

**WMO OMM**

World Meteorological Organization  
Organisation météorologique mondiale  
Organización Meteorológica Mundial  
Всемирная метеорологическая организация  
المنظمة العالمية للأرصاد الجوية  
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Ref.: 16647/2021-1.9 ESM

Our ref.: 16647/2021/I/ESM/EC-PHORS

17 August 2021

Annex: 1

Subject: Invitation for nomination of candidate members for the Executive Council Panel on Polar and High Mountain Observations, Research and Services (EC-PHORS)

Action required: To provide, to the WMO Secretariat, nominations of candidates for members of EC-PHORS, reflecting the strategic priorities for polar and high-mountain regions of the nominating Member or partner, no later than  
**17 September 2021**

Dear Sir/Madam,

As you may be aware, Resolution 30 of the seventy-third session of the Executive Council (EC-73) of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), ([Resolution 30 \(EC-73\)](#) - Executive Council Panel on Polar and High Mountain Observations, Research and Services (EC-PHORS)), decided to re-establish the Executive Council Panel on Polar and High-mountain Observations, Research, and Services (EC-PHORS) with new Terms of Reference and membership, as provided in the [annex](#) to the present letter. Notably, the new Terms of Reference focus on strategic and high-level advocacy and coordination functions, and reflect the migration of technical functions to the new technical commissions and Research Board to the extent possible.

WMO has long recognized the role of the polar and high-mountain regions<sup>1</sup> in the Earth system and has committed to playing a leading role in addressing concerns about the local, regional and global consequences of changes in these regions. In this sense, WMO established EC-PHORS, focusing on polar areas, at the Fifteenth World Meteorological Congress (Cg-XV) in 2007, and expanded its role to include a focus on high mountains at Cg-17. EC-PHORS has been an effective consultative mechanism of WMO for supporting its Members and partners in identifying and coordinating efforts towards addressing priorities on weather, climate, water, and the environment specific to the Arctic, Antarctica, as well as high-mountain regions, making recommendations for action by the appropriate WMO bodies. The core principle of EC-PHORS has been the engagement of key partners, and the Panel has been successful in

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<sup>1</sup> Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (SROCC) defined *high mountains* as all mountain regions where glaciers, snow, or permafrost are prominent features of the landscape. [Decision 48 \(EC-69\)](#) - Polar and High-Mountain Regions Priority Activity, defined *high mountains* as "areas where seasonal or perennial cryosphere is present and poses potential and serious risks to society related to water scarcity and disaster resilience".

To: Permanent Representatives of Members with WMO (limited distribution)  
Mountain Research Initiative; Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme; Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment; Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research; International Arctic Science Committee; International Association of Cryospheric Sciences; Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting; International Hydrographic Organization; Council of Managers of National Antarctic programmes; Third Pole Environment program; International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development; Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO; Group on Earth Observations; Association of Polar Early Career Scientists

cc: Hydrological Advisers

ensuring active coordination on matters of common interest in polar and high-mountain regions, and where the cryosphere is a critical component of their environments.

EC-73 has provided a clear roadmap for the work of the Panel for the upcoming period, namely:

- (1) To submit to the Executive Council recommendations on an effective role to oversee, coordinate and monitor how polar and high-mountain observations, research, services and policies are developed and implemented within and externally to WMO, to ensure that WMO continues to play a meaningful role in these matters, and it engages the relevant partners;
- (2) To submit to the Policy Advisory Committee recommendations informing the WMO strategic objectives for 2024–2027 on specific priorities for polar and high-mountain regions, as developed with input from other WMO bodies and reflecting the necessary strategic engagements;
- (3) To work with the Commission for Observation, Infrastructure and Information Systems (INFCOM), the Commission for Weather, Climate, Water and Related Environmental Services and Applications (SERCOM) and the Research Board to integrate into their respective work programmes the technical, operational, and research priorities and activities relevant to the polar and high-mountain regions.

Furthermore, EC-73 decided that the Panel will include up to 25 members representing WMO bodies, WMO Members, and relevant partners. These are expected to bring a level of contribution reflective of the strategic and advocacy role of the panel, and to ensure an active engagement of key partners, for ensuring effective linkages with the WMO bodies. In accordance with the process for the appointment of members of EC-PHORS, as described in Section 3 of the Terms of Reference approved by EC, there are currently up to 18 vacancies on the Panel that will be filled with representatives of WMO Members and of partners.

You are hereby invited to nominate one suitable candidate for the panel, representing your strategic interests on matters related to weather, climate, water, and the environment in polar and high-mountain regions. The nomination should be sent no later than **17 September 2021**, by email to [cryosphere@wmo.int](mailto:cryosphere@wmo.int), and it should include the following documents:

- A letter of nomination indicating the areas of interest and potential contribution, relative to the terms of reference of EC-PHORS;
- The nominated candidate's most recent curriculum vitae, with emphasis on activities relevant to the goals of EC-PHORS.

Based on your expressions of interest and in consultation with the EC-PHORS co-chairs, the WMO Secretariat will prepare a prioritized list of candidates for members of the Panel. The EC-PHORS co-chairs will make recommendations on membership for decision by the Executive Council (or to the President of WMO in the intersessional period for future vacant positions).

I want to thank you for your ongoing support to WMO and its Programmes, and for the contribution made to advancing the goals of WMO on matters relevant to polar and high-mountain regions, through the work of EC-PHORS and its substructures.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Zhang', with a stylized, cursive script.

Dr Wenjian Zhang  
for the Secretary-General

## Annex to Resolution 30 (EC-73)

### EXECUTIVE COUNCIL PANEL ON POLAR AND HIGH MOUNTAIN OBSERVATIONS, RESEARCH AND SERVICES (EC-PHORS)

#### Terms of Reference

#### 1. General Mandate

- (1) Operate under the general terms of reference of regional associations regarding the WMO activities in Antarctica, as in Annex II of [Basic Documents No. 1](#) (WMO-No. 15);
- (2) Foster the engagement of WMO with the Arctic Council and its Working Groups, and with the Antarctic Treaty and its Committee for Environmental Protection and liaise between these and the WMO bodies with respect to polar observing systems and services;
- (3) Engage WMO bodies, and in particular INFCOM, SERCOM and the Research Board, to achieve the integration in their respective work programmes of research, technical and operational priorities and activities specific to polar and high-mountain regions, as identified in [Resolution 48 \(Cg-18\)](#);
- (4) Promote and monitor Member relevant developments from international bodies with established activities in polar and high mountain regions, e.g. on improving observations, data exchange and predictive capability in these regions, and facilitate engagements with WMO bodies in support of the delivery of the WMO Strategic Plan objectives in polar and high mountain regions;
- (6) Facilitate the engagements of early career scientists in the delivery of WMO results for polar and high mountain regions, including in collaboration with the Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS).

#### 2. Specific Terms of Reference

- (1) In collaboration with the representatives of INFCOM, SERCOM and the Research Board, develop a set of guiding principles for the high-level strategic, advocacy, partnership, and governance of activities for polar and high-mountain regions, including a coordinating role through the Executive Council;
- (2) In collaboration with SERCOM, support the integration of polar and high-mountain service-related components of EC-PHORS, particularly of Polar Regional Climate Centre networks (PRCC) and of the associated polar Regional Climate Outlook Forums (RCOFs), including regarding the sharing of responsibilities between SERCOM and INFCOM;
- (3) Provide support to the Arctic Regional Climate Centre network (ArcRCC-Network) on its efforts to obtain WMO designation and to conduct a "lessons-learned" study on its development and implementation and the engagement of relevant sectors and stakeholders across multiple regional associations, as a component of the transition to relevant WMO bodies;
- (4) Explore a Member-driven WMO coordination mechanism for Antarctica, offering communication and coordination benefits similar to regional associations, based on the concept jointly developed with the Study Group on Cryosphere Crosscutting Functions (SG-Cryo) of INFCOM, with considerations to its structure and its alignment in the WMO structure;

- (5) Foster the engagement between the Research Board, INFCOM and SERCOM for developing together a roadmap for science-to-services from the Polar Prediction Project of the World Weather Research Programme (WWRP), leading to the integration of its outcomes via the Global Data-Processing and Forecasting System (GDPFS) and on identifying new research priorities, including by contributing to the vision to be developed by the Science Advisory Panel;
- (6) Foster the development of a roadmap for the integration by WMO bodies of recommendations addressing the WMO relevant actions of the Call for Action of the WMO High Mountain Summit, as prepared by SG-Cryo of INFCOM;
- (7) Take stock of gaps and specific needs of Members in polar and high mountain regions and of mechanisms to address them, accounting for regional differences, e.g. Arctic vs Antarctic vs high-mountain regions;
- (8) Prepare for submission to the Executive Council recommendations on an effective role to oversee, coordinate and monitor how polar and high-mountain observations, research, services and policies are developed and implemented within and externally to WMO, to ensure that WMO continues to play a meaningful role on these matters;
- (9) Prepare for submission to the Policy Advisory Committee recommendations informing the WMO strategic objectives for 2024–2028 on specific priorities for polar and high mountain regions developed with input from other WMO bodies and reflecting the necessary strategic engagements.

### 3. Composition

The EC-PHORS will consist of a maximum of 25 core members representing WMO Members, WMO bodies, and WMO partners, reflective of their polar (Arctic, Antarctic) and high-mountain strategic priorities, at global and regional level, aligned with the WMO strategic objectives, including:

- (1) Nominated representatives of WMO Members;
- (2) Presidents and/or vice-presidents of technical commissions, or their representatives;
- (3) Representative(s) of the Research Board;
- (4) Chair of the Hydrological Coordination Panel or a designated representative;
- (5) Chair of the Study Group on Cryosphere Crosscutting Functions (SG-Cryo) and the Chair of the Global Cryosphere Watch Advisory Group (GCW-AG) of INFCOM;
- (6) WMO partner organizations:

The WMO partners to be invited to participate as members of EC-PHORS are, but not limited to, the Arctic Council relevant Working Groups (for example the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme and the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment), the International Science Council and the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics relevant bodies (for example, the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research, the International Arctic Science Committee, the International Association of Cryospheric Sciences, the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting, the International Hydrographic Organization, the Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programmes, the Mountain Research Initiative, the Third Pole Environment programme, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, the Group on Earth Observations, and the APECS.

The Panel may establish time-bound substructures, as needed, for the discharge of specific tasks during the period between sessions within its specific terms of reference.

#### **4. Process for appointment of members nominated by WMO Members**

- (1) The Secretary-General will advise WMO Members of the opportunity to nominate candidate for consideration by the Executive Council as members of EC-PHORS, at a level reflective of their polar (Arctic, Antarctic) and high-mountain strategic priorities;
- (2) Based on the expressions of interest received, the Secretary-General will prepare in consultation with co-chairs, a prioritized list of candidates for members of EC-PHORS; the recommendation for membership will be submitted to the Executive Council (or to the President of WMO in the intersessional period) by EC-PHORS co-chairs;
- (3) The Executive Council will appoint members of the Panel based on the recommendation from EC-PHORS co-chairs. The Council will authorize the President to fill any positions that become vacant during the intersessional period.

#### **5. Working Procedures**

The EC-PHORS Panel shall apply rules of procedure defined in Annex B to *the Rules of Procedure for the Executive Council* (WMO-No. 1256).

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