



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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GENEVA, 23 February 2017

Annexes: 2 (available in English only)

Subject: Regional Basic Synoptic Network (RBSN) and Regional Basic Climatological Network (RBCN) in Regional Association IV, and pilot Regional Basic Observing Network (RBON)

Action required: Comments to be sent to the WMO Secretariat, as soon as possible, but preferably not later than **28 February 2017**

Dear Sir/Madam,

As you may be aware, the upcoming seventeenth session of Regional Association IV (RA IV-17) (San José, Costa Rica, 27-31 March 2017) will decide on updated lists of stations in the Regional Basic Synoptic Network (RBSN) and in the Regional Basic Climatological Network (RBCN) for Region IV (North America, Central America and the Caribbean). As part of the regional WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS) implementation, a Regional Basic Observing Network (RBON) is also being introduced to eventually replace the existing RBSN and RBCN networks, the concepts of which are becoming outdated as Members implement a wider range of observing systems in integrated composite networks serving multiple applications.

Pending formal establishment of RBON by the eighteenth session of the World Meteorological Congress (Cg-18) in 2019, and in order to maintain the stability of the two networks, it is felt that the main framework of the existing networks should largely remain unchanged, and that minor changes may only be made in accordance with the request of the RA IV Members. Accordingly, all Members of the Region are invited to review their list of stations in RBSN and RBCN and to propose any changes if deemed necessary. The changes required for the two networks would then be finalized and annexed to the appropriate draft resolutions to be submitted for approval to RA IV-17. For ease of reference, the current proposed lists of RBSN and RBCN stations (Annexes 1 and 2) are available on the WMO website at:

<http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/ois/rbsn-rbcn/rbsn-rbcn-home.htm>

Regarding RBON, the stations/platforms currently comprising RBSN and RBCN are expected to eventually constitute the backbone of RBON supplemented by other types of stations/platforms. The primary aim is to develop the definition of an integrated RBON together with a new database of station information which will more completely describe the WMO observing capabilities assembled collectively by Members.

To: Permanent Representatives of Members of Regional Association IV

cc: Chairperson and co-chairperson, RA IV Task Team on)
 Regional WIS/WIGOS) (for information)

The Commission for Basic Systems (CBS) endorsed the RBON concept during its sixteenth session (CBS-16) held in Guangzhou, China, from 23 to 29 November 2016. Based on that concept, Technical Regulations will be developed in the next couple of years by CBS in consultation with the regional associations. RA IV-17 (please refer to the corresponding documents in due course) will also be invited to: (i) decide on a pilot RBON for RA IV to initially include the merging of all RBSN and RBCN stations of the Association; (ii) request the Association Members to propose additional observing stations in the RBON Pilot; (iii) task the RA IV regional Working Group on WIS and WIGOS to recommend to the president of RA IV a list of stations to be included in the proposed RBON Pilot for RA IV; and (iv) authorize the president of RA IV to approve changes to the list of stations.

In this regard, and to prepare for RA IV-17 discussions and expected decisions, I request you to:

- (a) Pay particular attention to the document (see: Document [CBS-16-d05-4-1\(4\)-RBON-approved_en](#) at <http://meetings.wmo.int/CBS-16>) approved by CBS-16;
- (b) Ensure that you review the lists of RBSN and RBCN stations which fall within your area of responsibility and send in your amendments to the WMO Secretariat, if any, as soon as possible, but preferably not later than **28 February 2017**.

I should, therefore, be grateful if you could note the information in the letter and take THE necessary actions as requested.

Yours faithfully,



(W. Zhang)
for the Secretary-General