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Our ref.: 02683/2021/CSG/EXR/Nomination/
Co-V-P/SERCOM-1(II)

16 February 2021

Annex: 1 (available in English only)

Subject: Election of co-vice-president of SERCOM during SERCOM-1(II)

Action required: Nomination of candidates for co-vice-president of SERCOM by Permanent
Representatives of Members of SERCOM

Dear Sir/Madam,

Following the relinquishment of the position of co-vice-president of the Commission for Weather, Climate, Water and Related Environmental Services and Applications (SERCOM) by Mr Chi-ming SHUN, former Director of the Hong Kong Observatory, one of the three (3) positions of co-vice president of SERCOM became vacant.

In preparation for Part II of the First Session of SERCOM (SERCOM-1(II)) and based on Agenda item no. 8 of the Session, Election of officers, the purpose of this letter is to invite Permanent Representatives of Members of SERCOM to nominate candidates to the office of co-vice-president, in compliance with *Basic Documents No. 1 (WMO-No. 15)*, General Regulation 144 and *Rules of Procedures for Technical Commissions (WMO No. 1240)*, Rule 3.7, which are included as an [annex](#) to this letter for easy reference. A list of members of SERCOM is available [here](#).

Based on the provisions of Rule 3.5 of the *Rules of Procedures for Technical Commissions (WMO-No. 1240)*, it may be recalled that the co-vice-presidents of the Commission should normally cover the different subjects of the scientific and technical fields in the terms of the reference of the commission, with due consideration of regional and gender balance. In case the terms of reference of a commission include operational hydrology, at least one officer (president or a co-vice-president) should have a background in hydrology. You may therefore wish to consider these provisions in the selection of a nominee. A list of the current officers of the Commission and a summary of their professional background is available [here](#).

Noting that nominations can be received from the floor during SERCOM-1(II) up until just before the election, in accordance with General Regulation 63, advanced information would however ease the work of the Nomination Committee. Nominations should be sent by email, in the form of a signed letter under confidential cover to the Secretary-General: sgomm@wmo.int.

To: Permanent Representatives of Members with WMO

cc: Hydrological Advisers and President of SERCOM

In the event of any technical difficulties associated with the online nature of SERCOM-1(II), regarding the execution of an online vote, a separate session dedicated to Elections may be foreseen.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of fluid, connected strokes that form a stylized representation of the name Petteri Taalas.

Prof. Petteri Taalas
Secretary-General

Relevant General Regulations and Rules of Procedure of Technical Commissions

Basic Documents No. 1 General Regulations of the World Meteorological Organization

V. Technical Commissions

Composition

REGULATION 143

Technical commissions shall be composed of technical experts in the fields covered by the terms of reference of the commission. The designation of technical experts to participate in the activities of a technical commission shall be by the Permanent Representative, in consultations with the Hydrological Adviser (as relates to experts in hydrology), of the Member represented on the commission, and by the competent authority of the United Nations or other international organization with which the Organization has concluded arrangements or agreements. After the establishment of the technical commission by Congress, Permanent Representatives and relevant international organizations will be invited to designate experts (update existing designations) according to the required expertise. Designations by Permanent Representatives shall be through the WMO Community Platform. Designations by the organizations shall be through the Secretariat, which should validate designations and enter them into the WMO Community Platform. These experts will form the WMO Expert Network from which the composition of commissions' subsidiary bodies will be drawn.

Officers

REGULATION 144

Only technical experts designated by Members with voting rights in accordance with Regulation 143 shall be eligible for election as president or vice-president(s) of a commission.

Rules of Procedure for Technical Commissions

3. Officers

3.1 Each commission shall elect its officers, president and co-vice-presidents, in accordance with Article 19 of the Convention. Elections should be conducted at ordinary sessions of the commission.

Note: In interpretation of Article 19 of the Convention, the office of vice-president of a multi-disciplinary commission can be shared by up to three co-vice-presidents.

3.2 Technical experts designated by Members with voting rights and represented on the commission in accordance with Regulation 143 shall be eligible for election as president or vice-president.

3.3 The term of office of the officers should be from the end of the ordinary session until the end of the next ordinary session at which an election of that officer is to be held. They can be re-elected in accordance with Regulation 10.

3.4 The duties of the president of the commission are provided in Regulation 145.

3.5 The commission may elect up to three co-vice-presidents who should normally cover the different subjects of the scientific and technical fields in the terms of reference of the commission, with due consideration of regional and gender balance. In case that the terms of reference of a commission include operational hydrology, at least one officer (president or a co-vice-president) should have a background in hydrology.

3.6 The duties of the co-vice-presidents should be: (a) To act on behalf of the president when delegated by the president or when the president is not available to carry out his/her duties; (b) To coordinate subject matters in a defined domain of expertise pertinent to the scope and terms of reference of the commission.

3.7 In case that the president or one of the co-vice-presidents of the commission resigns or is not able to carry out the functions of the office, a replacement should be arranged as soon as possible following relevant procedures in the General Regulations.

Note: Regulations 10 to 15 will be applied in the case that the commission has only one vice-president.

3.8 If the commission has elected more than one vice-president, the commission shall determine which of the co-vice-presidents should serve as acting president in accordance with Regulation 11.
