

**WMO OMM**

World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale
Organización Meteorológica Mundial
Всемирная метеорологическая организация
المنظمة العالمية للأرصاد الجوية
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Our ref.: 17142/2021/I/ONM/WMO Unified Data Policy

20 July 2021

Subject: WMO Unified Policy for the International Exchange of Earth System Data

Action required: To provide the WMO Secretariat with your feedback on the draft document by **17 September 2021**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to refer to [Resolution 56 \(Cg-18\)](#) – Data policies and practices, in which the Executive Council was required to establish a process for the review of the WMO data policies and practices expressed in [Resolution 40 \(Cg-XII\)](#) – WMO policy and practice for the exchange of meteorological and related data and products including guidelines on relationships in commercial meteorological activities, [Resolution 25 \(Cg-XIII\)](#) – Exchange of hydrological data and products, and [Resolution 60 \(Cg-17\)](#) – WMO policy for the international exchange of climate data and products to support the implementation of the Global Framework for Climate Services.

The Study Group on Data Issues and Policy (SG-DIP) of the Commission for Observation, Infrastructure and Information Systems (INFCOM) has developed the draft WMO Unified Policy for the International Exchange of Earth System Data, incorporating the feedback provided by the [WMO Data Conference](#) held in November 2020.

This policy takes into account [Resolution 34 \(Cg-18\)](#) – Global Basic Observing Network, which initiated the design of a Global Basic Observing Network to better meet the current and future observational requirements for global numerical weather prediction and climate reanalysis.

The policy also takes into account the recommendation of the Commission for Observation, Infrastructure and Information Systems at its first session, part III (INFCOM-1) (12–16 April 2021) and of the Executive Council at its seventy-third session (EC-73) (14–25 June 2021). At these sessions, it was recommended that Congress consider the WMO Unified Policy for the International Exchange of Earth System Data through the draft resolution provided in the annex to document [EC-73/Doc. 3.4\(1\)](#), available on the [PROVISIONAL REPORT \(Approved documents\)](#) page of the [EC-73 session website](#).

In addition to the above recommendation, EC-73 requested that INFCOM develop an initial list of Earth system data to be exchanged as core and recommended data under the new policy and that INFCOM provide this list to the WMO Congress along with the draft WMO Unified Policy for the International Exchange of Earth System Data. The initial draft list of core data is available for consultation [on this page](#).

To: Permanent Representatives of Members with WMO

cc: Hydrological Advisers

On behalf of EC-73, I wish to invite all Members to communicate the WMO Unified Policy for the International Exchange of Earth System Data to stakeholders, including those in the private sector, at the national level in order to foster a mutual understanding of the policy and to ensure its implementation.

The review process is in accordance with the General Provisions of the *Technical Regulations* (WMO-No. 49), Volume I, which state that any amendments to the *Technical Regulations* submitted by Members or by constituent bodies should be communicated to all Members at least three months before they are submitted to Congress.

You are kindly invited to provide your comments on or edits to the draft WMO Unified Policy for the International Exchange of Earth System Data (amending the document with the Track Changes feature active) to the WMO Secretariat: Anthony Rea, Director, Infrastructure Department (area@wmo.int), with a copy to Lars Peter Riishojgaard, Director, Earth System Branch, Infrastructure Department (Iriishojgaard@wmo.int) and Igor Zahumensky, Scientific Officer (izahumensky@wmo.int) at your earliest convenience, but no later than **17 September 2021**. This timeline will allow the relevant individuals to review and to incorporate, as appropriate, modifications to the draft WMO Unified Policy for the International Exchange of Earth System Data proposed by Members prior to the Extraordinary session of the World Meteorological Congress in 2021 (Cg-Ext(2021)) as requested by EC-73.

I take this opportunity to thank you for your important contribution to this review. Should you or your experts require additional information or clarification about this process, please do not hesitate to contact the WMO Secretariat contacts listed above.

Yours faithfully,



Dr Wenjian Zhang
for the Secretary-General