Members of the World Meteorological Organization have committed to a governance reform in order to better respond to the growing global demand for weather, climate and water expertise. WMO is not alone, the United Nations is on a similar path. Members want better governance, efficiency gains and improved effectiveness throughout the UN system in order to optimize the use of limited resources.

In 2015, the World Meteorological Congress requested the Executive Council to provide recommendations to its next session (in 2019) on its constituent body constructs, including possible new structures for Technical Commissions, Regional Associations and Executive Council itself. The Congress also requested recommendations on rules, procedures, processes, working mechanisms and duties of constituent bodies, WMO Officers (president, vice-presidents, etc.), and the relationship between them and the Secretariat.

WMO is committed to sustaining its leadership role and remaining fit-for-purpose, while becoming more efficient and cost-effective. To do so, it must ensure that its structure is well-aligned with its strategic priorities. WMO recognizes the need to continuously adapt to resource constraints and increased competition while taking advantage of technological advances to maximize its reach by improving Earth System monitoring and multi-hazard early warning systems, enhancing science for services, strengthening cooperation, and informing and addressing global issues such as climate change. The streamlined structure should permit the Organization to enlist leading experts and, notably, the private sector in its activities.

This restructuring of the Organization will enhance proactive regional engagement and capacity development. In our response to the growing global demand for weather, climate and water expertise, the reform provisions assure that no Member is left behind.
## Considerations

- Opportunity for all WMO Members to participate in constituent body work
- The enhancement of WMO core business
- Improving delivery and responsiveness of WMO
- Implementation of a seamless Earth System approach
- Alignment of the structure with hydrometeorological value chain for service delivery
- Improve alignment between WMO strategy and its constituent body structures
- Building resilience to weather, climate and water-related hazards worldwide
- Strengthening of partnerships with international, national and regional organizations
- Optimizing resources through better coordination with those outside the WMO community

## Recommendations

The Seventieth Executive Council (EC-70) approved:

- the establishment of an EC Policy Advisory Committee and Technical Coordination Committee, which will launch at EC-71
- the WMO Policy Framework for Public-Private Engagement and created a task force to draft a high-level policy act (for consideration by Congress-18) in order to facilitate more active participation and contribution of partner organizations

EC-70 further recommended to Congress-18:

- World Meteorological Congress – biennial meetings (ordinary + extraordinary)
- Two new technical commissions – to enable a holistic approach to setting standards:
  - Commission for Observation, Infrastructure and Information Systems (Infrastructure Commission)
  - Commission for Weather, Climate, Water and Related Environmental Services and Applications (Services Commission)
- Research Board – a new entity to promote integration of research programmes and coordinate science for services and applications
- Scientific Advisory Panel – a new entity that will engage the world’s top scientists to provide independent forward-looking strategic advice on emerging challenges and opportunities
- Regional Associations (RAs) – amendments to the Terms of Reference of the RAs to strengthen capacity building and amplify regional engagement

The recommendation to Congress is that the two new technical commissions commence their work as early as possible and that existing technical commissions active during the current financial period (2015-2019) be disbanded at the end of a transition period (2020).

Further consultations are planned with the hydrology community at an extraordinary session of the Commission for Hydrology (CHy-Ext) in February 2019. The ocean community will join the two new Technical Commissions and will be overseen by a joint WMO/IOC-UNESCO committee.

## Benefits

- Clear management responsibilities
- Wider participation of Members in core activities
- Better engagement with partners
- Holistic Earth system approach: meteorology, climatology, hydrology, oceanography, seismology, volcanology, air quality, greenhouse gases and space weather
- Multi-hazard and impact based seamless services: weather, climate, water, aviation, marine, agriculture, urban, energy and health, etc.
- Wide climate perspective: observations, services, science, adaptation and mitigation
- Engagement of hydrological services across activities, weather-water synergies
- Wider support of science communities for WMO activities
- Organized and managed engagement with private sector
- Optimal use of Member and Secretariat resources – more support for Regional activities