



World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale

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Weather • Climate • Water
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Annex: 1

Subject: Major outcomes of EC-65

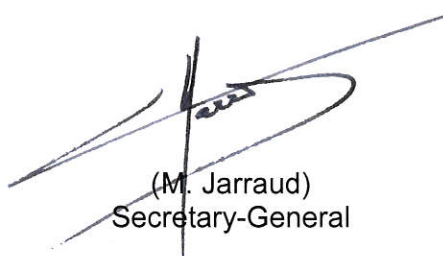
Dear Sir/Madam,

As you are aware, the sixty-fifth session of the WMO Executive Council (EC-65) was held at the WMO headquarters in Geneva, from 15 to 23 May 2013. The session was the second session of 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-65-main-page/>. The final abridged report with resolutions will be finalized in all languages in due course 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 the WMO Strategic Plan.

Yours faithfully,



(M. Jarraud)
Secretary-General

To: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services) of Members of WMO (PR-6707)

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

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION
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SG/CER/EC-65, ANNEX

**MAJOR OUTCOMES OF THE SIXTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE
WMO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
(Geneva, 15–23 May 2013)**

Introduction

The sixty-fifth session of the Executive Council was convened from 15 to 23 May 2013 at the headquarters of the World Meteorological Organization under the Chairmanship of WMO President Mr David Grimes.

Working on the basis of the directives of the Sixteenth World Meteorological Congress (Cg-XVI) 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. It also addressed WMO's activities over the period since its last session in June 2012, including the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) and 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 session outcomes grouped according to the eight Expected Results contained in the WMO Strategic Plan.

Global Framework for Climate Services

The Council noted that the Extraordinary Session of the Congress held in October 2012 adopted three resolutions addressing: (1) the draft Implementation Plan of the GFCS; (2) the establishment of the Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services (IBCS) as an additional body accountable to Congress; and (3) the specific functions of Secretariat support to the GFCS and the future financial requirements. The Council underlined the importance of the GFCS as a cross-cutting collaborative initiative of the UN system based on the contribution of different partners led by WMO. The GFCS will also be underpinned by WMO Programmes and will build on existing structures. In this regard, the Council recalled that Cg-XVI recognized that, while the Commission for Climatology (CCI) will have a central role in the implementation of the GFCS, other WMO technical commissions will also have important roles to play.

The Council stressed the need for the full participation of Members in the implementation of the GFCS, including through the identification and initiation of regional activities, the identification and documentation of existing regional climate services delivery mechanisms, the identification of regional partnerships with all potential stakeholders, the sharing of experiences in implementation and the identification of needs for climate services. The Council noted that a Project Oversight Board for the GFCS involving partner UN and other international agencies was established to facilitate the completion of the documents for the first session of the IBCS, scheduled for the first week of July 2013. In addition, the Secretary-General had established an Interagency Coordination Group (ICG) on the GFCS to contribute to the development of effective forms of cooperation between organizations of the United Nations system engaged in the planning and implementation of the GFCS.

The Council noted with appreciation the additional contributions and pledges made by Members to the GFCS Trust Fund and encouraged Members to continue such contributions, to support GFCS-related activities and projects and institutional mechanisms, and to second experts to the GFCS Office. In this respect, it welcomed the in-kind contribution from Italy, which has seconded an expert to the GFCS Office.

Through *Resolution 1 on Follow-up to Cg-Ext.(2012)*, the Council requested Members to provide resources to the GFCS to enable the implementation of concrete activities at national and regional levels; nominate members to the IBCS and experts who could serve on the subsidiary bodies of the IBCS; initiate frameworks for climate services at national level as the coordination mechanism to ensure effective implementation of the GFCS; be actively involved in the implementation of the projects and activities identified through the Implementation Plan of the GFCS; and continue to support or expand additional climate service projects and activities that advance the overall goals and objectives outlined in the GFCS Implementation Plan. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to prepare a proposal to formalize the cooperation between the IBCS and partner organizations for the consideration of IBCS-1.

The Council reviewed the draft white paper prepared by its Task Team on the WMO Policy for International Exchange of Climate Data and Products to Support the Implementation of the GFCS and through *Resolution 2 on Policy of the World Meteorological Organization for the International Exchange of Climate Data and Products to Support the Implementation of the Global Framework for Climate Services*. It requested the Task Team to review and update the white paper and based on that to prepare a policy statement in the form of a draft resolution with Annexes and background material.

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 discussed the International Civil Aviation Organization's requirements for Quality Management Systems and the implementation of WMO's aeronautical meteorological personnel competency standards. Through *Resolution 3 on Steps to Be Undertaken to Achieve Compliance with the Regulations of the World Meteorological Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization*, the Council urged Members to investigate the use of cooperative mentoring and twinning arrangements to help meteorological services comply with these requirements. This will prepare the way for a major shift towards more regionalized service provision to future air traffic systems.

In the area of Public Weather Services, the Council adopted, through *Resolution 4*, the *Implementation Plan for "The WMO Strategy for Service Delivery"*. It urged Members to implement the Strategy, adopt the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) standard, mainstream a Quality Management System (QMS) into their operations, and participate in the WMO Register of Alerting Authorities. The Council also urged Members to increase the number of cities for which they provided forecasts as well as the lead time and the frequency of forecast updates. Together these improvements would promote increased credibility and visibility of NMHSs in the eyes of the governments and user communities.

The WMO Tropical Cyclone Forecast website, which is hosted and maintained by the Hong Kong Observatory of Hong Kong, China, on behalf of WMO, and the updated WMO Global Guide to Tropical Cyclone Forecasting, which the Australian Bureau of Meteorology will transform into a web version, should be used as resources for capacity development activities. The Council

welcomed the recommendation to explore the feasibility of developing a globally-unified classification of tropical cyclones, including a category system.

The Council noted the progress in the implementation of the Joint WMO-Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (WMO-IOC) Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM). It provided further guidance on key activities, including the implementation of the World-Wide Met-Ocean Information and Warning Service, the coordination for marine environmental emergencies response, and the JCOMM-Commission for Hydrology (CHy) Coastal Inundation Forecasting Demonstration Project (CIFDP).

The Council requested the sixteenth session of the Commission for Agricultural Meteorology (CAgM) in 2014 to consider appropriate structures to support the GFCS, especially the User Interface Platform and Capacity Building pillars. It recognized the value of the Roving Seminars on Weather and Climate for Farmers as an example of climate services within the context of GFCS. It requested the Secretary-General to facilitate efforts to find additional funding for Roving Seminars in other regions of the world.

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 reviewed progress with the implementation of the WMO Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Programme Work Plan (2012-2015) and related strategic issues. The Work Plan aims to facilitate better alignment of the activities of the WMO constituent bodies, global operational network and strategic partners to assist NMHSs to implement an integrated approach to develop and deliver weather, hydrological and climate services to the DRR users.

The Council was informed that progress is underway to map the roles and relevant activities of Technical Commissions (TCs) and Regional Associations (RAs) and to develop processes for systematic engagement of the TCs and RAs in the implementation of the DRR Work Plan. It urged the TCs, with support from the Secretariat, to determine opportunities for leveraging their work plans and resources. The Council was informed by the presidents of the RAs that the coordinated approach of the DRR Programme has facilitated NMHSs' institutional partnerships with the DRR user community, leading to greater synergies amongst activities.

The Council recalled the role of the DRR User-Interface Expert Advisory Groups as a coordinating mechanism to: (a) identify and prioritize user needs and requirements for weather, hydrological and climate products and services and as inputs to the TCs' activities pertaining to the development of related guidelines, manuals, and standards; and (b) facilitate engagement of the user community in the implementation of DRR and adaptation capacity development projects with WMO TCs, RAs and global operational networks to demonstrate the utilization of such products and services in DRR decision-making. In this regard, the Council requested the Secretary-General to ensure support to the TCs for developing these coordinated mechanisms to encourage and, where appropriate, support the implementation of relevant guidelines and standards.

The Council recalled that the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015 served as the primary driving force for the development of DRR capacities nationally, regionally and globally and that it underpinned the WMO DRR Programme's strategic priorities. The Council was informed that, as HFA was drawing to a close in 2015, global, regional and national consultations were underway to identify priorities for a post-2015 Framework. The Council stressed the opportunities for inclusion in the post-2015 Framework of critical and strategic issues related to development of weather, hydrological and climate services to support DRR, the building of disaster-resilient communities, and the implementation of GFCS.

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.

In relation to weather issues, the Council considered the resolutions and recommendations of the fifteenth session of the Commission for Basic Systems concerning the Global Data-processing and Forecasting System (GDPFS) and the Emergency Response Activities (ERA). In this regard, it endorsed, through *Resolution 5*, the establishment of the Severe Weather Forecasting Demonstration Project (SWFDP) Office, and it approved amendments to the *Manual on the Global Data-processing and Forecasting System*.

The Council requested the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements for the implementation of the above decisions. It requested its Working Group on Service Delivery to continue to guide the cross-programmatic integration in SWFDP.

Regarding climate issues, the Council, through *Resolution 6*, decided that UNEP's Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation (PROVIA) be included as a component of the World Climate Programme (WCP), in addition to the existing three components GCOS, WCRP and WCSP. The Chair of the Steering Committee of PROVIA is to be invited to represent PROVIA in the work of the EC Working Group on Climate and related Weather, Water and Environmental matters (ECWG-CWE) on the WCP components.

The Council requested the Secretary-General to inform the UNEP Secretariat of this decision and to facilitate efforts by the four components of the WCP to interact with each other effectively and contribute to GFCS implementation. It also requested the Secretary-General to invite the Executive Director of UNEP to facilitate WMO representation in the PROVIA Scientific Steering Committee and support PROVIA participation in the work of the ECWG-CWE.

The Council noted with appreciation the successful organization of the High-Level Meeting on National Drought Policies (HMNDP) and complimented the collaboration of WMO, FAO and UNCCD and other partnering organizations. The Council noted the HMNDP Declaration and encouraged all NMHSs to extend their full support and to urge relevant ministries and agencies in their countries to actively support the application of the Declaration. It thanked all the donors for their valuable support to the organization of HMNDP and requested the Secretary-General to coordinate and extend the implementation of the outcomes of the HMNDP at the regional level.

Concerning water issues, the Council noted, through *Resolution 7*, the report and the resolutions of the fourteenth session of the JCOMM-Commission for Hydrology (CHy). It considered that the World Hydrological Cycle Observing System (WHYCOS) has proven in the past decade a useful means to mobilize resources in support of the strengthening of the NMHSs and their regional cooperation. However, the Council, through *Resolution 8* on the *World Hydrological Cycle Observing System*, expressed concerns for the shortcomings still existing in the implementation of WHYCOS, in particular with respect to the sustainability of the systems installed, which may affect both ongoing components and the potential to implement new ones. It reaffirmed the importance of WHYCOS as a priority activity within the WMO Hydrology and Water Resources Programme.

The Council requested the president of CHy, as Chair of WHYCOS International Advisory Group (WIAG), to oversee the adoption of the recommendations of the external evaluation, taking into consideration CHy's responses, as endorsed by the Executive Council.

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 discussed how to accelerate progress towards the new WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS), which is needed to consolidate progress in meteorological research, numerical modelling, observing capabilities, and computer and communication technologies. Described as "Our Planet's Future Hub for Weather, Climate and Water Observations," WIGOS is due to become operational by 2016. The Council adopted the revised WIGOS Framework Implementation Plan for appropriate follow-up by Members, RAs, TCs and the Secretary-General. It also adopted *Resolution 9 on Preserving radio-frequency spectrum for meteorological and related environmental activities at the World Radiocommunication Conference 2015 of the International Telecommunication Union* and *Resolution 10 on the Report of the Fifteenth Session of the Commission for Basic Systems relevant to Integrated Observing Systems*.

The Council noted that the identification and categorization of WMO Information System (WIS) centres as of March 2013 included 359 centres, consisting of 223 National Centres, 121 Data Collection or Production Centres and 15 Global Information System Centres. The Council also adopted *Resolution 13 on Amendments to the Manual on the WMO Information System (WIS)*, *Resolution 14 on Quality Management and Infrastructure Development*, and *Resolution 15 on the Report of the Fifteenth Session of the Commission for Basic Systems relevant to GTS and Data Management related Technical Regulations*.

The Council requested the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) Secretariat to report back on the process of the third assessment of progress and adequacy of global observing systems for climate and on the draft of a new Implementation Plan. It also requested the Secretariat and GCOS panels to continue to advise explicitly on the climate-observing elements of WIGOS and to ensure that there is full cooperation between GCOS, WIGOS and WIS as they develop. It further urged WMO Members to assist in the development and expansion of the initial GCOS Reference Upper-Air Network (GRUAN) network and to participate in the development of climate data records to improve the monitoring of vertical profiles of atmospheric Essential Climate Variables.

In the context of the WMO Space Programme, the Council highly appreciated the efforts of China to review its satellite programme development plan with a view to deploying a series of FY-3 satellites on the early morning orbit in order to optimize the global constellation of polar-orbiting meteorological satellites. It urged satellite operators and users to launch user readiness projects preparing for the introduction of new satellite data streams into operations. It also adopted *Resolution 11 on Avoiding Gaps in Essential Space-Based Observation* and *Resolution 12 on Regional Requirements for Satellite Data Access and Exchange*. The Council welcomed international efforts to strengthen the flow of satellite observations for use by global Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) models.

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 Executive Council reaffirmed research as one of WMO's top priorities given the need for increased understanding of changes in the Earth, atmosphere and oceans. It noted with interest

the proposal for an International Polar Initiative (IPI) prepared by the inter-agency Steering Group on Long-term Cooperative Polar Initiative; however, to determine the merit of WMO participating in an IPI, it would be necessary for the IPI Concept to be finalized. The Council recognized the importance of close cooperation between the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP), the World Weather Research Programme (WWRP) and the Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW) Programme to adequately address the complex feedbacks between atmospheric composition and weather and climate processes.

The World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) is organizing a series of regional projects, conferences, and capacity development and training activities focusing on the role of science in climate services and risk management. It encouraged Members to participate in the WCRP/African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) Conference on the African Climate System - Addressing Priority Research Gaps to Inform Adaptation Decision-Making in Africa, to be held in October 2013 in Arusha, Tanzania. Likewise, a joint WCRP-IPCC-European Union International Conference on Regional Climate will be held in November 2013 in Brussels, Belgium, and a Conference on Climate and Society for Latin America and the Caribbean is scheduled for February 2014 in Montevideo, Uruguay.

The Council encouraged Members to actively participate in the sixteenth session of the Commission for Atmospheric Sciences (CAS-16) in November 2013 in Antalya, Turkey. CAS-16 will review progress in the World Weather Research Programme (WWRP), including THE Observing system Research and Predictability EXperiment (THORPEX). It will also consider WMO priorities, especially the GFCS and WIGOS/WIS, identify emerging research priorities with the assistance of Members, and provide holistic guidance to the future activities of WWRP, including the post-THORPEX legacy projects and activities.

The Council recognized the good progress made in the Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW) Programme, especially as shown through the GAW 2013 Symposium held in March 2013. It requested Members to continue their long-term series of measurements and to establish stations in data-sparse regions, and it requested GAW to continue the collaboration with relevant organizations and institutes on health issues. It further requested Members to take appropriate actions to collaborate with cities that have already developed capabilities within the issue of air pollution, and it recommended that the GAW Urban Research Meteorology and Environment (GURME) project and the International Global Atmospheric Chemistry (IGAC) project update the Megacity Assessment in four years.

Expected Result 6

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

The Council recalled Resolution 49 (Cg-XVI) calling for a WMO Capacity Development Strategy (CDS) and the discussion at Cg-XVI that the CDS should provide a coordinated and cohesive approach to WMO capacity development activities. WMO should aim at the sustainable development of NMHSs in developing countries, with a particular focus on enabling Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to meet their mandates. The CDS also provides the backbone for aligning the roles of RAs, TCs, WMO-cosponsored Programmes, WMO Programmes and the Secretariat in capacity development. It also facilitates communication among them and with stakeholders, not limited to, but with a special focus on, the other strategic priority areas (GFCS, Aeronautical Meteorology, WIS/WIGOS, DRR).

Through *Resolution 16 on the Implementation Plan of the Capacity Development Strategy of the World Meteorological Organization*, the Council adopted the draft WMO Capacity Development Strategy Implementation Plan 2012-2015. The Council also noted the importance of the different mechanisms and activities of the Education and Training Programme. Through *Resolution 17 on*

Competency Requirements for Education and Training Providers of Meteorological, Hydrological and Climate Services, it decided that, following consultations with Members and assuming consensus on the text, Competency Requirements should be included in the WMO Technical Regulations and become a recommended practice for the operations of WMO Regional Training Centres.

The Council considered the need for a continued mechanism to review on a regular basis issues related to capacity development of Members in respect of the eight Expected Results of the WMO Strategic Plan (2012-2015). It emphasized ER 6 on Enhanced capabilities of NMHSs, in particular in developing and least developed countries, to fulfil their mandates. In this regard, the Council, through *Resolution 18 on Amendments to the Terms of Reference of the Executive Council Working Group on Capacity Development*, revised the terms of reference of the Working Group established by Resolution 4 (EC-LIX) and revised by Resolution 10 (EC-LX) to address all aspects of assistance provided by WMO and its partners to Members. It requested the Working Group to provide advice and pursue a coherent approach to WMO capacity development activities, with particular attention to national, sub-regional, regional and global development priorities based on the needs of the NMHS end-users and stakeholders. It also requested the Working Group to prepare an Implementation Plan for the remainder of the 2012-2015 financial period with clear responsibilities, milestones and measurable outcomes. These should be reported to the Executive Council on an annual basis and to the Congress to allow these bodies to give better informed guidance for WMO capacity development activities.

Regarding the WMO Resource Mobilization Strategy, the Council noted with appreciation that CHF 43.5 million had been received by WMO in voluntary contributions in 2012, equalling some 42% of total resource volume estimated for 2012–2013. In addition, some CHF 23,398 million in concrete pledges (Norway, Canada and others) were also in process. The Council acknowledged that resourcing WMO activities in order to implement strategic priorities and fulfill its mandate and commitments in line with the voluntary contribution target proposed for the financial period (initially CHF 142 million, revised to CHF 120 million) required significant and continuous efforts by both the Secretariat and the 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.

The Council noted with appreciation the broad range of ongoing initiatives aimed at developing Weather, Water and Climate Services and modernizing NMHSs in all WMO Regions. Additionally, the Council noted that WMO had a major role to play in assisting NMHSs to access financing without the funds necessarily passing through the WMO Secretariat and also to leverage support through the programmes of the UN system and development partners, such as the World Bank and bilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA) agencies, which increasingly focus on the enhancement of weather, water and climate services in their development activities. Furthermore, the Council reaffirmed the relevance of the different mechanisms to provide development assistance to Members, namely, the Voluntary Cooperation Programme (VCP), the Fellowships Programme and the Emergency Assistance Fund.

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 took note of the actions taken by the Secretary-General to strengthen cooperation with the United Nations system. Out of 36 resolutions of the 2nd Committee of the General Assembly, 12 have some direct relevance to WMO activities and programme priorities; the Council requested Members and the Secretary-General to ensure appropriate follow-up to those resolutions. The

Council also appreciated the actions taken to further strengthen the role of WMO in the UN system coordinated response to climate change, its contribution to the UNFCCC process, and its proactive engagement through the UN inter-agency High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) Climate Working Group chaired by the WMO Assistant Secretary-General.

The Council noted the enhanced role WMO was playing through the chairmanship of its Secretary-General in UN-Water's definition of the post-2015 Development Agenda. It also noted WMO's activities with the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, the progress on establishing new working arrangements between WMO and the International Hydrology Programme of UNESCO, initiatives by the Secretary-General to capitalize on and enhance the partnership with the European Commission, the strengthening of relationships with the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) as part of the implementation of the GFCS, and the strong working relationship between WMO and the World Bank for implementation of development initiatives that benefit the weather and climate services community in many regions of the world.

The Council reaffirmed WMO support to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). It reiterated WMO's commitment to assist the IPCC in delivering its work programme, including through financial, administrative and operational support. This support is particularly crucial during the final stages of preparation and approval of the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5). WMO and its Members will take a proactive role and will participate in the execution of the outreach programme of the AR5 to ensure the widest dissemination of its findings among policy-makers at all levels.

The Council encouraged the continued involvement of WMO in Future Earth and in the Science and Technology Alliance for Global Sustainability. It requested the Secretary-General to prepare a decision paper for discussion at its sixty-sixth session.

The Council recognized that, to be truly effective, the Organization's communications must be fully integrated into all WMO substantive Programmes and activities and involve the entire WMO community. It urged the Secretary-General and Members to further strengthen support to WMO communications activities as directed by Congress, and to enhance resources for communications activities, including extrabudgetary resources.

The Council decided that the theme for the World Meteorological Day in 2015 would be "Climate knowledge for climate action". It noted that, with the launch of the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report in 2013–2014 and the expected adoption of a new agreement under the UNFCCC in 2015, the issue of climate will have a particularly high profile in 2015. This theme will also support the GFCS and the benefits of climate services for addressing climate impacts. Members are invited to adapt the theme into their national language(s) as appropriate.

Expected Result 8

An effective and efficient Organization.

Through *Resolution 19*, the Council approved and adopted the regular budget for the second biennium of the sixteenth financial period (2014-2015) amounting to CHF 138,000,000. It took note of the requirements for the priority-funded voluntary resources for the biennium 2014-2015 amounting to CHF 73,000,000 and estimates of voluntary resources for jointly-funded activities of CHF 16,315,800. The Council furthermore took note of the Operating Plan for the Second Biennium (2014-2015) and the Revised Compendium of Project Initiatives proposed to be funded from voluntary contributions (2012-2015).

The Council, through *Resolution 20* on the *Outline of Priorities and Budget Resources for the Seventeenth Financial Period*, decided that the Secretary-General's budget proposal for the seventeenth financial period (2016-2019) will be determined taking into account up-to-date estimates of regular resources from other income (income from rent, programme support, interest,

sales of publications and others) as well as voluntary resources. This budget will be presented in the results-based budget format, integrating the presentation of both regular and voluntary resources. The Council requested the Secretary-General to develop the budget proposal addressing the issues identified by the Financial Advisory Committee (FINAC) at its thirty-second Meeting.

Taking into account the reports of the FINAC and the Audit Committee, the Council took note of the report of the External Auditor on the financial statements for 2012, noting with appreciation that the External Auditor had issued for the ninth consecutive time an unqualified opinion. Through *Resolution 21*, the Council gave its formal approval to the audited financial statements of WMO for the year 2012.

The Council noted with appreciation that as at 31 December 2012, arrears of contributions had decreased from CHF 22.2 million in 2011 to CHF 11.4 million, bringing arrears to its lowest level in over 20 years. The Council urged Members to clear their dues at an early date.

The Council noted the United Nations scales of assessments adopted by the sixty-seventh United Nations General Assembly in December 2012. Through *Resolution 22*, it adopted the scale of assessment of proportional contributions of Members for the years 2014 and 2015.

The Council noted with appreciation the report of its Working Group on WMO Strategic and Operational Planning (WG-SOP). It agreed with its assessment that the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) process was maturing and moving in the right direction. It noted further the improvement in the level of response to the Survey on Impacts of Achieved Results on Members following its reopening and encouraged Members to respond to the surveys and to provide information that may help the Organization to focus its priorities on actions to address the needs of Members.

The Council considered recommendations of the EC WG-SOP regarding the definition of the role and responsibilities of RAs in WMO General Regulations. Taking into account that further refinement of the draft text for amendment of the General Regulations was needed, the Council requested the Secretariat to assist WG-SOP in its further work on developing a broad and flexible definition of the role and responsibilities of RAs, with a view to taking a decision at its sixty-sixth session in 2014.

The Council considered the draft WMO Strategic Plan 2016-2019 and requested the WG-SOP to review the draft taking into account the recommendations of the Council, including reviewing the current structure, developing the vision statement and the core elements of the WMO in the Strategic Plan and showing how the strategic priorities are interlinked and benefit from each other. The Council requested the Secretary-General to communicate the revised draft to Members for their input not later than September 2013 and requested the WG-SOP to use these inputs to prepare the next version of the Plan for consideration by the Council at its next session.

The Council noted the report of its Panel of Experts on Gender Mainstreaming and endorsed the proposal to convene in 2014 a Third WMO Gender Conference, eleven years after the Second Conference on Women in Meteorology and Hydrology took place. The theme is to be "*Gender Dimension of Weather and Climate Services: The Benefits of Working Together*".

The Council reviewed those of its previous resolutions which were still in force at the time of the session and adopted *Resolution 23* with a list of resolutions from past sessions to be kept in force.

To foster the continuous improvement of WMO processes and practices, the Council decided to adopt the conditions and procedures under which session documents can be considered and processed as "non-controversial" at EC-65 and at subsequent sessions of constituent bodies and other bodies of WMO.

Other highlights of the session

The Executive Council designated as acting members of the Executive Council Mr Laxman Singh Rathore (India) to replace Mr Tyagi (India), Mr Ilsoo Lee (Republic of Korea) to replace Mr Cho (Republic of Korea), Ms Laura K. Furgione (USA) to replace Mr Hayes (USA) and Mr Juan Manuel Caballero González (Mexico) to replace Mr Fallas Sojo (Costa Rica), who became an ex-officio member following his election as president of Regional Association IV.

Noting the on-going work on the updating of existing regulatory material and the need for developing further standards and recommended practices and procedures related to the implementation of new WMO systems and frameworks, the Council commended the initiative for publishing a new document containing Guidelines on the preparation and promulgation of WMO Technical Regulations. The Council requested the Secretary-General to publish the Guidelines and encouraged all bodies participating in the preparation of regulatory material to make use of them

Prof Zaviša Janjic (Serbia/USA) received the fifty-sixth IMO Prize for his outstanding contributions to meteorology, climatology, hydrology and related sciences and delivered a scientific lecture. Prof Janjic played a key role in advancing the theory and practice of atmospheric modelling and numerical weather prediction. The Executive Council awarded the fifty-seventh IMO Prize to Dr Tillmann Mohr (Germany) for his life-long contribution to meteorology.

Drs Massimo Bollasina, Yi. Ming, and V. Ramaswamy collected the 2013 Norbert Gerbier-MUMM International Award for their paper entitled "Anthropogenic aerosols and the weakening of the South Asian Summer Monsoon", published in "Science" in October 2011, Volume 334, No. 6055. The Council conferred the 2014 Norbert Gerbier-MUMM International Award on Drs Long Cao, Govindasamy Bala and Ken Caldeira for the paper "Climate response to changes to atmospheric carbon dioxide and solar irradiance on the time scale of days to weeks"; the paper was published in Environmental Research Letters in 2012, Volume 7.

The Council conferred the 2013 WMO Research Award for Young Scientists upon Flavio Lehner (Switzerland) for the paper entitled "The freshwater balance of polar regions in transient simulations from 1500 to 2100 AD using a comprehensive coupled climate model", published in 2012 in the journal Climate Dynamics.

The Council agreed that its sixty-sixth session will be held at WMO headquarters from Wednesday, 18 June to Friday, 27 June 2014. The 33rd FINAC session will be held on Monday and Tuesday, 16–17 June 2014. The tentative dates scheduled for the sixty-seventh session of the Council, to be held at the WMO headquarters, are 15 to 17 June 2015, immediately following the Seventeenth Congress.

The sixty-fifth session of the Council was attended by 232 participants.
