



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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Annex: 1

The Secretariat of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions of Members with WMO to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva and has the honour to refer to the seventy-eighth session of the WMO Executive Council (EC-78), which took place from 10 to 14 June 2024 at the WMO headquarters in Geneva.

The Secretariat has the further honour to request the Permanent Mission's kind assistance in the transmission of the attached letter on the outcomes of EC-78 from the Secretary-General, Professor Celeste Saulo, to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The WMO Secretariat avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Missions of Members with WMO to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, the assurances of its highest consideration.



26 July 2024

To: Permanent Missions of Members with WMO to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva

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26 July 2024

Annexes: 2 (available in English only)

Subject: Outcomes of the seventy-eighth session of the WMO Executive Council (EC-78)

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to inform you that the seventy-eighth session of the WMO Executive Council (EC-78) took place from 10 to 14 June 2024 at the WMO headquarters in Geneva, as a physical session with the possibility to participate online.

The session was attended by 35 Members of the Council, 131 alternates or advisers including five regional hydrological advisers, five presidents or co-vice-presidents of technical commissions, two chairs of other WMO bodies, 43 representatives of nine WMO Members, 16 representatives of five partner organizations, and 16 invited experts.

Of the 252 participants, 159 were men (63%) and 93 were women (37%).

The Executive Council adopted 34 resolutions, 25 decisions and one recommendation dealing with strategic, technical, policy, regulatory, financial and administrative matters.

A summary of the decision adopted by the Executive Council, with particular attention to the implications for Members, is provided in [Annex 1](#).

I also have the pleasure to share with you the written replies of the Chair of the Audit and Oversight Committee (AOC) to questions raised during the forty-fourth session of the Financial Advisory Committee (FINAC), held on 6 and 7 June, as provided in [Annex 2](#).

A copy of this letter is being sent to the Permanent Representative of Members with WMO and Permanent Missions of your country in Geneva.

Accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Prof. Celeste Saulo
Secretary-General

To: Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Members of the World Meteorological Organization

OUTCOMES OF THE SEVENTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE WMO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (EC-78)

Strategic matters

The Executive Council adopted:

- A road map to guide the WMO coordinated contribution to the **Early Warnings for All Initiative (EW4All)**, inviting Members to: (a) Advance early warning systems and support EW4All in their national context; (b) Share successful examples of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) visibility and authority with their governments; (c) Document coordination mechanisms with disaster management agencies; and (d) Contribute expertise to WMO technical bodies. (Resolution 1 (EC-78) – WMO Road Map for the Early Warnings for All Initiative)
- The Implementation Plan for the **Global Greenhouse Gas Watch**, inviting Members to contribute to the plan through WMO bodies in consultation with their United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Paris Agreement focal points to input country-specific data. (Resolution 2 (EC-78) – Priority Activities contributing to the Early Warnings for All initiative)
- **Cryosphere High-level Ambitions**, inviting Members to raise awareness of risks associated with changes in the cryosphere, making accessible cryosphere data through WMO, and support WMO cryosphere activities. (Resolution 3 (EC-78) – Implementation Plan for the Global Greenhouse Gas Watch)

New initiatives

The Executive Council:

- Noted with appreciation the **Resource Mobilization Strategy** developed by the Secretary-General, inviting Members to work at national and regional levels to mobilize resources and to demand greater alignment and coordination of this effort to maximize effectiveness and impact, particularly in capacity development initiatives. (Decision 19 (EC-78) – WMO Resource Mobilization Strategy)
- Decided on the development of a **Youth Action Plan**, inviting Members to provide voluntary contributions towards the WMO Youth Trust Fund for the development of the Plan. (Decision 14 (EC-78) – WMO Youth Engagement)

Technical matters

The Executive Council adopted 19 resolutions and one recommendation to Congress on technical matters upon recommendation of the technical commissions:

Services

- **Drought:** National early warning systems (Resolution 5 – Implementation Plan on National Drought Early Warning Systems),
Indicators and indices (Resolution 6 – Additional drought indicators and indices for use by National Meteorological and Hydrological Services)

- **Aeronautical meteorology:** Meteorological and volcanological services in support of international civil aviation
(Resolution 7 – Recommendations and Statement of the Eighth International Workshop on Volcanic Ash (IWVA-8))
- **Marine meteorology:** Recognized Mobile Satellite Services
(Recommendation 1 (EC-78) – The collection and dissemination of marine meteorological and oceanographic information using the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Recognized Mobile Satellite Services (RMSS))
- **Climate:** Acceleration of the Climate Data Stewardship implementation, urging Members to consider the nomination of climate-related datasets for assessment under the WMO Stewardship Maturity Matrix for Climate Data
(Resolution 8 (EC-78) – Accelerating Climate Data Stewardship and Data Rescue)

Nomination of experts for the State of the Climate reports
(Resolution 9 (EC-78) – Road Map for the State of the Climate at Global and Regional Scales)

El Niño/ La Niña information mechanism
(Resolution 10 (EC-78) – Establishment and functionalities of WMO accredited entity supporting El Niño/La Niña information)
- **Health:** Nomination and development of capacities of health focal points to support climate and health activities
(Resolution 12 (EC-78) – Support Actions to Implementing Mechanisms for Health Science and Services)
- **Business Continuity Management Guidelines**
(Resolution 11 (EC-78) – Business Continuity Management Guidelines)

Infrastructure

- **Amendments to Manuals:** WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS)
(Resolution 13 (EC-78) – Amendments to the Manual on the WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WMO-No. 1160)),

WMO Information System (WIS)
(Resolution 15 (EC-78) – Amendments to the Manual on the WMO Information System (WMO-No. 1060))

Codes
(Resolution 17 (EC-78) – Amendments to the Manual on Codes (WMO-No. 306)),

WMO Integrated Processing and Prediction System (WIPPS)
(Resolution 18 (EC-78) – Amendments to the Manual on the WMO Integrated Processing and Prediction System (WMO-NO. 485) for weather prediction,

Resolution 19 (EC-78) – Amendments to the Manual on the WMO Integrated Processing and Prediction System (WMO-No. 485) for climate prediction,

Resolution 20 (EC-78) – Amendments to the Manual on the WMO Integrated Processing and Prediction System (WMO-No. 485) for water and environmental prediction).
- **Global Basic Observing Network (GBON) and Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF)**, inviting Members to improve national station-level and Member-level compliance with GBON provisions; inviting SOFF to expand its support to surface marine stations.
(Resolution 14 (EC-78) – Global Basic Observing Network Implementation and the Systematic Observations Financing Facility).

- **Transition to WIS 2.0:** technical contributions to the open-source software and financial contributions to the WIS trust fund.
(Resolution 16 (EC-78) – Transition from WIS 1.0 and Global Telecommunication System (GTS) to WIS 2.0, including capacity development).
- **Non-traditional sources in WIPPS:** a pilot to be carried out to examine the utility and challenges concerning contribution from the private sector and the academia.
(Resolution 21 (EC-78) – Contribution of non-traditional sources to the WMO Integrated Processing and Prediction System).
- **Four-year plan for space weather**
(Resolution 22 (EC-78) – Four-year Plan for WMO Activities related to Space Weather 2024–2027).
- **Centennial observing stations**
(Resolution 23 (EC-78) – Recognition of Centennial Observing Stations).

Capacity development

- **Regional Training Centres:** confirmed six existing Regional Training Centres, designated two new components in existing centres, established two new Regional Training Centres, and extended the status of all centres until EC-79.
(Resolution 24 (EC-78) – Designation and reconfirmation of WMO Regional Training Centres (RTCs))

Policy matters

The Council Executive adopted:

- **Revised Guidelines for Public-Private Engagement**, inviting Members to use them for collaboration and partnership across public, private, academic and civil society sectors.
(Resolution 26 (EC-78) – Revision of the Guidelines for Public-Private Engagement (WMO-No. 1258)).
- **Code of Ethics between WMO and HMEI**, to facilitate dialogue with the private sector to apply the ethical principles in their public-private engagement for activities along the value chain for the delivery of weather, climate, water and related environmental services.
(Resolution 27 (EC-78) – Establish a Code of Ethics between WMO and the Association of the HydroMeteorological and Environmental Industry (HMEI)).
- A position of the role of WMO on the **coordination of meteorological programmes in Antarctica**, as operated by Members, inviting Members present in Antarctica invited to: increase efforts to provide long-term and sustained observations, operate GBON stations in the Antarctic, and associate them with the Global Cryosphere Watch CryoNet; evolve the necessary structures in WIPPS and WIGOS to meet the information needs on Antarctica (Regional WIGOS Centres, Regional Specialized Meteorological Centres, and the Antarctic RCC-Network).
(Resolution 28 (EC-78) – Role of WMO on the coordination of meteorological programmes in Antarctica, as operated by Members)

Science matters

The Executive Council decided that the Scientific Advisory Panel, in close collaboration with relevant WMO bodies and partners spanning the physical and social sciences, should focus its work on the following **emerging science challenges and opportunities** related to the mission and mandate of WMO to support the needs of Members and to inform long-term planning for the next financial period (2028–2031) and beyond
(Decision 10 (EC-78) – Emerging topics important to the WMO mission and mandate) :

- Tipping points, unprecedented events and irreversibilities in the climate system
- Big data for addressing global environmental challenges
- Artificial intelligence for seamless numerical weather-climate prediction and insights across the value cycle

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Partnerships

The Executive Council adopted decisions concerning WMO engagement with the United Nations systems and major global processes and events:

- **United Nations resolutions and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, inviting Members to highlight how their NMHS supports the delivery of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs; connect NMHSs with UN Resident Coordinators and Development System.
(Decision 4 (EC-78) – Resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly addressed to specialized agencies and relevant to WMO).
- **UNFCCC-COP28 and IPCC-60**, inviting Members to provide high-quality climate and hydrological science-based information, knowledge, and services for Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) 3.0 and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs); engage with national and international institutions to mobilize support for advancing climate services.
(Decision 5 (EC-78) – Outcomes of the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC-COP28) and the sixtieth session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC-60) and define the strategic role of WMO in the UNFCCC-COP29).
- **United Nations International Year of Glaciers' Preservation 2025**, inviting Members to contribute to the implementation of IYGP25 and World Day for Glaciers on 21st March 2025 (e.g. monitoring, research, service provision, awareness, advocacy and policy support).
(Decision 6 (EC-78) – Follow up to the WMO contribution to the United Nations International Year of Glaciers' Preservation 2025 (IYGP25) and the related recommendation of the EC Panel on High Mountain Observations, Research and Services (PHORS)).
- **Satellite partner organizations**, inviting Members to collaborate with their national and/or international space agencies to enhance access to satellite data, expressing needs for satellite data/products use, dissemination, and training through the Regional Coordination Groups on Satellite Data Requirements.
(Decision 9 (EC-78) – Satellite partner organizations).

Programming and planning

The Executive Council adopted:

- Descriptions of **Major Programmes**, including role of Members: Expanded World Weather Watch, Services, Research, Capacity Development, Regional.
(Resolution 25 (EC-78) – WMO Major Programmes for the nineteenth financial period).
- Approach and scheduling of **strategic planning process** towards the next financial period, including regional consultations.
(Decision 3 (EC-78) – Approach to the strategic planning process 2028–2031).

General and regulatory matters

The Executive Council adopted decisions related to:

- **International Meteorological Organization (IMO) Prize:** awarded the sixty-ninth IMO Prize to Professor Gerhard Adrian (Germany), former WMO President. (Decision 11 (EC-78) – IMO prize and other awards)
- **World Meteorological Day 2025 theme:** “Closing the early warning gap together” (Decision 18 (EC-78) – World Meteorological Day theme for 2025)
- **Review of subsidiary bodies:** revised terms of reference of the Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP), Capacity Development Panel (CDP) and Panel on Polar and High mountain Observations, Research and Services (PHORS); revised rules of procedure for the Research Board. (Resolution 31 (EC-78) – Revision of the terms of reference of bodies reporting to the Executive Council)
- **Review of resolutions:** continued streamlining of resolutions to be maintained in force. (Resolution 34 (EC-78) – Review of previous resolutions of the Executive Council)
- **Task Force on Elections and Appointment:** took note of progress, adopted terms of reference and requested to submit recommendations at EC-79 for Cg-Ext(2025) (Decision 12 (EC-78) – Elections and appointment processes
Resolution 30 (EC-78) – Terms of reference of the Task Force on Elections and Appointments)
- **Task Force on the Comprehensive Review of Regional Mechanisms and Approaches:** took note of progress and requested to submit recommendations at EC-79 for Cg-Ext(2025) (Decision 13 (EC-78) – Regional reform)

Financial, oversight and administrative matters

The Executive Council reviewed matters and adopted decisions concerning:

- **Financial matters:** Financial Statements 2023, transfers between appropriation parts. (Resolution 32 (EC-78) Financial Statements of the World Meteorological Organization for the year 2023, Resolution 33 (EC-78) – Interpart Transfers)
- **Oversight:** Management Plan for oversight recommendations (Decision 20 (EC-78) – Report of the Audit and Oversight Committee)
- **Human resources:** Human resources and procurement reports (Decision 24 (EC-78) – Human resources and procurement matters)

Future sessions

The Executive Council decided on the following sessions:

- **EC-79:** 16–20 June 2025 at the WMO headquarters in Geneva (Decision 25 (EC-78) – Date and place of next sessions, tentative programme of sessions of additional bodies and subsidiary bodies and provisional items on the agenda of the next session of the Executive Council)

- **Cg-Ext(2025)**: 20–24 October 2025 at WMO Headquarters in Geneva to consider: EW4All, including amendments to Technical Regulations; regional reform; regulatory matters, including elections and appointments (Decision 17 (EC-78) – Extraordinary session of Congress in 2025 (Cg-Ext(2025)))

The Executive 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-78 are available on the [minisite for the session](#).

**REPLIES OF THE CHAIR OF THE AUDIT AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE TO QUESTIONS
POSED BY THE FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE AT ITS FORTY-FOURTH SESSION**

Ref.: 11862/2024.1.8 CSG

1. We would be interested in receiving a more detailed analysis of the WMO financial situation. How do you assess the current financial position of WMO and what vulnerabilities do you see, if any?

This has been included in the EC request, as well. The Committee will consider including a short analysis of WMO financial situation in its report.

2. We would also be grateful if you could elaborate your opinion on the risk management system: which specific steps should the WMO Secretariat take to increase its maturity level?

The Committee has been pleased to note the progress made in implementing risk management. Operationalizing the risk appetite system, systemic consideration of risks by top management, implementing a software for risk management are some of the steps that have been advised.

3. We have taken note of paragraph 22 of the report, according to which the Committee decided to postpone its peer review. When can we expect such a review to happen? We do not fully share the logic of the Committee that sees the good survey result as a pretext to postpone its peer review.

This has been included in the EC request, as well. The progress in peer review methodology has been slow as it requires coordination amongst committees in the UN system, which is still evolving. The diversity of committee composition and mandates poses another challenge. The AOC is keeping itself abreast of the developments and will undertake a peer review as soon as practicable. In the interim, regular self-evaluations will be done and reported.

4. In the future we would be keen on hearing your opinion about the possibility of using behavioural science techniques at WMO. This topic is gaining momentum within the UN system and is part of the UN 2.0 transformation plan.

The Committee will consider this in its future work and report as appropriate.

5. We would like to express some requests for the Committee's report format. It would be advisable to see a dedicated list of your recommendations to the Secretariat (or your recommendations explicitly highlighted). It would also be useful to include a review of your past and outstanding recommendations.

This has been included in the EC request, as well. Committee will consider revising the report format to include follow-up of its recommendation.

6. We urge the Committee to set up direct working contacts with the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) as is being done by other similar UN system advisory oversight bodies.

The Committee welcomes the suggestion and will work with the Secretariat for having JIU be represented in its meetings.

7. We are somewhat surprised by the Committee's conclusion over a duplication of mandates of FINAC and the AOC. In our opinion, these are two distinctively different bodies by nature. We would welcome your clarifications on this.

The Committee reports to the Executive Council on Internal Oversight, External Audit, Evaluation, Ethics and JIU. These are the same topics that are reported to the FINAC as well, hence the overlap. Nonetheless, AOC has noted the view points of FINAC and EC, in this regard.