



Our ref.: 21840/2024/SI/SAP

27 January 2025

Annex: 1

Subject: Open call for new members of the WMO Scientific Advisory Panel

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) is the scientific advisory body of WMO, providing forward-looking strategic advice on emerging challenges and opportunities related to the Organization's mandate in weather, climate, water and related environmental and social sciences for the purpose of long-term planning. SAP provides advice and develops recommendations for the WMO Congress and Executive Council on scientific and technological matters, enhances the global standing and visibility of WMO as a leading scientific organization, and promotes science vision.

SAP is composed of a maximum of 15 independent, leading, internationally recognized experts from the fields of weather, climate, water, ocean and related environmental and social sciences, taking into account regional and gender balance and representation from academia, research institutions, the private sector and user communities. At present, there are four positions vacant. We welcome applications from all areas of science relevant to SAP but are particularly interested in strengthening expertise in the following disciplines:

- (1) Socioecological systems, including social dimensions of biodiversity, land and other topics across the One Health spectrum (human, animal and environmental health);
- (2) Emerging technologies, including computer and data science, artificial intelligence and machine learning, and other relevant technologies;
- (3) Oceanography, including but not limited to ocean-atmosphere interactions and sea level rise; and
- (4) Systems thinking, including engineering of complex software systems, or design of systems to adapt to climate change.

Experts from the private sector as well as those from under-represented communities, including women and minorities, and under-represented regions, including South America, Africa and the Pacific, are strongly encouraged to apply. Additionally, recognizing the importance of mentorship and learning as well as the valuable perspectives of younger generations, we also welcome applications from early- to mid-career professionals¹.

¹ Early to mid-career researchers are active researchers up to 12 years after receiving their PhD (excluding parental and care leave).

To: Permanent Representatives of Members with WMO

cc: Hydrological Advisers

SAP members are expected to actively contribute to the work of the Panel, including attending one annual in-person session and virtual sessions as required. WMO, upon request, will consider covering the costs of participation at the annual in-person session in the form of per diem and/or roundtrip economy airfare, within the limits of available funds. Additionally, all members of the SAP should participate in their personal, expert capacity and not acting as representatives of WMO Members or international organizations. The Terms of Reference of the Scientific Advisory Panel (Resolution 31 (EC-78)) are provided as an [annex](#) to this letter.

Applicants should send a curriculum vitae detailing their education, experience, relevant skills along with their contact details and a one-page letter of motivation highlighting expected contributions to the activities of SAP to Ms Lauren Stuart, Scientific Officer (lstuart@wmo.int). This call will remain open until 27 February 2025.

For any questions, please contact Prof. Stephen Belcher, Chair of SAP, (stephen.belcher@metoffice.gov.uk), and Prof. Madeleine Renom, Vice-Chair, (renommade2269@gmail.com), and cc: Lauren Stuart, Scientific Officer (lstuart@wmo.int).

Yours faithfully,



Prof. Celeste Saulo
Secretary-General

REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY PANEL

(Annex 1 to Resolution 31 (EC-78))

Ref.: 21840/2024.1.3 SI

Mandate

The Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP) is the scientific advisory body of the Organization, providing forward-looking strategic advice on emerging challenges and opportunities related to WMO mandate in weather, climate, water and related environmental and social sciences for the purpose of long-term planning.

Through consultation with the WMO Research Board, Technical Commissions, Regional Associations and other relevant bodies, SAP will:

- (1) Develop recommendations to Congress and the Executive Council on scientific and technological matters concerning WMO mandate and research strategies based on best-available evidence;
- (2) Advise on technological and scientific advancements that could lead to new applications and services related to WMO core activities;
- (3) Enhance the global standing and visibility of WMO as a leading scientific organization, driver of innovation and facilitator of international cooperation in the fields of weather, climate, water, ocean and related environmental and social sciences;
- (4) Promote science vision, and its downstream trends, across WMO and among its Members; and
- (5) Collaborate with the Research Board in joint activities, such as organizing meetings and planning a Science Day at the World Meteorological Congress.

Composition

The SAP shall be composed of up to 15 independent, leading, and internationally recognized experts coming from the fields of weather, climate, water, ocean and related environmental and social sciences, taking into account regional and gender balance and representation of academia, research institutions, the private sector and user communities.

Members will be solicited by an open call for nominations, including self-nominations. All SAP members shall be appointed by the Executive Council. A short list of candidates for the SAP shall be prepared by the Secretariat with the Chair of the SAP in consultation with the Chair of the Research Board and the presidents of the Technical Commissions and then presented to the Executive Council for a decision on the appointments. The term of engagement for members shall be four years with the possibility of renewal for a second term of 4 years maximum upon recommendation from the Chair of the SAP and approval by the Executive Council.

The composition of the Scientific Advisory Panel and the Research Board shall be considered independently for example regarding aspects such as geographic and regional balance and the necessary distribution of expertise.

A WMO Vice-President shall act as an Executive Council focal point to the SAP to ensure cross-communication by bringing WMO priorities to the SAP and reporting to the Executive Council and WMO President on SAP activities.

Experts from relevant disciplines may be invited to participate in the SAP's activities on an ad hoc basis as needed.

Members may not serve on the Research Board and the SAP at the same time. However, the Chair or representative of the Research Board and a representative of the Secretariat shall take part in the meetings of the SAP.

Working procedures

The SAP shall select a Chair and a Vice-Chair from its membership. Nominations, including self-nominations, for Chair and Vice-Chair shall be sought from the SAP's membership and voted on by SAP members. The term of appointment of the Chair and Vice-Chair is four years with the possibility of renewal for a second term.

The SAP Chair, or their representative, shall participate in meetings and other relevant activities of the Research Board to promote a common understanding and ensure close coordination.

The SAP reports to Congress every four years and to the Executive Council every second year on innovative elements that could be considered in the development of the WMO Strategic Plan.

The SAP Chair, or their representative, shall attend appropriate governing and decision bodies of the WMO, as requested, such as the Technical Coordination Committee, the Policy Advisory Committee, the Executive Council and Congress.

The SAP shall meet in principle once per year and virtually as needed, following the principles for the Organization of face-to-face and virtual sessions as provided in Annex 2 to [Decision 15 \(EC-76\)](#).

Decisions of the SAP require a majority vote. A quorum is defined as 50% of members. Attendance in person or virtually is considered equivalent for these purposes.

The SAP shall be supported by Secretariat staff in carrying out its activities.
