Argo Steering Team Terms of Reference
and guidelines concerning Membership

Purpose
The Argo Steering Team (AST) provides scientific leadership and oversees the
development and implementation of the global array of profiling floats (known as the
Argo Program) and operated by national and regional Argo projects.

Terms of reference

• The AST shall oversee the development and operation of a global-scale Argo array of
profiling floats with the primary objective of obtaining profiles of temperature and salinity
and determining subsurface velocity data.

• The AST shall be the arbiter on the definition of the scope of the Argo project in
respect of the design and geographical extent of the array, the objectives of the data
delivery system, and shall oversee compliance of Argo projects on matters relating to
the Law of the Sea.

• In conjunction with the Argo Data Management Team, the AST shall take
responsibility for and provide advice on the evaluation, quality control and research and
operational use of Argo data.

• The AST shall liaise with JCOMMOPS and oversee and provide advice on the
activities of the Argo Technical Co-ordinator and the Argo Program Director when that
position is filled.

• The AST will encourage observing system studies to guide the long-term
development of Argo sampling design.

• The AST will provide advice and guidance relating to technical innovations relevant to
the float array.

• The AST will liaise with other related global observing systems and in particular those
concerned with satellite altimetry and with global scale ship-based hydrography and
with their oversight bodies OOPC, GOOS and GCOS.

• The AST will provide scientific guidance to, and receive advice from the relevant
CLIVAR panels and working groups.

• The AST will assist national and regional programs to ensure sustained funding for
the operation of the Argo array and related activities

Membership
The AST shall be made up of
a) scientists and technical experts from national projects contributing to the international Argo Programme. Normally this will be the scientific leader of a national project but more members will be allowed in the case of large national contributors.
b) the (co-) chairs of the Argo Data Management Team
c) the Argo Programme Director (ex officio)
d) the Argo Technical Co-ordinator (ex officio)
e) representatives of Argo's co-sponsoring bodies (CLIVAR and GODAE) (ex officio)

Meetings of the AST may also include
- experts and representatives of organisations with whom Argo interacts shall be invited to attend as appropriate.
- other national representatives whose scientific expertise is of value to a specific meeting.

The AST shall be (co-) chaired by AST member(s) selected by the AST.

The AST shall form an Executive Group consisting of
- The AST (co-) chairs
- The Argo Director
- Up to five AST members selected in order to provide an appropriate regional distribution and to reflect major contributions to the Argo programme.

**Membership term**
There shall be no fixed term of membership of the AST.

**Meeting schedule**
The AST will normally meet annually but may substitute a meeting of the Executive Group for a plenary annual meeting when it is deemed appropriate.

It is the **responsibility of AST members**
- to be the primary point of contact between the AST co-Chairs and their national project and to ensure appropriate attendance at AST meetings.
- to report to the AST the views, problems and successes of their national project.
- to ensure that the decisions of the AST are reported in their country and that appropriate actions are taken.
- to take all necessary steps to ensure that their nation's project contributes appropriately to the Argo array, to the data system and to Argo infrastructure
- to publicise Argo achievements