



**World Meteorological Organization**  
**Organisation météorologique mondiale**

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Our ref.: SG/CER/EC-64

GENEVA, 17 August 2012

Annex: 1

Subject: Major outcomes of EC-64

Dear Sir/Madam,

As you are aware, the sixty-fourth session of the WMO Executive Council (EC-64) was held at the WMO Headquarters in Geneva, from 25 June to 3 July 2012. It was first full session of the Council for the sixteenth financial period (2012-2015). The Council worked on the basis of the directives of the Cg-XVI and previous EC's, 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 <https://sites.google.com/a/wmo.int/ec-64-main-page/>. The final abridged report with resolutions will be finalized in all languages at the beginning of 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 WMO Strategic Plan.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Jarraud', written over a horizontal line.

(M. Jarraud)  
Secretary-General

To: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services)  
of Members of WMO (PR-6658)

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

**MAJOR OUTCOMES OF THE SIXTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE  
WMO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
(Geneva, 25 June to 3 July 2012)**

**Introduction**

The sixty-fourth session of the Executive Council was convened from 25 June to 3 July 2012 at the Headquarters of the World Meteorological Organization under the Chairmanship of WMO President Mr David Grimes.

The session was the Council's first full sitting of the sixteenth financial period (2012-2015). Working on the basis of the directives of the Sixteenth World Meteorological Congress and previous Executive 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.

The Council reviewed WMO's activities over the period since its last session in June 2011. It examined a number of priorities, including the Global Framework on Climate Services (GFCS) and preparations for the forthcoming Extraordinary Congress in October. The Council decided that the Extraordinary Session of Congress will be held from 29 to 31 October 2012. The Session will be invited to review and adopt the draft Implementation Plan for the GFCS and to consider and adopt the Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure for the Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services.

The Council also addressed other WMO priorities, such as enhanced disaster risk reduction, improved observation and information systems, the need for more efficient meteorological services for the aviation sector, and capacity strengthening of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in developing countries.

The major outcomes of the Council session provide a broad framework for WMO's work for the remainder of this financial period. This report presents a brief summary of the outcomes for the GFCS programme and Extraordinary Congress followed by the other major outcomes grouped according to the eight Expected Results contained in the WMO Strategic Plan.

**Global Framework for Climate Services**

The Council reviewed the First Order Draft Implementation Plan for the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) that had been produced by the Executive Council Task Team on the GFCS (ECTT-GFCS). It provided guidance for the Plan's further development to ensure that the Implementation Plan will clearly identify the benefits to be realized through the improved availability and application of climate services.

The Council requested the ECTT-GFCS to continue its work on completing the draft Implementation Plan in consultation with Members and relevant GFCS partner organizations. It requested the Secretary-General to submit the completed draft to the Extraordinary Session of the World Meteorological Congress, invite feedback from Members before the session, and make available a compendium of views submitted by Members. The Council further requested the Secretary-General to pursue high-level contacts with heads of other United Nations and international agencies with a view to mobilizing support for the GFCS and initiating specific support activities.

The Council prepared a draft resolution on the “Draft Implementation Plan for the GFCS” that the Extraordinary Congress will be invited to review and adopt. It also prepared a draft resolution for Congress to consider on the “Establishment of the Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services”. While the Council agreed with the broad thrust of the terms of reference and rules of procedure set out in the draft resolution on the Board, it noted areas where amendments would still be needed. It also confirmed that comments continue to be solicited from Member States and Territories and that further refinements will be made during the time leading up to the Extraordinary Congress.

The Executive Council noted the preparations being made for the Extraordinary Session. It approved the provisional agenda and requested that it be distributed with the notification of the session.

The Council agreed that a well-coordinated implementation of the World Climate Programme (WCP) and its components will enhance WMO's contribution to the GFCS. It urged Members to closely align their operational climate service capabilities with the emerging requirements of the GFCS.

The Council noted the initiatives that have been taken by the GFCS Office to compile case studies pertaining to GFCS for discussion at the two-day GFCS User Conference that will immediately precede the Extraordinary Session. The Council urged Members to provide the required inputs and requested the Secretary-General to make use of such case studies for effectively communicating the WMO contribution to the GFCS.

The Council adopted a resolution that established an “EC Task Team on the WMO Policy for International Exchange of Climate Data and Products to support the Implementation of the GFCS” and its related terms of reference. It also adopted a resolution on a “Joint Mechanism to Support the Implementation of Climate Services Information System (CSIS)”. The resolution requests the presidents of the Commission for Climatology (CCI), the Commission for Basic Systems (CBS) and the Commission for Atmospheric Sciences (CAS), as well as the Chairman of the Joint Scientific Committee of the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP), to improve coordination of their CSIS-relevant programmes and activities and, if necessary, to propose an appropriate joint mechanism through which these matters could be better addressed to ensure an effective, sustained and seamless operation of the CSIS.

Finally, as part of WMO's contribution to the GFCS the Council also considered and adopted a resolution on the “Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Executive Council Working Group on Climate and Related Weather, Water and Environmental Matters (ECWG-CWE)” for the sixteenth financial period.

### **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 that the Executive Council Working Group on Service Delivery (EC-WG-SD) has elaborated the agreed strategic priorities for Expected Result 1 in order to provide further guidance to the expert teams and working groups carrying out related activities. The elaborated priorities are to: (i) improve services for international civil aviation (Aeronautical Meteorology); (ii) improve user focus and service delivery capability; (iii) improve products and services; (iv) increase the focus on services that address socio-economic issues; (v) contribute to capacity-building and training to improve service delivery capabilities; (vi) implement actions related to the Resolutions of the Sixteenth World Meteorological Congress for strengthening the Tropical Cyclone Programme's (TCP) global and regional components; and (vii) support actions being taken by TCP's global component as well as through TCP's regionally coordinated mechanisms to carry out the Congress resolutions on improving the quality of the tropical cyclone forecasting and warning service.

Having been informed of significant information deficits concerning the implementation status of such priority items as Quality Management Systems (QMS), Competency Assessments and SIGMET issuance, the Council strongly requested Members to provide the necessary status information to the Secretariat through timely replies to relevant questionnaires. The Council further reminded Members that only complete, up-to-date and accurate information on the implementation status can be used to prioritize Secretariat and other support to Members. It then adopted a resolution on “Alternate means of compliance with ICAO/SIGMET provisions”, which urges Members to: (i) address requisite deficiencies as a matter of priority using the training resources available from WMO and ICAO; (ii) requests Members to take appropriate action to ensure compliance with their respective requirements; and (iii) requests the Secretary-General and the presidents of technical commissions and regional associations to provide technical expertise, coordination and support where possible to facilitate early compliance with the relevant regulations.

Having noted that service delivery is fundamental to all WMO Programmes, the Council further noted that the Sixteenth World Meteorological Congress had approved the WMO Strategy for Service Delivery as a framework for the delivery of meteorological and hydrological services to users. It had also requested the Secretary-General, as a next step, to prepare an Implementation Plan for the Strategy. The Council encouraged Members to adapt and apply the Strategy to their own service delivery strategies and plans. The Council requested the Secretary-General to arrange for the submission of the draft Implementation Plan to the next session of the Council (EC-65) for approval.

The Council encouraged the assessment and demonstration of the socio-economic benefits of the services provided by NMHSs and reiterated the urgent need for developing appropriate methodologies. In response to the request by Congress that the WMO Strategy for Service Delivery should be used by NMHSs to improve their relationships with users, the Council adopted a resolution on the “Social, Economic and Policy Impacts of Weather, Climate and Water Services”. The resolution requests the Secretary General to: (i) support the implementation of pilot projects on socio-economic benefits of services provided by NMHSs and collect and analyze their outcomes and make this information available to Members and funding agencies; (ii) use the lessons learnt from the pilot projects to coordinate the adoption of an agreed WMO-World Bank methodology for assessing the benefits arising from meteorological and hydrological services; and (iii) arrange for publication of the guidance material and the proceedings from the 2011 Lucerne Conference on the Social and Economic Benefits of Weather, Climate and Water Services.

## **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 that the Executive Council Working Group on Service Delivery has elaborated strategic priorities for Expected Result 2 to provide further guidance to the expert teams and working groups carrying out related activities in a number of priority areas. These areas include: (i) implementation of the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Programme two-tier work plan; (ii) establishment of the DRR User-Interface Mechanisms for development of user requirements; (iii) further development of the governance mechanisms for the DRR programmes; (iv) contributions to the development of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) through the implementation of the DRR Work Plan; and (v) facilitation of a better alignment of the activities of certain WMO technical programmes and Commissions that are relevant to this expected result.

Through a resolution on the “Enhanced capabilities of Members to reduce risks and potential impacts of hazards caused by weather climate, water and related environmental elements”, the Council endorsed the DRR Work Plan and the establishment of DRR User-Interface Expert Advisory Groups and mechanisms to help guide its implementation. The Work Plan seeks to facilitate a better alignment of the activities of WMO’s constituent bodies, global operational

network and strategic partners to assist NMHSs to develop requisite partnerships and capacities for effective DRR management. It urged Members to support the implementation of the Work Plan.

The resolution also requests the Executive Council Working Group on Service Delivery to develop recommendations to the Executive Council for the further development of the DRR Programme's governance mechanism. An assessment of lessons learned from DRR programme achievements to date is needed. Other important issues are the development of guidelines, standards and training modules for the provision of products and services by NMHSs; collaboration with the presidents of technical commissions to ensure that technical assistance projects are coordinated with the DRR Programme's cross-cutting framework and serve as key contributions to the DRR Work Plan; and the establishment of a link between the DRR Work Plan and the GFCS implementation activities.

### **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 Executive Council welcomed the ongoing work of the Commission for Climatology (CCI) on the provision of commonly agreed definitions of extreme weather and climate events and the development of techniques and procedures to monitor their occurrence. It urged CCI to develop guidance for improving WMO Technical Regulations and Guidelines on this matter and requested the Secretary-General to provide further support to achieve this goal.

The Council was pleased to note the increased number of Members, including developing countries, contributing to the WMO statement on the status of the global climate. It urged the Members and the Secretariat to create and further contribute in a timely manner to websites that carry information on climate anomalies and extremes. It requested CCI and the Secretariat to further liaise with the WMO Space Programme on additional satellite products that can improve WMO's Climate System Monitoring project.

The Council noted that WMO and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought (UNCCD), in collaboration with a number of UN agencies, international and regional organizations and key national agencies, will organize a High-level Meeting on National Drought Policy (HMNDP) from 11 to 15 March 2013 in Geneva. The Council noted that the overarching theme for HMNDP is "Reducing Societal Vulnerability – Helping Society (Communities and Sectors) to Cope with Droughts through National Drought Policy". Recognising that the goal of national drought policies is to create more drought-resilient societies through enhanced cooperation and coordination at all levels of governments, the Council urged all NMHSs to extend their full support and to encourage relevant ministries and agencies in their countries to actively participate in the HMNDP.

The Council adopted a Resolution on the "High Level Meeting on National Drought Policy" requesting the Secretary-General to: (i) support the organizing committee's continued work on further developing the agenda for the scientific and high-level segments of the meeting; (ii) develop precise budget estimates and a plan for resource mobilization; and iii) to continue to coordinate with relevant agencies and organizations at the national and international levels in order to seek their active participation in the meeting.

The Council was informed that the Joint Expert Group on Climate, Food and Water (JEG-CFW) has proposed an integrated approach to addressing the climate-water-food nexus. This approach will encourage the development of integrated products and tools for providing supplemental climate, agricultural, water, and other relevant data and information. The Council supported the recommendations made by the JEG-CFW to CCI, the Commission for Agricultural Meteorology (CAgM) and the Commission for Hydrology (CHy). These recommendations include the

compilation of a catalogue of projects and case studies in climate, food, and water; the organization of a Joint Symposium between the three Commissions in 2013; and the development of a joint training seminar or course on climate, food and water interrelationships.

The Council endorsed the JEG-CFW recommendations to the Secretary-General to review the terms of reference of each of the UN Conventions that are related to the CCI, CAgM and CHy and to assist the JEG-CFW in reviewing any existing global phenological initiatives.

The Council was informed that CHy-14 will be held in Geneva from 6 to 14 November 2012. It will review the Commission's activities over the past four years and revise and adopt the draft programme of work for its next intersessional period. The Council noted that the draft programme of work addresses the contributions of hydrology and water resources to the five WMO priority areas, with a particular focus on Disaster Risk Reduction, the Global Framework for Climate Services, Capacity Development and WIS/WIGOS.

The Council recognized the importance of the current involvement of CHy and the HWRP in cross-cutting and cross-Commission climate-related water issues. It encouraged the further enhancement of these developments in the future, particularly with respect to the GFCS and the integrated drought management initiatives.

#### **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 adopted a resolution on the "WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS) Framework Implementation Plan (WIP)". This Plan was developed by the Inter-Commission Coordination Group on WIGOS (ICG-WIGOS), which will monitor progress and submit a report to the Seventeenth World Meteorological Congress. The Council requested Members, the regional associations and the technical commissions to organize their activities so as to realize WIGOS goals and associated outcomes as described in the WIP. It requested the Secretary-General to provide the necessary assistance and Secretariat support for WIGOS implementation, and it invited Partners to participate in relevant implementation activities as specified in the WIP.

The Council also adopted a resolution in which it decided to support radio-frequency coordination as a high priority of the Organization. It urged all Members to do their utmost to ensure the availability and protection of suitable radio-frequency bands required for meteorological and related environmental operations and research.

Regarding the WMO Information System (WIS), the Council adopted several resolutions, notably on: (i) "Designation of Centres of the WMO Information System", which addresses changes to the WIS Manual; (ii) "Responsibility for Creating Aviation XML," which decides that WMO shall control a WMO Logical Data Model for weather, climate and water information, and that ICAO and other organizations whose data representation needs for weather, climate and water information are not met by a WMO standard data representation shall be strongly encouraged to use relevant elements of the WMO Logical Data Model for the technical implementations of that organization's data representations; and (iii) "Submission of World Weather Records (WWRs)" on an annual basis, starting from 2011, to improve the current practice, which is based on a 10-year cycle for the computation.

The Council adopted a resolution on the "Global Climate Observing System" (GCOS) to advance the GCOS Implementation Plan. The resolution urged WMO Members to fully support and participate in the implementation of the relevant actions in the Plan and requests the presidents of technical commissions and regional associations to ensure that the relevant actions identified in the Implementation Plan are incorporated, as appropriate, in the workplans of the Commissions

and in the operational plans of the Associations, especially in the implementation of WIGOS,. The Council encouraged further involvement of Members in the activities of the WMO Space Programme.

### **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 adopted a resolution approving the establishment of a Sub-seasonal to Seasonal Prediction Project and urged Members to consider hosting a project office as well as supporting a trust fund to implement this joint WCRP-WWRP project. It also requested the Secretary-General to establish a trust fund and to solicit offers from Members for a project office.

The Council also approved the establishment of a polar prediction project with strong links with the WCRP polar climate predictability initiative and urged Members to consider hosting a project office and make voluntary contributions to a trust fund to implement the project;

The Council decided on its final proposal for the list of candidates to serve on the Joint Scientific Committee (JSC) for the WCRP. The list will now be discussed with the other WCRP co-sponsors, namely ICSU and IOC/UNESCO.

Recognizing the difficult economic situation facing many countries, the Council requested Members to continue atmospheric chemistry measurements under the Global Atmosphere Watch Programme (GAW), as the closure of stations or measurement programmes implies that long-term time series will be interrupted or terminated.

The Council recommended that WMO work more closely through the GAW Programme with other international agencies and funding mechanisms related to agriculture and food security in order to extend observations of atmospheric composition in agricultural land; this will enable Members to evaluate food security risks due to atmospheric pollution and the potential for agriculture to regulate greenhouse gas emissions.

Turning to the WMO GAW Urban Research Meteorology and Environment (GURME) project, the Council requested Members to consider hosting a facility to deal with the air quality issues that megacities are facing and to donate to the newly established Megacity and GURME Trust Fund.

### **Expected Result 6**

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

The Council adopted a resolution approving the Capacity Development Strategy and requesting the Secretary-General to communicate this Strategy to Members and constituent bodies. Developed by Members through the Executive Council Working Group on Capacity Development (EC-WG/CD), the Strategy seeks to provide a coordinated and cohesive approach to capacity development activities by WMO, aiming at the sustainable development of NMHSs in developing countries, with a particular focus on Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The Council requested the EC-WG/CD to fully develop the Implementation Plan for the Capacity Development Strategy for the sixteenth financial period (2012-2015), in collaboration with relevant constituent bodies and as an integral part of the WMO Operating Plan, by the end of 2012.

The Council agreed that resourcing WMO's efforts to fulfill its mandate and commitments in line with the previously authorized CHF175 M budget funded from voluntary contributions will require significant effort on behalf of the entire Secretariat and Members. They will need to capitalize on all potential sources of direct and indirect investment, including direct financing, technology transfer, sharing of expertise, and leveraging of related initiatives. Noting that there is currently no regional initiative underway in the Arab region for modernizing NMHSs, the Council welcomed the efforts of the Permanent Council on Meteorology of the League of Arab States (PCM-LAS) to address these issues. It also welcomed the offer of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as the current Chair of PCM-LAS to host a Conference to launch such an initiative. The Council considered the priority areas for the Voluntary Cooperation Programme (VCP) Fund for 2012 and supported the proposed new allocations to these areas.

The Council further approved a resolution on the "WMO Programme-Support Cost Policy" that, among other things, requests the Secretary-General to take measures to apply, with immediate effect, the revised WMO Programme-Support Cost Policy to future agreements with donors for activities funded from voluntary contributions.

Welcoming the contributions that Members have made to the WMO Resource Mobilization Office staff through junior professional officers (JPOs) and secondments, the Council encouraged other Members to consider such support.

The Council adopted a resolution to revise the Terms of Reference of the Executive Council Working Group on Capacity Development. The purpose was to ensure its effectiveness as a continued mechanism for reviewing basic issues related to the capacity development of Members in respect of the eight Expected Results of the WMO Strategic Plan (2012-2015).

### **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 ensure a visible and well-recognized participation of WMO at the Rio+20 Conference. It also noted that the Rio+20 Outcome Declaration highlighted the importance of robust and appropriate scientific information to support decision-making, the threat that climate change poses to sustainable development, the critical importance of water to all three dimensions of sustainable development, and the importance of disaster risk reduction for sustainable development.

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. It encouraged NMHSs to work closely with the IPCC to disseminate the findings of the recently completed Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation (SREX). The Council recommended that the IPCC pay additional attention to the polar climate change issues, and it recognized the importance of the cryosphere in the work of the IPCC.

The Council noted that a key WMO added value to the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) is the relationship that WMO has with NMHSs and, through them, other national institutions. GEO's alignment with the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) should be examined. Data available through GEOSS, combined with GEO's focus on broad and open data sharing practices, should be leveraged to the greatest extent possible for GFCS, while GEO and the Climate Societal Benefit Area (SBA) should benefit greatly from engaging with GFCS.

The Council noted the actions taken by the Secretary-General to strengthen cooperation with the United Nations. It requested Members and the Secretary-General to ensure appropriate follow-up



to the resolutions that the sixty-fourth session of the UN General Assembly addressed to the UN specialized agencies and that are relevant to WMO. It also invited Members to participate actively in relevant follow-up to the decisions of UN bodies in order to enhance the contribution of WMO and the NMHSs to the sustainable development of Members.

The Council noted that the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) has invited the GCOS Secretariat to report on a regular basis on progress in implementing the 2010 update of the Implementation Plan for the Global Observing System for Climate in Support of the UNFCCC. It encouraged the GCOS Steering Committee to review, in broad consultation with relevant partners, the adequacy of observing systems for climate. The Council requested the WMO and GCOS Secretariats to monitor developments in both SBSTA and the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) and to contribute to the process as required.

The Council urged all NMHSs in the Arab region to actively support the project entitled "Assessment of the Impact of Climate Change on Water Resources and Socio-Economic Vulnerability in the Arab Region." The project is being implemented by WMO, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the League of Arab States (LAS) and other partners, and is being funded by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA).

### **Expected Result 8**

#### **An effective and efficient organization.**

Taking into account the reports of the Financial Advisory Committee (FINAC) and the Audit Committee, the Executive Council considered and approved the audited financial statements and reports of the external and internal auditors. The Council noted with satisfaction that the External Auditor has issued an unqualified opinion on the accounts for the year 2011. It welcomed the new members of the Audit Committee and thanked the former members for their contributions. The Council adopted a resolution on the "Selection Process of the External Auditor".

Following the recommendation of the Audit Committee, the Council adopted a resolution on a revised "Policy on Disclosure of Internal Audit Reports".

The Council recognized that the non-payment and delayed payment of contributions may have serious impacts on the cash flow and financial situation of the organization as well as on the implementation of approved programmes. It urged the Members to clear their dues at an early date.

The Council also noted that the status of voluntary contributions as of June 2012 indicated a risk that the approved funding targets would not be fully met. It expressed concern over the possible implications of a shortfall in voluntary contributions on the delivery of the approved programmes and considered the need for additional measures to achieve the approved funding targets. It further urged Members to make voluntary contributions to mitigate such a risk. The Council adopted a resolution on WMO's Financial Statements for the year 2011.

Following a presentation of the implementation of the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) System, the Council noted the report of its Working Group on WMO Strategic and Operational Planning (WG/SOP). It encouraged constituent bodies to make use of the Monitoring & Evaluation System and Guide prepared by the Secretariat and to provide feedback to enable further improvements to the documents. The Council also noted that the results of the Survey on the Impacts of Achieved Results on Members provided useful information on areas where WMO has made significant achievements and on those that need more attention. The Council encouraged those Members that have not yet done so to respond to the questionnaire (the survey closes 31 July 2012) so that the results will better represent the situation for most Members.

The Council agreed with the assessment of the Working Group that the M&E process is complex. The M&E System could start to be used to assess progress towards achieving WMO's strategic

priorities, and further improvements could be made by integrating experiences gained through implementation. The Council further supported the recommendations to: (i) include regional-specific questions in the questionnaire assessing the impacts of achieved results on Members by obtaining input from Regional Association planning groups; (ii) identify a smaller set of indicators to monitor particularly those related to the five strategic priorities; and (iii) allow the Secretary-General flexibility to present progress on a smaller set of indicators for the mid-term M&E review.

The Council adopted a resolution on Amendments to the Technical Regulations.

Having noted the recommendations resulting from the Meeting of Presidents of Regional Associations (PRA-2012), and reports of presidents of regional associations, the Council adopted a resolution for a "Review of the role and responsibilities of Regional Associations", to be undertaken by the EC Working Group on WMO Strategic and Operational Planning.

The Council, having noted the summary Report of the fourth session of the Joint WMO/IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM), adopted a resolution on the Report, which approved Recommendations 1 to 7 (JCOMM4), and related follow up actions.

The Council noted the efforts of the Secretariat to implement a new publication policy based on the principles set out in Resolution 35 (Cg-XVI). It approved a resolution on "Guidelines on the planning and production of WMO publications".

Recalling the decisions of the Sixteenth World Meteorological Congress with respect to the preparation of the next WMO Strategic Plan (SP) and the WMO Operating Plan (OP) for the period 2016–2019, the Council noted the report and recommendations of its Working Group on WMO Strategic and Operational Planning. The Council considered the recommendations of the Working Group and endorsed the parameters identified for shaping the development of the next Strategic and Operating Plans.

### **Other Highlights of the Session**

The Executive Council designated Dr D. Cano (Spain), Mr L. de Leonibus (Italy), Ms A. Kijazi (United Republic of Tanzania), Mr A. Traore (Niger), and Dr R. Vertessi (Australia), as acting members of the Executive Council. They replaced Mr R.G. Garcia Herrera (Spain), Mr C. De Simone (Italy), Mr M.A.R. Abdel Gadir (Sudan), Mr M. Ndiaye (Senegal), and Mr G.P. Ayers (Australia), respectively

The Executive Council awarded the fifty-seventh IMO Prize to Dr Zaviša Janjić (Serbia/USA).

The Council conferred the 2013 Norbert Gerbier-MUMM International Award on Drs M.A. Bollasina, Y. Ming, and V. Ramaswamy for their paper entitled "Anthropogenic aerosols and the weakening of the South Asian Summer Monsoon". This paper was published in 2011 in Vol. 334, Number 6055 of the journal *Science*.

The Council conferred the 2012 WMO Research Award for Young Scientists upon Mr Yijian Zeng for the paper entitled "Numerical analysis of air-water-heat flow in unsaturated soil: Is it necessary to consider airflow in land surface models?" by Zeng, Y., Z. Su, L. Wan, and J. Wen (2011), published in *J. Geophys. Res.*, 116, D20107, doi:10.1029/2011JD015835.

With respect to the Professor Dr Vilho Väisälä Awards, the Selection Committee of the Executive Council approved the selection of R. Boers, M.J. de Haij, W.M.F. Wauben, H. Klein Baltink, L.H. van Ulf, M. Savenije (all from Netherlands), and C.N. Lonf (USA), to receive the twenty-third Professor Dr Vilho Väisälä Award for an Outstanding Research Paper on Instruments and Methods of Observation. The award was granted for the paper entitled "Optimized fractional cloudiness determination from five ground-based remote sensing techniques" published in the *Journal of Geophysical Research*, Vol. 115, D24116, doi:10.1029/2010JD014661, 2010.

The Council approved awarding to Q. LU (China), W. Bell (UK), P. Bauer (UK), N.N. Bormann (UK), and C. Peubey (UK) the fourth Professor Dr Vilho Väisälä Award for the Development and Implementation of the Instruments and Methods of Observation for the paper entitled "Characterizing the FY-3A Microwave Temperature Sounder Using the ECMWF Model" published in the Journal of Atmospheric and Oceanic Technology, Vol. 28, p. 1373-1389, 2011.

The Council agreed that its sixty-fifth session will be held at WMO Headquarters from Wednesday, 15 May, to Thursday, 23 May 2013. The session will follow the FINAC-32 session, which will run from Monday, 13 May, to Tuesday, 14 May 2013. The Council further tentatively scheduled its sixty-sixth session at WMO Headquarters from Wednesday, 14 May, to Friday, 23 May 2014; this session will be preceded by the FINAC-33 session from Monday, 12 May, to Tuesday, 13 May 2014.

The sixty-fourth session of the Council was attended by representatives from 31 WMO Members.

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