

**WMO OMM**

World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale
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Всемирная метеорологическая организация
المنظمة العالمية للأرصاد الجوية
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Ref.: 13841/2024.1.2 MS/ROE

Our ref.: 13841/2024/MS/ROE/RBON

3 September 2024

Annex: 1 (available in English only)

Subject: Invitation to nominate an expert for the work of RA VI Regional Basic Observing Network (RBON) Focus Group and the first meeting of the group to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 31 October and 1 November 2024

Action required: To nominate an expert in the RBON Focus Group and to confirm attending the Focus Group meeting on 31 October and 1 November 2024 by
15 September 2024

Dear Sir/Madam,

Establishment of the Regional Basic Observing Network (RBON) by the Regional Association (RA) VI (Europe) is one of the key aspects for supporting the regional WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS) implementation and addressing the observational requirements of the Early Warnings for All initiative. The RA VI Management Group and RA VI Working Group for Observation, Infrastructure and Information System have considered the way forward for developing RBON in RA VI deciding that it is essential that a Focus Group on RBON will be created to guide, support and coordinate the RBON design in RA VI. The terms of reference for the Focus Group is available in the [annex](#).

I am pleased to invite an expert from your Service to participate in the work of the Focus Group including the first meeting, which will be organized in Geneva, Switzerland on 31 October and 1 November 2024. For administrative purposes, I should be grateful if you could notify the WMO Regional Office for Europe (email: roe@wmo.int) of the nomination before **15 September 2024**, including availability of the expert to attend the meeting. WMO will provide financial support to cover the cost of travel if required. If WMO meets the travel costs, the travel arrangements will be made by the Secretariat and details will be sent to the participant in due course.

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.

To: Permanent Representatives of Germany, Norway, Russian Federation, Spain, and Türkiye with WMO; Hydrological Adviser of Norway; EUMETNET Executive Director and EUMETNET Observations Capability Area Manager; and Chair of RA VI Working Group for Observation, Infrastructure and Information Systems (limited distribution)

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 support in WMO activities which is greatly appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

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

Prof. Celeste Saulo
Secretary-General

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE**FOCUS GROUP ON DEVELOPMENT OF REGIONAL BASIC OBSERVING NETWORK (RBON) IN RA VI**

Ref.: 13841/2024.1.2 MS/ROE

The Regional Basic Observing Network (RBON) aims to bring significant socioeconomic benefits to the region, in addition to those provided by the Global Basic Observing Network (GBON). The design and operation process of RBON helps address the observational requirements of the Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative.

RA VI Working Group for Observation, Infrastructure and Information System (WG-I) is responsible for applying and coordinating the design process for RBON in consultation with the Members of the region. In doing so, it promotes regional cooperation and exchange of data across boundaries, shares benefits, shares resources, optimizes the deployment of observing stations geographically and proposes prioritization mechanism(s) for such cooperation, for example, in support of disaster risk reduction and the EW4All initiative. Following the recommendation by the RA VI Management Group (MG) and the RA VI WG-I, a RBON Focus Group will be established to undertake, support, and coordinate the RBON design in RA VI.

The Focus Group shall:

- Provide support and guidance to the WG-I in planning the implementation of the actions defined in [Resolution 2 \(EC-78\)](#) – Priority Activities contributing to the Early Warnings for All initiative, by estimating the needed resources and identifying potential experts for implementing the actions; and
- Undertake and coordinate the RBON design in RA VI, following the guidelines provided in the [Guide to the WMO Integrated Global Observing System](#) (WMO-No. 1165), in particular;
 - o Identify the top-level high-priority variables to be observed and corresponding observational requirements (required variables and criteria to be recorded in [OSCAR/Requirements](#)) for the region. It could be done by subregion if resources allow. This would address the high-priority regional weather, climate, water and other environmental challenges defined by RA VI MG (in collaboration with the Rolling Review of Requirements (RRR) Application Area Points of Contact and the Commission for Observation, Infrastructure and Information Systems (INFCOM)/the Standing Committee on Earth Observing Systems and Monitoring Networks (SC-ON)/the Expert Team on Earth Observing System Design and Evolution (ET-EOSDE));
 - o Collect the existing observational capabilities from each Member based on the required observations to be made;
 - o Perform RBON Gap analysis (compare requirements with Members' observing capabilities) for the region (and possibly subregions if resources allow) and the considered hazards;
 - o Encourage Members to assign RBON observing stations in OSCAR/Surface and provide assistance as necessary;
 - o Exchange experience and knowledge about RBON design, with relevant groups from other RAs;
 - o Draft a midterm plan for evolution of RBON in each region/subregion to address the remaining gaps.

The Focus Group will consist of leading subject matter experts in RA VI and will meet on an ad hoc basis during the design process of RBON in RA VI in 2024–2025.