

Regional Association III (South America)

Abridged Final Report of the Eighteenth Session

Virtual Session

25-27 November 2020



WORLD
METEOROLOGICAL
ORGANIZATION

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GENERAL SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE SESSION

1. The acting president of Regional Association III (RA III) (South America), Dr Celeste Saulo, opened the eighteenth session of RA III on Wednesday 25 November 2020 at 1300 UTC by videoconference. The acting president welcomed the members of the association and other participants, expressed her expectation that the meeting would be fruitful, noting that it would focus on implementing the WMO reform, and mentioned the change in structure and the work of the Ad Hoc Group.

The Secretary-General, Professor Petteri Taalas, also welcomed the members of the association and spoke primarily about the reform process, highlighting the importance of using structures such as the Conference of Directors of Ibero-American Meteorological and Hydrological Services (*Conferencia de Directores de los Servicios Meteorológicos e Hidrológicos Iberoamericanos* (CIMHET)) to ensure that Members continue to collaborate with each other. The President of the National Directorate of Civil Aviation (*Dirección Nacional de Aeronáutica Civil* (DINAC)) of Paraguay, Mr Felix Kanazawa, greeted the participants, noted that the discussions would primarily concern the WMO reform, and predicted that they would be productive. Mr Kanazawa also highlighted the presence of the regional office in Paraguay and pledged to continue to support it. The acting president of RA III, the Secretary-General and the President of DINAC all noted the impact of COVID-19 on the activities in the region.

2. The agenda adopted by the RA III is provided in [Appendix 1](#).

3. The session adopted eight resolutions, given in [Appendix 2](#), and eight decisions, given in [Appendix 3](#).

4. The list of participants is given in [Appendix 4](#). Out of a total of 156 participants, the ratio of female to male participants was 39:61.

5. The Association elected Ms Yolanda González (Colombia) as president and Mr Raúl Rodas (Paraguay) as vice-president of RA III.

6. The Association decided that its nineteenth session would be held in 2022.

7. The eighteenth session of RA III closed at 1600 UTC on Friday, 27 November 2020.

APPENDIX 1. AGENDA

1. Organization of the session

- 1.1 Opening of the session
- 1.2 Adoption of the agenda

2. Reports

- 2.1 Report by the acting president of the association (including the work of the working groups, the hydrological adviser and the Regional Office for the Americas)

3. Emerging issues in weather, climate and water

- 3.1 Improvement of flood early warnings, including flash floods, in RA III
- 3.2 Regional hydrological priorities
- 3.3 Regional Basic Observing Network

4. Regional Association working structure in response to WMO Governance Reform

- 4.1 WMO Regional Concept
- 4.2 Regional Priorities
- 4.3 Working structure of Regional Association III

5. Public-Private engagement: action by Regional Association

6. WMO Development partners flagship initiatives

7. Annual Report on Climate Status in Region III – RCC and RCOF matters

8. Election of officers

9. Review of previous resolutions of the Association

10. Date and place of the nineteenth session

11. Closure of the session

APPENDIX 2. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE SESSION

Resolution 1 (RA III-18)

Regional hydrological priorities

REGIONAL ASSOCIATION III (SOUTH AMERICA),

Recalling [Resolution 24 \(Cg-18\)](#)- Vision, strategy and organizational arrangements for hydrology and water resources in WMO, and [Resolution 25 \(Cg-18\)](#) – Major hydrological initiatives,

Noting that Cg-18 defined the following eight long-term ambitions to address the global water challenge:

- (a) No one is surprised by a flood,
- (b) Everyone is prepared for drought,
- (c) Hydroclimate and meteorological data support the food security agenda,
- (d) High-quality data supports science,
- (e) Science provides a sound basis for operational hydrology,
- (f) We have a thorough knowledge of the water resources of our world,
- (g) Sustainable development is supported by information covering the full hydrological cycle,
- (h) Water quality is known,

Noting also that Cg-18 decided that the following ongoing hydrological activities and systems, in view of their relevance to the fulfilment of the long-term ambitions for the operational hydrological community are fundamental pillars that support the WMO Strategic Plan and its further development:

- (a) Quality management framework – Hydrology,
- (b) Assessment of the performance of flow measurement instruments and techniques,
- (c) The Global Hydrometry Support Facility (HydroHub),
- (d) Hydrological data operations and management,
- (e) The WMO Flood Forecasting Initiative and hydrological contributions to disaster risk management, including flooding (APFM) and drought (IDMP),
- (f) WMO Global Hydrological Status and Outlook System (HydroSOS),
- (g) Capacity-building in hydrology and water resources management,
- (h) The World Water Data Initiative (WWDI),

Noting further that EC-71 asked the Hydrological Coordination Panel to work "... with regional associations to aid the preparation and implementation of the regional hydrological plans of action and ensure WMO support to Members in their development of new and enhanced capabilities in hydrology and water resources ...",

Noting with satisfaction the recent initiative of the Secretariat to organize quarterly regional online forums between the regional hydrological adviser and the national hydrological advisers, directors of National Hydrological Services and Permanent Representatives of RA III, aimed at providing consistent regional input and requirements to the hydrological activities of the technical commissions, the Research Board, the Hydrological Coordination Panel and the Hydrological Assembly,

Taking note that several hydrological experts from the region have been selected to become members of the different subsidiary bodies of the technical commissions and the Research Board, although from a limited number of Members,

Decides to entrust the Working Group on Hydrology and Water Resources with the development of a Hydrological Action Plan for RA III with the assistance of the Hydrological Coordination Panel, as per the request of EC-71, as a contribution to the Regional Operational Plan (see Decision 5 – Regional Association III Priorities for the 2021-2023 Operating Plan of the Association). In preparing the plan, due consideration should be given to Resolution 24 (Cg-18) and Resolution 25 (Cg-18);

Requests the regional hydrological adviser and the president of RA III to hold an information session with respect to the Water and Climate Coalition ([Decision 3 \(EC-72\)](#)) and to prepare regional input to Cg-Ext.(2021);

Requests the Working Group on Hydrology and Water Resources to develop a regional implementation plan for HydroSOS and to present this plan to Cg-Ext. (2021), provided that the documents on the results of the HydroSOS pilot phase are available three months before the aforementioned extraordinary session of Congress takes place;

Requests the Secretary-General to continue facilitating the regional online hydrological forums on a regular basis;

Further requests the Hydrological Coordination Panel to share its experience in developing the WMO Plan of Action for hydrology, in particular the methodology, methods of consultation and planning approach used, and assist in their adaptation to the requirements of RA III;

Invites Members that have not already done so, to designate their national hydrological adviser in accordance with General Regulation 5(b), [Basic Documents 1 \(WMO-No. 15\)](#).

Note: This Resolution replaces [Resolution 5 \(RA III-17\)](#), which is no longer in force.

Resolution 2 (RA III-18)

Regional Association III Management Group

REGIONAL ASSOCIATION III (SOUTH AMERICA),

Recalling

- (1) [Resolution 6 \(Cg-18\)](#) – WMO Regional Associations,
- (2) [Resolution 1 \(EC-72\)](#) – Effective coordination between regional associations, technical commissions and the Research Board,
- (3) [Resolution 2 \(EC-72\)](#) – Activities and working mechanisms of the regional associations.

Noting the need for Regional Association III (RA III) to consider the implications of the WMO reform for their structures and working mechanisms and to take the necessary actions to align it with all of the relevant constituent bodies and structures in supporting the long-term goals of the WMO Strategic Plan,

Noting also:

- (1) That [Resolution 11 \(Cg-18\)](#) – WMO reform – next phase, calls for a continuation of the WMO reform during the eighteenth financial period focusing on a comprehensive review of the WMO regional concept and approaches in order to strengthen the role and enhance the effectiveness of the regional associations, with the support of the WMO regional offices,
- (2) The need to establish harmonized structures for the functioning of the regional associations in alignment with the new constituent bodies of the Organization, with due consideration of the characteristics and priorities of the regions and available financial and human resources, to promote common approaches and better cross-regional cooperation.

Noting further that the management group of RA III established an **ad hoc group** under the leadership of the PR of Colombia, charged with the task of proposing the way forward with respect to identifying the priority activities for the regional association and proposed working structures,

Noting with satisfaction the high level of commitment and participation of regional experts from of RA III in the work of the ad hoc group,

Taking note of the report of the ad hoc group in relation to regional working structures, and Resolution 1 and 2 of EC-72.

Decides:

- (1) To establish the Regional Association III Management Group to assist the president in matters pertinent to the association, and formulate recommendations in this regard, as follows:
 - (a) Plan and coordinate the work of the association and its subsidiary bodies and organize the activities of its members with regard to the planning, execution and evaluation of the agreed programmes, strategies and activities, at the regional and subregional levels;

- (b) Establish and review the structure and work of the subsidiary bodies of the association, and dissolve or reorganize such bodies as necessary taking into account the outcomes of Cg-18 in relation to the WMO Reform;
 - (c) Review and approve the RA III Operational Implementation Plan (including the infrastructure, weather and climate, hydrology, services and research plans) and the research plan submitted from the RA III respective working groups based on the discussions held during its eighteenth meeting and taking into account the contributions of the members of the association. Coordinate and monitor the implementation of the plan;
 - (d) Put in place mechanisms to assist members to solicit nominations for experts from a wide range of organizations to participate in the work of the Technical Commissions, including the private sector and academia that represent the climate, environmental, hydrographic, geographic and cultural diversity in the region, taking due account of gender balance;
 - (e) Collaborate with the Secretariat on resource mobilization and provide advice on how to align resources with the implementation of regional priorities;
- (2) To request the RA III president to act as chair of the management group, which will include the regional hydrological adviser and the Permanent Representatives of the members of RA III. The Chairs of the Regional Working Groups would be invited to participate in the management group sessions, as required, depending on the Agenda items.

Note: This Resolution replaces [Resolution 15 \(RA III-17\)](#), which is no longer in force.

Resolution 3 (RA III-18)

RA III Working group on Infrastructure and Technological Development

THE REGIONAL ASSOCIATION III (SOUTH AMERICA),

Decides:

- (1) To establish the RA III Working Group of Infrastructure and Technological Development, with the following terms of reference:
 - (a) Coordinate, support and oversee the development and implementation of the RA III Members' Integrated Observation and Information Systems Operational Implementation Plans (including the Regional Basic Observing Network (RBON) and the hydrological observing and information systems, in accordance with the WIGOS and WIS), with the purpose of supporting and facilitating the effective application of the Earth system approach and exchange of data, products and information in a timely manner among the members of RA III and globally, including good practices of interoperability, quality, opportunity and security;
 - (b) Promote, exchange of experiences and oversee the implementation of strategies to strengthen the operational, technical, administrative, and infrastructure capacity of the Integrated Observing and Information Systems and data management practices of RA III Members to access and provide high-quality meteorological, climate,

hydrological and environmental services that are cost-effective and adequate for identified needs;

- (c) Coordinate and oversee, together with the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) of RA III, the integrated design of their observation and information systems and those of other parties in terms of standardization, interoperability, technology, availability and access to data for identified users following regional and global guidelines;
- (d) Liaise with INFCOM, establish effective coordination with other WMO bodies, other regional associations and the other working groups of RA III, and oversee the activities of the Regional WIGOS Centres;
- (e) Encourage the application and compliance with WMO guidelines on calibration and traceability of instruments, data processing, and observation methods, to improve the quality of management plans and the improvement of the certification of the products and services of the Members of the region, in coordination with RA III RICs (Regional Instrument Centres);
- (f) Promote the exchange of experiences and best practices, and regional technical and operational advice between the NMHSs for the dissemination and use of new technology and tools on observation systems and data management;
- (g) Oversee the promotion, development and sustainable implementation of the regional plan of the WMO Integrated Observing Systems (WIGOS) and WMO Information System (WIS);
- (h) Coordinate and oversee the establishment of the RA III Regional Basic Observing Network (RBON), promoting its contribution to the Global Basic Observing Network (GBON);
- (i) Promote the implementation of the regional AMDAR based on the agreement between IATA and WMO, and other systems for acquiring meteorological data through aircraft;
- (j) Coordinate regional activities in the field of radio frequencies, acting as liaison with the Expert Team on Radio Frequency Coordination of the Infrastructure Commission (INFCOM) and monitoring the related activities of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) of the Organization of American States;
- (k) Identify the advanced education, research and professional training needs in the field of information and communication technologies, observation systems in conjunction with the RA III RTCs;
- (l) Promote technical solutions to support the engagement of the private sector in the elements of the value chain connected to integrated information systems and observation of the Earth System;
- (m) Prepare and submit to the management group, a work plan for the next four years that advances towards the Regional Priorities 1 (WIGOS), 2 (WIS), and 10 (geostationary satellite), in the first three months after establishment and an annual progress report;

- (2) That the working group with no more than 15 members shall be comprised of:
- A chair;
 - A vice-chair;
 - The Chairs of the other RA III Working Groups;
 - By invitation, RA III experts participating at relevant working structures of the INFCOM-SERCOM and Research Board;
 - The chairs of subworking groups established by the chair and endorsed by the management group;
 - Minimum of three (3) national experts from NMHSs and other organizations in the RA III, including those in the academic and private sector, registered in the WMO country database that represent the hydrographic, geographic and cultural diversity in the region, taking due account of gender balance, who are committed to participate actively in the working group;
 - Co-chair for RA III of the WMO Coordination Group on satellite data requirements of RA III and RA IV.
- (3) To designate Ms/Mr _____ [Member State] as chair of the working group, and Ms/Mr _____ [Member State] as vice-chair.

Note: This Resolution replaces [Resolution 16 \(RA III-17\)](#), which is no longer in force.

Resolution 4 (RA III-18)

RA III Working group on Hydrology and Water Resources

THE REGIONAL ASSOCIATION III (SOUTH AMERICA),

Decides:

- (1) To establish the RA III Working group on Hydrology and Water Resources, with the following terms of reference:
- (a) Coordinate and oversee strategies and activities for enhancing the capacity in operational hydrology of the Members of RA III;
 - (b) Support the increase in the quality, amount and efficiency of the production of hydrometric data and the improvement in forecasting capacity in the region, with emphasis on innovation and the development and implementation of new technologies, through the promotion of research, capacity-building, participation in expert committees, exchange of experiences, tools and know-how, in coordination with the other RA III WG;
 - (c) Liaise with the Hydrological Coordination Panel (HCP) and establish effective coordination with the WMO bodies, other regional associations and the working groups of RA III;

- (d) Promote regional projects that follow global guidelines or contribute to WMO initiatives¹ and report on their progress to the RA III Management Group;
- (e) Promote the commitment of the public and private sector in matters related to operational hydrology;
- (f) Define the agenda of the online Regional Hydrological Forums of RA III, that take place every 3 months, in order to share experiences, maintain the engagement of the hydrological community in WMO activities and promote its linkage with other WMO communities; and a Regional Hydrological Assembly, as a high-level Regional Hydrological forum during the sessions of RA III that informs RA III Members its recommendations related to hydrology and water resources;
- (g) Identify the advance education, investigation and professional training needs in the field of hydrology and water resources, and interactions with eco-hydrology;
- (h) Prepare and submit to the RA III Management Group, a work plan for the next four years that advances towards the Regional Priority 4 (hydrological services), in the first three months after establishment and an annual progress report.
- (2) The RA III Working group on Hydrology and Water Resources will be comprised of
- A chair, who will act as the Regional Hydrological Adviser;
 - A vice-chair;
 - Experts from all RA III Members who are committed to participate actively, designated by the PRs in consultation with the Hydrological Advisers;
 - Other relevant experts that may be invited to carry out specific activities;
 - Chairs of the other Regional Working Groups, as invited members for particular issues.

The group will promote gender balance

To designate Ms/Mr _____ [Member State] as chair and Regional Hydrological Adviser and Ms/Mr _____ [Member State] as vice-chair.

Note: This Resolution replaces [Resolution 18 \(RA III-17\)](#), which is no longer in force.

¹ For example, data exchange activities based on phase II of the WMO Hydrological Observation System (WHOS), Hydro-SOS, Hydro-Hub, hydrometeorological early warning and forecasting systems, such as the Hydrometeorological Forecast and Early Warning System in the La Plata Basin (PROHMSAT-Plata) and the Flash Flood Guidance System; regional hydrological projections based on seasonal forecasts or regional drought warning systems, in coordination with the regional committees for services and for infrastructure and technological development; and other projects such as SISSA, Euroclima and ENANDES that have the potential to promote hydrology actions in the region.

Resolution 5 (RA III-18)

RA III Working Group on Science and Research

THE REGIONAL ASSOCIATION III (SOUTH AMERICA),

Decides:

- (1) To establish an RA III Working Group on Science and Research with the following terms of reference:
 - (a) Promote convergence and integration between the research programmes of interest to the region within and outside the WMO community;
 - (b) Guide the execution of WMO research programmes according to the priorities established for the region and in relation to meteorological, climatic, hydrological and environmental research;
 - (c) Strive for a transversal and optimal approach to research initiatives related to the Earth system approach, prioritizing scientific activities that address the operational needs for improved service provision in the region;
 - (d) Promote the joint design of research initiatives that strengthen applied science and the flow of applied scientific research transfer to operations and services to provide tools for the fulfilment of the mission of the NMHSs of the region including timely attention of information to citizens;
 - (e) Establish effective coordination with the WMO bodies, other regional associations and the working groups of RA III and promote scientific partnerships between NMHSs and universities and research centres;
 - (f) Promote joint and collaborative actions with other regional associations, especially Regional Association IV;
 - (g) Promote the exchange of knowledge and expertise in scientific research including shared climate systems between the NMHSs in the region and the WMO RTCs;
 - (h) Identify actors, tools and/or mechanisms for financing joint research and an exchange of experts among the NMHSs and also for promoting work between public and private sectors;
 - (i) Prepare a regional research plan aligned with the guidelines of the Research Board focused on meteorological, climatic, hydrological, technological, geographic information systems, climate variability and change, extreme events, droughts, and environmental aspects relevant to the region, including the promotion of strategies for its dissemination and feedback;
 - (j) Prepare and submit to the management group, a work plan for the next four years and an annual progress report.

- (2) That the working group, with no more than 15 members, shall be comprised of:
- A chair, who will act as the Representative of RA III in the Research Board,
 - A vice-chair,
 - The chair of each working group of RA III,
 - RA III experts participating at relevant working structures of INFCOM, SERCOM and Research Board,
 - Three representatives of the NMHSs of the region,
 - Four members of academia and/or of research centres, that may be invited in response to the needs identified by the Working Group on Research and endorsed by the RA III Management Group,
 - A representative of the Regional Training Centres (RTCs),
 - Experts from the NMHSs who will actively participate in the working group, that represent the hydrographic, geographic, and cultural diversity in the region, taking due account of gender balance and the expertise that can be found in other organizations, including those in the academic and private sectors.
- (3) To designate Ms/Mr _____ [Member State] as chair of the working group, and Ms/Mr _____ [Member State] as vice-chair.

Resolution 6 (RA III-18)

RA III Working Group on Services

THE REGIONAL ASSOCIATION III (SOUTH AMERICA),

Decides:

- (1) To establish the Regional Working Group on Services of Regional Association III (RA III) with the following terms of reference:
- (a) Determine the prioritized needs for new and improved services and analyse related capabilities among Members in the region to help inform the development of the RA III Integrated Services Operational Implementation Plan (including weather, climate, hydrological and relevant environmental services) for review and approval by the RA III Management Group in a timely manner, with the purpose of supporting and strengthening the services capability of regional members;
 - (b) Facilitate, monitor and report on the implementation and uptake of services and applications, and WMO standards and regulations in the region;
 - (c) Develop, promote and oversee the implementation of strategies to strengthen the capacity of RA III Members to provide quality and adequate climate and weather services tailored for the specific user and purposes, and improve access to them;
 - (d) Provide guidance to Members for appropriate user-interface actions with the relevant stakeholders intended to address priorities and the need for an improved services' provision in aviation, agriculture, hydrology, marine and oceanography;

disaster risk reduction and public services, health, energy and urban integrated services, in coordination with the Weather & Climate WG and the Hydrology WG ;

- (e) Promote and provide technical support strategies for the development and implementation of public, private, joint or communal, multi-hazard early warning systems at local, national and regional scale, as appropriate, keeping the exchange of products and experiences as the highest priority, in collaboration with the Weather & Climate WG and Hydrology WG;
 - (f) Liaise with the WMO Services Commission (SERCOM), and establish effective coordination with the other WMO Bodies, other regional associations, and the working groups of RA III;
 - (g) Promote, encourage, and follow up on international financing projects related to weather, climate and water services in the region (e.g. ENANDES, EUROCLIMA and similar projects);
 - (h) Promote the engagement of the public and private sectors in matters related to service delivery;
 - (i) Submit to the president and the management group a work plan for the next four years that advances towards the Regional Priorities 3 (EWS) and 5 (GFCS), within 3 months of establishment and an annual progress report;
- (2) That the working group, with no more than 15 members, shall be comprised of:
- A chair,
 - A vice-chair,
 - Chair of each working group of RA III,
 - Representative of the Regional Climate Centres (RCCs),
 - RA III experts participating at relevant working structures of INFCOM-SERCOM and RB,
 - By invitation, members of academic and research institutes and private sector,
 - Representative of the Regional Training Centres (RTCs),
 - Minimum of three (3) national experts from NMHSs and other organizations in the RA III, registered in the WMO country database that represent the hydrographic, geographic and cultural diversity in the region, taking due account of gender balance who are committed to participate actively in the working group;
- (3) To designate Ms/Mr _____ [Member State] as chair of the working group, and Ms/Mr _____ [Member State] as vice-chair;
- (4) Within three months, present to the management group a work plan for the period 2021-2022, including proposals for the establishment of special teams, including their mandate taking due account of the specific results described in the RA III Operation Plan.

Note: This Resolution replaces [Resolution 17 \(RA III-17\)](#), which is no longer in force.

Resolution 7 (RA III-18)**RA III Working Group on Weather and Climate**

THE REGIONAL ASSOCIATION III (SOUTH AMERICA),

Decides:

- (1) To establish the Regional Working Group on Weather and Climate of the RA III with the following terms of reference:
 - (a) Guide and support NMHSs, according to their needs, in the development, improvement and implementation of operational processes for seamless weather and climate monitoring and prediction, ranging from nowcasting to climate variability and climate change scenarios and extreme events, using an Earth system approach;
 - (b) Promote strategies for the development and implementation of new technology and tools for data processing and modelling for weather and climate monitoring and forecasting and generation of climate variability and change scenarios, keeping the exchange of tools, products, know-how and experiences at the highest priority, in coordination with the RCCs and RTCs;
 - (c) Promote and oversee activities for data rescue, digitization, automation, technological improvement, statistical analysis, standardization of data from the transition from conventional stations to automatic stations, and analysis of data from different technologies (e.g. radars among others) of climate records in the region;
 - (d) Organize the Regional Climate Forums and associated related training and capacity-building activities, in coordination with the Hydrology WG, Services WG, Science and Research WG and RTCs, and with support of the SG;
 - (e) Support the preparation of flagship products at national, regional, and global levels, such as national climate monitoring reports, regional climate reports, and reports on the state of the global climate and climate services;
 - (f) Promote the engagement of the public and private sector on issues related to climate variability and change, extreme events, weather and climate and identify funding opportunities for projects, in coordination with the Services WG;
 - (g) Present to the Management Group – through the President of the ARIII – a Work Plan for four years in the first three months from their appointment. Also present an annual progress report and a full management report at least 3 months before the Regional Committee meeting;
- (2) That the working group will have a maximum of 15 members and will be comprised of:
 - A chair,
 - A vice-chair,
 - Chair of each working group of RA III,
 - Representative of the Regional Climate Centres (RCCs),

- By invitation, members of universities and research centres and the private sector,
- Representative of the Regional Training Centres (RTCs),
- Minimum of three (3) national experts from NMHSs and other organizations in the RA III, including those in the academic and private sector, registered in the WMO country database that represent the hydrographic, geographic and cultural diversity in the region, taking due account of gender balance, who are committed to participate actively in the working group;

The composition of the working group should be gender balanced;

- (3) To designate Ms/Mr _____ [Member State] as chair of the working group, and Ms/Mr _____ [Member State] as vice-chair.

Resolution 8 (RA III-18)

Review of the Association's previous resolutions and recommendations

REGIONAL ASSOCIATION III (SOUTH AMERICA),

Taking note of paragraph 3.7.1 of the general summary of the *Abridged Report with Resolutions of the ninth session of the Executive Committee (EC-IX) (WMO-No. 67)*,

Considering:

- (1) That some of the resolutions adopted prior to the eighteenth session of Regional Association III have been revised and incorporated into the eighteenth session resolutions (as contained in the [annex](#) to this Resolution),
- (2) That some of the previous resolutions have been incorporated into the appropriate publications of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) or have become out of date,
- (3) The possibility of publishing the text of the resolutions that remain in force in the [annex](#) to this Resolution,

Decides to keep in force the resolutions in the [annex](#) of this Resolution.

[Annex: 1](#)

Note: This Resolution replaces [Resolution 19 \(RA III-17\)](#) - Review of previous resolutions and recommendations of the Association, which is no longer in force.

Annex to Resolution 8 (RA III-18)**List of previous resolutions and recommendations of Regional Association III (South America) in force at the time of the eighteenth session**

(Reference: Abbreviated final report with resolutions of the seventeenth meeting of Regional Association III (South America), [Resolution 19 \(RA III-17\)](#))

Resolution No.	Resolution Title	Proposed measure		
		It will remain in force	Will be replaced	It will not remain in force
1 (RA III-17)	Improvement of early warnings for floods, including flash floods, in Region III	X		
2 (RA III-17)	Service delivery in marine meteorology in Region III	X		
3 (RA III-17)	Scientific research and development in aeronautical meteorology	X		
4 (RA III-17)	Global and regional landscape of aeronautical meteorological service provision	X		
5 (RA III-17)	Regional hydrological priorities		X	
6 (RA III-17)	Implementation of a variant of the Severe Weather Forecasting Demonstration Project	X		
7 (RA III-17)	Role of Regional Climate Centres in implementation of the Climate Service Information System in Region III	X		
8 (RA III-17)	Enhancing provision and exchange of selected climate datasets to support the operations of Regional Climate Centres	X		
9 (RA III-17)	Regional WMO Integrated Global Observing System Implementation Plan 2018–2021	X		
10 (RA III-17)	Establishing Regional WIGOS Centres in Region III in pilot mode	X		
11 (RA III-17)	Regional Basic Synoptic Network and Regional Basic Climatological Network in Region III	X		

Resolution No.	Resolution Title	Proposed measure		
		It will remain in force	Will be replaced	It will not remain in force
12 (RA III-17)	Development of the Region III Aircraft Meteorological Data Relay Programme under the collaboration between the International Air Transport Association and the World Meteorological Organization	X		
13 (RA III-17)	Regional Instrument Centres	X		
14 (RA III-17)	WMO Information System	X		
15 (RA III-17)	Regional Association III Management Group		X	
16 (RA III-17)	Regional Association III Working Group on Infrastructure and Applications		X	
17 (RA III-17)	Regional Association III Working Group on Climate		X	
18 (RA III-17)	Regional Association III Working Group on Hydrology and Water Resources		X	
19 (RA III-17)	Review of previous resolutions and recommendations of the Association		X	
20 (RA III-17)	Gender equality	X		

APPENDIX 3. DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE SESSION

Decision 1 (RA III-18)

Report by the Acting President of the Association

Regional Association III (South America) decides:

- (1) To note with satisfaction the reports in [RA III-18/INF. 2\(1\)](#) from the RA III acting president, presidents of working groups and the WMO Regional Office for South America, describing the achievements during the intersessional period;
- (2) To recognize the Members' contribution towards the implementation of the RA III Regional Work Plan 2018-2020;
- (3) To encourage the Secretary-General, regional associations and technical commissions to engage further in the regional activities and launch new initiatives that would lead to closer regional cooperation.

Decision justification:

See [RA III-18/INF. 2\(1\)](#).

Decision 2 (RA III-18)

Northwest South America Flash Flood Guidance System (NWSAFFGS)

The Regional Association III (South America) decides:

- (1) That a decision on the continued implementation of NWSAFFGS in RA III should be taken by the Management Group of RA III before 28 February 2021;
- (2) To request the Secretary-General to facilitate an ad hoc virtual meeting between the members currently involved in the project (Colombia, Ecuador and Peru), the donor, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the implementing partner - Hydrologic Research Centre (HRC) and the responsible WMO Technical Department and Regional Office to determine whether to continue the implementation of NWSAFFGS and under which modalities, in particular regarding the establishment of the Regional Centre, the updated designation of Focal Points and a clear definition of the responsibilities of the Regional Centre. A report of the conclusions of this meeting should be submitted by the Regional Office for the Americas to the Management Group of RA III;
- (3) To request all parties involved in the meeting mentioned above to make their deliberations taking into account the best interest of the Regional Association as a whole.

Decision justification: [Resolution 1 \(RA III-17\)](#) - Improvement of early warnings for floods, including flash floods, in Region III;

The Member who had offered to host the Regional Centre for the NWSAFFGS has withdrawn its offer due to operational reasons, and concerns have been expressed by some of the NMHS

involved in the project about the adequacy and sustainability of the FFGS approach to the sub-region;

The resources allotted to this project by USAID could be redirected to other subregions of South America if the work already undertaken for NWSAFFGS by the implementing partner, (HRC), is not too advanced before its suspension is decided.

Decision 3 (RA III-18)

RBON Design

Regional Association III (South America) decides:

- (1) To initiate the foundation of the Regional Basic Observing Network (RBON) by designating all selected observing stations from the Regional Basic Synoptic (RBSN) and Regional Basic Climatological Network (RBCN), as RBON stations, noting that RBON stations will also form the basis of the Global Basic Observing Network (GBON);
- (2) To request the working group on Infrastructure and Technological Development to undertake the following activities in support of implementation of the RBON in the region:
 - (a) Defining prioritization of application areas addressed in the region, and definition of regional observational user requirements to be met by RBON,
 - (b) Undertaking the initial RBON design that complements the Global Basic Observing Network design, and defining specific criteria for the selection of RBON stations, in consideration of regional needs, priorities, and processes to be defined by the Infrastructure Commission,
 - (c) Defining the role of the Regional WIGOS Centres in the region, in particular to provide the tools necessary for the design of RBON,
 - (d) Developing the roadmap for the RBON implementation;

In compliance with the RBON-related regulations specified in the *Manual on the WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WMO-No. 1160)*, including section 3.2.3 Regional Basic Observing Network and Appendix 2.1 Observing Network Design Principles;

- (3) To further request the working group on Infrastructure and Technological Development to explore the interest among Members in establishing an RBON pilot activity on regional data exchange of certain types of observations, with an initial focus on radar observations and hydrological observations;
- (4) To request Members to make sure that all RBON stations are properly registered in OSCAR/Surface according to the WIGOS Metadata Standard;
- (5) To request the working group on Infrastructure and Technological Development to work closely with SC-ON and JET-EOSDE of the INFCOM on the implementation of RBON;
- (6) To request the Secretary-General to provide the necessary technical assistance and Secretariat support for the implementation of RBON in the region, and to facilitate the merging of RBSN and RBCN networks into RBON;
- (7) To invite regional partner organizations and programmes to participate in relevant implementation activities;

- (8) To invite the Infrastructure Commission to undertake the development of the process for the design of RBON, including relevant regulatory and guidance material, in consultation with the regional association.

Decision justification:

- [Resolution 9 \(RA III-17\)](#) - Regional WMO Integrated Global Observing System Implementation Plan 2018-2021,
 - [Resolution 11 \(RA III-17\)](#) - Regional Basic Synoptic Network and Regional Basic Climatological Network in Regional III, related to termination of RBSN and RBCN and establishing RBON in accordance with the *Manual on the WMO Integrated Global Observing System* (WMO-No. 1160).
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Decision 4 (RA III-18)

RA III High-level Task Team on the Regional concept

Regional Association III (South America) decides:

- (1) To establish a High-level Task Team on the Regional Concept according to the Eighteenth World Meteorological Congress, [Resolution 11 \(Cg-18\)](#) - WMO Reform – Next phase, and [Resolution 6 \(Cg-18\)](#) – WMO Regional Associations, and Executive Council (EC) Resolution on Regional Associations to lead the comprehensive review of the WMO Regional Concept in the Region, in consultation with the Executive Council Task Force leading the comprehensive review of the WMO Regional Concept and the further development of RA III High Priority Areas;
- (2) The Task Team shall be composed of Permanent Representatives from RA III respecting to the extent possible geographical and gender balance, with the terms of reference and the composition/membership as defined in the following [annex](#);
- (3) To request the RA III president to submit the agreed position of the Association management group – based on the proposal and recommendations of the High-level Task Team – to the Executive Council Task Force for the Comprehensive Review of the WMO Regional Concept according to Resolution 11 (Cg-18) and to keep the Association abreast of the deliberations of the Executive Council Task Force;
- (4) To request the RA III management group to incorporate the proposal and recommendations of the High-level Task Team in its planning for the work of the Association and its working groups and to keep the Association Member States informed through the Regional office for the Americas.

Decision Justification:

- (1) [Resolution 11 \(Cg-18\)](#) – WMO Reform - Next phase,
 - (2) [Resolution 6 \(Cg-18\)](#) - WMO Regional Associations,
 - (3) [Resolution 1 \(EC-72\)](#) - Effective Coordination between Regional Associations, Technical Commissions and the Research Board,
 - (4) [Resolution 2 \(EC-72\)](#) - Activities and Working Mechanisms of the Regional Associations.
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Annex to Decision 4 (RA III-18)

RA III High-level Task Team on the Regional concept – Terms of Reference and Membership

The Terms of Reference of the RA III High-level Task Team on Regional Concept:

- (a) Consider all relevant high-level guidance by the WMO Congress and Executive Council on how regional work could be conducted;
- (b) Propose the way forward in implementation of this guidance bearing in mind the characteristics of the region, and capacity gaps among the Member States (e.g. level of development, membership to different technical and political organizations, policy-relevant issues such as: data policy, relation to the private sector, cooperation and collaboration with academic institutions, etc.);
- (c) In coordination with the RA III working groups and the Association management group, draft recommendations taking account of the new regional working structure, harmonized to the degree possible with the WMO Technical Commissions' working bodies, taking into account the priorities of RA III including the need to better connect working structures of RA III with a key focus on the following thematic areas:
 - (i) The Regional Basic Observing Network (RBON);
 - (ii) WMO Global Multi-Hazard Alert System (GMAS) (including Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS) advisory systems);
 - (iii) Climate Services and Regional Climate Statement;
 - (iv) Public-Private Engagement;
 - (v) Data exchange and Policy;
 - (vi) The WMO Earth system approach;
 - (vii) Other priorities as identified by the High-level Task Team.
- (d) Submit its proposals and recommendations to the RA III president and the management group so that preparations can be made for the Extraordinary session of the World Meteorological Congress to be held in 2021.

Membership to RA III High-level Task Team on the Regional concept

- (1) Member: Mr Luis Alberto Loureiro [*Uruguay*]
 - (2) Member: Mr Garvin Cummings [*Guyana*]
 - (3) Member: Mr Carlos Gomes [*Brazil*]
 - (4) Member: Mr Vicente Vazquez [*Ecuador*]
 - (5) Member: Cnel. José Ramón Pereira Bastida [*Venezuela*]
 - (6) Member: Ms Silvana Alcoz, Regional Hydrological Adviser
 - (7) Member: other invited members as necessary
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Decision 5 (RA III-18)

Regional Association III - Priorities for the 2021-2023 Operating Plan of the Association

Regional Association III (South America) decides:

- (1) To entrust the Management Group to develop a Regional Operational Plan, in consultation with the Members and with the assistance of the Secretariat, based on the priorities set out in the [annex](#), that is in line with the WMO Strategic and Operational Plan 2020-2023,
- (2) To request the RA III President to provide input and guidance on the needs of the region to the WMO Policy Advisory Committee and Technical Coordination Committee,
- (3) To invite all RA III Members to contribute to the preparation of the regional Operating Plan in order to ensure that their needs are adequately represented.

See the [annex](#) to the present Decision

Decision justification:

- [Resolution 6 \(Cg-18\)](#) - WMO Regional Associations, in its Annex reformulates the mandate of the Regional Associations, emphasizing: (i) the need to identify regional priorities that contribute to the WMO Strategic and Operational Plan; and, (ii) that the work structure of the Regional Association is such that it can respond to the regional priorities identified.
- Regional priorities established by the association are listed in the [annex](#) to the present Decision.

Annex to Decision 5 (RA III-18)

Establishment of regional priorities

1. Objective

[Resolution 6 \(Cg-18\)](#) - WMO Regional Associations, amends the mandate of the Regional Associations; two of these amendments refer to the regional priorities:

- (1) Regional Association should contribute to the WMO Operational Plan and other implementation plans, if necessary, to reflect agreed strategic priorities from a regional perspective and to ensure the participation of Members in specific activities aimed at achieving the expected results of the WMO Strategic Plan;
- (2) Regional Association should structure its work to respond to regional priorities and make maximum use of the expertise of its Members to provide guidance and assistance, according to the needs of the region.

2. General Information

The following regional priorities were identified during the seventeenth session of the Regional Association III, ([RA III-17](#)). These priorities were considered by the Ad Hoc Group on Working

Structure, which recommended to the Management Group and the RA President that the current regional priorities remain in force for the next operating plan of the association.

3. Regional priorities determined for the period 2021 - 2023

- (1) Implement the national WIGOS implementation plans, the Regional Basic Observing Network (RBON) meeting the full requirements of RA III and the regional WIGOS centres in their pilot phase;
 - (2) Promote the adoption of the WMO data policy and, within the framework of WIS, improve the functioning of the current system and actively participate in the development of the WIS 2.0 platform;
 - (3) Strengthen capacities for the improvement of early warnings of extreme meteorological, hydrological and climatic events considering the CAP protocol system and the WMO Global Multi-hazard Alert System (GMAS);
 - (4) Guarantee the provision of hydrological services, strengthening the coordination of National Meteorological Services with National Hydrological Services and other water-related institutions;
 - (5) Continue developing actions to comply with the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) guidelines through the development of climate services in the Region, through the implementation at the national level of the respective National Frameworks for Climate Services (NFCS);
 - (6) Increase training courses on strategic topics, considering a greater participation of experts from the Region as instructors, and strengthen Regional Training Centres;
 - (7) Reduce the capacity gap among NMHS in the Region, enhancing their respective capacities, sharing good practices, and promoting collaborative work and adoption of gender policies within the NMHS and at the regional level;
 - (8) Strengthen the technical-scientific positioning of NMHSs vis-à-vis the authorities, the citizenship and other institutions in the countries, taking into account the growing link between the public and private sectors;
 - (9) Promote science for the services, contribute to the development of atmospheric, hydrological and related sciences and strive for greater involvement of experts from the Region in WMO activities, particularly through research in NMHSs and new partnerships with academia;
 - (10) Continue with studies and evaluation to develop a Geostationary Meteorological Satellite of the Region that would meet the specific needs of its Members, particularly for the monitoring of extreme events, within the framework of strengthening the observational capacities of RA III.
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Decision 6 (RA III-18)

Public-Private Engagement

Regional Association III (South America) decides:

- (1) That the RA III president and the management group should give due consideration to the Guidelines for Public-private Engagement in planning relevant regional activities, in particular those for raising mutual awareness and building trust between the sectors, and utilizing the potential of the public-private engagement in bridging the capacity gap;
- (2) To encourage the RA III Member States to use the guidelines in establishing cooperation and collaboration and partnership at national level across the public, private, academic and civil society sectors that pursue the common goals for public good, and to consider appropriate mechanisms for engagement with the above sectors when designing and implementing existing and future projects and initiatives in RA III;
- (3) To further encourage Members to share cases of good national practices of cooperation and collaboration with the private and academic sectors, and provide those to the Secretariat for inclusion in the Compendium of Good Practices;
- (4) To consider organizing, in partnership with associations of the private sector, a Regional Forum on public-private engagement, linked to the Open Consultative Platform (OCP), to discuss region-specific issues, opportunities and initiatives for leveraging cooperation and collaboration between sectors that enhance socio-economic benefits.

Decision Justification:

- (1) [Resolution 11 \(EC-72\)](#) – Guidelines for Public-private Engagement (edition 2020);
 - (2) [Resolution 33 \(EC-70\)](#) – Public-private engagement;
 - (3) [Resolution 79 \(Cg-18\)](#) – Open Consultative Platform “Partnership and Innovation for the Next Generation of Weather and Climate Intelligence”;
 - (4) [Resolution 80 \(Cg-18\)](#) – Geneva Declaration – 2019: Building Community for Weather, Climate and Water Actions.
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Decision 7 (RA III-18)

WMO development partnerships flagship initiatives

Regional Association III (South America) decides:

- (1) To invite RA III Member States to contribute to the further development and prompt implementation of the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF); the Country Support Initiative (CSI) and the Country Hydromet Diagnostics (CHD),
- (2) To invite RA III Member States to support the Secretariat in mobilization of substantial resources through high-level engagement with the respective development and climate ministries and agencies,

- (3) To, as much as possible, contribute on a cost-recovery basis to the CSI as an advisory partner and to the CHD as a peer review partner,
- (4) To invite RA III Member States to actively engage with the WMO Secretary-General and RA III president on the implementation of these WMO development partnership initiatives.

Decision Justification:

- (1) [Resolution 74 \(Cg-18\)](#) - Closing the capacity gap: scaling up effective partnerships for investments in sustainable and cost-efficient infrastructure and service delivery;
- (2) [Decision 11 \(EC-72\)](#) - Scaling up effective partnerships and scope, scale and progress of WMO development

Decision 8 (RA III-18)

Annual Report on State of Climate in Latin America and the Caribbean

Regional Association III (South America) decides:

- (1) To establish a regular process for the publication of a report on the State of the Climate in Latin America and the Caribbean, availing of scientific and technical guidance of the Expert Team on Climate Monitoring and Assessment (ET-CMA) of the Standing Committee on Climate Services (SC-CLI) in the Commission for Infrastructure (INFCOM), the Commission for Weather, Climate, Water and related Environmental Services and Applications (SERCOM), using regional expertise and building on existing material from both RA III and RA IV regions, the data provided by Members and global data centres, the analysis performed by Regional Climate Centres and Regional Climate Outlook Forums and the approach taken in the WMO Statement on the State of the Global Climate and State of Climate Services reports,
- (2) To invite the presidents of RA III, RA IV and INFCOM and SERCOM, with the chair of SC-CLI and the co-leads of ET-CMA, to liaise in order to establish a joint mechanism to support the production of such a report as a joint undertaking by both Regional Associations,
- (3) To entrust the Management Group together with RA III working structure in charge of Climate Services and working closely with the relevant working structure of RA IV to oversee the delivery of this report in a timely manner,
- (4) To establish close relationships with the Regional United Nations System and other relevant organizations, and to invite them to collaborate on this report, particularly on aspects regarding the climate impacts on socio-economic sectors, and on climate adaptation and mitigation policies and practices,
- (5) To request the Secretary-General to facilitate the WMO Secretariat's support for the review, publication, and the launch and communication of this report at the highest political levels.

Decision justification:

- (1) [Resolution 4 \(RA III-16\)](#) - Launching the annual statement on the status of the climate in the South American Region, Regional Association III (South America);
 - (2) [Resolution 7 \(RA III-17\)](#) - Role of Regional Climate Centres in implementation of the Climate Services Information System in Region III.
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APPENDIX 4. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

1. Officers of the session

Andrea Celeste SAULO (Ms) Acting President of RA III

2. WMO Members within RA III

Argentina

Andrea Celeste SAULO (Ms)	Principal Delegate
Paula ETALA (Ms)	Alternate
Lucas BERENGUA	Delegate
Claudia CAMPETELLA (Ms)	Delegate
Alicia CEJAS (Ms)	Delegate
Maria Julia CHASCO (Ms)	Delegate
Yamila COSTA (Ms)	Delegate
Lorena FERREIRA (Ms)	Delegate
Carla GULIZIA (Ms)	Delegate
Pablo LOYBER	Delegate
Mariano RE	Delegate
Claudia RIBERO (Ms)	Delegate
Nicolas RIVABEN	Delegate
Marcos SAUCEDO (Ms)	Delegate
Maria de los Milagros SKANSI (Ms)	Delegate
Martina SUAYA (Ms)	Delegate
Roxana VASQUES (Ms)	Delegate
Luciano VIDAL	Delegate
Elian WOLFRAM	Delegate

Brazil

Helenir Trindade DE OLIVEIRA (Ms)	Alternate
Jose Arimatea DE SOUSA BRITO	Alternate
Helges Samuel BANDEIRA	Delegate
Marcelo Jorge MEDEIROS	Delegate

Chile

Reinaldo GUTIERREZ	Principal Delegate
Miguel EGANA	Alternate
Gino CASASSA	Delegate
Mercedes MENESES (Ms)	Delegate
Luis MORENO	Delegate
Felipe PEREZ	Delegate
Pedro ROCA	Delegate
Barbara TAPIA (Ms)	Delegate
Gaston TORRES	Delegate

Colombia

Yolanda GONZALEZ HERNANDEZ (Ms)	Principal Delegate
Milena ARIZA (Ms)	Delegate
Fabio Andres BERNAL QUIROGA	Delegate
Hector GONZALEZ	Delegate
Andrés Felipe MARMOLEJO EGRED	Delegate
Hugo SAAVEDRA	Delegate
Nelson Omar VARGAS	Delegate

France

Yves GREGORIS	Principal Delegate
Catherine BORRETTI (Ms)	Alternate
Ali BEL MADANI	Delegate

Guyana

Garvin CUMMINGS	Principal Delegate
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Paraguay

Raúl Enrique RODAS FRANCO	Principal Delegate
Eduardo Jose MINGO VEGA	Delegate
Nelson Heriberto PEREZ TRIVEROS	Delegate

Peru

Ken TAKAHASHI	Principal Delegate
Grinia AVALOS (Ms)	Delegate
Romina CAMINADA (Ms)	Delegate
Jorge CHIRA	Delegate
Yury ESCAJADILLO	Delegate
Waldo LAVADO	Delegate
Vera LUIS	Delegate
Clara ORIA (Ms)	Delegate
Karim QUEVEDO (Ms)	Delegate
Nelson QUISPE	Delegate
Gabriela ROSAS	Delegate

Uruguay

Luis A LOUREIRO	Principal Delegate
Lucia CHIPPONELLI (Ms)	Delegate

3. WMO Members outside RA III**Burkina Faso**

Joel ZOUNGRANA	Observer
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Myanmar

Tin Mar HTAY (Ms)	Observer
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Spain

Jorge TAMAYO CARMONA	Observer
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Sudan

Hazim SURAG	Observer
Maha ABDELRAHMAN (Ms)	Observer
Mohamedahmed SABAHELKHIER	Observer

4. Invited experts

Jose Mauro DE REZENDE
 Karolin EICHLER (Ms)
 Maisincho INAMHI
 Patricia KRECL (Ms)
 Sukarni SALLONS MITRO (Ms)
 Jean-Marc TERRISSE
 Vicente David VASQUEZ GRANDA

5. Representatives of international organizations and other bodies**CIIFEN**

Juan Jose NIETO Observer

CILSS

Seydou TINNI Observer

IAEA

Loreta STANKEVICIUTE (Ms) Observer
 Hal TURTON Observer
 Laura VAI (Ms) Observer

ICAO

Jorge ARMOA CANETE Observer

6. Presidents of constituent bodies and Chairs of other bodies

Gerhard ADRIAN WMO President-Observer
 Michel JEAN President of INFCOM
 Ian LISK President of SERCOM

7. Regional Hydrological Advisers

SILVANA ALCOZ (Ms) Regional Hydrological Adviser

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