



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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Our ref.: 21014/2020/CSG/EC-72/Outcomes

10 November 2020

Annex: 1 (available in English only)

Subject: Outcomes of EC-72

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to inform you that the seventy-second session of the WMO Executive Council ([EC-72](#)) was held from 28 September to 2 October 2020 as the first online session. The key outcomes of the session are summarized in the [annex](#). Among them, I wish to highlight the guidance provided by the Council to regional operations and mechanisms, the development of a single data policy and an action plan for operational hydrology.

The session took place at a critical junction for our Organization and the global context and represented an important test for our ability to react and adapt to the challenges we are confronted with.

The implementation of the historic and groundbreaking reform of constituent bodies adopted by the Eighteenth World Meteorological Congress (Cg-18) in 2019 is well under way and has already delivered a significant amount of positive change, with the establishment of a technical commission for observations and a technical commission for services consolidating the mandates of the past commissions, the Research Board and an advisory panel for science, coordination and advisory committees and thematic panels of the Council and a collaborative board with one of our partner organizations.

As a response to the decisions of Congress and in support of the new governance structure, I have undertaken a comprehensive review of the WMO Secretariat to align departments to the new bodies and optimize administrative functions to better serve the Organization in a cost-efficient way.

The period between Cg-18 and EC-72 has seen many opportunities and significant challenges for the way we work as an organization. Since March of this year, the COVID-19 pandemic has compelled us to utilize remote methods of working and new ways of making decisions. The technical commissions made important decisions by correspondence and the meetings of constituent and non-constituent bodies, including EC-72, were held, or being planned, by videoconference.

Despite these challenges, the new or reformed bodies, constituent and non-constituent, all have:

- (a) Finalized membership, established and populated working structures, selected officers, adopted work programmes and rules of procedure;
- (b) Held sessions through multiple online meetings;

To: Permanent Representatives of Members with WMO

cc: Hydrological Advisers

- (c) Submitted draft resolutions or decisions to EC-72 following the review by the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) and the Technical Coordination Committee (TCC); and
- (d) Started planning for the next cycle of sessions.

Over the coming months we will be carefully assessing the impacts of COVID-19 on our activities and operations and ensure that we adopt a business model focussing on delivery despite the limitations imposed by the situation. It is about adopting a 'new normal' and adapting to the situation without impacting on our major strategic objectives and long-term goals.

With the COVID-19 situation and the global financial crisis, the Organization is facing severe challenges due to the slow inflow of normal assessed contributions. This is impacting on our ability to recruit staff that support Members and constituent bodies. We are working in close collaboration with our Members to understand and mitigate the impacts and ensure that the larger contributions are flowing.

This issue will have to remain a priority for the coming months until a stable situation can be established. Indeed, it is very important not to allow this situation to affect the success of the reform and the implementation of the significant changes that we have achieved so far. I count on all of the Members to continue supporting our Organization.

Yours faithfully,



Prof. Petteri Taalas
Secretary-General

OUTCOMES OF THE SEVENTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The seventy-second session of the WMO Executive Council (EC-72) took place from 28 September to 2 October 2020 as the first session held by videoconference.

36 members of the Council, 188 advisers, two presidents of technical commissions, 109 representatives of 27 WMO Members, 11 invited experts and 27 representatives of 10 partner organizations attended the session.

The Council adopted 20 resolutions and 14 decisions dealing with strategic, technical, policy, financial, regulatory, financial and administrative matters.

Strategic matters

The Council decided on guidance to other bodies and the Secretariat for:

- The organization of [Decision 3 \(EC-72\)](#) - Extraordinary session of Congress in 2021;
- The review of regional activities, working mechanisms operations and the coordination between regional associations and technical commissions, as the key components of WMO continuous Reform [[Resolution 1 \(EC-72\)](#) - Effective coordination between regional associations, technical commissions and the Research Board and [Resolution 2 \(EC-72\)](#) - Activities and working mechanisms of the regional associations];
- Development of [Decision 6 \(EC-72\)](#) - Vision and Strategy for Hydrology and associated Plan of Action;
- Development of [Decision 7 \(EC-72\)](#) - WMO Data Policy;
- [Decision 4 \(EC-72\)](#) - Follow up of to the Constituent Bodies Reform Task Force, through the Policy Advisory Committee, including for the evaluation of the reform and [Decision 5 \(EC-72\)](#) - WMO response to the COVID-19 pandemic .

Technical matters

The Council adopted 18 resolutions/decisions on technical matters – five of which by consensus without debate based on the recommendations of the Technical Coordination Committee [[Decision 8 \(EC-72\)](#) - Adoption of draft resolutions recommended by the Technical Coordination Committee] – among which:

- [Resolution 5 \(EC-72\)](#) - *Amendments to Technical Regulations, Volume II - Meteorological Service for International Air Navigation* (WMO-No. 49) and [Resolution 8 \(EC-72\)](#) - Collaboration with IATA on the development of the AMDAR Programme (WICAP);
- [Decision 9 \(EC-72\)](#) - Operationalization of objective seasonal forecasts and tailored products on sub-regional scales, [Resolution 6 \(EC-72\)](#) - Trial phase of the international exchange of daily climate data and [Resolution 7 \(EC-72\)](#) - Upgraded recognition mechanism for long-term climate observing stations;
- [Decision 11 \(EC-72\)](#) - Scaling up effective partnerships and scope, scale and progress of WMO development, [Decision 12 \(EC-72\)](#) - Recommendations for revision of the WMO Capacity Development Strategy and [Decision 13 \(EC-72\)](#) - Developing and sustaining core competencies and expertise;

- [Resolution 4 \(EC-72\)](#) - Strengthening marine services, and relations with IMO;

Policy matters

- [Resolution 11 \(EC-72\)](#) - Guidelines for public-private engagement (edition 2020).

Regulatory matters

The Council adopted:

- [Resolution 13 \(EC-72\)](#) - Rules of procedure for the Executive Council;
- [Resolution 12 \(EC-72\)](#) - Rules of procedure for the non-constituent bodies established by Cg-18 and EC-71, Research Board, Scientific Advisory Panel, Climate Coordination Panel, Hydrological Coordination Panel, Panel of Experts for Polar and High Mountain Observations, Research and Services and Capacity Development Panel;
- [Resolution 17 \(EC-72\)](#) - Terms of reference and membership of the Audit and Oversight Committee;
- [Decision 1 \(EC-72\)](#) - Methods of work for online sessions of the Executive Council;
- [Decision 15 \(EC-72\)](#) - Review of the membership of bodies established by Congress and the Executive Council.

Financial matters

The Council adopted:

- [Resolution 14 \(EC-72\)](#) - Financial Statements of the World Meteorological Organization for the year 2019;
- Three percent charge on payroll costs for voluntary-funded activities to address the funding of the reserve for after-service health insurance benefits for voluntary contribution-funded staff as of 1 January 2021 [[Resolution 15 \(EC-72\)](#) - Considerations related to the After-Service Health Insurance (ASHI) liability]

Administrative matters

- Subject to the approval by Congress at its next session, the Council adopted amendments to Staff Regulations, in particular relating to the WMO accession into the jurisdiction of the United Nations Dispute Tribunal and Appeals Tribunal [[Resolution 16 \(EC-72\)](#) - Amendments to Staff Regulations].

Selected implications for Members

Based on the Executive Council's decisions, Members are invited to:

- Implement the amended international standards and recommended practices for meteorological services for international air navigation;
- Implement the Data Policy for the WMO-IATA Collaborative AMDAR Programme in consultation with partner airlines;
- Support the organization of sessions of regional associations and facilitate the participation of high-level government officials and partners in the high-level segments;
- Continue supporting all capacity development initiatives of WMO, including through the

provision of experts and resources, financial and in-kind, and the contribution of data to WMO information platforms and diagnostic tools;

- Increase collaboration with maritime safety agencies in their countries, strengthen forecasting capacity through training and operate shipboard observation programmes;
- Strengthen efforts to achieve sustainable high-quality long-term climate observations and participate in the trial phase for the international exchange of daily climate data;
- Use the Guidelines for Public-Private Engagement in establishing collaboration and partnership at a national level across public, private, academic and civil society sectors;
- Include hydrological representatives in their national delegations to the Extraordinary session of Congress in 2021 to participate in the Hydrological Assembly.

The Council also urged Members to make the payment of outstanding assessed contributions a matter of highest priority and to make every effort to clear their dues as soon as possible.

The approved documents and the list of participants of EC-72 are available on the [mini-site for the session](#).
