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WEATHER CLIMATE WATER
TEMPS CLIMAT EAU

World Meteorological Organization
President of Technical Commission
Organisation météorologique mondiale
Président de la Commission technique
Organización Meteorológica Mundial
Presidente de la Comisión Técnica

Всемирная метеорологическая организация
Президент технической комиссии
المنظمة العالمية للأرصاد الجوية
رئيس اللجنة الفنية
世界气象组织
技术委员会主席

Ref.: 08663/2022-L2 I/ESP

Our ref.: 08663/2022/I/ESP/NWP 27 April 2022

Subject: Improved access to the digital global Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) output

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to refer to Resolution 1 (Cg-Ext(2021)) – WMO Unified Policy for the International Exchange of Earth System Data.

As you will recall, during the deliberations that led to the World Meteorological Congress at its extraordinary session adopting this resolution, several Members explicitly requested that WMO take steps to secure free and unrestricted access to the digital numerical weather prediction (NWP) output, both to improve their service delivery capabilities and to use them as initial and boundary conditions of their limited-area NWP models. This was seen as an essential component of a quid pro quo data exchange — all Members will substantially increase the amount of observational data made available to the NWP centres, and their expectation is that they will be given access to the improved model products enabled by their observations.

It seems clear that at this point in time, the mandatory products from designated Global Data-processing and Forecasting System (GDPFS) centres such as Regional Specialized Meteorological Centres (RSMCs) for global deterministic NWP and Global Producing Centres for global numerical Long-Range Forecast (GPCs-LRF) do not fully meet the expectations of our Members. I am therefore requesting the Standing Committee on Data Processing for Applied Earth System Modelling and Prediction (SC-ESMP) to review the list of the mandatory products of the RSMCs and GPCs against the WMO Unified Data Policy and to propose relevant amendments to the *Manual on the Global Data-processing and Forecasting System* (WMO-No. 485) as needed. The work to review the list and propose amendments will take some time, and our current plans are that a revised version of the Manual on the GDPFS will be submitted to the World Meteorological Congress at its nineteenth session in 2023 (Cg-19) for its approval.

I encourage all Members hosting World Meteorological Centres (WMCs) to support this process and to do their utmost to increase the extent to which digital global NWP model output is freely exchanged with fellow WMO Members, in the spirit of the newly adopted WMO Unified Data Policy.

Additionally, I am pleased to inform you that a web portal for designated GDPFS centres was successfully launched in December 2021 and I would like to express my appreciation to you for your contribution.

To: Permanent Representatives of Members with WMO hosting WMCs (Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, Japan, Russian Federation, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and ECMWF) (limited distribution)

cc: Mr Ian Lisk, President of SERCOM; Dr Amanda Lynch, Chair of the Research Board; Presidents of Regional Associations; Dr Albert A.E. Martis, Chair of the Technical Coordination Committee; Dr Jan Danhelka, Chair of the Hydrological Coordination Panel; Prof. Gerhard Adrian, Chair of the Climate Coordination Panel

The web portal integrates essential information from all designated GDPFS centres including focal points, links to the centres' website and links to obtain GDPFS products, with the primary aim of improving the discoverability and accessibility of GDPFS products.

During the development of the web portal, a number of issues on WIS discovery metadata of GDPFS products were identified. These metadata issues not only make it difficult for Members to access GDPFS mandatory products, hindering the best use of the many kinds of GDPFS products, but also depreciate the effort and hard work of all designated centres who operationally produce them. For instance, only about 50% of the mandatory products from RSMCs for global deterministic NWP have their corresponding WIS metadata, as of March 2022. The percentage of those from RSMCs for global ensemble NWP and GPCs-LRF are much lower than this. Considering the fact that guidelines on creating WIS discovery metadata of GDPFS products are not available, I am again requesting the INFCOM experts to address the development of such guidelines, having in mind the evolution of WIS towards WIS2.0.

As it may take some time to develop the guidelines and complete the transition to WIS2.0, I would like to kindly ask all Members hosting WMCs to check on the web portal for any missing product links of your Centre, and take necessary actions to improve the accessibility of GDPFS products. Please provide the missing information on the links to the GDPFS products to the Secretariat by email: dpfsmail@wmo.int. The Secretariat will be available for help or clarification if your Centre has any questions.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to you and your service for your continued support to the WMO Global Data-processing and Forecasting System.

Yours faithfully,

Michel Jean
President of the Commission for Observation,
Infrastructure and Information Systems
(INFCOM)