



Our ref.: 6478159/2025/I

25 November 2025

Annexes: 2 (available in English only)

Subject: Fourteenth session of the Panel on Polar and High-mountain Observations, Research and Services (PHORS-2026), from 10 to 13 February 2026 in Wellington, New Zealand

Action required: To kindly confirm your participation and, if so, whether any financial assistance is required at your earliest convenience but preferably before **28 November 2025**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have the pleasure to inform you that the fourteenth session of the Panel on Polar and High-mountain Observations, Research and Services (PHORS-2026) will be held from 10 to 13 February 2026, in Wellington, New Zealand.

The meeting will focus on preparing a submission to the twentieth World Meteorological Congress, through the eightieth session of the Executive Council, on key priorities for the next financial period of WMO that are relevant to polar and high-mountain observations, research, and services, including WMO contribution to the Fifth International Polar Year (IPY-5). Noting this focus, I am requesting members who are available to attend in person to champion topics on the agenda to guide discussions and formulate clear recommendations.

Based upon member discussions at the virtual meeting held on 2 October 2025, a draft agenda with proposed champions has been developed and can be found in [annex II](#). Please email cryosphere@wmo.int to confirm if you are willing to champion the suggested agenda topic, or to indicate if you would prefer to champion an alternative topic. If your name has not yet been assigned to any topic, you are kindly invited to propose one. I would also appreciate receiving any comments you may have on the draft agenda. Further information regarding PHORS-2026 will be shared with participants prior to the meeting.

I should be grateful if you could kindly confirm your participation at your earliest convenience but preferably no later than **28 November 2025** at cryosphere@wmo.int and indicate whether any financial assistance will be required. If so, the details of the assistance required, that is, travel costs or per diem, or both, should be indicated as soon as possible to enable us to complete, in due time, the necessary formalities concerning your travel. If WMO meets the travel costs, the travel arrangements will be made by the Secretariat, and details will be sent to you in due course. Financial assistance is limited and will be based on your commitment to champion topics at the meeting and actively contribute.

To: Participants of the PHORS-2026 (listed in annex I)

cc: Permanent Representatives of Australia, Austria, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, Guyana, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, South Africa, Switzerland, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania and United States of America with WMO (limited distribution)
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Regarding insurance coverage for non-staff members, may I draw your attention to the following:

Non-staff members of WMO who are authorized to travel at the Organization's expense and/or who are receiving a DSA from WMO must ensure they are fully responsible for expenses incurred in the event of death, illness or injury during official travel and attendance at meetings on behalf of the Organization. They are, therefore, fully responsible for arranging life, health, and accident, as well as any other forms of insurance with an adequate level of coverage for the duration of such meetings and events.

WMO liability is limited to the performance of services or attendance at a meeting on behalf of the Organization, is covered by an injury and illness benefit insurance which provides limited coverage for medical, emergency, and supplementary official travel expenses.

I take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support to WMO activities.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ko Barrett', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Ms Ko Barrett
for the Secretary-General

Fourteenth session of the Panel on Polar and High-mountain Observations, Research and Services (PHORS-2026)

From 10 to 13 February 2026, in Wellington, New Zealand

List of participants

Name	Organization / Service	Country	Role	Email address
Dr Roar Skålin	Norwegian Meteorological Institute	Norway	PHORS Co-chair	roars@met.no
Dr Robert Argent	Bureau of Meteorology	Australia	PHORS Co-chair	robert.argent@bom.gov.au
Dr Garvin Cummings	National Meteorological and Hydrological Service (NMHS) of Guyana	Guyana	PHORS Member	cho@moa.gov.gy
Dr Lijuan Ma	China Meteorological Administration (CMA)	China	PHORS Member	malj@cma.cn
Dr Thamban Meloth	National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, Ministry of Earth Sciences	India	PHORS Member	meloth@ncpor.res.in
Dr Nima Farid Mojtahedi	Iran Meteorological Organization	Islamic Republic of Iran	PHORS Member	Nima.modjtahedi@gmail.com
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Dr Minghu Ding	Chinese Academy of Meteorological Sciences	China	PHORS Member (representing Partner)	dingmh@cma.gov.cn

Name	Organization / Service	Country	Role	Email address
Dr Anna Maria Trofaier	European Space Agency	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	PHORS Member (representing Partner)	Anna.Maria.Trofaier@esa.int
Dr Gerlis Fugmann	International Arctic Science Committee Secretariat (IASC)	Iceland	Pending PHORS Member	gerlis.fugmann@iasc.info
Mr Michel Jean	Meteorological Service of Canada (MSC); President WMO INFCOM	Canada	PHORS Member (Ex-officio)	p-infcom@wmo.int
Dr Wayne Jenkinson	Environment and Climate Change Canada	Canada	PHORS Member (Ex-officio)	Wayne.Jenkinson@ec.gc.ca
Mr Ian Lisk	UK Met Office; President WMO SERCOM	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	PHORS Member (Ex-officio)	ian.lisk@metoffice.gov.uk
Prof. Amanda Lynch	Brown University; Chair WMO Research Board	United States of America	PHORS Member (Ex-officio)	alynch@wmo.int
Dr Shawn Marshall	Environment and Climate Change Canada	Canada	PHORS Member (Ex-officio)	Shawn.Marshall@ec.gc.ca
Dr James Lunny	MetService New Zealand	New Zealand	Advisor and PHORS-2026 Host	james.lunny@metservice.com
Dr Jordis Sonnhild Tradowsky	Norwegian Meteorological Institute	Norway	Advisor to Dr Roar Skålin	jordist@met.no
Dr Louise Wicks	Bureau of Meteorology	Australia	Advisor to Dr Robert Argent	louise.wicks@bom.gov.au
Dr Narelle van der Wel	WMO	Switzerland	Secretariat	nvanderwel@wmo.int

Fourteenth session of the Panel on Polar and High-mountain Observations, Research and Services (PHORS-2026)

From 10 to 13 February 2026, Wellington, New Zealand

Tentative Agenda

Time	Day 1 Tue 10 February	Day 2 Wed 11 February	Day 3 Thurs 12 February	Day 4 Fri 13 February
09:00–10:30	Welcome by indigenous Maori population of Aotearoa New Zealand including kai/morning tea	Cryospheric changes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Glacier melt, including tropical glaciers How can WMO contribute to narrowing the observing gaps in the cryosphere? <p>Champions/chairs: Habiba Mtongori, Shawn Marshall</p>	Observations/ Data exchange <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WIS 2.0 Presentation on Global Cryosphere Watch (GCW) observing network (Shawn Marshall) What can WMO do to better include indigenous knowledge? What can WMO do to avoid duplication of work between (external) initiatives? 	Decade of action for cryospheric sciences <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How can WMO be involved within available resources? <p>Champions/chairs: Carolina Adler and [vacant]</p>

Time	Day 1 Tue 10 February	Day 2 Wed 11 February	Day 3 Thurs 12 February	Day 4 Fri 13 February
			Champions/chairs: Wolfgang Schöner, Wayne Jenkinson	
10:30–11:00	Break	Break	Break	Break
11:00 – 12:30	11:00 – 12:00 Introductions WMO strategic matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Principles (stay in mandate, and so forth) 	Tipping points Background document from World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) assessment/workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Several tipping points in cryosphere 	WIPPS & AI opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of WIPPS Cryo products - Space to discuss AI related matters that were raised over recent days (including: Can AI be 	Algorithmic North: Weather, Security and International Law Article accessible here

Time	Day 1 Tue 10 February	Day 2 Wed 11 February	Day 3 Thurs 12 February	Day 4 Fri 13 February
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Procedures and steps to achieve our outcomes - Summary of current strategic plan - Gap analysis and what we need to keep <p>Chairing: Rob Argent and Roar Skålin</p> <p>12:00–12:30</p> <p>How to make the cryosphere a priority within WMO?</p> <p>Champions/chairs: Lijuan Ma and [vacant]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Does WMO have a role to inform? <p>Champions/chairs: [vacant] and [vacant]</p>	<p>useful regarding the specific challenges of data sparse areas ? maybe AI as an interesting tool for storm surges ?)</p> <p>Champions/chairs: Roar Skålin and Michel Jean</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Are there specific steps that WMO can take to improve the situation? - Perspectives from the South <p>Champion: Amanda Lynch and [vacant]</p>
12:30–13:30	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch

Time	Day 1 Tue 10 February	Day 2 Wed 11 February	Day 3 Thurs 12 February	Day 4 Fri 13 February
13:30 – 15:00	IPY-5 Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Goals of IPY-5 - EC-79 decision - How can WMO advance cryosphere priorities through IPY? Champions/chairs: Gerlis Fugmann and [vacant]	Sea level rise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What has developed within WMO over 2 years - Which role WMO should take onwards Champions/chairs: Garvin Cummings, Donald Permana	Writing session Develop the content of WMO documents for EC-80, INF document plus resolution Champions to take responsibility for their topic	PHORS workplan and priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bringing all pieces together into document for EC-80 - Prioritize activities, given we know that WMO is likely to cut resources in all areas. Chairing: Rob Argent and Roar Skålin
15:00–15:30	Break	Break	Break	Break
15:30–17:00	Antarctic RCC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Current status - Next steps - Requirements for strategic plan of WMO Champions/chairs: Thamban Meloth and Rob Argent	Cryosphere research to operation and services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Services white paper - Cryo hazard-impact services - Report on Antarctica – list of recommendations - Reanalysis - HydroSOS and the Global Water Report 	Writing session Develop the content of WMO documents for EC-80, INF document plus resolution Champions to take responsibility for their topic	Conclusions Next steps Actions to prepare documents for PAC/EC-80 Any other/unfinished business

Time	Day 1 Tue 10 February	Day 2 Wed 11 February	Day 3 Thurs 12 February	Day 4 Fri 13 February
	<p>-----</p> <p>Global cooperation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How WMO can contribute to global fora as an authoritative voice on weather, water and climate - Arctic Council - ATCM - COP - Report from IYGP (Carolina) <p>Champions/chairs: [vacant] and [vacant]</p>	<p>- input from PHORS members on variables to include.</p> <p>Champions/chairs: Ian Lisk, Sami Niemelä</p>		