



Our ref.: 03593/2021/GS/LCC/CNF/EC-73

2 March 2021

Subject: Seventy-third session of the Executive Council (EC-73)

Action required: (1) Take note of changes of dates of EC-73, Cg-Ext. (2021) and EC-74
(2) Notify the Secretariat of participation and register for EC-73

Dear Sir/Madam,

The seventy-second session of the Executive Council (EC) agreed on the preliminary dates of the forthcoming sessions of EC and the Extraordinary Session of the World Meteorological Congress (Cg-Ext) (2021), subject to the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic. In light of the current global situation of the COVID-19 pandemic and its outlook for the remainder of 2021, maintaining the original dates of the next sessions as face-to-face meetings is not feasible.

After consultations with the Secretary-General, the President has decided to reorganize the sequence of sessions in 2021 as follows:

- EC-73 from 14 to 25 June, in six meetings by videoconference (duration to be agreed), alternated with four days available for sessional committees and drafting groups, with the Financial Advisory Committee being held on 9 June;
- Cg-Ext. (2021) from 11 to 22 October, in six meetings by videoconference (duration to be agreed), alternated with four days available for sessional committees and drafting groups, preceded, in the week of 4 October, by information sessions on the key decisions;
- EC-74 from 25 to 29 October to follow up on the decisions of Cg-Ext. (2021), in three meetings by videoconference (duration to be agreed), with two days available for drafting groups.

This schedule is subject to the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic and may be complemented by additional sessions if so decided by the Council. The detailed concept and format for holding Cg-Ext. (2021) by videoconference will be agreed by the Council upon recommendation of the Policy Advisory Committee.

Key items on the agenda of EC-73 include:

- Preparations for Cg-Ext. (2021), including consideration of draft proposals concerning (a) progress with reform of constituent bodies, including regional associations, (b) hydrology and (c) data policy;
- Technical proposals by WMO bodies to implement Congress' decisions regarding the long-term goals of the Strategic Plan;
- Approval of the Financial Statements for 2020 and the biennial Budget for 2022–2023.

To: Members of the Executive Council

cc: Regional Hydrological Advisers, presidents of technical commissions

I wish to remind you that, in accordance with Rule 2.8 of the Executive Council, it is foreseen that decisions of EC-73 on proposals of a technical nature submitted by WMO bodies may be adopted by consensus without debate upon advice of the Technical Coordination Committee. Similarly, proposals regarding strategic and policy matters may also be adopted by consensus without debate upon advice of the Policy Advisory Committee.

Please note the provisional annotated agenda, documents for the session as well as information on the videoconferencing arrangements will be posted in due course on the [session website](#). Due consideration will be given to time differences between EC members' locations. Pre-session documents, accompanied by the recommendations from the Policy Advisory Committee and the Technical Coordination Committee, will be uploaded as they become available.

Instructions and guidelines on the use of the videoconference platform will be made available on the session website and the videoconferencing tool will be tested with EC members, regional hydrological advisers to the presidents of the regional associations, as well as the presidents of technical commissions, prior to the session.

EC members are kindly requested:

- (1) To inform the Secretariat of their participation as well as of the names of their alternates and/or advisers through a signed letter; and
- (2) To pre-register themselves and each alternate and/or adviser individually through the online registration that is now open and will close on **6 June 2021**.

The link to the online [Event Registration System](#), the username and password that were sent by email to the Permanent Representatives with WMO remain valid for all upcoming WMO meetings.

The regional hydrological advisers to the presidents of the regional associations, as well as the presidents of technical commissions, are requested to inform the Secretariat of their participation in the session. Regional hydrological advisers to the presidents of the regional associations are kindly requested to copy the president of their region.

For all communications and further information concerning the online registration, please contact the Secretariat by email at: registration@wmo.int.

Yours faithfully,



Prof. Petteri Taalas
Secretary-General