

**WMO OMM**

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

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17 September 2024

Subject: Code of Ethics established between WMO and the Association of the HydroMeteorological and Environmental Industry (HMEI)

Dear Sir/Madam,

The seventy-eighth session of the Executive Council (EC-78, Geneva, 10 to 14 June 2024) approved a Code of Ethics (CoE) between WMO and the HydroMeteorological Environmental Industry (HMEI) through [Resolution 27 \(6\(2\)/1\) \(EC-78\)](#) – Establish a Code of Ethics between WMO and the Association of the HydroMeteorological and Environmental Industry (HMEI). The CoE was subsequently signed by the WMO Secretary-General and the HMEI Chair, witnessed by the Executive Council at the closure of EC-78 on 14 June 2024. [Resolution 27 \(6\(2\)/1\) \(EC-78\)](#), along with its annex titled "WMO-HMEI Code of Ethics Guiding Public-Private Engagement", is available in all WMO official languages.

The CoE was established in accordance with the existing working arrangement between WMO and HMEI. It outlines an essential set of ethical principles that stakeholders from both the public and private sectors should commit to when engaging each other in activities along the value chain for the delivery of weather, climate, water, and related environmental services. Abiding by a common CoE helps stakeholders manage their relationships properly, maximize the mutual benefits of an inclusive approach, increase transparency in engagement, safeguard the role of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in the provision of weather, climate and water services, policy and practice, and enhance the socioeconomic benefits of high-quality services addressing societal needs globally.

The CoE incorporates principles universally applied by the United Nations, such as the 10 principles of the United Nations Global Compact, as well as those consistently promoted by WMO. All WMO Members are encouraged to apply these principles in their engagements with the private sector for collaborative efforts related to weather, climate and water services. On the other hand, Resolution 6(2)/1 (EC-78) invites HMEI to urge its members to abide by the principles specified in the CoE.

Taking this occasion, I encourage Permanent Representatives to proactively inform supervisory ministers, as necessary, about the CoE to guide ministerial-level decisions concerning the relationship between NMHSs and private weather, climate and water-related service providers. In this context, I wish to draw your attention, particularly to the following three key principles: 3. (c), (k) and (l) and one of the good practices (4.3) outlined in the CoE:

- 3. (c): Cooperation in achieving the overarching mission and purpose articulated in the WMO Convention;
- 3. (k): Respecting the sovereign right of WMO Member States and Territories in deciding how weather, climate and water services are organized and provided, including the application of national and regional legislation and policies for making data and products available taking account of the WMO data policy;

To: Permanent Representatives of Members with WMO

cc: Hydrological Advisers  
Secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET)  
The Association of the Hydro-Meteorological and Environmental Industry (HMEI)

3. (I): Respecting the role of NMHSs as the single authoritative voice for severe weather warnings and their other key national responsibilities related to ensuring public safety;
- 4.3: When operating in a country, private sector stakeholders should observe the need for safeguarding and strengthening the authoritative voice of the designated public agency, such as NMHS, for the issuing of official warnings and relevant information to support critical decisions related to natural hazards and disaster risks, in collaboration with national disaster management authorities.

The WMO Secretariat will work with HMEI to establish a system to inform each other of the value arising from implementing the ethical principles highlighted in the CoE, promote good practices to the whole community, and collectively address cases of breaches of the Code.

Should you have any questions regarding the application of the CoE, please contact the Public-Private Engagement Office at [ppe@wmo.int](mailto:ppe@wmo.int).

Yours faithfully,



Prof. Celeste Saulo  
Secretary-General