

**WMO OMM**

World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale
Organización Meteorológica Mundial
Всемирная метеорологическая организация
المنظمة العالمية للأرصاد الجوية
世界气象组织

Secrétariat

7 bis, avenue de la Paix – Case postale 2300
CH 1211 Genève 2 – Suisse
Tél.: +41 (0) 22 730 81 11
Fax: +41 (0) 22 730 81 81
wmo@wmo.int – public.wmo.int

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18 March 2020

Subject: Notification of change of date of the Joint Session of the Technical Commissions and the Research Board and adoption by correspondence of critical decisions

Actions required: 1) Comment by **3 April** and adopt by correspondence the two critical documents
2) Nominate candidates for the positions of chair and vice-chair for the commissions' subsidiary bodies by **10 April**.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to inform you that the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has been closely monitoring the situation in relation to the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak and regularly consulting with the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the Swiss authorities and our Members. As a result of the escalation of the outbreak, I regret to inform you that WMO has decided to postpone the Joint Session of the Technical Commissions and the Research Board, originally planned to take place from 4 to 8 April 2020 in Geneva, Switzerland. This decision has been taken in consultation with the presidents of the technical commissions and the chair of the Research Board.

It is now planned to organize the joint session in Autumn 2020. The exact dates will depend on external factors and will be communicated to Members at a later stage. In consultation with the WMO president, the executive management is also looking strategically at options concerning the re-scheduling of other related events including the Technical Coordination Committee, the Policy Advisory Committee, the Scientific Advisory Board and the 72nd Session of the Executive Council, which were due to take place over the next few months but have since been cancelled.

The presidents of the technical commissions and the chair of the Research Board have recognized the importance of commencing the work of their respective bodies as soon as possible. As a result, priority is being given to reaching agreement on the working structures of the technical commissions, including the Terms of Reference of the Standing Committees and Study Groups, the appointment of their chairs and vice-chairs, and to the work programmes for the interim period.

It is important to the work of the commissions that their membership is finalized and Members are urged to continue making nominations of experts based on the existing nomination process, explained on <https://public.wmo.int/en/community-platform>. Whilst the nomination process will remain open, to be considered for the positions of chair and vice-chair of Standing Committees and Study Groups, Members must complete their nominations by **10 April 2020**. There is no limit to the number of experts Members may nominate. Having a wide pool of nominated experts will ensure that all necessary expertise can be found while taking into consideration regional and gender balance.

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

cc: Hydrological Advisers to Permanent Representatives

A Selection Committee will be established to review all nominations received and to make recommendations to the presidents on the selection of chairs and vice-chairs. This committee will be composed of the presidents and vice presidents of the commissions, the chair and co-chair of the Research Board, and the presidents of the Regional Associations.

To commence the work of the commissions, the two documents describing the respective terms of reference, membership and work programmes of the subsidiary bodies, namely **INFCOM-1/DOC. 3** and **SERCOM-1/Doc. 3**, have been posted on the joint session website at: <https://meetings.wmo.int/JM-TC>. Members are invited to review these documents and to propose changes by **3 April 2020** via email to plenary@wmo.int.

Based on the feedback received on the first draft of the two documents, and incorporating the recommendations of the Selection Committee, the Secretariat, in consultation with the presidents of the technical commissions, will produce and post a second draft of the two documents that will be adopted by correspondence as interim drafts to guide the work of the commissions. These decisions will be subsequently formally adopted at the joint session.

All other decisions originally proposed for the joint session will be deferred to the session later in the year.

Yours faithfully,



(P. Taalas)
Secretary-General