

**WMO OMM**

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

Secrétariat

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Ref.: 16628/2024-1.61

Our ref.: 16628/2024/I/GCW WIPPS

3 October 2024

Annexes: 2

Subject: Global Cryosphere Watch (GCW) – WMO Integrated Processing and Prediction System (WIPPS) Meeting: from 3 to 6 December 2024, in Geneva, Switzerland

Action required: To notify the WMO Secretariat preferably no later than **11 October 2024** on your participation.

Dear Sir/Madam,

The third session of the Commission for Observation, Infrastructure, and Information Systems (INFCOM-3) held in Geneva from 15 to 19 April 2024, through its [Final Report](#) (WMO-No. 1353) approved the workplan of the Commission which includes specific deliverables on the cryosphere for integration across WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS), WMO Information System (WIS), and WMO Integrated Processing and Prediction System (WIPPS). Given the critical role of the cryosphere information in addressing emerging needs for early warning, adaptation and mitigation, the Commission approved a Roadmap for the integration of the cryosphere in WIPPS ([Decision 20 \(INFCOM-3\)](#)), with specific deliverables under the responsibility of the Advisory Group on the Global Cryosphere Watch (AG-GCW) and the Standing Committee on WIPPS (SC-WIPPS).

To advance the preparation and delivery of the actions on the Roadmap for the integration of cryosphere information in WIPPS, AG-GCW and SC-WIPPS have agreed to hold a meeting from 3 to 6 December 2024. The meeting will take place in Geneva, Switzerland, hosted in the WMO Secretariat and concurrently with meetings of other INFCOM bodies, providing an excellent opportunity to connect with these based on the 2024–2026 workplan.

Information on the agenda and the organization of the meeting will be made available on the WMO website at <https://public.wmo.int/en/events/meetings>.

Please note that the meeting will be organized with a set agenda from 3 to 5 December 2024, and the fourth day of the meeting, 6 December 2024 will be reserved for specific tasks delivering on the decisions of AG-GCW and SC-WIPPS. The items addressed in December will be agreed with the engaged experts in preparation of the meeting.

Given your commitment and active engagement in the delivery of the workplan of INFCOM, with the focus on the cryosphere and through the Global Cryosphere Watch, I would like to invite you to participate to this meeting.

To: Mr Ludovic Brucker (USA), Ms Petra Heil (Australia), Mr Shawn Marshall (Canada), Mr Thorsteinn Thorsteinsson (Iceland), Ms Penelope Mae Wagner (Norway), Mr Rijan Bhakta Kayastha (Nepal), Mr Vasily Smolyanitsky (Russia), Mr Minghu Ding (China), Mr Caio Coelho (Brazil), Mr Vincent Fortin (Canada).

cc: Respective Permanent Representatives

It is hoped that the cost of your participation will be borne by your Organization or by yourself. If, however, it is not possible, WMO is prepared to consider, **upon request, providing financial support** which may consist of travel cost (most economic air fare according to the most direct route) and/or per diem.

For administrative purposes, I should be grateful if you could kindly confirm your participation by email at cryosphere@wmo.int, with copy to Ms Rodica Nitu, Project Manager, Global Cryosphere Watch at rnitu@wmo.int, at your earliest convenience, but preferably **not later than 11 October 2024**, and indicate whether any financial assistance will be required. If so, please complete, sign and return the enclosed Request for Financial Assistance (RFA) form to the Secretariat at mrequests@wmo.int with copy to cryosphere@wmo.int together with a copy of the first page of your passport, **as soon as possible**. These documents are essential for 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.

In addition, you are kindly requested to **inquire about an entry visa** to Switzerland and check with the concerned travel agent if a transit visa is required. If necessary, you are responsible to obtain the required visa and WMO can provide a formal invitation letter in support of a visa application; for this purpose, the attached Request for Travel Visa Support form needs to be completed and send to the Secretariat at registration@wmo.int.

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.

Travellers should also note that WMO Regulations and Rules do not cover additional costs arising from the prolongation of stay of experts or other costs arising from travel restrictions imposed by national authorities. As with related health insurance provisions it is incumbent on the traveller to ensure that they retain the necessary travel insurance protection to cover unexpected occurrences such as border closures or other travel restrictions.

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

Yours faithfully,



Mr Nir Stav
Director
Infrastructure Department



WORLD
METEOROLOGICAL
ORGANIZATION

REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

GCW-WIPPS meeting
Geneva, Switzerland
3-6 December 2024

I

Please complete this form in block letters by typing only (no handwriting).

Return it to: mrequests@wmo.int (with a copy of your passport) before 11 October 2024

1. PARTICIPANT

Please complete the following **MANDATORY** information exactly as it appears in your passport:

Gender	Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>		
FAMILY NAME			
MAIDEN NAME (if applicable)			
First Name			
Nationality			
Place of birth		Date of birth (DD/MM/YY)	
Passport number		Validity (DD/MM/YY)	
Holding US visa	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/>
Schengen visa	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/>
Address			
City		Postal code	
Country		Nearest departure airport	
Mobile phone number		Office phone number	
E-mail			

2. ASSISTANCE FROM WMO FOR TRAVEL

Assistance requested: ☐ yes ☐ no

3. ASSISTANCE FROM WMO FOR DAILY SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE (DSA)

50% of DSA will be recovered by the organization if no accommodation invoice is provided.

DSA requested ☐ yes ☐ no

Bank transfer, please indicate full bank details:

(i) ☐ **CHF** Swiss Francs, ☐ **USD** US Dollars, ☐ **EUR** Euros currencies

Name of the bank:	
Address:	
Name of account holder	
Account number	
SWIFT Code	
ABA Code (USA)/BSB(AUD)	
SORTCode (UK)/Transit (CAD)	
IBAN Code/ CLABE(MEX)	

If bank transfer is NOT possible:

- (ii) Payment by Swiss Bankers Card* ☐ **CHF**, ☐ **USD**, ☐ **EUR**
 (iii) Payment by reloading of existing Swiss Bankers Card in my possession
☐ **CHF**, ☐ **USD**, ☐ **EUR**
 (iv) Through UNDP Office (**USD**) ☐.

4. INFORMATION ON SUPPORT RECEIVED IN ADDITION TO WMO ASSISTANCE

4.1 Declaration

No additional support received ☐ OR Additional support received ☐

4.2 Information

In case additional support is received, please indicate type of funding and estimated value:

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5. APPLICABLE RULES AND INSTRUCTIONS

The travel shall be conducted in accordance with relevant WMO rules and instructions. An excerpt of these is provided in the Annex to this form. Please read it carefully.

By signing this form, I confirm that:

- ☐ The information I have provided is correct;
☐ I shall comply with the relevant WMO rules and instructions;
☐ It is my responsibility to make arrangements for health insurance;
☐ It is my responsibility to ensure that the required medical clearance is obtained before traveling;
☐ It is my responsibility to obtain all necessary visas;
☐ If I do not attend/participate in the meeting, I will return any travel advance that I have received, and if the travel advance exceeded the amount of reimbursable travel expenses, I shall refund WMO the difference.

Signature of the participant: **Date:**

ANNEX

Excerpt from applicable rules and instructions

In accordance with WMO travel rules, air travel shall be provided in economy class, for the most economical and direct route.

If you are unable to travel after the ticket has been issued, you must inform the WMO travel agency (at: wmo.ch@contactcwt.com) prior to departure. Please also inform mrequests@wmo.int and travel@wmo.int as soon as your travel is cancelled.

Visas

It is the traveller's responsibility to ensure that all required official travel documents are valid and accurate in order to obtain the necessary visa(s) for the destination, transit stops prior to departure.

Medical clearance

Medical clearance is a mandatory requirement for all travellers whose official travel is paid for by WMO in order to certify that they are medically fit to travel. It is the traveller's responsibility to ensure that the required medical clearance and vaccinations are obtained before travelling.

Insurance

As per the regulations related to insurance in the chapter 6 of the Standing Instruction on WMO official travel, non-staff members retain the primary obligation to ensure that they have the appropriate medical and travel insurance coverage when travelling on behalf of WMO, which means that if any health or travel related eventuality should occur the non-staff members should seek assistance and claim their coverage from an insurance policy that they have taken out, as per the following regulation :

"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, 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, which is directly attributable 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 a limited coverage for medical, emergency and supplementary official travel expenses".

Travellers should note that WMO Regulations and Rules do not cover additional costs arising from the prolongation of stay of experts or other costs arising from travel restrictions imposed by national authorities. As with related health insurance provisions it is incumbent on the traveller to ensure that they retain the necessary travel insurance protection to cover unexpected occurrences such as border closures or other travel restrictions.

Insurance policy in relation to travel by car

Official travel by private vehicle will not be covered under the WMO Staff compensation and/or Benefits insurance policies. Travellers who choose to use a private vehicle for official travel should arrange for sufficient coverage with their car insurance provider for damages caused to both the vehicle and the occupants. This applies to personal vehicles as well as rental cars.

Ticket purchased through our WMO travel agency

The proposed itinerary is based on official travel dates and the traveller must accept or refuse this itinerary within 24 hours.

Once the proposed itinerary is confirmed, the traveller must ensure that an "Electronic Ticket" is received.

Deviations from the proposed official itinerary

For any deviation from the official itinerary proposed by WMO travel agency, the traveller should **directly** contact the travel agency, either by phone or e-mail to make the necessary arrangements.

FYI: CWT e-mail: wmo.ch@contactcwt.com,

CWT phone number: (24/7) +41 58 515 00 78

Any additional cost resulting from a private deviation request will be borne by the traveller. Deviations for personal convenience can be undertaken by the traveller purchasing their own tickets based on the WMO financial liability as per the standard cost or the cost of the itinerary proposed by the travel agency if such an itinerary has been requested. In these cases, the actual cost of the self-purchased ticket will be reimbursed by WMO.

Self-purchase of official travel tickets

Individuals travelling on behalf of WMO or whose official travel is paid for by WMO are authorized to purchase their own tickets. In this case,

- (a) Tickets can be purchased by travellers and will be reimbursed up to the actual cost paid by the traveller provided that the cost is within the financial liability as per the standard cost or the cost of the itinerary proposed by the travel agency, if such an itinerary has been requested;
- (b) In the event that there are changes to the planned official travel, the traveller is responsible for managing any associated change and refund requests by dealing directly with the ticket provider and for covering any extra charges related to these changes;
- (c) Travellers who have purchased their own tickets and are unable to travel for reasons of *force majeure* may be reimbursed the cost of the purchased tickets. Requests for reimbursement shall be justified in writing by the traveller and approved by the certifying officer;
- (d) Claims for reimbursement must be supported by the invoice paid by the traveller and/or proof of the official travel, if any.

Travel claims

Individuals travelling on behalf of WMO or whose official travel is paid for by WMO shall, within two calendar weeks after completion of the official travel, submit a completed official travel reimbursement claim, with supporting documents, including hotel invoices and boarding passes. Recovery of official travel advances (or "due to") shall be initiated if an individual travelling on behalf of WMO fails to submit a duly completed claim together with the supporting documents, or if, on review of the claim, it is determined that the official travel advance exceeded the amount of reimbursable official travel expenses.

GCW-WIPPS meegting, 3-6 December 2024

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO RESPONSIBLE WMO STAFF TOGETHER WITH A COPY OF NATIONAL PASSPORT

REQUEST FOR TRAVEL VISA(S) WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF WMO
To be completed by the Participant

Please note, WMO can, if required and upon request, send a letter to the Embassy or Consulate concerned, indicating that you will participate in the above-mentioned meeting.

This letter is sent to the Embassy/Consulate exclusively by e-mail. In order to prepare the letter, a copy of the passport id page is required.

Please submit this form as early as possible, as in some cases there is a considerable delay to process.

PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION EXACTLY AS IT APPEARS IN YOUR PASSPORT

MR / MS /PROF	
FAMILY NAME	
FIRST NAME	
PASSPORT NO.	
DATE OF BIRTH	
DATE OF ISSUE	
DATE OF EXPIRY	

PROFESSIONAL ADDRESS

ORGANIZATION	
SECTION / DIVISION /	
STREET	
CITY & COUNTRY	
E-MAIL (ESSENTIAL)	
TEL	

**CONTACT DETAILS OF THE EMBASSY/CONSULATE ISSUING
THE ENTRY VISA FOR THE MEETING**

EMBASSY OF	
CITY	
COUNTRY	
E-MAIL (ESSENTIAL)	

**CONTACT DETAILS OF THE EMBASSY/CONSULATE
ISSUING A TRANSIT VISA**

DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____