

**Request for Comments on Technical Note  
Updates to the Directory Interchange Format Standard**

The Earth Science Data Systems Working Group (ESDSWG) Standards Process Group (SPG) is requesting comments on a Technical Note describing modifications to the Global Change Master Directory's Directory Interchange Format (DIF) for improved interoperability with the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata (CSDGM) and the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) 19115 metadata standards. This technical note will update the DIF metadata specification, documented in an Earth Science Data Systems Request for Comment that was endorsed as a NASA standard in 2008 (ESDS-RFC-012).

An SPG Technical Note is a document that contains important and useful information that is relevant to the domain of NASA Earth Science Data Systems, and does not necessarily describe a "standard" which has additional operational requirements. In order to assure a high level of technical quality, we conduct public reviews of Technical Notes that have been submitted to us for consideration.

You are invited to provide feedback that might make this document more useful, using the review questions below, or providing any additional comments.

1. Please provide your name, organization and contact information, including email address. *(This information will not be shared.)*

2. Are you answering for your entire organization, for a smaller group, or individually?

a) Entire organization

b) Smaller group (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

c) Individual response

3. Are you a data producer, data consumer, or both?

a) Producer     b) Consumer     c) Both

4. Please describe how the DIF is used in your organization.

We create/submit DIFs to represent our data holdings in the GCMD; we do not use them in SEDAC web space nor internally

5. Does this technical note contain internal inconsistencies? If so, please provide details.

None

6. Is any part of the technical note ambiguous or poorly explained? If so, please provide details.

None

7. How will your organization or group respond to the DIF changes documented in this technical note? In particular, do you plan to update existing DIFs to take advantage of the new sub-fields available for publications / references?

Existing DIFs have Purpose information embedded in the Summary; we'll have to manually transfer this information to the new Purpose field.

Since most of our References are for datasets, we're requesting GCMD staff to investigate the possibility of transferring the Reference information to their corresponding sub-fields. For new datasets, we plan on populating the sub-fields.

8. Should the SPG endorse this RFC as a Technical Note – why or why not?

Yes, in aligning itself to be interoperable with FGDC and ISO standards, SPG should endorse this enhancement to the DIF.