



World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale

Secrétariat

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Weather • Climate • Water
Temps • Climat • Eau

Our ref.: SG/CER/EC-66

GENEVA, 19 September 2014

Annex: 1

Subject: Major outcomes of EC-66

Dear Sir/Madam,

As you are aware, the sixty-sixth session of the WMO Executive Council (EC-66) was held at the WMO headquarters in Geneva, from 18 to 27 June 2014. EC-66 was the third session of the sixteenth financial period (2012-2015). The Council worked on the basis of the directives of Cg-XVI and previous ECs, on the Organization's goals and activities and addressed the challenges and opportunities facing the Organization.

The major outcomes of the session are summarized in the attached annex. The session provisional report, which is a collection of approved documents and working papers, is available on the WMO website at <http://ec-66.wmo.int/documents-english>. The final abridged report with resolutions will be finalized in all WMO languages by mid-August and posted on the website.

I hope that you will find this information useful, and I look forward to the continued strengthening of the cooperation between all WMO Members in support of the implementation of the WMO Strategic Plan.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'M. Jarraud', written over a faint dotted line.

(M. Jarraud)
Secretary-General

To: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services) of Members of WMO (PR-6788)

cc: Hydrological Advisers to Permanent Representatives)
Presidents of technical commissions) (for information)
Permanent Missions of WMO Members in Geneva)

**MAJOR OUTCOMES OF THE SIXTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE
WMO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
(Geneva, 18–27 June 2014)**

Introduction

The sixty-sixth session of the Executive Council was convened from 18 to 27 June 2014 at the headquarters of the World Meteorological Organization under the Chairmanship of WMO President Mr David Grimes.

The session was the Council's third sitting of the sixteenth financial period (2012-2015). Working on the basis of the directives of the Sixteenth World Meteorological Congress (Cg-XVI) and previous Council sessions, the Council reviewed the Organization's goals and activities as set out in the WMO Strategic Plan 2012-2015 and the WMO Secretariat Operating Plan. It considered the progress made towards the development of the Organization's priorities and activities for the 2016-2019 financial period. It also addressed WMO's activities over the period since its last session in June 2013, including priorities such as enhanced disaster risk reduction, improved observation and information systems, the need for more efficient meteorological services for the aviation sector, capacity strengthening of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in developing countries, and the implementation of the Global Framework for Climate Services.

The major outcomes of the Council session provide a broad framework for WMO's work for the remainder of this financial period and in preparation for the Seventeenth Congress (Cg-17). This report presents a brief summary of the session outcomes grouped according to the eight Expected Results contained in the WMO Strategic Plan.

Global Framework for Climate Services

In reviewing the implementation phase of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), the Council recalled the decisions of the first session of the Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services (IBCS-1) held in Geneva, Switzerland in July 2013, notably: (a) adoption of the Implementation Plan of the GFCS (with its Annexes and Exemplars) and projects and activities contained in the Compendium of initial GFCS projects for immediate implementation; (b) establishment of a Partners Advisory Committee (PAC) as a stakeholder engagement mechanism; and (c) establishment of the Management Committee of the IBCS.

The Council noted that, further to the Secretary-General's invitation to partner agencies to join the PAC, a number of partners had already started submitting applications to the GFCS Office. It was further noted that efforts are underway to mobilize the support of partners, including the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), for implementing specific activities in support of Members. The Council requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to enhance the engagement of partners and stakeholders and the alignment of their activities with those planned or under development through the GFCS.

The Council recognized the various efforts undertaken by Members to implement the GFCS, including through the establishment of frameworks for climate services at the national level and through the activities of specific projects.

The Council welcomed the contributions and pledges made by Members to the GFCS Trust Fund. It noted that most of the contributions to the GFCS Trust Fund were earmarked for the

implementation of specific project activities, and to be used in accordance with the terms stipulating the eligible activities agreed between the donor and WMO. In addition it appreciated the various in-kind contributions, including seconding experts to the GFCS Office and facilitating the organization of various GFCS-related activities, which several Members have made for improving climate services.

In noting with concern the low level of contributions for the organization of IBCS-2, scheduled to take place from 10 to 14 November 2014 in Geneva, Switzerland, the Council, through Resolution 4¹, urged Members to provide resources to the GFCS Trust Fund to support the preparation of the second session of the IBCS and the implementation of GFCS activities.

In its deliberations, the Council also took note of the outcomes of the Management Committee of the IBCS, which convened its first meeting under the Chairmanship of Prof Anton Eliassen, and it considered progress on implementing the GFCS and preparing for IBCS-2.

Regarding climate issues, the Council noted the verbal report of the Chair of the Task Team on the WMO Policy for International Exchange of Climate Data and Products to Support the Implementation of the GFCS. It further noted that the Task Team had developed a draft resolution on the WMO Policy for International Exchange of Climate Data and Products to Support the Implementation of the GFCS for its consideration, prior to submission to Cg-17. The draft resolution was also reviewed by the EC Working Group on Strategic and Operational Planning (EC WG/SOP) in February 2014. Following the twelfth session of the Consultative Meeting on High-level Policy on Satellite Matters (CM-12), it was further recommended that the draft resolution be reviewed by space agencies, taking into account the challenges of ensuring the generation and long-term preservation of satellite-based climate data records. The Council provided guidance on the preparation of documentation to support the draft resolution on the WMO Policy for the International Exchange of Climate Data and Products to Support the Implementation of the GFCS, which will be submitted to Cg-17.

Expected Result 1

Enhanced capabilities of Members to deliver and improve access to high-quality weather, climate, water and related environmental predictions, information, warnings and services in response to users' needs, and to enable their use in decision-making by relevant societal sectors.

The Council noted with appreciation the report of the Chairperson of the EC Working Group on Service Delivery (ECWG-SD). The Council agreed that service delivery lay at the heart of WMO's mission and daily work and endorsed the idea that service delivery needed to be considered as the core business of WMO. Furthermore and in view of the high priority status to be accorded to service delivery in the WMO Strategic and Operating Plans for 2016-2019, the Council considered it crucial that appropriate coordinating mechanisms be put in place for the implementation of the WMO Strategy for Service Delivery, through Resolution 5², which includes the recommendations of the Working Group. In this respect, the Council considered that there should be a coherent and harmonized approach to service delivery by WMO Programmes and constituent bodies, in particular the Public Weather Service (PWS) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Programmes and for the development of services for water management.

The Council recalled that EC-65 had discussed the issue of holding a follow-up conference to the 2007 Madrid Conference, leading to follow-up by its Working Group on Strategic and Operational Planning (EC WG/SOP) which recommended to EC to consider holding a conference in 2017, which would focus on the economic value of climate services and after.

¹ Resolution 4 Outcome of the first session of the Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services

² Resolution 5 Implementation of the WMO Strategy for Service Delivery.

- (a) NMHSs an opportunity to demonstrate the benefits of their services.

The Council recommended that due to the importance of the issue, the work on analysis of the benefits of the conference be progressed through its appropriate working group and that a proposal be brought forward to Seventeenth Congress on holding a Madrid +10 conference.

In its review of issues related to aeronautical meteorology, the Council noted the progress by Members in implementing the quality management system (QMS) approach for aeronautical meteorological services. It expressed concern that the implementation rate of QMS was still far below 50% with regard to ISO 9000 certification. The Council also considered matters related to competency requirements and cost recovery issues. It noted a number of critical deficiencies and challenges in the provision of meteorological service to international air navigation by some Members and requested the Secretary-General to work closely with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the International Air Transport Association (IATA) and other partners towards resolving identified deficiencies. In addition, the Council urged Members to be adequately prepared for the WMO/ICAO Conjoint MET Divisional Meeting from 7 to 18 July 2014 in Montreal, Canada, to develop suitable models for the future of aviation weather service delivery. The Council adopted Resolution 6.³

The Council noted that the Tropical Cyclone Forecaster Website (TCFW) continued to be updated, and easily accessible, and became an official WMO website open to the public. The Council also noted that the web version of the updated Global Guide to Tropical Cyclone Forecasting was in the final stage of review before it is made accessible to users. The Council recognized the important role of the five regional tropical cyclone (TC) committees in improving and enhancing regional coordination and collaboration of Members to deliver their improved tropical cyclone forecasting and warning services through the regularly updated operational plans/manual and technical plans. It requested the Secretary-General to provide the necessary support to the regional TC committees to fulfil their evolving roles as established regional warning coordination mechanisms.

The Council recognized with satisfaction that continuous efforts had been made by JCOMM groups and teams to implement the JCOMM intersessional workplan (2012–2017), in particular, to respond to technical and regional requirements for improved marine meteorological and oceanographic services. It provided guidance on key activities including preparation of documentation of the WMO Marine Weather Forecaster Competence Standards Framework for Cg-17, as well as the implementation and application of the Coastal Inundation Forecasting Demonstration Project (CIFDP) for realizing an impact-based forecasting system.

The Council took note of the outcomes of the sixteenth session of the Commission for Agricultural Meteorology (CAgM-16) held in Antalya, Turkey from 10 to 15 April 2014. It endorsed its recommendations and resolutions by adopting Resolution 7⁴. The Council noted that the Secretariat and the president of the Commission were actively collaborating to support the Agriculture and Food Security Exemplar of the GFCS. It requested the Secretariat to continue to collaborate with the various UN agencies in this area.

³ Resolution 6 Amendment to the Technical Regulations (WMO-No. 49), Volume II - Meteorological Service for International Air Navigation, and related guidance material

⁴ Resolution 7 Report of the sixteenth session of the Commission for Agricultural Meteorology

Expected Result 2

Enhanced capabilities of Members to reduce risks and potential impacts of hazards caused by weather, climate, water and related environmental elements.

The Council noted the fundamental importance of multi-hazard information and services provided by NMHSs in support of risk-informed and impact-based DRR decision-making. It noted progress in documenting good practices and guidelines to assist the relevant activities of Members. The Council stressed the importance of DRR training materials, including in relation to strengthening national institutional arrangements.

The Council noted that implementation of DRR activities has directly contributed to the implementation of the GFCS. Concrete deliverables in the 2014-2015 timeframe include guidelines on user requirements for climate services for hazard risk analysis and guidelines for disaster risk financing and insurance.

Considering that the term of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015 is drawing to an end, the Council recognized the strategic importance of WMO's active participation in the planning of the third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR-III, 14-18 March 2015, Sendai, Japan) particularly in the drafting of the Post-2015 Framework for DRR, with clear direction from a WMO-wide DRR strategy. The Council also noted the ongoing regional and global consultations for the WCDRR, facilitated by the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) and the regional socio-economic groupings and encouraged all Members to actively participate in and provide inputs to those events. These inputs should showcase: (i) the importance of meteorological, hydrological and environmental services in support of DRR decision-making and (ii) technical and institutional capacities and challenges faced by Members in implementing early warning systems in support of risk-informed decision-making.

The Council further emphasized that the DRR activities of Members are part of their service delivery mandates to ensure readiness, response and resilience. It therefore requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the WMO DRR-related programmes and activities and the WMO Strategy for Service Delivery are aligned. The Council adopted Resolution 8⁵.

Expected Result 3

Enhanced capabilities of Members to produce better weather, climate, water and related environmental information, predictions and warnings to support in particular disaster risk reduction and climate impact and adaptation strategies.

The Council noted that the implementation of the WMO Strategy for Service Delivery success depends on the high-quality outputs of Members' data processing and forecasting systems and effective linkages between data processing and service delivery functions.

In addition, the Council considered that the Global Data-Processing and Forecasting System (GDPFS) and its operational centres should be strengthened and further developed. They should move towards seamless data processing and forecasting that covers all forecasting time scales and extended to include environmental-related predictions in support of service delivery. The Council further encouraged the Secretariat and relevant technical commissions to develop related guidance materials for Members to take advantage of full GDPFS capabilities.

The Council welcomed the establishment of the Project Office for the Severe Weather Forecast Demonstration Project. In relation to Emergency Response Activities, the Council agreed that

⁵ Resolution 8 WMO disaster risk reduction roadmap.

collaboration with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) should continue on the review and revision of the meteorological and hydrological aspects of safety-related guides.

The Council also considered WMO climate statements and publications and highlighted the need for national climate monitoring products. The Council emphasized the role of NMHSs in the provision of timely weather and climate advisories for warnings of extreme weather and climate events. It urged Members to strengthen their cooperation on the climate watch systems and to ensure their harmonized implementation, interoperability and timely exchange of related data and products. The Council noted that WMO had already put in place, or identified, several entities to specifically support the climate operations of NMHSs, including specialized centres designated by WMO based on standards and criteria. It also noted that the relevant entities are appropriately highlighted in the GFCS Implementation Plan as part of its Climate Services Information System (CSIS) pillar, as approved by the first session of the Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services (IBCS-1).

The Council noted that the Technical Support Unit (TSU) of the Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP) was established in August 2013 within the Climate and Water Department of WMO Secretariat. In addition, it further noted that the IDMP is working with partners to develop regional projects such as the Central and Eastern Europe-GWP (CEE-GWP) project. The Council encouraged the development of IDMP regional projects on drought management and their extension to other regions of the world.

The Council took note of the substantial progress in water issues achieved against the objectives of the Strategic Plan and Operating Plan (2012-2016) under Expected Result 3. The Council was informed that the main areas in which progress had not been as expected were in support of flood forecasting initiatives in some regions, where decisions were yet to be made on projects to be supported, and in preparations for meetings in support of some CHy activities. Each of these areas would be a particular focus for the next 18 months.

Expected Result 4

Enhanced capabilities of Members to access, develop, implement and use integrated and interoperable Earth- and space-based observation systems for weather, climate and hydrological observations, as well as related environmental and space weather observations, based on world standards set by WMO.

The Council noted the progress achieved in implementing the WIGOS Framework Implementation Plan (WIP) and appreciated the further progress achieved in the Regional WIGOS Implementation Plans (R-WIP). Four regional associations (RAs II, IV, V and VI) have already endorsed their R-WIP, while the other two (RAs I and III) are expected to do so at their forthcoming sessions this year.

The Council agreed that the overall issue of WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS) Data Management needs focus and attention. It further agreed that the implementation of the WIGOS Framework is approaching a point of maturity where WIGOS is now enabling the development and deployment of its components. With the key initial building blocks of the WIGOS Framework in place by the time of Cg-17, the prerequisites will be available for a Preoperational Phase of WIGOS from 2016 to 2019. In addition, it was considered that WIGOS, supported by the WMO Implementation System (WIS), should continue as a WMO Strategic Priority Area for the next financial period. Noting the difficulties in implementing WIGOS in some of the developing and least developed countries, the Council requested that increased priority be given to supporting the capacity development for WIGOS in these Members.

With respect to WIS, the Council noted that four Regional Associations (II, III, V and VI) had developed WMO Information System (WIS) Regional Implementation Plans and that Regional

Associations I and IV were actively developing their plans. In line with the objective of the Sixteenth World Meteorological Congress (Cg-XVI) to complete WIS implementation across all WMO centres by 2015, the Council encouraged Regional Associations I and IV to complete their plans so that their Members can derive the full benefits of WIS.

The Council appreciated the activities by CBS expert teams in developing specifications of the monitoring required by WIS centres. It agreed with the approach being taken whereby WIS monitoring is concentrating on the effectiveness of the exchange of information and with application programmes being responsible for monitoring the completeness and quality of the information content. The Council encouraged CBS to review the proposed WIS monitoring at CBS-Ext.(14) and to recommend standard practices to the Seventeenth World Meteorological Congress (Cg-17).

The Council also noted with appreciation that CBS had addressed the need for capacity development activities to support Members in implementing and operating WIS by developing draft WIS competences and an associated training and learning guide. It recommended this approach to other Commissions.

The Council welcomed the report by the Chairperson of the GCOS Steering Committee, who stressed that a strengthened Global Climate Observing System will be a core contribution to the successful implementation of the GFCS given that observations and monitoring constitute one of its essential pillars. The Council reiterated its urgent call issued at EC-64 and EC-65 to Members to assist international and national organizations in the implementation of global observing systems for climate.

The Council was informed about the planning process for the assessment of the adequacy of the global observing systems for climate as well as the status of the GOCS Implementation Plan. It recognized that the cooperation mechanism for improving climate observation networks is particularly important for developing countries. It urged Members, with the support of the GCOS Secretariat, to coordinate nationally among the agencies responsible for climate observing to secure funding for the GCOS Cooperation Mechanism.

The Council was further informed of the outcomes of the independent review of the GCOS programme. This review was requested by its four sponsoring organizations: WMO, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Council for Science (ICSU).

The Council welcomed that the major outcome of the review is the general recognition of the normative work of GCOS in defining guidelines and setting principles. The review further showed that a clear vision of the GCOS programme will be key for its future activities and success and adopted Resolution 9⁶.

In reviewing the WMO Space Programme, the Council recognized that space-based observations cut across all component observing systems of the WIGOS. Satellite capabilities now contribute to observing and monitoring climate and climate change, including atmospheric composition, hydrological and cryosphere variables, etc., and space weather, in addition to meteorology and oceanography. It further recalled the vital role of satellite observations from various orbits for permanent weather monitoring, nowcasting and very short-range forecasting.

The Council took note that the twelfth session of the Consultative Meetings on High-level Policy on Satellite Matters (CM-12) had discussed the progress made in developing the Architecture for Climate Monitoring from Space. This is a contribution to the GFCS observation and monitoring component and is one of the key tasks of the WIGOS implementation plan.

⁶ Resolution 9 Review of the Global Climate Observing System Programme.

The Council also noted with appreciation that critical satellite matters were now regularly addressed on the agenda of WMO constituent body sessions. However, it would be necessary to alter the scheduling of the meetings to ensure that their outcomes can be appropriately submitted to EC or Congress, as may be required. The Council adopted Resolution 10⁷.

Expected Result 5

Enhanced capabilities of Members to contribute to and draw benefits from the global research capacity for weather, climate, water and the related environmental science and technology development.

The Council agreed that WMO should be proactive in addressing the growing needs for specialized weather, climate, water and related environmental services of the rapidly growing urban population. This is best addressed through a cross-cutting research project that also places particular emphasis on the GFCS. The Council expressed its satisfaction with the recent progress of three THORPEX legacy projects aligned to meet the requirements of Members and the GFCS. It adopted Resolution 11⁸ on the Sub-seasonal to Seasonal Prediction Project (S2S), the Polar Prediction Project (PPP) and the to be established High-Impact Weather (HIWeather) Project. The Council encouraged Members to participate in the implementation of these projects and provide the resources required. In realizing that high-impact weather continues to have large impacts on sustainable development, the Council, through Resolution 12⁹, decided to establish a new research project called HIWeather that will focus on urban floods, wildfires, localized extreme winds, disruptive winter weather, and urban heat/air quality issues. It also endorsed research activities in sub-seasonal to seasonal and polar prediction as priority areas of collaboration between the World Weather and World Climate Research Programmes.

The Council reaffirmed the importance of the close cooperation between the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP), the World Weather Research Programme (WWRP) and the Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW) Programme for addressing the complex feedbacks between atmospheric composition and weather and climate processes. It also requested WWRP and WCRP to ensure collaboration between the Polar Prediction Project and the WCRP Polar Climate Predictability Initiative.

The Council noted that regional nodes for the Sand and Dust Storm Warning Advisory and Assessment System (SDS-WAS) have been established in Asia (hosted by China), Northern Africa/Middle East/Europe (hosted by Spain) and the Americas (hosted by USA), with an additional potential regional node in West Asia in collaboration with UNEP. The Council acknowledged the initiative to designate another SDS-WAS regional node in Beijing, China, as the Regional Specialized Meteorological Center with Activity Specialization on Atmospheric Sand and Dust Forecasts (RSMC-ASDF) for Asia and the Central Pacific. Through Resolution 13¹⁰, the Council recommended the establishment of the SDS-WAS Steering Committee to regularly review research progress and priorities.

The Council noted the growing interest in climate engineering, also referred to as geoengineering, and its proposed application as a potential strategy for limiting climate change impact through a wide spectrum of technologies, each with a different level of complexity, uncertainties and associated risks. The Council noted the interest of some Members in developing a science-based assessment on climate engineering, specify the gaps in scientific understanding, and in promoting specific research activities to fill such gaps. It requested the Commission for Atmospheric Sciences (CAS) to keep the Council and Congress updated on any significant developments in climate

⁷ Resolution 10 Schedule of Consultative Meetings on High-Level Policy Matters

⁸ Resolution 11 – Post-THORPEX activities.

⁹ Resolution 12 – High-impact weather project.

¹⁰ Resolution 13 – Sand and Dust Storm Warning Advisory and Assessment System.

engineering of relevance to WMO in order to enable decisions on the appropriate level and nature of WMO involvement in climate engineering.

Expected Result 6

Enhanced capabilities of NMHSs, in particular in developing and least developed countries, to fulfil their mandates.

The Council, stressing that the ability to provide high quality weather, climate and water services depends upon the availability of modern infrastructure and adequate and well-trained human resources, advocated for investment in under-resourced NMHSs. The Council underlined that this issue must be dealt with if the global community is to attain sustainable development, disaster risk reduction, safe transport in air and on land and water, food security, and sustainable management of water resources, while managing climate risks and adapting to climate change by building resilient societies.

The Council noted the growing demand for continuous professional development through education and training. This is associated with proposed competency standards in areas such as public weather services, marine forecasting, tropical cyclone/typhoon/hurricane forecasting, WIS and climate services. The Council welcomed the approach used by the Education, Training and Research (ETR) Panel to identify the broad training needs of WMO Members, particularly those Members with restricted or no national meteorological, hydrological or climatological education and training capabilities. It adopted Resolution 14¹¹ and Resolution 17¹². The Council considered the ETR Panel's review of the Future Role and Operation of WMO Regional Training Centres (RTCs) and adopted Resolution 15¹³. This Resolution reflects the need for quality management processes, recognizes the roles and responsibilities of the key partners in the RTCs, and ensures that the reconfirmation of RTCs is based on their assistance to Members in education and training opportunities or resources. Concerning the review of existing RTCs, the Council, through Resolution 18¹⁴, confirmed the Postgraduate Training Centre for Applied Meteorology (PTCAM) in Bet Dagan, Israel, as an RTC. Through Resolution 19¹⁵ it deferred until EC-68 consideration of the reconfirmation of the National Research Council Institute of Biometeorology (CNR-IBIMET) in Florence, Italy, as an RTC.

The Council supported the concept of a WMO Global Campus acting as a mechanism that would enhance the quality of services provided by the existing RTC network as well as the quality of training services provided by other stakeholders. It adopted Resolution 16¹⁶ on a feasibility study of the WMO Global Campus as a systemic and coordinated approach to assist Members' personnel, particularly those from developing and least developed NMHSs, to access a wide range of quality-assured training opportunities and resources designed to support them in producing and delivering the required meteorological, hydrological and climatological services at national level.

Concerning the WMO Fellowship Programme, the Council welcomed the involvement of new partners in the programme, particularly those addressing areas not traditionally covered by RTCs. It encouraged the Secretary-General to continue engaging new partners and new funding streams for this important programme. The Council appreciated the ETR Panel's review of the 2006 EC Criteria for WMO Fellowships and adopted Resolution 20¹⁷.

¹¹ Resolution 14 – Guidance for the Education and Training Programme for 2016–2019.

¹² Resolution 17 – Terms of reference of the Executive Council Panel of Experts on Education and Training.

¹³ Resolution 15 – Executive Council criteria for the recognition and reconfirmation of WMO Regional Training Centres.

¹⁴ Resolution 18 – Status of Bet Dagan, Israel as a WMO Regional Training Centre.

¹⁵ Resolution 19 – Status of the Institute of Biometeorology, National Research Council, Florence, Italy as a WMO Regional Training Centre.

¹⁶ Resolution 16 – Feasibility study for establishing a WMO Global Campus.

¹⁷ Resolution 20 – Executive Council criteria for the award of WMO Fellowships.

The Council noted with satisfaction the early progress in implementing the Capacity Development Strategy and its Implementation Plan (CDSIP). It recognized the need to further strengthen and harmonize activities in order to address existing gaps in the human, institutional, infrastructural and procedural capacities of many Members. It further appreciated that, over the last year, the Secretariat and Members had focused their resources on building capacity in WMO priority areas. These priorities include compliance with QMS requirements, regional WIGOS/WIS implementation and training/fellowships in climate services. The Council requested the Secretariat to continue its efforts towards a 'culture of compliance' and to build the technical, strategic and managerial skills of NMHS staff as critical components of Capacity Development. In this regard, it appreciated the potential of the Country Profile Database (CPDB) to be used in the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the WMO Strategic Plan in the next financial period. The Council adopted Resolution 21¹⁸.

Expected Result 7

New and strengthened partnerships and cooperation activities to improve NMHSs' performance in delivering services and to increase the value of the contributions of WMO within the United Nations system, relevant international conventions and national strategic issues.

The Council noted the actions taken by the Secretary-General to strengthen cooperation with the United Nations System. It noted that some 33 UN resolutions adopted during the 68th session have been identified as containing some relevance and linkages to existing WMO priorities and activities in areas including Climate, Water and Food Security, DRR, Partnerships and Capacity Development Activities, among others. Such collaborations included WMO involvement in the Task Team and Open Working Group for Sustainable Development Goals related to the post-2015 Development agenda, including co-leading the thematic Issue Brief on Climate and Natural disasters with UNISDR and other UN partners and contributing to the discussions at the Environmental Management Group (EMG), the High Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP), and the United Nations Development Group (UNDG).

The Council supported the strengthened role of WMO in supporting the climate agenda through the provision of scientific information, particularly in the context of the UNFCCC process and its Subsidiary Body for Technological and Scientific Advice (SBSTA) and Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI); the Working Group on Climate Change of the HLCP; and the UN Climate Summit (scheduled at UN Headquarters, New York, on 23 September 2014). The Council further acknowledged the contributions provided by WMO to the inter-agency coordination mechanisms UN-Water and UN-Oceans, as well as joint activities such as the UNITAR-led One UN Training Service Platform on Climate Change (UNCC:Learn).

Regarding the GFCS, the Council noted that, further to the establishment of the PAC at IBCS-1, implementation of the four initial priority areas of the GFCS was being advanced through the establishment of joint offices with the Global Water Partnership and the World Health Organization (WHO). These offices are located within the Climate and Water Department and the GFCS Office in order to support implementation of the Water and Health Exemplars. The Council recalled the collaboration with the World Bank in the implementation of the GFCS, noting its role in providing financial and other relevant support to the modernization of a number of NMHSs, particularly in RA II and RA III, including for developing climate services. The Council expressed appreciation for the partnerships developed by WMO for the benefit of Members and their NMHSs with other specialized agencies and international and regional organizations, such as UNESCO, the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), the European Commission and others.

¹⁸ Resolution 21 – Country profile database initial operating capability.

The Council reiterated WMO's commitment to assist the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in delivering its work programme, including through financial, administrative and operational support. This support is particularly crucial during the final stages of the approval and release of the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5). WMO will take a proactive role in the execution of the outreach programme of the AR5 to ensure the widest dissemination of its findings among policymakers at all levels.

The Council welcomed the Geneva Declaration adopted by the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Ministerial Summit in January 2014, by which the mandate of GEO was renewed until 2025. It noted the strengthened relationships with the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) through the implementation of the GFCS and also noted that the four priority areas of GFCS are similar to the Societal Benefit Areas (SBAs) for GEOSS (i.e. agriculture and food security, water, health and disaster risk reduction). The Council encouraged GEO to continue its collaboration with WMO on key WMO activities, especially on improving the discovery of, and access to, climate data and information, promoting data sharing principles, and coordinating capacity-building.

The Council reviewed the progress made in the development of the Future Earth initiative led by the Science and Technology Alliance for Global Sustainability. It appreciated the efforts of WMO to contribute to the development of Future Earth, in particular through the continued and direct involvement of WCRP as well as through the GFCS. These efforts seek to ensure that advancements in research on sustainable development are efficiently transitioned into reliable and timely services for society. In this regard, the Council authorized WMO to become a member of the Science and Technology Alliance for Global Sustainability, noting the informal and interdisciplinary nature of the Alliance and its unique proposition of bringing together research funders, non-governmental institutions, academia and United Nations organizations to generate and help drive new initiatives for research on sustainability.

Expected Result 8

An effective and efficient Organization.

The Council considered the draft WMO Strategic Plan 2016-2019 and recommended that it aim to: (1) improve the ability of NMHSs to meet the requirements of ICAO focusing on accelerating the implementation of competency standards and QMS to: (a) meet the emerging needs of the global air navigation plan; (b) meet the emerging issues in WMO Regions; and (c) strengthen cost recovery frameworks; (2) implement climate services under the GFCS Implementation Plan particularly for countries that lack them, focusing on supporting the establishment of regional climate centres, identifying user requirements for climate products and developing the CSIS; (3) complete the implementation of WIGOS/WIS, focusing on the implementation of all the building blocks of the framework and supporting the uptake at regional and national levels; (4) implement operational polar weather, climate, and hydrological services, focusing on operationalizing the Global Cryosphere Watch and advancing the Global Integrated Polar Prediction System (GIPPS); (5) enhance the capacity development of NMHSs to deliver on their mission by helping them to enhance their human resources, technical capacities and infrastructure, particularly in developing, least developed and small island developing states; (6) improve expertise in providing high-quality, impact-based forecasts and, in particular, early warning of high-impact weather, climate and water events, thereby contributing to international efforts on Disaster Risk Reduction and Prevention; and (7) conduct a strategic review of WMO structures, operating arrangements and budgeting practices, focusing on the effectiveness of constituent body activities and the Secretariat arrangements.

The Council considered the Secretary-General's budget proposals for the seventeenth financial period (2016-2019) prepared in accordance with Resolution 20 (EC-65). The Council noted that many WMO Members are facing funding pressures and have therefore requested detailed budget

proposals relating to the priorities as set out in the revised Strategic Plan in order to support any request for budget supplementation in the next financial period, starting with a baseline budget of existing spending levels. The Council recommended that: (a) the revised budget proposal should be accompanied a series of proposed: (i) non-controllable cost increases; (ii) savings measures; and (iii) investment measures; (b) for each measure, component activities, their costs, some justification and the risk of action or inaction should be briefly formulated; (c) the revised budget proposal should identify and quantify possible savings measures so that corresponding resources can be reallocated to priority activities, prior to consideration of bids for additional funding; and (d) savings could be either efficiencies in internal processes or could arise from proposed reductions in work programmes.

The Council appreciated the progress made by the Secretariat in implementing risk management and advancing the maturity of the system, as observed by the Audit Committee. It noted that risk management was an integral part of systems and of internal control and was becoming organic and integrated into the planning, monitoring and evaluation processes. Through Resolution 22¹⁹, the Council agreed to revise the WMO Risk Management Policy to enable the Organization to pursue opportunities if they outweigh the risks and if the existing controls are adequate. The Council encouraged the technical commissions and regional associations to apply the policy in considering risks and opportunities that may be associated with the implementation of the WMO Strategic Plan.

The Council took note of the report of the External Auditor on the financial statement for 2013, noting with appreciation that the External Auditor had issued an unqualified opinion. Through Resolution 23²⁰, it gave formal approval to the audited financial statement of WMO for the year 2013.

The Council noted that WMO is managing a significant number of projects funded with voluntary contributions in addition to the Voluntary Cooperation Fund. Through Resolution 24²¹, it recommended for consideration by Seventeenth Congress that the Secretary-General's authority to borrow internally extend to all voluntary funding, to the extent that such borrowing does not affect the activities financed under such funding.

The Council reviewed those of its previous resolutions that were still in force at the time of the session. It adopted Resolution 25²² with a list of resolutions from past sessions to be kept in force.

Preparation for the seventeenth financial period (2016-2019)

WMO Strategic Plan

The Council considered the draft WMO Strategic Plan 2016-2019 and decided to recommend it to Congress with further improvements to:

- (a) Simplify the topology of the document, making the priorities the centrepiece of the document and ensuring that they are explicitly linked to budget requests set out in the revised budget proposal;
- (b) Have the following as priorities:
 1. Improve the ability of NMSs to meet ICAO requirements focusing on accelerating the implementation of competency standards and QMS to: (a) meet the emerging

¹⁹ Resolution 22 – Implementation of risk management.

²⁰ Resolution 23 – Financial statements of the World Meteorological Organization for the year 2013.

²¹ Resolution 24 – Proposed revision to Resolution 31 (Cg-XIII) – Short-term borrowing authority.

²² Resolution 25 – Review of previous resolutions of the Executive Council.

- needs of the global air navigation plan; (b) meet the emerging issues in WMO Regions; and (c) strengthen cost recovery frameworks;
2. Implement climate services under the GFCS Implementation Plan particularly for countries that lack them focusing on supporting the establishment of regional climate centres; identify user requirements for climate products; develop the Climate Services Information System(CSIS);
 3. Complete the implementation of the WIGOS/WIS focusing on the implementation of all the building blocks of the framework and supporting the uptake at regional and national levels;
 4. Implement operational polar weather, climate, and hydrological services focusing on operationalizing the Global Cryosphere Watch and advancing the Global Integrated Polar Prediction System (GIPPS);
 5. Enhance the capacity development of NMHSs to deliver on their mission by helping them to enhance their human resources, technical capacities and their infrastructure, particularly in developing, least developed and small island developing states;
 6. Improve expertise in providing high quality impact-based forecasts and, in particular, early warning of high impact weather, climate and water events, thereby contributing to international efforts on Disaster Risk Reduction and Prevention; and
 7. Conduct a strategic review of WMO structures, operating arrangements and budgeting practices focusing on the effectiveness of constituent body activities and the Secretariat arrangements;
- (c) Shorten and simplify the Strategic Plan, use action-oriented language and delete the appendices.

The Council agreed that this work should be implemented by the end of August to ensure alignment with the Strategic Plan.

Budget

The Council considered the Secretary-General's budget proposals for the seventeenth financial period (2016-2019) prepared in accordance with Resolution 20 (EC-65) and recommended that:

The budget proposed should be informed by the strategic plan and be completed in time for submission to Members 6 months prior to Congress as per WMO regulations.

Other issues to be discussed at Cg-17

Terms for the Secretary-General

The Council recommended that the options to be presented to Congress regarding the regulation defining the number of terms of the Secretary-General be limited to two, namely:

- (a) Keeping the current Regulation 198 on the number of terms of the Secretary-General unchanged, that is three four-year terms; **or**
- (b) Reducing the number of terms for the Secretary-General as currently provided for in Regulation 198 that is to two four-year terms.

Number and distribution of seats in the Executive Council

The Council noted the proposal of Regional Association II (Asia) for one additional seat for the Region in the Executive Council and the positions of the Regional Associations I (Africa), III (South America), IV (North America, Central America and the Caribbean), V (South-West Pacific) and VI

(Europe) in reaction to this proposal, and recommended that Congress be provided with a comprehensive overview of the decisions taken by Congress in the past in relation to the increase in the number and distribution of seats in the Executive Council.

The comprehensive overview provided to Congress should include current problems with EC and RAs representation, the steps taken to overcome these issues so far, as well as clarify the benefits and the additional costs of additional seats.

Role and responsibilities of regional associations and any corresponding amendment to the General Regulations

7.3(4).1 The Council recalled that at its sixty-fifth session, it agreed to the need to amend the General Regulations in relation to the role and responsibilities of regional associations (RAs) and decided to recommend amendments to Regulation 162 of the General Regulations and its Annex II to Cg-17.

Other related Organization issues

Message to the International Civil Service Commission and UN General Assembly

The Council considered a proposal submitted by the Financial Advisory Committee (FINAC) regarding the serious concerns of WMO's Members about the impact of rising staff compensation costs on the financial sustainability of the Organization. Through Resolution 1²³, the Council requested the Secretary-General to convey a strong message to the International Civil Service Commission (ICSC) and the UN General Assembly regarding concerns about the impact of rising staff compensation costs.

Meetings of Presidents of Regional Associations and coordination between regional associations and technical commissions

The Council noted that the 2014 Meeting of the Presidents of Regional Associations (2014-PRA) held in Geneva on 20-21 January 2014 addressed information on the preparation of the new WMO Strategic and Operational Plans (SOP) 2016-2019; improvement of how the work of regional associations is conducted; partnership and collaboration in Regions; and support for regional activities. The full report for the meeting is available at: <https://sites.google.com/a/wmo.int/2014-pra-1/>. The Council further noted the suggestions and conclusions from the 2014 Meeting of Presidents of Regional Associations (2014-PRA) and the 2014 Joint Meeting of the Presidents of Regional Associations and Presidents of Technical Commissions (2014-PRA-PTC) and the reports of presidents of regional association. In order to regularize and streamline the interactions of regional associations and technical commissions, it adopted Resolution 2²⁴ and Resolution 3²⁵, respectively.

Other Highlights of the session

The Council designated newly elected members, as follows: Mr Teshome (Ethiopia), who replaces Mr Mukabana (Kenya); Mr Konate (Côte d' Ivoire) to replace Mr Traore (Niger); Mr Nishide (Japan) to replace Mr Hatori (Japan); Mr Ko (Republic of Korea) to replace Mr Lee (Republic of Korea); Mr Gonzalez Lopez (Spain) to replace Mr Cano (Spain); and Mr Lacave (France) to replace Mr Jacq (France). Mr Andi Sakya, Permanent Representative of Indonesia, replaces Mrs Sri W.B. Harijono as president of Regional Association V.

²³ Resolution 1 - Message to the International Civil Service Commission and UN General Assembly,

²⁴ Resolution 2 - Regular Meetings of Presidents of Regional Associations

²⁵ Resolution 3 - Coordination between regional associations and technical commissions

Dr Tillmann Mohr (Germany) received the fifty-eighth IMO Prize for his outstanding contribution to satellite meteorology. He delivered a scientific lecture on “The Global Meteorological Satellite System – one of WMO’s outstanding success stories”, which focused on how advances in satellite technology have dramatically contributed to improving the accuracy of weather forecasts as well as the understanding of the atmosphere and oceans. He addressed future challenges, including the need to prepare for the use of a new generation of meteorological satellites. Dr Mohr’s involvement with satellite activities started in 1971 and continued for the rest of his career. He was President of the German Weather Service and Permanent Representative of Germany with WMO from 1992 until 1994. He was Director-General of EUMETSAT (European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites) from 1994 to 2004. The Council awarded the fifty-ninth IMO Prize to Dr Alexander Bedritskiy of the Russian Federation, President Emeritus of WMO since 2011, for his outstanding work in meteorology, climatology, hydrology and related sciences.

The Council noted that the Norbert Gerbier-Mumm International Award has been awarded for the past 27 years with the generous support of the Mumm Foundation, which can no longer support the award. The Council agreed to suspend the Norbert Gerbier-Mumm International Award in order to consider other potential donors or to reconstitute the Award.

The Council conferred the 2014 WMO Research Award for Young Scientists on Mr Feng Chen for the paper entitled ‘A 426-year drought history for Western Tian Shan, Central Asia, inferred from tree rings and linkages to the North Atlantic and Indo-West Pacific Oceans’ by Chen et al. (The Holocene 23(8) 1095-1104).

The twenty-fourth Professor Dr Vilho Väisälä Award for an Outstanding Research Paper on Instruments and Methods of Observation was conferred on A. Overeem, H. Leijnse, and R. Uijlenhoet (all from The Netherlands) for the paper entitled ‘Country-wide rainfall maps from cellular communication networks’ published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America, Vol. 110, No. 8, p.2741-2745, 2013 and decided not to award the fifth Professor Dr Vilho Väisälä Award for the Development and Implementation of Instruments and Methods of Observation to any of the proposed publications.

The Council agreed that the sixty-seventh session would be held at WMO headquarters from 15 to 17 June 2015, immediately following the Seventeenth Congress in 2015. The Council further tentatively scheduled the sixty-eighth session to be held at the WMO headquarters from Wednesday 25 May to Friday 3 June 2016.

The sixty-sixth session of the Council was attended by representatives from 7 WMO Members.
