



WMO OMM

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

## Secrétariat

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Annexes: 2

Subject: Commission for Basic Systems recommendations to EC-70 and Cg-18

Dear Sir/Madam,

Considering that EC-69 did not approve an Extraordinary Session of the Commission for Basic Systems (CBS) for 2018, contrary to the regular practice of holding such sessions between ordinary Sessions of the Commission since 1988, I would like to inform you about the process to prepare and scrutinize CBS recommendations to the seventieth Executive Council and eighteenth World Meteorological Congress (Cg-18). This process has been approved by the President of WMO in consultation with the president of the Commission for Basic Systems. These recommendations would address the needs of the Organization in terms of updating or drafting Technical Regulations and guiding the Organization on data, infrastructure and service issues in a context where technology and science are advancing quickly and Members need to respond rapidly to changes in order to continue being in position to address their needs and the WMO mandate in the most effective way. The following key critical issues have been identified (see annexes for details):

- (a) Evolution of WMO Information System and Manual on WIS Part C Information Management;
- (b) WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS), including Regional Basic Observing Network (RBON), WIGOS Data Quality Monitoring System (WDQMS), Integration of GOS material in WIGOS Manual & Guide;
- (c) Service delivery;
- (d) Life cycle data management;
- (e) Seamless Global Data Processing and Forecasting System;
- (f) CBS [technical] governance and more effective engagement with Regional Associations;
- (g) Information infrastructure to support Aviation;
- (h) Support to the Global Framework on Climate Services; and
- (i) Support to the Integrated Global Greenhouse Gas Information System.

In view of the timing of the next ordinary session of the Commission, which would be after Cg-18, and the need to be in position to propose appropriate draft Resolutions and Decisions on the above critical issues to Cg-18 in 2019, after consultation with the WMO President, the CBS Management Group, the Secretary General and WMO legal counsel, it has been decided to follow the mechanism described in Annex 2.

To: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services) of Members of WMO

cc: Hydrological Advisers to Permanent Representatives  
 Presidents of Technical Commissions  
 Presidents of Regional Associations  
 Members of the CBS Management Group

I will work with the CBS president to make sure that all members of CBS are informed about the process, and that we will be in a position to ensure that the feedback will be received and considered.

We should stress that this process will also be a good opportunity for the CBS to have a trial and evaluate processes that may facilitate and contribute to the foreseen WMO reform, potentially resulting in more agile and efficient business practices than before.

Finally, while informing you about the CBS plan, I am also inviting you to provide me with any additional guidance you may wish to provide in this regard.

Yours faithfully,



(E. Manaenkova)  
for the Secretary-General

## **AREAS WHERE CBS ACTION IS NEEDED**

Taking into account the decisions of CBS-16 (Guangzhou, China, November 2016), the Seventeenth Session of the CBS Management Group (Geneva, Switzerland, 27 February – 1 March 2017) discussed the needs of the Organization for updating or drafting Technical Regulations and guiding the organization on data, infrastructure and service issues in a context where technology and science is advancing quickly and in which Members need to respond rapidly to changes in order to continue being in a position to address their needs and the WMO mandate in the most effective way in weather, climate and water operations and services. It identified the following areas where CBS action is particularly needed.

### ***Strategic issues, including emerging data issues and engagement with the private sector***

Efforts with a focus on a few strategic areas for consideration will give Members the most recent information on the implementation of WMO programmes and demonstration projects so as to promote the effective implementation of the decisions made by the Commission.

Emerging issues such as emerging data, and the emerging role of the private sector in weather prediction, makes it critical to come up with appropriate decisions and recommendations to the Executive Council. It will also be required to discuss how to go forward with the Service Delivery Strategy and particularly how to adapt to the increasingly active private sectors in service delivery. Foreseen efforts will be useful for enhancing communication, discussion and consensus within the Commission on such issues, and will provide the authoritative voice of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs). Public Private Partnership (PPP) will help exploring and considering pathways for coordinated development between NMHSs and private sectors.

### ***Information Management***

There is a need to follow closely and adapt to rapidly changing new technologies, and keep Members informed about such changes. This is particularly critical concerning information management, including all information flowing through WIS. It is important to rapidly look at the implementation of WIS 2.0 and how to monitor implementation of the WIS 2.0 Strategy. For example, CBS-16 identified the need for NMHSs to update and adjust their technological systems to adapt to emerging cloud technology and big data application. The role and involvement of the private sector needs to be factored in.

### ***WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS)***

Per Cg-17 Decision, WIGOS is meant to become operational by the end of this financial period. Much work remains to be made to address the full implementation of WIGOS in 2019 and the CBS has a strong role to play in this regard. In particular, in order to regulate RBON in the WIGOS framework, it will be necessary to use CBS decisions and recommendations to Cg-18.

### ***Global Data Processing and Forecasting System (GDPFS)***

Resolution 11 (Cg-17) decided to initiate a process for the gradual establishment of a future enhanced, integrated and seamless WMO Data-processing and Forecasting System, in light of the conclusions of the first World Weather Open Science Conference (WWOSC-2014, Montreal, Canada, August 2014). Decision 55 (EC-68) established a Steering Group on Seamless Data-processing and Forecasting System (following the request by Cg-17), with representatives from technical commissions and regional associations, with the main task to develop and table the implementation plan for consideration by EC-69. In addition, CBS-16 endorsed the new

Manual on the GDPFS, which provides a new framework, standard procedures and network of centres operated by Members. The involvement of CBS experts is required in these developments as they will impact the way Members operate in terms of their data-processing and forecasting systems. Providing guidance to Members on how to implement the GDPFS according to the new Manual on the GDPFS is vital for the management of the WMC/RSMC Network, and assuring continuity of the service.

### ***Capacity development***

One remaining problem is that many developing countries could not effectively implement the Commission's technical decisions, action plans or demonstration projects due to insufficient exposure to and understanding of all the above matters. In order to mitigate this, consideration will be given to organize and record WebEx sessions for relevant topics. A CBS Technical Conference (TECO) will contribute to WMO Capacity Building by providing a mitigation to the widening gap between developed and developing countries.

TECO is a platform that is useful for developing countries to get the knowledge and understanding of the new trends of technologies and their implications for NMHSs' operational development. It also helps the organization to understand the need for capacity building from Members and facilitates technology transfer from developed countries to the developing ones.

Efforts will be made to enhance participation of developing countries at TECO, in particular for them to understand technology changes, and threats, targeting RA-I, RA-II, and RA-III in particular.

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**PROCESS FOR ADOPTING CBS RECOMMENDATIONS TO EC-70 AND CG-18**

In view of the timing of the next session of the Commission, and the need to be in a position to propose appropriate draft Recommendations and Decisions on the critical issues listed in Annex 1 to EC-70 and Cg-18 in 2019, the following mechanism is proposed (listed in chronological order):

1. We are organizing a CBS Technical Conference (TECO) at the WMO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, from 26 to 29 March 2018, prior to EC-70.
2. In January 2018, the Presidents of Technical Commissions and Regional Associations (PTC/PRA) meetings will be informed about the process.
3. If necessary, a Webinar could be organized with the Presidents of Regional Associations to inform them about the process and to obtain their feedback.
4. Following reviews by the management teams of the CBS Open Programme Area Groups (OPAGs), draft technical content for decisions and resolutions of EC-70 and Cg-18 should be published in English on the internet in January 2018 to allow Members time to consider them before CBS TECO-2018.
5. CBS TECO-2018, 26-29 March 2018, will discuss scientific and technical issues normally discussed at a Technical Conference, but will also focus on the critical issues above, considering the technical contents of draft recommendations to EC-70 and Cg-18. Each OPAG will be allotted about six hours of the TECO. Holding the meeting in Geneva will allow some financial savings.
6. A meeting of an extended CBS Management Group will be held in Geneva during the afternoon of 29 March 2018 (i.e. after the end of the TECO at noon of 29 March 2018). The goal will be to review the outcome of CBS TECO-2018, consider the draft recommendations and possibly update them. In particular, the Presidents of Regional Associations and the chairs of the expert teams who have interest in the above issues will be invited.
7. As appropriate some of the proposed recommendations will be submitted to EC-70 and others would be submitted to Cg-18. The remainder of this process addresses the latter.
8. The CBS President, advised by the CBS Management Group meeting, will recommend to EC-70 topics for inclusion on the agenda for Cg-18. This will take the form of a recommendation submitted by the President of CBS. The recommendation will also inform EC-70 of the remainder of the process being used by CBS to prepare recommendations to Cg-18.
9. The CBS President will provide the drafts of proposed technical content for Cg-18 decisions and resolutions to EC-70 as information papers.
10. Following EC-70, CBS experts will continue to work on the draft texts taking into account feedback from CBS TECO-2018, CBS Management Group and Members.
11. In November 2018 modified drafts of the proposed content for Cg-18 decisions and resolutions will be published in official languages on the internet and Members invited to provide their comments and suggestions.
12. In February 2019 decisions and resolutions for Cg-18 will be drafted based on the feedback provided by Members and reviewed by the President of CBS.