



Our ref.: 6762590/2026/ESDP/MINT/WMO-No.8

07 July 2026

Annexes: 2 (available in English only)

Subject: Preliminary 2026 edition of the *Guide to Instruments and Methods of Observation* (WMO-No. 8), Volumes I, II, III, V and VIAction required: To review the documents in the subject and send your comments to the WMO Secretariat by **15 August 2026**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to refer to the upcoming fourth session of the Commission for Observation, Infrastructure and Information Systems (INFCOM-4), to be held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 23 to 27 November 2026. On this occasion, the session will be invited to adopt the preliminary 2026 edition of the Guide to Instruments and Methods of Observation (WMO-No. 8), Volumes I, II, III, V and VI.

Since its first publication in 1950, the *Guide to Instruments and Methods of Observation* (WMO-No. 8) has been recognized as the main source of information used by Members to standardize instrument performance and ensure the quality of observations. It is available in the [WMO e-library](#) in all official WMO languages. As part of the WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS) guidance material, the *Guide to Instruments and Methods of Observation* (WMO-No. 8) is being constantly reviewed and regularly updated, as requested by the World Meteorological Congress.

The preliminary 2026 edition has been developed through the collaborative efforts of the different expert teams and relevant groups, together with the Editorial Board of the INFCOM Standing Committee on Measurements, Instrumentation and Traceability (SC-MINT). The updated and new chapters and volumes are now available for Members' review and feedback prior to finalization.

The preliminary edition is posted on the WMO website, under the heading [Preliminary 2026 Edition of the Guide to Instruments and Methods of Observation \(WMO-No. 8\)](#), for consideration by Members. An overview of the proposed updates is provided in [Annex I](#) to this letter.

I should be grateful if you could examine the text of the preliminary edition and send your detailed comments or suggestions to the WMO Secretariat, to the attention of Mr Ercan Buyukbas ([ebuyukbas@wmo.int](mailto:ebuyukbas@wmo.int)) at your earliest convenience, but not later than **15 August 2026**, using the template provided in [Annex II](#) to this letter.

To: Permanent Representatives of Members with WMO

cc: Hydrological Advisers

Presidents and vice-presidents of regional associations

President and vice-president(s) of INFCOM

Members of the INFCOM Management Group and Chairs of SC-MINT Expert Teams

Executive Secretary, Association of Hydro-Meteorological Equipment Industry

Members of the INFCOM/SC-MINT Editorial Board

Your valuable feedback will be considered for the finalization of the preliminary 2026 edition that will be submitted to INFCOM-4 for approval. It is anticipated that major changes will be postponed for implementation in the forthcoming intersessional period. Should you have concerns with specific chapters, please nominate an appropriate contact person with whom these concerns could be discussed, before the defined deadline. Identification of other parts of the guide that would need updating are also welcome and will be taken into consideration for the future workplan of the Commission.

I wish to take this opportunity to convey to you and your service my appreciation for your continued contribution to the activities of WMO.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ko Barrett', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Ms Ko Barrett  
for the Secretary-General

Overview of updates included in the [preliminary 2026 edition of the \*Guide to Instruments and Methods of Observation\* \(WMO-No. 8\)](#)

VOLUME/CHAPTER	TITLE	SIZE OF THE UPDATE*
<b>VOLUME I</b>	<b>MEASUREMENT OF METEOROLOGICAL VARIABLES</b>	
1	General	Minor
4	Measurement of humidity	Major
6	Measurement of precipitation	Minor
13	Measurement of upper wind	Minor
<b>VOLUME II</b>	<b>MEASUREMENT OF CRYOSPHERIC VARIABLES</b>	
2	Measurement of snow	Mostly rewritten
5	Measurement of sea ice	New chapter
<b>VOLUME III</b>	<b>OBSERVING SYSTEMS</b>	
2	Measurements and observations at aeronautical meteorological stations	Minor
4	Marine observation	Major
5	Microwave radiometers	Minor
	ANNEX 5.B Ground Based Remote Sensing of Wind by Heterodyne Pulsed Doppler Lidar	Minor
8	Balloon techniques	Partial
<b>VOLUME V</b>	<b>QUALITY ASSURANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF OBSERVING SYSTEMS</b>	
1	Quality management	Partial
5	Training of instrument specialists; Competency frameworks (Update of Annex 5A, 5B, 5C, 5D and a new Annex 5E)	Major
<b>VOLUME VI</b>	<b>MEASUREMENT OF MARINE METEOROLOGICAL AND OCEANOGRAPHIC VARIABLES</b>	
1	General	New chapter
2	Observation from ships	New chapter
3	Uncrewed surface vessels (USV)	New chapter
4	Subsurface profilers	New chapter
5	Drifting buoys	New chapter
6	Moored buoys	New chapter
7	Light vessels	New chapter
8	Tower, platforms and coastal observatories	New chapter

