

Dear Colleagues,

Season's Greetings!

Hope you have plans for having good times during the holidays after an extraordinarily productive 2024, working hard, doing more research, and spreading the acquired knowledge to the space weather community. It is an exciting time for the space weather community because the Parker Solar Probe (PSP) touched the source of space weather – the solar corona. Last Tuesday, PSP passed through the Sun's atmosphere to get within about 6 million kilometers of the solar surface, marking the closest approach to the Sun in space history.

This year's activities started with an ISWI instrument/poster exhibit in the rotunda of the Vienna International Center in February during the UNCOPUOS/STSC session. It was great to see instruments displayed and posters presented from a large number of national coordinators.

This UN/Germany workshop on ISWI was held in Neustrelitz, Germany during June 10-14, 2024. It was well organized by the German team and the international scientific organizing committee. We had invited talks by international experts, contributed talks, and poster presentations. There were also interesting field trips during the workshop, including a trip to the radio observatory of DLR nearby that hosts instruments from the ISWI network (CALLISTO). We had the UNOOSA director, mayor of Neustrelitz, government officials, and the scientific leaders of DLR attending the inaugural session of the workshop. A key highlight of the workshop is that the papers presented at the workshop will be published in open-access proceedings by Springer. Most of the manuscripts have been accepted. The book is expected to come out soon.

ISWI supported the COSPAR capacity building workshop (CBW) hosted by the Samarkand State University (SamSU) during August 16-30, 2024. The CBW involved lectures during the first week followed by data analysis during the second week. During the workshop, a CALLISTO instrument was installed with the help of engineers from SamSU. A large CME-related type II radio burst was observed during the workshop. A field trip was arranged to the radio telescope installation.

The 2024 ISWI School on Space Science was organized in Kathmandu in collaboration with the Harvard Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics and Nepal Physical Society. There were lectures covered all aspects of space weather science from solar interior to Earth's surface. International experts gave lectures in the morning and conducted hands-on activities in the afternoons. About 40 students (domestic and international combined) attended the school. Participants had the opportunity to enjoy the rich culture of Nepal.

We had an incredible set of ISWI webinars organized during this year. The recordings are now hosted by NASA/GSFC's CDAW Data Center. Please feel free to download them and spread them to the community: <https://cdaw.gsfc.nasa.gov/webinars/ISWI/>

We are excited that the next two UN/ISWI workshops are being organized in Nigeria (2025) and South Korea (2026). Stay tuned for more information.

Our important annual organizational event is the ISWI Steering Committee meeting, which will be held on February 7, 2025. This meeting provides an excellent opportunity for the national coordinators to advertise their space weather activities such as instrument hosting, national meetings, and research highlights. The meeting agenda is provided in the annexure. Please feel free to suggest modifications.

I would like all of you to think about the exciting opportunity that the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Heliophysical Year (IHY) provides. I would like to organize a brainstorming session during the ISWI steering committee to discuss how we can make use of the opportunity to advance our field and what activities to undertake. I would like to form a committee consisting of early career/mid-career space weather scientists to plan for the IHY 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Please suggest names and send in your ideas.

Warm regards,

Nat Gopalswamy

2024 December 30.



*Season's Greetings & Happy New Year 2025!*

*The Parker Solar Probe Just Touched the Sun!*

**INTERNATIONAL SPACE WEATHER INITIATIVE**  
**ISWI**

*Secretariat*  
Nat Gopalswamy *Executive Director*  
George Maeda *Newsletter Editor*  
Kathleen Kraemer *Webmaster*  
Sharafat Gadimova *UN Liaison*  
Keith Groves *Workshop Coordinator*  
Shing Fung *Data Coordinator*  
M. Graciela Molina *Webinar Coordinator*

*Steering Committee*  
C Amory-Mazaudier D Banys S Gadimova  
K Georgieva J A Gonzalez Esparza  
N Gopalswamy K Groves M Guhathakurta M Ishii  
I Mann R Marshall C Monstein B Rabiou J-P Raulin  
E S Talaat S Ueno C Wang A Yoshikawa

Annexure I

**ISWI Steering Committee Meeting: Tentative Agenda**

**February 7, 2025 9 am to 6 pm**

**Vienna International Center**

**Vienna, Austria**

1. Introduction & Report (Nat Gopalswamy, Chair)
2. Secretariat Update (Nat Gopalswamy, Kathleen Kramer, George Maeda, Graciela Molina)
3. Steering Committee Update (Nat Gopalswamy)
4. SCOSTEP/PRESTO/COURSE (Kazuo Shiokawa)
5. UN/Germany ISWI Workshop report (Daniela Banys)
6. ISWI/Nepal School report (Nishu Karna)
7. ISWI/NOAA Report (Elsayed Talat)
8. COSPAR Space Weather Roadmap and ISWAT activities (Mario Bisi)
9. UNOOSA Report (Sharafat Gadimova)
10. Reports from ISWI Regional & National Coordinators (lead: Christine Amory)
11. ISWI Instruments Update (Shing Fung and Instrument PIs); Data subcommittee report
12. ISWI/NASA report (M. Guhathakurta)
13. Discussion on IHY+25
14. Any other business