

**WMO OMM**

World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale
Organización Meteorológica Mundial
Всемирная метеорологическая организация
المنظمة العالمية للأرصاد الجوية
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Our ref.: WDS-DPFS/Revised Manual on GDPFS-2017

GENEVA, 16 January 2017

Annexes: 2 (available in English only)

Subject: Revised *Manual on the Global Data-processing and Forecasting System (GDPFS)* (WMO-No. 485)

- Action required:
1. WMO Members currently hosting a WMC and/or RSMC to confirm the mapping of their centres onto the new designations, as presented in Annex 1
 2. WMO Members, who have expressed interest to have their centres designated at the time of the CBS-16 session, to complete the designation process, as given in Annex 2
 3. All WMO Members that fulfil the criteria/functions described in the revised *Manual on the GDPFS* (WMO-No. 485) to submit their candidature for designation, following the procedure describe in Annex 2

Dear Sir/Madam,

The *Manual on the Global Data-processing and Forecasting System (GDPFS)* (WMO-No. 485) is the single source of technical regulations for all operational data-processing and forecasting systems of WMO Members, including their designated operational centres. Following the request by the Commission for Basic Systems, at its fourteenth session (CBS-XIV, 2009), the revision of the *Manual on the GDPFS* was initiated, and the outline for the revised *Manual* was adopted by the Sixteenth World Meteorological Congress (Cg-XVI, 2011) through Resolution 6 (Cg-XVI). Noting that the revised *Manual* introduces a number of changes to the current procedures, the Commission for Basic Systems, at its 2014 extraordinary session (CBS-Ext.(2014)), considered the comprehensive summary of changes of functions and procedures that would ensure a smooth transition to the revised *Manual*, which was approved by the Seventeenth World Meteorological Congress (Cg-17, 2015) through Resolution 12 (Cg-17). Acknowledging that the revised *Manual* is being developed in accordance with quality management principles, which ensures its sustainability as part of the WMO Quality Management Framework (QMF), and would facilitate the review of compliance of GDPFS Centres against the designation criteria as well as the incorporation of new types of GDPFS Centres, CBS-Ext.(2014) recommended a roadmap for the completion of the new *Manual*, including transition arrangements for its implementation to manage the technical changes and the initial designation of the GDPFS Centres as defined in the revised *Manual*, including World Meteorological Centres (WMCs) and Regional Specialized Meteorological Centres (RSMCs), which were also approved by Cg-17 in Resolution 12 (Cg-17).

To: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services) of Members of WMO (PR-6946)
Director General of ECMWF

I am now pleased to inform you that the revision of the *Manual on the GDPFS* (WMO-No. 485) has been completed and recently considered at the sixteenth session of the Commission for Basic Systems (CBS-16, November 2016), in agenda item 3.6. The Table of Contents of the revised *Manual*, endorsed by CBS-16, is provided in Annex 1 for your easy reference. I wish to bring to your attention that CBS-16 recommended to the Executive Council the adoption of the revised *Manual*, and decided to follow the designation process of GDPFS Centres, as described in Part I, section 1.2.6, of the revised *Manual*, also attached herewith for your easy reference (Annex 2).

I wish to recall that through WMO semi-circular letter ref. 8384-16/WDS-DPFS/New Manual on GDPFS-2016, dated 13 June 2016, WMO Members currently hosting a WMC and/or RSMC were asked to confirm the mapping of their centres onto the new designations (taking into account their functions described in the revised *Manual on the GDPFS*). Noting that many WMO Members, especially those currently hosting RSMCs with geographical specialization, have not as yet confirmed the mapping of their centres, I would appreciate it if you do so at your earliest convenience **but preferably not later than 28 February 2017** for inclusion in the revised *Manual on the GDPFS*, to be submitted to upcoming sixty-ninth session of the WMO Executive Council (EC-69). In addition, and noting the interest of some WMO Members to have their centres designated (including on new type of centres incorporated into the revised *Manual*) at the time of CBS-16 session, I would also appreciate it if you could complete the designation process, as given in Annex 2, at your earliest convenience **but preferably not later than 28 February 2017**. Finally, I would like to invite any WMO Member that fulfils the criteria/functions described in the revised *Manual on the GDPFS* (WMO-No. 485) to submit their candidature for designation, following the procedure describe in Annex 2.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my personal gratitude to you and your Service for your continued support in making meteorological products of the WMO's Global Data-processing and Forecasting System (GDPFS), increasingly more relevant in the world.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Zhang', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

(W. Zhang)

for the Secretary-General

**REVISED MANUAL ON THE GLOBAL DATA-PROCESSING AND FORECASTING SYSTEM
(WMO-No. 485)**

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1.2.6 Designation process

1.2.6.1 Each Member shall designate a National Meteorological Centre.

1.2.6.2 World Meteorological Centres, Regional Specialized Meteorological Centres and RSMC Networks shall be designated by a decision of the World Meteorological Congress or the WMO Executive Council. The designation of such centres shall include the specification of the activity/function (or activities/functions) to be carried out.

1.2.6.3 Requests for designation as a World Meteorological Centre or Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre shall be put forward by the Permanent Representative of the country of the candidate centre, or in the case of international organizations by the Permanent Representative of the country where the candidate centre is located or the president of the relevant regional association(s).

1.2.6.4 Requests for designation as an RSMC Network shall be put forward by the president of the relevant regional association, or in the case of Networks established across two or more RAs, jointly by their presidents.

Note: Centres constituting in a Network will organize themselves as appropriate, depending on their own context and specificities, so as to ensure that the documentation requested as per paragraph 1.2.5.2 is available.

1.2.6.5 Requests for designation shall be addressed to the WMO Secretariat, who will forward them to the relevant constituent bodies as indicated in the tables labeled "Responsibility" given for each activity in Part II, item 2 of the Manual. Supporting information demonstrating compliance with designation criteria shall be included with the request.

1.2.6.6 Depending on the type of activity, endorsement by the regional association(s) and technical commission(s) may be required before designation by Congress or EC, as specified in Part II, section 2, of the Manual.
