

**WMO OMM**

World Meteorological Organization
Office of the Secretary-General
Organisation météorologique mondiale
Bureau du Secrétaire général
Organización Meteorológica Mundial
Oficina del Secretario General

Всемирная метеорологическая организация
Бюро Генерального секретаря
المنظمة العالمية للأرصاد الجوية
مكتب الأمين العام
世界气象组织
秘书长办公室

Our ref.: 34695/2018/SG/CER

18 December 2018

Annex: 1

Dear Member of the Executive Council,

You may wish to recall Decision 51 (EC-70) through which the Executive Council established a Drafting Team on Preparation of a Policy Act on Public-Private Engagement for consideration by the Eighteenth World Meteorological Congress. The team, chaired by Dr Michael Staudinger, Permanent Representative of Austria with WMO, prepared the first draft of the policy document which is attached herewith for your review and comments (Annex).

In view of the high importance of this future policy act, the Executive Council envisaged a broad consultation of the draft text in order to reach consensus prior to Congress. The first round of consultations involves all EC members. You are kindly invited to review the draft text and provide your comments **not later than 12 January 2019**.

Comments should be sent by email to: ppe@wmo.int either by direct edits to the document in track changes, or as text in the email, in which case you should also specify the line number(s) of the draft to which your comments apply.

In accordance with the EC-70 decision, a new draft will be prepared by the Drafting Team reflecting the comments and proposals received from the EC members. The next round of consultations will be carried out in February-March 2019, and will involve all Members, relevant international organizations and partners, including the private and academic sectors. The preparation process of the policy act will thus be fully inclusive and transparent.

On behalf of the Chair of the Drafting Group, I would like to thank you in advance for your active contribution to the process.

Yours faithfully,

(P. Taalas)
Secretary-General

To: Members of WMO Executive Council

**DECLARATION
OF THE EIGHTEENTH WORLD METEOROLOGICAL CONGRESS
(TITLE: PARTNERSHIP FOR GLOBAL WEATHER, CLIMATE, WATER
ENTERPRISE INITIATIVE)**

We, the delegates from 191 Member States and Territories of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), meeting in Geneva from 3 to 14 June 2019 at the Eighteenth World Meteorological Congress, having considered that the global societal risks related to extreme weather, climate, water and other environmental events shall be addressed through global partnerships, declare:

We NOTE

- **An increasing focus of the global agenda** on both immediate and long-term risks related to weather, water and climate, e.g. as reflected in the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on climate change, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction;
- **The call for inclusive partnerships** between governments, private sector and civil society at the global, regional, national and local level in order to achieve the sustainable development goals;

We FURTHER NOTE

- **The significant progress in science and technology** that continues to improve our ability to generate products and deliver services to citizens and all sectors of society;
- **The rapidly growing and changing demand from all of society** for weather, water and climate information and services to support their decisions and policies;
- **That the demand for information** and services can be better supported by improved coordinated and collaborative efforts undertaken by the public, private and academic sectors which comprise the Global Weather Enterprise.

We RECOGNIZE

- **The need to strengthen the entire meteorological value chain** from acquisition and exchange of observations, through data processing and forecasting, to service delivery to meet the growing societal needs;
- **The evolving capabilities and growing engagement of the private sector** in helping to strengthen all links of the value chain and accelerate innovation;

- **The persistent gap between the developed and the developing world** in terms of capability for the provision of required information and services which results in inequality in resilience to natural hazards;
- **A persisting pressure on public funding** which puts at risk the ability of some National Meteorological and Hydrometeorological Services to sustain the requisite infrastructure and services;
- **The need for WMO to work closely** with development and funding agencies, the private sector and the international finance community in designing and guiding development aimed at closing the capability gap.

We REAFFIRM

- **The mission of WMO** to coordinate at the global level the generation and delivery of meteorological services by its Members to help protect lives and property and increase economic prosperity;
- **The role of WMO in the development and promulgation of international standards** to ensure the quality, interoperability and fitness for purpose of operations and services and the need for all sector players to adhere to those standards, underpinned by governments' oversight;
- **The vital importance of the mission of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services** in observing and understanding weather, water and climate and in providing meteorological and related information and services in support of national, regional and global needs;
- **The commitment of the WMO Members to encourage free and unrestricted exchange of meteorological, hydrological and climate data** facilitated through Resolution 40, 25 and 60 while at the same time recognizing the need for innovative approaches and incentives to enable fair and equitable access to the rapidly growing non-traditional data from all sectors;
- **The responsibility of governments of the WMO Members to ensure the provision of the requisite infrastructure** and the operation of international systems and facilities for observations, data exchange and information supply.

We WELCOME

- **The opportunities for all stakeholders and for the broad user community** that will result from a closer collaboration among public, private and academic sectors;
- **The involvement of all sectors** in addressing critical societal needs related to weather, water and climate information and services;

- **The evolving role of WMO in the Global Weather Enterprise** as a facilitator in establishing and improving partnerships that could significantly improve the provision and availability of weather, water, and climate-related information and services to all countries.

We URGE all stakeholders from public, private and academic sectors to adhere to the UN Global Compact and WMO established principles for successful partnerships and to:

- **Contribute collectively** to achieving the overarching goals articulated in the WMO Convention including upholding the protection of life and property, safeguarding the environment and contributing to sustainable development among others;
- **Respect shared values** to create opportunities for growth based on science and leverage expertise, create solutions that provide positive outcomes for all parties, support knowledge and technology transfer and uptake, invest in local research, and develop human capacity;
- **Promote sustainability of the global weather enterprise** by seeking opportunities for engagement that promote efficiency and better serve society;
- **Promote “free and unrestricted” data sharing**, based on national circumstances, with intellectual property rights duly respected;
- **Advance together** through a coordinated approach of engaging the public, private, academic and civil society sectors as well as investment partners to support the provision of high-quality services to users in all countries, with special focus on bridging existing gaps in developing countries, Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS);
- **Foster and maintain fair and transparent arrangements** and adhere to quality and service standards to advance collective objectives in delivering public goods taking into account specific stakeholder needs, including:
 - o Ensure that access to commercial data with use restrictions is treated equally by both public and private sector entities; and
 - o Commit to comply with relevant national and international legislation and policy with respect to both data provision and avoidance of anti-competitive behaviour;
- **Seek integrity** by engaging in mutually beneficial relationships and partnerships to the benefit of society;
- **Respect sovereignty** as a right of Members in how weather, water and climate services are arranged and provided including national and regional policies for making available data and products on an open and free principle;
- **Ensure transparency** by providing information on the nature and scope of relevant institutional and operational arrangements to the concerned entities and to the public at large.

We ALSO ENCOURAGE

- **Seeking efficiencies and enhanced value for money**, including through multi-sector and cross-border partnerships;
- **Developing innovative data exchange policies, mechanisms and incentives** to increase the global multi-sector data availability, resolve existing data gaps, incentivize greater data sharing and avoid fragmentation;
- **Continuing the dialogue and initiatives** aimed at building trust, mutual understanding and cooperation between all stakeholders involved in the Global Weather Enterprise;
- **The private sector**, which depends on the essential scientific and observational underpinning provided by the public sector, **to act as powerful advocates for sustained government investment** in core public infrastructure and capability.

We APPEAL to all Governments to give due consideration to the statements expressed in this Declaration to:

- **Foster structured dialogue** between public, private and academic sectors at national levels;
- **Endeavour to put in place appropriate legislation and institutional arrangements** to enable effective cross sectoral partnerships and remove barriers to effective cooperation and collaboration;
- **Ensure the fulfilment of international commitments**, including those stemming from the WMO Convention, for sustainable operation of the infrastructure and exchange of required data;
- **Safeguard and strengthen the authoritative voice of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services** for the issuance of warnings that support critical decisions by authorities, institutions and citizens related to meteorological, hydrological and climatological risks, in conjunction with relevant emergency response agencies;
- **Promote the uptake of WMO standards and guidance by all stakeholders** to ensure global standardization and quality of data and products;
- **Engage civil society**, where opportunities exist, to improve services for users;
- **Involve all Global Weather Enterprise parties** to facilitate international data sharing and optimize national adaptation planning, disaster risk reduction and capacity building.

WE CALL ON partner organisations and development agencies to work closely with WMO to:

- **Increase the impact of capacity development** initiatives through strategic multi-stakeholder partnerships leveraging the investments, expertise and knowledge of all sectors of the Global Weather Enterprise;
- **Ensure the best use of development funds** to close the capacity gap, by exploiting business models for financially viable and sustainable solutions needed to modernise infrastructure and enhance services in developing countries;
- **Optimise national adaptation planning** and disaster risk reduction to build resilience at all levels through a greater involvement of **National Meteorological and Hydrological Services** and their expertise, partnership with private and academic sectors, and engagement of civil society;
- **Reinforce the capability** of developing countries to be part of the international exchange of data and products through WMO global systems, thus contributing to and benefiting from the global public good produced collectively by the WMO Members.