The meeting began with a report on the 19th ICG meeting, which took place in Busan, Republic of Korea, in October 2025. This session saw nearly 300 participants and led to the endorsement of nine key recommendations, including guidelines for low-earth orbit (LEO) PNT performance standards, the establishment of testbeds for LEO PNT, and a joint statement on the critical role of the global geodetic supply chain. Additionally, the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (**UNGGCE**) was officially recognized as a new ICG observer.

The **32nd Meeting of the Providers Forum**, held in conjunction with ICG19, made progress on rotating chairmanship roles and discussed membership applications from Pakistan and observer status for the **Secure World Foundation (SWF)**.

Preparations for ICG20 in Goa, India

Dr. Sakena presented the roadmap for **ICG20**, scheduled to be held in **Goa, India, from October 25 to 30, 2026**. The meeting will follow a standard structure:

- Sunday: Providers Forum meeting and working group co-chair coordination.
- Monday: Opening ceremony and system provider updates.
- Tuesday: Applications and experts seminar followed by parallel working group meetings.
- Wednesday: Joint working group sessions and a technical tour.
- Thursday: Preparation of summaries and the second plenary session.
- Friday: Third plenary session and finalization of the ICG joint statement.

Goa was selected for its connectivity (two international airports) and pleasant post-monsoon climate. The organizers highlighted that participants must apply for a **conference visa** (either e-conference or paper-based) to attend.

UNOOSA Secretariat Activities

The Office for Outer Space Affairs (**UNOOSA**) outlined several planned activities for 2026, including:

- A workshop on machine learning applied to GNSS and space weather in Costa Rica.
- A workshop on artificial intelligence and space weather in Seoul, South Korea (September).
- A seminar on reference frames in practice in South Africa.
- Practical training on GNSS in Morocco, featuring the installation of low-cost instruments from the University of Tokyo.

Working Group Technical Updates

Several working groups provided summaries of their 2025 activities and 2026 goals:

- **Working Group S (Systems, Signals, and Services):** Focused on spectrum protection and interference detection and mitigation (IDM). They recommended that member states utilize national or global interference monitoring to inform users of jamming or spoofing. Future work includes workshops on PPP interoperability and LEO PNT compatibility.
- **Working Group C (Information Dissemination and Capacity Building):** Reported on the success of low-cost receivers for space weather monitoring and plans for a side event in Poland in August 2026.
- **Working Group D (Reference Frames, Timing, and Applications):** Discussed a recommendation for the International GNSS Service (IGS) to provide continuous daily clock products. They also noted ongoing discussions regarding the **elimination of leap seconds** and a potential shift toward a "leap hour" to prevent software failures caused by the Earth's faster rotation.
- **Working Group L (Lunar PNT):** Although the leadership was unavailable due to an ongoing workshop, their work was noted as a high priority for the current year.

Administrative and Future Planning

The delegation from **Pakistan** reiterated its request for full membership in the ICG, emphasizing their consistent participation since 2009 and their responses to technical clarifications. The **Secure World Foundation** also presented its case for observer status, focusing on policy and regulatory aspects of space governance. The European Union noted that while SWF is active in COPUOS, further internal discussion is needed regarding their contribution to the primarily technical ICG.

The **second planning meeting** for ICG20 is tentatively scheduled for **June 15–16, 2026**, in Vienna, to coincide with the second week of the COPUOS session.

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