WEATHER CLIMATE WATER
TEMPS CLIMAT EAU

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.: 6773277/2026/HRCS/CNFT/EC-81

Annex: 1

The Secretariat of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions of Member States of WMO to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva and has the honour to refer to the invitations to the eighty-first session of the Executive Council (EC-81), which will take place in Geneva, Switzerland, from 8 to 12 March 2027.

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

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



30 October 2026

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

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Annexes: 2

Subject: Eighty-first session of the Executive Council (EC-81)

Action required: (1) Inform on participation
(2) Pre-register for the EC-81 session

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to inform you that, by decision of the President in view of Ramadan 2027, the eighty-first session of the Executive Council (EC-81) has been rescheduled to take place in Geneva, Switzerland, from 8 to 12 March 2027, with the possibility of online participation.

Members and non-Members of WMO interested in following the discussions of the above-mentioned Executive Council session may register their representatives to the session. In accordance with Rule of Procedure 3.5 of the Rules of Procedure for the Executive Council and for the Bodies Reporting to the Executive Council (WMO-No. 1256), these WMO Members and non-Members shall not be entitled to take the floor. Governmental and non-governmental international organizations are also invited to follow the session as observers.

The provisional agenda (Annex I) prepared by the President of the Organization in consultation with the Bureau and the explanatory memorandum of the Secretary-General (Annex II) are attached.

Please note that the provisional annotated agenda, documents for the session, as well as information on the videoconferencing arrangements, will be posted on the session website in due time.

For registration to the session, the link to the online Event Registration System (ERS), the username and the password that were sent by email to the Permanent Representatives with WMO remain valid for all upcoming WMO meetings. To pre-register for the meeting, non-Members and international organizations should send their letters of representation to registration@wmo.int and Members can use the ERS for pre-registration. Please note that the online registration is now open and will close on **1 March 2027**.

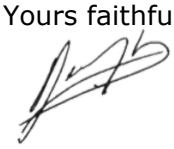
The submission of information through the online ERS does not exempt participants from the need to inform the Secretariat of their participation through a signed letter by an appropriate government official or competent authority of the relevant organization or by Note Verbale to be sent by email to registration@wmo.int.

To: Permanent Representatives of Members with WMO
Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva
Invited governmental and non-governmental international organizations (limited distribution)
Permanent Missions of Non-Members of WMO which are Members of the United Nations (limited distribution)

cc: Hydrological Advisers

For all communications and further information concerning online registration, please contact the WMO Secretariat by email at registration@wmo.int.

Yours faithfully,



Prof. Celeste Saulo
Secretary-General

Eighty-first Session of the Executive Council
(8–12 March 2027)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1 AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

2 REPORTS

2.1 Report by the President

2.2 Report by the Secretary-General

2.3 Other reports

3 SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL MATTERS

Crosscutting

3.1 Collaborative development of trustworthy Artificial Intelligence practices for meteorological forecasting

Services

3.2 WMO Action Plan for the fifth International Polar Year (IPY-5)

3.3 Flood Forecasting Framework

Infrastructure

3.4 Unified concept for Regional Instrument Centres

3.5 Guidance on Free and Open-Source Software

3.6 Amendments to the *Manual on Codes* (WMO-No. 306), Volume I.2

3.7 Amendments to the *Manual on the WMO Integrated Processing and Prediction System* (WMO-No. 485)

Research

3.8 Implementation Plan for the World Weather Research Programme

3.9 Implementation Plan for the Global Atmosphere Watch Programme

3.10 Readiness Summit

Capacity development

3.11 Amendments to competency framework and guide to competency

4. COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

4.1 Recommendations of the Joint WMO-IOC Collaborative Board (JCB)

5 GENERAL, LEGAL, POLICY, REGULATORY AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

General matters

5.1 Analysis of JIU/REP/2026/2

5.2 Preparations for the Twentieth World Meteorological Congress

5.3 Theme of World Meteorological Day 2028

Policy matters

5.4 Draft governance and reporting framework for WMO Commons

Regulatory matters

5.5 Amendments to the *Rules of Procedure for Technical Commissions* (WMO-No. 1240)

Administrative matters

5.6 Financial situation and status of Members contributions

5.7 Increased level of the Work Capital Fund

5.8 Designation of acting members of the Executive Council

5.9 Guides and guidelines adopted by the technical commissions

6 STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL PLANNING

6.1 Draft Strategic Plan 2028–2031

6.2 Major Programmes for the twentieth financial period (2028–2031)

6.3 Operational planning and maximum expenditure for the twentieth financial period (2028–2031)

7 REVIEW OF PAST RESOLUTIONS AND SUBSIDIARY BODIES

7.1 Review of previous resolutions of the Executive Council and recommendations to Congress

7.2 Subsidiary bodies and focal points reporting to the Executive Council: structure and membership

8 DATE AND PLACE AND PROVISIONAL ITEMS ON THE AGENDA OF NEXT SESSIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Draft tentative workplan

Time	Mon 8 Mar	Tue 9 Mar	Wed 10 Mar	Thu 11 Mar	Fri 12 Mar
9–12	1. Agenda and organization of the session 5.8 Designation of EC acting members 2. Reports 3.2 WMO IPY-5 3.3 Flood Forecasting Framework	3.8 Implementation Plan for WWRP 3.9 Implementation Plan for GAW 3.1 Collaborative development of trustworthy AI practices for meteorological forecasting	4.1 Recomm-endations of JCB 5.1 Analysis of JIU/REP/2026/2	6.1 Strategic Plan 2028–31 6.2 Major Programmes 2028–31	Outstanding documents
14–17	3.4 Unified concept for Regional Instrument Centres 3.5 Guidance on Free and Open-Source Software 3.6 Amendments to WMO-No. 306 3.7 Amendments to WMO-No. 485	*Panel: Readiness Summit* 3.10 Readiness Summit 3.11 Amendments to competency framework	5.3 Theme of WMD 2028 5.4 Draft governance and reporting framework for WMO Commons 5.5 Amendments to WMO-No. 1240 5.9 Guides and guidelines adopted by the technical commissions	5.6 Financial situation and status of Members contribution 5.7 Increased level of the WCF 6.3 OP and maximum expenditure 2028–31	5.2 Preparations for Cg-20 7.1 Review of resolutions and mandates 7.2 EC subsidiary bodies and membership 8 Dates and provisional items for next session

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EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I. Introduction

1. The Secretary-General has the honour to place before the consideration of the Executive Council, the following observations and proposals regarding the organization and conduct of the eighty-first session of the Executive Council.

II. Organization of the session

2. The Secretary-General wishes to draw the attention of the Executive Council to the convening of the eighty-first session in person with online participation as outlined in this circular letter.

3. Where a vote is required by an indication of preference as outlined in the provisions of Rule 5 of the *Rules of Procedure for the Executive Council and for the Bodies Reporting to the Executive Council* (WMO-No. 1256), a voting procedure will be organized by the Secretariat through a real-time email voting session in order to facilitate online participation. The process is described in detail in INF. 5.8. If a real-time voting session turns out not to be feasible, the Executive Council will consider voting by correspondence.

4. The Secretary-General wishes to draw the attention of the Executive Council to the naming convention that will be employed to facilitate the participation of online participants in the session. Details may be found in the appendix of this explanatory memorandum.

Opening and closing dates

5. In accordance with the provisions of Article 15 of the WMO Convention (*Basic Documents No. 1* (WMO-No. 15)), and further to Decision 21 (EC-80), the Bureau has decided that the eighty-first session of the Executive Council would take place from 8 to 12 March 2027.

Plenary and committees

6. The President shall invite the Executive Council to work in plenary except for the selection committees or other committees that may be established in accordance with the provisions of General Regulation 24 (*Basic Documents No. 1* (WMO-No. 15)). Committees shall meet separately and may include an online platform to facilitate online participation, if needed. All matters to be discussed by the committees shall be determined by the plenary.

7. In accordance with Rule 2.4 of the *Rules of Procedure for the Executive Council and for the Bodies Reporting to the Executive Council* (WMO-No. 1256), members of the Executive Council or their alternates should be present during plenary meetings to ensure the required two-thirds majority quorum for decision-making at any time. The quorum for the session will be calculated based on Executive Council members physically present combined with any participating members online.

8. Confidential matters should be discussed in camera, confined to the members of the Executive Council or their duly designated alternates, to additional such persons as may be agreed by the President and to the Secretariat staff designated by the Secretary-General.

9. In accordance with Rule 2.9 of the *Rules of Procedure for the Executive Council and for the Bodies Reporting to the Executive Council* (WMO-No. 1256), the Secretary-General will designate senior officials of the Secretariat to act in the capacity of Secretary in plenary meetings and committees.

Rationalization of work

10. Based on Annex IV to the *Fifteenth World Meteorological Congress: Abridged Final Report with Resolutions* (WMO-No. 1026) and Resolution 40 (Cg-19), the nineteenth World Meteorological Congress confirmed the role of the Bureau and its primary role in the planning, organization and coordination of the work of the Congress and the Executive Council. In this latter respect, the Bureau may recommend documents to the Executive Council for approval without debate.

11. In order to the optimize the discussion of documents and facilitate a balanced treatment of agenda items during the Executive Council session, members of the Executive Council are encouraged to submit comments on documents to plenary@wmo.int prior to the session, preferably one week before the opening of the session, to allow for the possible incorporation of comments into the new drafts to be published before the opening of the session.

Seating arrangements

12. In accordance with established practice, ex officio members of the Executive Council, that is, presidents of regional associations, will be seated in the first row in Salle Obasi, in the numerical order of their regional association. Regional hydrological advisers (RHAs) will be seated next to the respective ex officio members. The seating will then be in alphabetical order by surname of the Executive Council members. It shall be recalled that Executive Council members are participating in the Council as representatives of the Organization and not as representatives of particular Members.

13. In accordance with established practice, the President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary-General and members of the Executive Management will occupy the seats at the podium during formal plenary meetings.

14. Following the seating for Executive Council members, designated seating will also be available for specially invited participants including the presidents of the technical commissions, Chairs of WMO bodies and invited experts.

15. Observers and representatives of WMO Members will be seated towards the back of the room, on the basis of available seating. In the event of a greater number of observer participants, additional seating arrangements will be available in Salle C1, with video conference and interpretation facilities.

Schedule of meetings

16. The Secretary-General wishes to draw the attention of the Executive Council to the tentative workplan for the session, which will be available through the EC-81 session website.

Conduct of business

17. The Secretary-General wishes to draw the attention of the Executive Council to the relevant regulations regarding the conduct of business in meetings of constituent bodies, namely General Regulations 77 to 91 and 119 to 129 (*Basic Documents No. 1* (WMO-No. 15)) and to the *Rules of Procedure for the Executive Council and for the Bodies Reporting to the Executive Council* (WMO-No. 1256).

Records of meetings

18. The Secretary-General wishes to remind members of the Executive Council that in accordance with the provisions of Rules 4.3 and 4.4 of the *Rules of Procedure for the Executive Council and for the Bodies Reporting to the Executive Council* (WMO-No. 1256), approved documents posted on the session website constitute the provisional report of the session. In accordance with General Regulation 95 (a) (*Basic Documents No. 1* (WMO-No. 15)), adopted resolutions, decisions and recommendations are recorded in the final report of the session and are published after the session by the Secretariat. Information documents and statements are also included in the final report.

19. When requested by the plenary, in accordance with General Regulation 95 (b) (*Basic Documents No. 1* (WMO-No. 15)), summarized minutes of the discussion at plenary or in camera meetings will be prepared after the session and adopted by correspondence.

20. In addition, and in accordance with the provisions of General Regulation 95(c) (*Basic Documents No. 1* (WMO-No. 15)), audio recordings of plenary meetings of constituent bodies shall be prepared by the Secretariat.

Resolutions, decisions and recommendations

21. In accordance with the provisions of General Regulation 126 (7) (*Basic Documents No. 1* (WMO-No. 15)), and Rule 12 of the *Rules of Procedure for the Executive Council and for the Bodies Reporting to the Executive Council* (WMO-No. 1256), resolutions in force should be reviewed at each ordinary session of the Council.

22. Past resolutions should be incorporated as far as possible in any subsequent resolution adopted on the same subject. Resolutions thus incorporated will not be kept in force. Resolutions which are partly obsolete should be replaced by revised texts containing only those parts which are maintained. When the date on which a resolution ceases to be in force is not specified, that resolution should be cancelled on the date on which the session closes.

23. As far as appropriate, the substance of the Executive Council resolutions should be included in an appropriate WMO publication, such as Technical Regulations, Working Arrangements, Rules of Procedure or Staff Regulations, provided that the publication has the required status.

24. In accordance with the provisions of General Regulation 118 (*Basic Documents No. 1* (WMO-No. 15)), provided that the conditions of General Regulation 94(c) (*Basic Documents No. 1* (WMO-No. 15)) have been satisfied, the Executive Council may adopt resolutions arising out of recommendations of associations and commissions, in accordance with Article 14 (c) (*Basic Documents No. 1* (WMO-No. 15)) or in application of the last paragraph of that article of the Convention.

25. Recommendations from constituent bodies and other bodies established by Congress or the Executive Council of a strategic and policy nature should normally be submitted to the Executive Council after consideration by the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC), accompanied by a draft recommendation.

Documentation

26. The Secretary-General reminds members that documents for the session will be made available and managed following normal practice through the EC-81 session website.

27. In addition, and in accordance with the provisions of General Regulation 92 (*Basic Documents No. 1* (WMO-No. 15)), any document shall be made available in sufficient time,

before the opening of the plenary meeting at which it will be discussed. The time should be specified by the constituent body concerned.

28. Other international organizations with which the Organization has concluded arrangements or agreements may submit documents to sessions of constituent bodies or subsidiary bodies on agenda items of direct interest to them within the time fixed for the different bodies. In this case, such documents should be made available to the Secretary-General for circulation in accordance with General Regulation 93 (*Basic Documents No. 1* (WMO-No. 15)).

29. In accordance with the provisions of Rules 4.1 to 4.3 of the *Rules of Procedure for the Executive Council and for the Bodies Reporting to the Executive Council* (WMO-No. 1256), the non-confidential documentation (decision documents, information documents, presentations and daily journals) is made available through the public WMO website.

30. Confidential documents should be distributed only to the members of the Executive Council or their designated alternate in case of absence of members. Confidential documents are distributed either through the password protected section of the EC-81 session website or in sealed envelopes.

Webcasting

31. In accordance with Resolution 40 (Cg-19), the session will be webcast live on a suitable platform. The webcasting will not allow any viewer to interact with the session. Such interaction will be possible only to register participants through a dedicated platform.

III. Adoption of the agenda

32. In accordance with the provisions of Rule 2.2 of the *Rules of Procedure for the Executive Council and for the Bodies Reporting to the Executive Council* (WMO-No. 1256), the provisional agenda for the eighty-first session has been prepared by the President in consultation with the Secretary-General in accordance with the provisions of General Regulations 126 to 128 (*Basic Documents No. 1* (WMO-No. 15)).

33. The provisional agenda shall be submitted for approval at the opening of the meeting. In the course of the session, the agenda may be amended at any time.

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APPENDIX

NAMING CONVENTION FOR ONLINE PARTICIPANTS AT EC-81

Executive Council (EC) members and accompanying participants identification	President, Vice-Presidents of WMO • President of WMO: **P/WMO** Vice-Presidents of WMO **1st VP/WMO**; **2nd VP/WMO**; **3rd VP/WMO** EC members • EC member: **EC MEM/ Surname** • Alternate/Adviser: **Alternate or Adviser/Surname** Presidents of regional associations • **P/RA I through VI**
Regional hydrological advisers, president of technical commissions, Chairs of WMO bodies and invited experts	Regional hydrological advisers • **HA/RA I through VI** Presidents of technical commissions • **P/INFCOM, P/SERCOM** Chairs of WMO bodies • **C/body acronym** Invited Experts • **Expert/Surname**
Regional Association/Technical Commission vice-presidents	Vice-presidents of regional associations: • **VP/RA (I, II, ….)** Vice-presidents of technical commissions: • **VP/INFCOM/Surname** • **VP/SERCOM/Surname**
Observers and representatives of WMO Members	Members: **Member name/Surname** Representatives of international organizations/ non-Members: • **Organization name/Surname** • **Non-Member name/Surname**
WMO Secretariat	• **Secretariat/Surname**

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