



WMO OMM

World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale
Organización Meteorológica Mundial
Всемирная метеорологическая организация
المنظمة العالمية للأرصاد الجوية
世界气象组织

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21 January 2021

Annexes: 2 (available in English only)

Subject: Invitation - The Permanent Representative's online meeting of Southern African Development Community (SADC) Members on the Operation of Regional WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS) Centre, southern Africa, 9 February 2021

Action required: (1) To notify the Secretariat of your availability to attend the meeting,
(2) To nominate a WIGOS Data Quality Monitoring System (WDQMS) National Focal point on or before **1 February 2021**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to recall that the Eighteenth Session of the World Meteorological Congress (Cg-18, 2019) approved the WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS) priority areas for the 2020-2023 financial period, which includes operational implementation of Regional WIGOS Centres (RWCs). In this context, the South African Weather Service (SAWS) will perform the RWC functions for Members of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), in WMO Regional Association I.

An online training workshop for RWCs in RA I – SADC was organized by the SAWS and the WMO Secretariat from 19 to 21 October 2020. Sixteen participants from eleven SADC Members joined the workshop. The online training workshop provided participants with the knowledge to start using the global WIGOS tools available for RWCs.

Participants to that workshop also discussed and agreed on the following steps regarding RWC's operations in South Africa: finalize RWC administrative preparations at SAWS; enlist and register the WIGOS Data Quality Monitoring System (WDQMS) National Focal Points (NFP) to the incident management system for RWCs; organize a kick-off meeting between Permanent Representatives (PRs) of SADC Members, which was tentatively scheduled for December 2020; and begin official initial operations of RWC southern Africa in pilot mode from January 2021.

In view of the above, I would like to invite you to attend the PRs meeting of SADC Members on the operations of the RWC southern Africa which will be held online on 9 February 2021. In case you are not available at the date and time of the meeting, you are invited to nominate a high-level officer to represent you there.

Back-to-back with this meeting, a follow-up training on Incident Management System will be delivered to the WDQMS NFPs of SADC countries, therefore you are also kindly requested to nominate the WDQMS NFP from your country, if you have not done so yet. The terms of reference of the WDQMS NFPs, as well as the provisional programme of the meeting are attached as annexes to this letter.

To: Permanent Representatives of Members with WMO (Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe) (limited distribution)

I should be grateful if you could kindly notify the WMO Secretariat with a copy to Mr Zulkarnain, Scientific Officer, WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS), (zulkarnain@wmo.int), at your earliest convenience, but not later than **1 February 2021**, of your availability to participate in the meeting or the name and contact of your representative, as well as the WDQMS NFP that will attend the training part of the meeting.

I look forward to your participation in this meeting and I thank you for the support to the activities of WMO.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zhang', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr Wenjian Zhang
for the Secretary-General

**The PRs meeting of Southern African Development Community (SADC) Members
on the operations of the RWC Southern Africa**

**0800 UTC, 9 February 2021
(Virtual)**

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

PART I – Meeting of the SADC PRs on the RWC

1. Introduction and welcome remarks;
2. The SOFF initiative to support Members contribution to the GBON;
3. Roles and responsibilities in the context of RWC, WDQMS and Incident Management System;
4. Status and proposed next steps of establishing RWC southern Africa;
5. Discussion and conclusions.

PART II – Training Session on Incident Management System for RWC

Terms of Reference of the National Focal Point for the WIGOS Data Quality Monitoring System

The National Focal Point (NFP) for the WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS) Data Quality Monitoring System (WDQMS) provides operational linkages between the Member country/territory and the Regional WIGOS Centre (RWC) to which the country/territory is linked. The basic responsibility of the NFP/WDQMS is to ensure that adequate and timely feedback is provided to the respective RWC about all issues and incidents identified by that RWC in relation with observations exchanged internationally by the Member country/territory.

In this respect, the NFP/WDQMS will:

1. Liaise with the OSCAR/Surface NFP in the country/territory to ensure that metadata from all stations exchanging data internationally are available and updated in OSCAR/Surface;
 2. Provide timely answers to all queries and tickets sent by the respective RWC related to issues and incidents with observations from the country/territory;
 3. Initiate and coordinate actions that need to be performed at a national level, related to issues and incidents with observations from the country/territory, in order to solve them as quickly as possible;
 4. Promulgate nationally the WDQMS related practices and procedures specified in the WMO technical regulations, with support of any related guidance and training material;
 5. Follow all the procedures agreed at a regional/subregional level in the context of the respective RWC;
 6. Liaise with other relevant WMO regional centres of the region, particularly with Regional Instrument Centres and Regional Training Centres, as appropriate to find sustainable solutions for the issues and incidents identified by the WDQMS.
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