

Breakout group 4: the observing system, and consistent interpretation

- Ongoing improvements to observation system
 - reduction in draconitic errors in GPS: continuation of SLR to GPS (and other GNSS) satellites
 - need for consistency in using surface P_{atm} for mass conservation and loading (problem in IERS Conv?)
 - need for accurate metadata esp. antenna types and monument situation (alluvium or bedrock)
 - problems of data coverage e.g. China/Russia
 - need for tools (+data?) accessible to non-geodesists: universal, multidisciplinary portals
 - provision of “best practice” GPS time series – but this requires major resource, perhaps controversy

Breakout group 4 (continued)

- Possibility of demonstration project
 - major African basin, must be of clear regional water management use, not just scientific interest
 - instrument with GPS (20-30km spacing?) and InSAR scenes
 - size of several GRACE mascons (500x500 to 1000x1000 km?) with little leakage from neighbouring areas
 - need to link to upcoming NASA decadal missions, ... but no need to wait
 - little or no tectonic activity
 - awaiting consensus on location (Nile/Niger/Limpopo/...?)