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GENEVA, 19 August 2016

Annexes: 2 (available in English only)

Subject: Arctic Polar Regional Climate Centre (PRCC) Network Implementation Planning Meeting, 7-9 November 2016, Geneva, Switzerland.

Action required: Nomination of participant in the above meeting by **15 September 2016**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am thankful to you for your active interest in contributing to the proposed Arctic Polar Regional Climate Centre (PRCC) Network, and for providing initial indication of your potential national contributions to support its implementation. Based on your inputs and the guidance provided by the WMO Executive Council Panel on Polar and High-mountain Observations, Research and Services (EC-PHORS), a Concept Paper has been developed by the Secretariat to consolidate the expressions of interest and articulate implementation approaches. The Concept Paper is available at:

<http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/wcp/wcasp/meetings/linkedfiles/Arctic-PRCC-Concept-Paper-draft2.docx>

The sixty-eighth session of WMO Executive Council (EC-68, June 2016) considered the recommendations that emanated from the Scoping Workshop on "Climate Services for Polar Regions: Establishing Polar Regional Climate Centres: Towards Implementing an Arctic PRCC-Network" (Geneva, 17-19 November 2015) that was led by EC-PHORS (http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/wcp/wcasp/meetings/PRCC_Scoping_Workshop2015.html). In particular, EC-68 considered the Workshop recommendations addressing the implementation of an Arctic PRCC-Network that contemplate Members' sharing responsibilities with the functions distributed over several nodes. EC-68 endorsed the Arctic PRCC-Network as a joint initiative between WMO Regional Associations (RAs) II, IV and VI, and requested that a draft implementation plan be developed in a coordinated manner, and be brought to the attention of EC-69 for further consideration.

Accordingly, the EC-PHORS Services Task Team (STT) has agreed to lead a technical meeting with all the potential contributors and relevant stakeholders, to develop the draft implementation plan, and to explore the start of a demonstration phase in 2017, taking into account the designation requirements for WMO RCCs.

To: Permanent Representatives of Members of WMO (limited distribution)

cc: Presidents of RAs II, IV and VI (for information)

I am pleased to inform you that the Arctic Polar Regional Climate Centre (PRCC) Network Implementation Planning Meeting will be held from 7 to 9 November 2016 in Geneva, Switzerland. A concept note on the meeting is attached herewith for your perusal. This activity is part of the Programme for Implementing the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) at Regional and National Scales, funded by Environment and Climate Change Canada.

I am further pleased to invite you to nominate a relevant expert to represent your NMS in this meeting, bearing in mind that your nominee should possess the requisite technical knowledge and is appropriately mandated to make commitments regarding the contribution of his/her NMS to the Arctic PRCC-Network. It would be helpful if you can find internal resources to fully or partially support the participation of your nominee, but if required, WMO can consider providing support on specific request, within the limited resources available.

I would greatly appreciate your completing the attached WMO Nomination Form and returning same by **15 September 2016** to Dr Rupa Kumar Kolli (RKolli@wmo.int), Chief of the World Climate Applications and Services Division. For further details of the meeting, your nominee may directly contact Dr Kolli.

I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support to WMO Programmes and activities.

Yours faithfully,



(E. Manaenkova)
for the Secretary-General



WORLD
METEOROLOGICAL
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**Arctic Polar Regional Climate
Centre (PRCC) Network
Implementation Planning Meeting**
7-9 November 2016, Geneva, Switzerland

Draft Concept Note

Background

The Sixty-eighth session of WMO Executive Council (EC-68, June 2016), having considered the recommendations of the Scoping Workshop¹ on Polar Regional Climate Centres (PRCCs) led by the EC Panel on Polar and High-mountain Observations, Research and Services (EC-PHORS), particularly on specific steps to work towards the implementation of an Arctic PRCC-Network with Members expressing interest in sharing responsibilities with the functions distributed over several nodes, endorsed the Arctic PRCC-Network as a joint initiative between WMO Regional Associations (RAs) II, IV and VI. EC-68 also requested that a draft implementation plan be developed in a coordinated manner, and be brought to the attention of EC-69 for further consideration. As a follow-up of the Scoping Workshop and based on the survey of potential national contributions to PRCC functions, a concept note² was prepared under the guidance of EC-PHORS Services Task Team (STT), which suggested an RCC-Network design with geographical specialization and relevant cross-node activities. EC-PHORS STT has also agreed to lead a technical meeting with all the potential contributors and relevant stakeholders, to develop the draft implementation plan and to explore the start of a demonstration phase in 2017, taking into account the designation requirements³ for WMO RCCs. The meeting is supported by a Programme of Implementing the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) on Regional and National Scales, funded by Environment and Climate Change Canada.

Meeting Structure

The meeting will start with a set of presentations intended to ensure a balanced familiarity of participants regarding the current status of Arctic PRCC-Network preparations and WMO RCCs in terms of concept and implementation.

The core part of the meeting will be conducted as a moderated discussion along the mandatory and highly-recommended RCC functions, clarifying proposed contributions to the Arctic PRCC-Network in terms of product/service elements and its producer, areal coverage, time of issuance, accessibility as well as the product's/service's references, methodology used, its spatial and temporal resolution and its quality indicators. The key discussion focus will be on product/service consistency in terms of a user-friendly RCC product portfolio which meets Members' expectations and formal WMO RCC designation requirements. RCC-Network internal and external interfaces will be addressed along with partner engagement needs.

Based on the technical arrangements, the meeting will discuss organisational arrangements including the Network's Node structure, Node leads, potential consortia, overall Network coordination and Network coordinator and other aspects as appropriate.

¹ Scoping Workshop on "Climate Services for Polar Regions: Establishing Polar Regional Climate Centres: Towards Implementing an Arctic PRCC-Network" (Geneva, 17-19 November 2015)

² Draft Concept Paper on "Development of a Polar Regional Climate Centre (PRCC): Towards an Arctic PRCC-Network", June 2016

³ How to establish and run a WMO Regional Climate Centre (RCC); WMO/TD-N°1534, WCASP-N°80

It is also proposed to consider Arctic service requirements by roughly mapping these against the RCC products and services as per above technical and organisational arrangements. Given that the Arctic PRCC-Network is being set up with its nodes dedicated to mutually agreed geographical domains, the meeting will also explore technical approaches to seamlessly combine/merge the products for the entire Arctic.

Expected Outcomes

- Finalized structure for Arctic PRCC-Network, including the Node configuration, consortia of contributing entities, Node leads, overall coordination and governance aspects;
- Mutually agreed technical and organisational arrangements for an Arctic PRCC-Network for each of the constituent Nodes (*Note: The agreed arrangements will be considered to be flexible to facilitate further RCC-Network contributions, contributors and partnerships during the course of implementation*);
- Identification of next steps towards the Arctic PRCC-Network implementation, including the commencement of a demonstration phase.

Date and Place

The meeting is tentatively scheduled for three days (7-9 November 2016) in WMO Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland.

Agenda elements

- Organisation of the Meeting
- Review of the current status of Arctic PRCC preparations including relevant constituent body decisions
- Review of WMO RCC implementation processes and designation criteria
- Review of existing WMO RCC implementations with a focus on RCC-Networks: Technical and organisational arrangements
- Moderated discussion of Arctic PRCC-Network arrangements:
 - Technical arrangements: Mandatory functions, Highly recommended functions, other activities (additional products and services, projects, RCOFs, etc.)
 - Organisational arrangements: Nodes, Node leads, consortia, Network coordination, partnerships
 - Partnership arrangements to integrate contributions from other sources of RCC-relevant products for the Arctic, such as GCW
- Finalizing Arctic PRCC-Network arrangements
- Mapping of Arctic PRCC-Network products and services versus relevant service needs in the Arctic region
- Next steps
- Conclusions and recommendations

Participants

- Technical representatives of Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Netherlands, Norway, Russian Federation, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States of America (*Note: Member representatives are expected to have sufficient technical understanding to discuss Arctic PRCC-Network technical arrangements. In addition, Member representatives are expected to have a mandate to discuss organisational arrangements on behalf of their organisation. The final Arctic PRCC arrangements will be committed through written procedure by the Permanent Representatives with WMO.*)
- Representatives of EC-PHORS Services Task Team
- Representatives of partners: AC, GCW, GIPPS, YOPP, IICWG, etc.

