### CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item No.</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.0</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.1</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.2</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.3</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.4</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.5</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.6</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.1.7</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.0 to 3.2.2</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.4</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.5</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.6</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.3</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2.7</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.1 Report by the President of the Organization

2.3 Report and Recommendations of the Financial Advisory Committee

2.4 Report Consolidated Report on Amendments to the Technical Regulations

3.1.0 Report on the WWW Basic Systems and Support Functions; the Report of the President of CBS

3.1.1 Instruments Report on the Global Observing System (GOS)

3.1.2 Report on GTS, Data Management and WIS Activities

3.1.3 Report on Global Data-processing and Forecasting System (GDPFS); including Emergency Response Activities (ERA)

3.1.4 Report on WWW System Support Activities, including the Operational Information System

3.1.5 Instruments and Methods of Observation Programme

3.1.6 Tropical Cyclone Programme

3.1.7 Report on WMO Antarctic Activities

3.2.0 to World Climate Programme (WCP)

3.2.2 The Report of the President of CCI Coordination Activities within the Climate Agenda Support to climate change-related activities, including IPCC and the Conventions on Climate, Biodiversity and Desertification

3.2.4 World Climate Programme (WCP)

3.2.5 World Climate Programme (WCP)

3.2.6 World Climate Impact Assessment and Response Strategies Programme (WCIRP)

3.2.3 World Climate Observing System

3.2.7 World Climate Research Programme
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item No.</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4.1</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4.2</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4.3</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.4.4</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.8.1(1)</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.8.1(2)</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.8.1(3)</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.8.1(4)</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.8.1(5)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.8.1(6)</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.8.2</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.10</td>
<td>116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.3(1)</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.2(1)</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.2(3)</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item No.</td>
<td>Page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>Follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.3</td>
<td>WMO Programme for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.4(1)</td>
<td>Evolution of NMHSs and WMO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.4(1) Add, 1</td>
<td>Increased transparency and involvement of Members in Governance Issues of WMO between Congresses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.4(2)</td>
<td>Evolution of NMHSs and WMO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.4(4)</td>
<td>Evolution of NMHSs and WMO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>Gender Mainstreaming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.1(1)</td>
<td>Cooperation with United Nations and Other International Organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.1(2)</td>
<td>Cooperation with United Nations and Other International Organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>WMO’s Role in the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>International Polar Year 2007-2008 (IPY)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.1(2)</td>
<td>Financial Matters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.1(3)</td>
<td>Financial Matters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.1(4)</td>
<td>Financial Matters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.1(5)</td>
<td>Financial Matters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.2(1)</td>
<td>Proportional Contributions of Members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.2(2)</td>
<td>Proportional Contributions of Members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item No.</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.2(3)</td>
<td>Proportional Contributions of Members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Report on the Working Capital Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.3(1)</td>
<td>Proportional Staff Matters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Code of Ethics and Changes to WMO Staff Regulations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.2(1)</td>
<td>Questions concerning the Conventions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADD. 1</td>
<td>Excerpts from the Final Reports of the Regional Associations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.2(2)</td>
<td>Questions concerning the Conventions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Questions concerning the WMO Emblem and Flag</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.2(3)</td>
<td>Questions concerning the Conventions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proposed Amendment to the Preamble</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.2(4)</td>
<td>Questions concerning the Conventions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Excerpts from a letter of the Permanent Representative of Lithuania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>with WMO dated 15 March 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.3(1)</td>
<td>Revision of the General Regulations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.4</td>
<td>Review of the Previous Resolutions of Congress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.5</td>
<td>Requests for Membership of the Organization</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AGENDA ITEM 2.1 - REPORT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE ORGANIZATION

Cg-XV/Rep. 2.1

INTRODUCTION

RESUME OF ACTIVITIES

MEMBERSHIP
CONSTITUENT BODIES
SECRETARIAT
PROGRAMMES
RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

MATTERS WHICH ARE REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED TO CONGRESS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF REGULATION 9(8) OF THE GENERAL REGULATIONS

OTHER MATTERS AFFECTING THE ORGANIZATION

NEW DEVELOPMENTS AND MAJOR ISSUES
1. World summits
2. Support of multilateral environmental agreements
3. Climate variability and change
4. Coordination and integration of observations
5. WMO Information System
6. Quality Management Framework
7. Natural disaster prevention and mitigation
8. Water issues
9. Role and operation of NMHSs
10. International exchange of data and products
11. Social and economic value of NMHSs

FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE ORGANIZATION

CONCLUSION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ANNEXES:
I. Changes of the membership of the Executive Council since Fourteenth Congress
II. Meetings of panels, working groups and other bodies reporting to the Executive Council
III. Sessions of regional associations held since Fourteenth Congress
IV. Sessions of technical commissions held since Fourteenth Congress
INTRODUCTION

1. Regulation 9 of the General Regulations defines the duties of the President of the Organization. In particular, it requires the President:

(a) To preside over the sessions of Congress and sessions of the Executive Council held during his term of office (Regulation 9(1));

(b) To guide and coordinate the activities of the Organization and its various bodies as specified in Article 4(a), (1) to (4) inclusive of the Convention (Regulation 9(2));

(c) To issue directives to the Secretary-General with respect to the fulfilment of his duties (Regulation 9(3));

2. Regulation 9 also requires the President to report to each ordinary session of the Congress and to include in his report particulars of any case which has occurred, since the previous session of the Executive Council, in which he took action or adopted a decision or directive, which he would otherwise have been required to report to the Council if it had convened before the Congress (Regulation 9(8)).

3. Regulation 137 requires that the President’s Report to Congress shall include:

(a) A résumé of the activities of the Organization, its constituent bodies (particularly the Executive Council) and the Secretariat since the last session of Congress;

(b) Matters which are required to be reported to Congress under the provisions of Regulation 9(8);

(c) Any other matters affecting the Organization or its constituent bodies.

4. This report is presented in line with the requirements of Regulation 137. It is based primarily on the work of the Executive Council for the coordination of the programmes of the Organization and utilization of its budgetary resources in accordance with the decisions of Fourteenth Congress and it meets the Council's Article 14(g) responsibility to report on its activities to each session of Congress. It represents the Presidents account, on behalf of the officers and members of the Executive Council, of the Council's stewardship of the Organization over the past four years. It covers the period from the close of Fourteenth Congress to 28 February 2007.

RESUME OF ACTIVITIES

5. The activities of the Organization, its constituent bodies and the Secretariat over the four years since the close of Fourteenth Congress (see reference 1 to Doc. 2.1) are reported in detail in separate documents under other agenda items. A brief résumé is presented in this report.

THE ORGANIZATION

Membership

6. On 3 June 2006, the President of the Republic of Serbia notified the Secretary-General of the United Nations that the membership of the state union Serbia and Montenegro in the United Nations including all organs and organizations of the United Nations system, is continued by the Republic of Serbia. The United Nations confirmed the membership of the Republic of Serbia on 7 June 2006. In this context, the Republic of Serbia is a Member of the Organization instead of former Serbia and Montenegro. The Republic of Montenegro became a Member of the United Nations on
28 June 2006. The Republic of Montenegro had deposited an instrument of accession to the WMO Convention to the Government of the United States of America on 6 December 2006 in accordance with Articles 3 (b) and 33 of the Convention. Accordingly, the Republic of Montenegro became a new Member of the Organization on 5 January 2007, in accordance with Article 35 of the Convention.

7. At 31 January 2007, the Membership of the Organization was 188 comprising 182 Member States and 6 Member Territories.

CONSTITUENT BODIES

Congress

8. The decisions of Fourteenth Congress have provided the basis for the activities of the Organization during the period under review.

Executive Council

9. The present membership of the Executive Council and changes which have taken place since Fourteenth Congress, are shown in Annex I.

10. The Executive Council has held four sessions since Fourteenth Congress on the following dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fifty-fifth session</td>
<td>26 to 28 May 2003</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fifty-sixth session</td>
<td>8 to 18 June 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fifty-seventh session</td>
<td>21 June to 1 July 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fifty-eighth session</td>
<td>20 to 30 June 2006</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. In addition to its formal sessions, the Executive Council has carried out its responsibilities, under Article 14 of the Convention, and its work on implementation of the decisions of Fourteenth Congress, through the work of the Bureau and a number of panels, working or advisory groups and other subsidiary bodies.

12. The Bureau carried out its work in line with the role assigned to it by Ninth Congress and elaborated in the Reference Guide to the Work of the Executive Council (see reference 10 to Doc. 2.1). It provided an essential mechanism for the President to consult with the Vice-Presidents, the Secretary-General and invitees, especially the regional presidents, on the major issues involved in the discharge of his Regulation 9 responsibility to guide and coordinate the activities of the Organization. It also played a vital role in assisting the President and Secretary-General in their detailed planning for sessions of the Congress and the Executive Council in accordance with Regulation 155. The Bureau held two sessions per year during the period, one in January-February each year and one in association with the annual sessions of the Executive Council.

13. While, in line with its role as an advisory rather than a decision-making body, the Bureau did not issue formal reports on its sessions, the President kept Executive Council members and, through the regional presidents, all Members, informed by letter on the main matters dealt with at its January-February sessions.

14. A number of subsidiary bodies of the Executive Council carried out essential preparatory and coordination work in support of the Council's action on the tasks assigned to it by Fourteenth Congress in the intersessional period and supported its work during its annual sessions. The list of sessions of subsidiary bodies is given in Annex II.
15. The Executive Council carried out work entrusted to it by the Regulations and by Fourteenth Congress in a satisfactory manner. The President is pleased to be able to inform the Congress that he considers the actions taken by the Council on most issues should contribute helpfully to the decisions of Fifteenth Congress under the various agenda items. The Council, however, found itself under heavy pressure trying to deal with such a wide range of matters with the reduced length of its sessions and, despite a number of efficiency measures introduced into its work, it was not always able to deal with some issues in as much depth as it would have wished. Given the increasingly heavy demands on the time of most Council members by their national responsibilities, not all members were able to attend the full duration of every session of the Council or contribute fully to the work of its subsidiary bodies. While placing on record his appreciation to all members of the Council for their work, the President wishes to remind those seeking election to the new Council that the effective working of the Council will place significant demands on them and their time.

Regional associations

16. The regional associations continued to conduct their work in an efficient manner, with most sessions conducted in a shorter time than before. They gave considerable attention to the further development of National Meteorological (or Hydrometeorological) Services and Hydrological Services with a view to ensuring their fuller participation in, and deriving optimum benefits from, the Programmes and activities of the Organization. The main concern was to support, in a cost-effective manner, their countries' national socio-economic development in the context of implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). As each president of the six regional associations will submit his report to Fifteenth Congress under agenda item 3.8.1, no details concerning the activities of the individual regional associations are included here. For record purposes, the list of sessions of the regional associations held since Fourteenth Congress is shown in Annex III.

17. The President wishes to draw the attention of the Congress to the extraordinarily heavy load of responsibilities carried by the regional presidents and their vice-presidents under Regulation 166, especially on such important matters as strategy and priorities for the WMO Long-term Plan. While the work of the regional associations has been well supported by the Regional and Sub-regional Offices and in other ways, the pressures on the officers have continued to increase as the range of issues they have been required to deal with has continued to expand.

Technical commissions

18. The technical commissions conducted their work in their customary efficient manner, with most of the sessions being shorter than previously. Most of the technical commissions changed their working structures towards open programme areas, giving greater flexibility in task oriented work and inter-disciplinary interactions. The work of the Commissions ensured the provision of appropriate studies and reviews of advances in science and technology to Members and constituent bodies. Efforts were pursued to ensure the widest participation in the sessions and work of the Commissions. As each president will report to Fifteenth Congress, under the agenda item relevant to the scientific and technical programme, no details concerning the activities of the individual technical commissions are given here. For record purposes, the list of sessions of technical commissions held since Fourteenth Congress is shown in Annex IV.

19. In addition to their leadership of the work of their individual Commissions, the presidents of the technical commissions continued to contribute strongly to the overall work of WMO through their participation in the annual sessions of the Executive Council and in a number of important subsidiary bodies of the Council. The annual Meetings of the Presidents of Technical Commissions, chaired in rotation by the Vice-Presidents of WMO, and the coordination meetings of presidents of technical commissions and regional associations continued to play a vital role in ensuring effective cooperation and coordination among WMO Programmes and in developing important initiatives in areas of shared responsibility.
SECRETARIAT

20. The role and functions of the Secretariat are given in Articles 20-22 of the Convention and Regulation 201 of the General Regulations. The activities of the Secretariat are wide-ranging and affect virtually every undertaking in which the Organization is engaged. The Secretary-General is responsible to the President for the technical and administrative work of the Secretariat. The Secretary-General's managerial and administrative functions are supported through the Executive Management Committee, the Comité de Direction and special internal thematic steering committees, etc.

21. The Secretariat continued to carry out its functions with great dedication and professionalism, albeit with increasingly heavy workloads and declining budget resources in some areas, making it difficult to meet the expectations of Members and constituent bodies on many important issues.

22. During the period covered by the report, the major activities of the Secretariat consisted of the initiation of the implementation of the decisions of Fourteenth Congress. In order to respond to these, a number of structural and organizational changes have been introduced in the Secretariat since the beginning of 2004. The objectives of the changes in the Secretariat are to enhance support to Members, increase the role, contribution and visibility of WMO including National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and to ensure improved mutually beneficial interaction with relevant operational, scientific, academic, capacity building and policy making institutions and bodies at national, regional and international levels.

23. A major change in the Secretariat relates to the establishment of a Regional Affairs and Technical Cooperation for Development Department (RCD), which was renamed as the Development Cooperation and Regional Activities Department (DCR) in 2006 that will bring increased harmony and greater synergy between the Technical Cooperation and Regional Programmes.

24. In order to implement crosscutting and evolving issues and enhance WMO's overall capacity to support the activities of NMHSs, Steering Committees on Climate, Integrated Observing System and Disaster Reduction have become operational. In addition, a Fellowships Committee was established in the Secretariat in order to reach the highest possible level of effectiveness, fairness and transparency in the granting and the implementation of fellowships.

25. One of the top priorities has been to further enhance internal controls and oversight and to restore integrity, enhance transparency and improve efficiency. In this respect, an Internal Oversight Office (IOO) was established with internal audit functions and evaluation and monitoring in order to strengthen internal oversight activities. In addition, steps have been taken to strengthen the procurement process. Significant progress has also been made on the development of a WMO Code of Ethics for staff. In addition, a mandatory disclosure of interests has been implemented for senior staff and staff in critical positions to proactively deal with potential conflict of interest. Moreover, further fraud prevention training is being provided to WMO staff and much stricter control and equity have been implemented for the award and monitoring of fellowships.

26. Other Secretariat policies and procedures adopted in this respect correspond to administrative process simplification, reduction of response time, significant reduction in recruitment time and mobility of staff, a new contractual policy for short-term staff to prohibit precarious contracts, implementation of the ORACLE automation project, increased outsourcing of support activities, introduction of new result-based budget format, delegation of authority and accountability. Additional internal management issues have been pursued throughout 2006 and are increasingly characterized by a forward-looking approach. During the period, two regular presentations each year were made to the Permanent Missions in Geneva, in order to update them...
on the development related to Programmes, the main environmental issues, the critical role of their NMHSs and reform within the Organization.

27. Administrative and financial issues and reforms in the Secretariat over the past four years will be considered under agenda item 10.

PROGRAMMES

28. The activities of the Organization over the past four years have been planned, budgeted, managed and evaluated on a programme basis within the overall framework of the Sixth Long-term Plan (2004-2011). These have been summarized in the WMO Annual Reports for 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006 respectively, with further information provided in the quarterly issues of the WMO Bulletin as well as in MeteoWorld, online WMO News, and numerous documents and other programmes publications. Reports on the implementation of the individual programmes including two new Programmes approved by Fourteenth Congress, namely the Natural Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Programme and WMO Space Programme, are submitted under item 3 of the Congress Agenda and the Executive Council's report to Congress on its monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Sixth WMO Long-term Plan is presented under item 6.1 of the Congress Agenda.

RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

29. In order to enhance and strengthen cooperation with the UN system and other international organizations, several measures have been taken including the involvement of the Organization in major UN events such as the 2005 World Summit, the International Meeting on SIDS (January 2005, Mauritius), the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (January 2005, Japan), the second phase of the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) (November 2005, Tunis) as well as follow-up actions related to the Indian Ocean Tsunami. WMO actively participated in the meetings of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) and sessions of the Chief Executive Board for Coordination (CEB) as well as COPs of UNFCCC, UNCCD and other environmental conventions. The Secretary-General maintains high-level contacts within the UN system through, in particular, the UN CEB, with the Permanent Missions at the level of Permanent Representatives and Ambassadors, Executive Heads of IGOs, NGOs development partners, as well as the highest policy and decision-making levels at national levels.

30. WMO actively participated in UN inter-agency groups, such as UN-Water, UN-Oceans, Environmental Management Group (EMG), UN Communication Group, UN Development Group, etc. WMO followed closely the process of UN system reform and participated in relevant consultations along with other specialized agencies. WMO followed UN resolutions and regularly kept Members informed on the issues related to WMO.

31. WMO actively continued to strengthen cooperation with international funding agencies including the World Bank in capacity building of NMHSs. Starting from 2005, based on the President's initiative, the World Bank undertook actions to study the state and development of Hydrometeorological Services in 19 countries of Europe and Central Asia. The purpose of the study is to enhance capacity building of NMHSs in the fields of weather and climate forecasting, while using the most effective ways of their development, so as to meet the needs of sustainable development at national, regional as well as global levels. At present, studies have been successfully completed for Albania, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Serbia, indicating potential benefits they could achieve due to investments in the programmes/projects of modernization of their NMHS. The Governments approved the feasibility of such activities. Others will be finished at the second half of 2007. The Governments of Belarus and Kazakhstan are looking to co-financing state programmes/projects for modernization of their NMHS with the World Bank.
32. WMO continued to broaden cooperation with other international organizations in support of WMO Programmes and of NMHSs. Several Memoranda of Understanding were signed such as with the Asian Disaster Reduction Centre (ADRC), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research Operational Programme on Satellite Application (UNOSAT) and the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP). Cooperation was strengthened with national and regional meteorological and hydrological Societies. WMO also co-sponsored a number of annual meetings of meteorological societies.

33. A major activity involving international cooperation in the field of hydrology and water resources was the Fourth World Water Forum, held in March 2006 in Mexico, where WMO played a key role, not only through its active participation as a convener of several technical sessions and exhibitor in the Water Fair, but in its capacity of technical adviser of the local organizers in the Framework Theme on Risk Management. Also work has initiated in the development of the programme of work of the "International Flood Initiative (IFI)", following the guidance of the fifty-seventh session of the Council.

34. In order to strengthen cooperation with the United Nations and North America, as well as the European Commission, the WMO Liaison Office in New York and the Joint Office of the World Meteorological Organization and the European Meteorological Services Network (EUMETNET) at the European Commission (EC) in Brussels were re-established and established in 2005, 2006 respectively.

MATTERS WHICH ARE REQUIRED TO BE REPORTED TO CONGRESS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF REGULATION 9(8) OF THE GENERAL REGULATIONS

35. Decisions taken by the President on behalf of the Executive Council before the fifty-eighth session of the Executive Council were reported and approved by its fifty-sixth, fifty-seventh and fifty-eighth sessions respectively. Since fifty-eighth session of the Executive Council, Mr F.P. Mote (Ghana) and Mr M. Shawky Saadallah (Egypt) from Region I (Africa) ceased to be elected members of the Executive Council. Their seats of the Council have therefore become vacant by virtue of the provisions of Article 6(a) of the Convention. In this context the President decided to elect two acting members by correspondence due to the vacancy occurring at least 225 days before the next session of the Council. Dr M.D. Everell (Canada) and Mr J.K. Rabadi (Jordan) also ceased to hold their position as Permanent Representative of Canada and Jordan with WMO respectively in November and December 2006. The President decided no action to be taken due to the two vacancies occurring less than 225 days before next session of the Council.

OTHER MATTERS AFFECTING THE ORGANIZATION

NEW DEVELOPMENTS AND MAJOR ISSUES

World Summits

36. WMO actively involved and participated in the World Summit (14-16 September 2005, New York). The Summit reaffirmed that sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental aspects constituted a key element of the overarching framework of the United Nations activities. In the section on sustainable development, the wide range of climate change issues have been highlighted. It was recognized that climate change is a serious and long-term challenge that has the potential to affect every part of the globe. It was acknowledged that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation and participation in an effective and appropriate international response. One of the major issues to which the participants of the World Summit have paid special attention was the issue of natural disasters. The Summit urged all nations to work expeditiously towards the establishment of a worldwide early warning system for all natural hazards. It noted the necessity to fully implement the Hyogo Declaration and
the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 adopted at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (January 2005, Kobe, Japan). The Summit expressed the commitment of all nations to continue to assist developing countries, in particular SIDS, LDCs and African countries, including those that are particularly vulnerable to climate change, in addressing their adaptation needs.

37. The Outcome Document of the Summit had placed emphasis on three policy-related requirements: strengthening linkage between the normative and operational work of the system; better coordination of the representation of Member States on the system’s governing bodies; and ensuring that the main horizontal policy themes – sustainable development, human rights and gender – are taken into due account in decision-making. The UN system had been challenged to be more effective, more efficient across the breadth of its agenda and to demonstrate greater coherence.

38. In 2001, The UN General Assembly decided to organize a World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) to promote and foster the potential of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) for development. WMO participated in the two WSIS phases held in Geneva in December 2003 and in Tunis in November 2005. The WSIS Tunis Agenda recognizes the intrinsic relationship between disaster reduction, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty, while stressing the enabling role of ICTs for disaster early warning, management and emergency communications. WMO is contributing to the multi-stakeholder implementation and follow-up of the E-environment Action Line of the WSIS Plan of Action.

Support of Multilateral Environmental Agreements

39. The Organization continued to take an active part in many of the major activities of the United Nations. Since COP-11 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, it has actively participated in the work of the Convention and particularly enhanced the role of WMO and NMHSs in the implementation of the UNFCCC Programme of Work on Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change. This has led to a better understanding of the Parties to the Convention on the role of WMO and NMHSs in the adaptation process and its important role in the management and operation of the global observation network. Since Fourteenth Congress the number of delegates from the WMO community to the UNFCCC COP sessions has significantly increased.

40. The Organization has consulted with at least 14 UN Agencies and international bodies, including FAO, IPCC, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFCCC, WHO and ICSU on a potential partnership in a possible World Climate Conference-3. In this context, WMO along with UN Agencies continued the work on defining the science agenda, issues for the high-level segment, plans for resource mobilization, and coordination at the national and international levels, until a final decision on a possible WCC-3 is reached during Fifteenth Congress.

41. WCRP continues to address the question of enhancing the delivery of its capability to the UNFCCC. WMO organized a side event during the SBSTA-24 meeting in May 2006, entitled ‘Climate change research achievements and challenges: priority goals for WCRP’. The side event emphasized the importance of research for projecting human-induced climate change, for detecting and attributing climate change, for assessing the impact of mitigation measures and also focussed on research gaps for managing climate change impacts and facilitating adaptation to future climate change. WCRP produced a document in response to the call for input on the ‘research needs’ for the UN FCCC/SBSTA Synthesis Report. Crafted into it was a series of key messages – expressed as research priority gaps.

42. GCOS reported, as requested, to the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice at its twenty-fifth session (SBSTA-25) in Nairobi in November 2006 on progress related to the Implementation Plan for the Global Observing System for Climate in Support of the UNFCCC.
This report included the development of revised guidelines for Parties to report to the Conference of the Parties (COP) on their activities in systematic observation of the climate system, development of more detail on requirements for satellite observations, and progress in follow-on activities to the Regional Workshop Programme. GAW leads the implementation of three Actions in the Implementation Plan for the Global Observing System for Climate in Support of the UNFCCC (GCOS-92) related to global networks for greenhouse gases, ozone and aerosols. From 2005, GAW started issuing annual Bulletins on Greenhouse Gases.

43. Through the WCRP and GAW programmes, WMO continued its strong support for the Vienna Convention on Protection of the Ozone Layer, the Montreal Protocol and its amendments. In 2005, WMO, in partnership with UNEP and the host country Austria, organized special meetings in Vienna to celebrate the 20th anniversary of this highly successful convention. In 2006, the Executive Summary of the quadrennial “UNEP/WMO Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion” was released concluding that the ozone layer over the mid-latitudes (30°-60° North and South) should recover by 2049, five years later than anticipated by the 2002 assessment. GAW has been regularly issuing weekly Antarctic Ozone Bulletins. The first WMO Arctic Ozone Bulletin describing the 2005-2006 winter was issued in September 2006. GAW also supports the UN-ECE Convention on Long Range Trans-boundary Transport of Air Pollution co-chairing its Task Force and Measurements and Modelling.

Climate Variability and Change

44. WMO has been regularly issuing an Annual Statement on Global Climate every year, based on contributions worldwide. In collaboration with CLIVAR-WCRP, workshops on climate change indices have been organized in several parts of the world, contributing to a standardized approach to define and quantify them. The WMO WCP continues with the publication of global consensus-driven El Niño and La Niña Updates. It has also been working on the Guidelines on Heat-Health Warning Systems (HHWS).

45. Since the Fourteenth Congress a significant milestone has been the publication of the WCRP’s 10-year Strategic Framework (2005-2015) in September 2005. The central focus of this Framework is to catalyze research to improve the understanding of climate processes and to facilitate the incorporation of this understanding into a range of products, predictions, and projections for a broad range of users. In this new Framework, WCRP engages in a number of cross-cutting initiatives through the implementation of task forces and working groups in areas such as seasonal prediction, anthropogenic climate change, monsoons, chemistry and climate, extremes and risks, and sea-level rise. Cross-cutting activities bring together scientists with other key stakeholders such as policy makers, development agencies, and private industry specialists in order to address specific problems or research questions. In June 2006, the WCRP brought together 163 scientists from 29 countries to identify uncertainties associated with sea-level rise and the research and observational activities needed for narrowing these uncertainties. The WCRP Task Force on Seasonal Prediction, has developed plans for an experiment to utilize advances, understanding and assessment skills across all WCRP projects.

46. Since the Fourteenth Congress, significant advances in the Earth System Science Partnership have also been made. A major milestone was the Second ESSP Open Science Conference on “Global Environmental Change: Regional Challenges” held in Beijing, 9-12 November 2006. The conference attracted more than 800 scientists, policy-makers, practitioners, scholars, members of the private sector and journalists. A joint project on Global Change and Human Health and the International Science Plan of the first ESSP regional effort, the Monsoon Asia Integrated Regional study (MAIRS), were launched during the conference.
Coordination and Integration of Observations

47. The new WMO Space Programme established by the Fourteenth Congress as a major cross-cutting programme has dedicated its efforts towards improving the space-based component of the Global Observing System, increasing access to satellite data and products through new technologies that are cost efficient for WMO Members and enhancing the utilization of satellite data and products through focused education and training.

48. Since the last Congress, new space agencies operating satellite missions that produce valuable data and products have joined the GOS including the Republic of Korea with its COMS mission, and the China National Space Administration (CNSA) with its HY and HJ series of satellites. WMO Members’ space agencies contributing to the space-based GOS have maintained vibrant space programmes including the United States of America, the Russian Federation, India, China, Japan, the European Organization for the Exploitation on Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT), and the European Space Agency (ESA). These space agencies have also agreed to implement a new WMO Global Space-based Inter-calibration System (GSICS) that will be a major contribution towards meeting the GCOS Climate Monitoring Principles. Data access has been vastly increased through the capabilities provided by the Integrated Global Data Dissemination Service (IGDDS) that is an integral part of the WMO Information System (WIS). Finally, WMO Members are now able to better exploit satellite data and products through knowledge gained through the Virtual Laboratory for Education and Training in Satellite Meteorology. In October 2006, the Virtual Laboratory made possible a High Profile Training Event in which more than 120 of WMO’s Members participated in a concentrated two-week period.

49. Another initiative in which WMO has been extremely active is the new Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) that is being developed by the Group on Earth Observations (GEO). GEO started after the Fourteenth Congress, and WMO has been a strong contributor towards GEO’s efforts to establish a global, coordinated and sustained observing system of systems to meet the needs of nine societal benefit areas that include weather, water, climate and disasters. WMO is a Participating Organization in GEO and has served in all GEO Committees. While GEO’s mandate goes beyond those of WMO, WMO’s considerable experience and expertise have greatly assisted in the establishment of GEOSS. As part of a close cooperation and to enable synergies, the GEO Secretariat is located in the WMO building.

50. Large strides forward were achieved in the production of an Integrated Global Atmospheric Chemistry Observations (IGACO) strategy that when implemented through the GAW Strategic Plan: 2008-2015 will be a major component of the future WMO integrated observing system. GAW networks and the GAW Urban Research and Meteorology Experiment (GURME) have been maintained and developed strengthening linkages to the World Weather Research Programme. GAW support for quality assurance, calibration and applications of ground-based (in situ, balloon and remote sensing) and aircraft observations measurements are a unique contribution to GEOSS.

51. GCOS also cooperated closely with the Committee on Earth Observations (CEOS) in developing their report to SBSTA-25 on the response by Parties with Earth observation space agencies to the needs expressed in the IP, as had been requested by COP-10. SBSTA-25, GCOS Regional Workshop Programme and ClimDev Africa, an integrated, multi-partner programme called Climate for Development in Africa, or ClimDev Africa, has been initiated as a follow-on from a workshop organized by GCOS and the UN Economic Commission for Africa in Addis Ababa in 2006. The ClimDev programme involves partnership with the African Union, the ECA, WMO and several donors (including the UK’s Department for International Development). The new programme is intended to help African countries attain the Millennium Development Goals through improvements in climate observations, climate services, climate risk management, and climate policy needs in Africa. GCOS Network Implementation of GCOS networks continues, with additional networks being formally added as appropriate.
WMO Information System (WIS)

52. The WIS is developing as a major component of all WMO Programmes, building upon and expanding the GTS functions and services. Considerable efforts have been made in the development of WIS pilot projects and prototypes and in demonstrating the technological solutions for WIS, but much work remains to be done to implement an operational WIS. The Technical Conference on the WMO Information System (TECO-WIS), immediately preceding CBS-Ext.(06), was much appreciated. CBS and the ICG-WIS, with the support of adequate financial and human resources, have to develop appropriate regulatory WIS documentation, including a precise definition of the WIS position and functions in the general WMO infrastructure, as well as an implementation plan and guidance material for implementation. Capacity building and outreach activities for developing countries are critical for enabling full benefits from WIS. All regional associations, technical commissions and WMO Programmes should actively participate in the WIS development and implementation.

Quality Management Framework (QMF)

53. Quality management is of increasing importance for NMHSs. Many benefits can be expected from the proper implementation of a quality management system (QMS). A number of NMHSs have already implemented QMSs for all or part of their activities and are mainly following the quality management standards proposed by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). Regional and national legislations appear to drive some of these implementations and usually require the QMS to follow a precise standard as well as certification by an independent body. In the development of its own quality management framework (QMF), WMO should ensure that its recommendations are, as far as possible, compatible with widespread regional regulations and so avoid an unnecessary additional burden to NMHSs.

Natural Disaster Prevention and Mitigation

54. Fourteenth Congress has established a new cross-cutting Natural Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DPM) Programme with the vision to strengthen further contributions of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), in a more cost-effective, systematic and sustainable manner, towards improving the safety and well being of communities through mainstreaming of their products and services in the disaster risk management decision processes. This Programme addresses capacity development of NMHSs in supporting disaster risk management (DRM) decisions at the national level in the complete cycle of disaster risk management including prevention and mitigation as well as emergency preparedness, response, recovery and reconstruction.

55. The Executive Council in 2006 approved a cross-cutting coordination framework, for identifying DPM Programme’s strategic priorities and concrete projects that would be measurable with respect to their benefits and outcomes. Such cross-cutting projects would be prioritized and built upon activities of WMO Programmes, technical commissions, regional associations, and strategic partners, with clear definition of roles, responsibilities and deliverables.

56. The DPM Programme operating plan is being prepared, outlining the overall WMO strategy in DRM, and within the WMO result-based framework, providing key areas of focus and related prioritized projects, to address Members’ needs and gaps more systematically. Based on the outcomes of surveys and further consultations with Members, the DPM Programme has identified seven priority areas, through which it aims to provide systematic support to strengthen Members’ NMHSs capacities for strengthened disaster risk management at national, regional and international levels. Recommendations on a mechanism for strengthening collaboration for DPM related projects along with a WMO DPM Operation Plan are presented under the relevant agenda item.
Water issues

57. Since Cg-XIV, WMO has addressed some water issues with a special emphasis. Outstanding among these is the Flood Forecasting Initiative, which had as its main objective to improve the capacity of Meteorological and Hydrological Services to jointly deliver timely and more accurate products and services required in flood forecasting and warning. Seven regional workshops were held and a Synthesis Conference was organized in late 2006 to prepare an action plan that Congress will discuss under agenda item 3.5. Also in the field of floods, WMO has continued to promote through the “Associated Programme on Flood Management” the concept of Integrated Flood Management, which is flood management in the framework of Integrated Water Resources Management. After a first implementation phase of five years, the second implementation phase started in August 2006 with a foreseen duration of another five years. The programme has been supported by Japan and The Netherlands. Pilot projects in various regions have been developed and several advocacy publications have been prepared promoting the concept.

58. The other issue of main concern for WMO is that of capacity building in the field of hydrology and water resources. This issue is addressed through a multi-faceted approach: on one side the World Hydrological Cycle Observing System has continued developing regional components, those currently under implementation being: VOLTA-HYCOS, NIGER-HYCOS, SADC-HYCOS Phase II and PACIFIC-HYCOS. Through these projects, NMHSs become familiar with new technologies in a regional cooperation framework. Another issue to which the Commission for Hydrology is dedicating special attention is the WMO Quality Framework. Within this framework it is important to note the publication of the 2006 Edition of Volume III: Hydrology of the Technical Regulations, the progress made in the preparation of the Sixth Edition of the Guide to Hydrological Practices, and the advance made in the preparation of several manuals. Finally, the implementation of the WMO Strategy on Education and Training in Hydrology and Water Resources, approved by CHy, is beginning to bear its first fruits, with a series of successful regional training workshops on subjects of importance to the NHSs of the different regions.

Role and Operation of NMHSs

59. As a means of further reiterating to policy makers the vital role of NMHSs as indispensable players in socio-economic activities, a policy statement entitled the Executive Council Statement on the Role and Operation of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services for Decision-Makers was circulated to Members and other interested partners. A more detailed statement for use by Directors of Meteorological and/or Hydrological Services is being finalized by the Secretariat. Efforts were also made to continue with the enhancement of the various contributions of WMO and the broader meteorological and hydrological communities, especially the NMHSs, to sustainable development that remained at central of all considerations for the WMO.

60. There was a challenge of fostering closer cooperation between NMSs and NHSs in countries where the services are separated (which is about 90% of the cases). In this connection Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) at national and river basin levels was among others taken advantage of in fostering closer collaboration between Hydrological and Meteorological Services as both Services are involved in IWRM. This approach will be applied where possible. It was also recommended that the various guidelines being published by WMO should include encouragement for the Meteorological and Hydrological Services to work closer together.

International Exchange of Data and Products

61. Significant advances have been made in the development and implementation of the Hydrological Cycle Observing Systems (HYCOS) projects. The Secretariat used this opportunity to
promote the implementation of Resolution 25 (Cg-XIII) through the implementation of the WHYCOS programme. The Secretariat also prepared and published, in English, French and Spanish, guidelines on the development, implementation and governance of HYCOS components. The international exchange of hydrological data and products has been considered as a pre-requisite for participating in HYCOS projects. All participating countries in the newly developed HYCOS projects signed agreements with the Executing Agency on the exchange of the hydrological data to allow free and easy exchange of data between the NHSs and the Project Regional Centre.

62. On the international exchange of climate data and products, data exchange between Members and data archiving institutions, and conditions imposed in this exchange, in particular the fact that some institutions put charges for Members to access to these archived data, was discussed by the Commission for Climatology (CCI) Management Group in February 2006 as a follow-up on discussions raised during CCI-XIV, Beijing, November 2005, and other regional meetings. The Management Group noted that among others, issues related to data policies have been written to law in some countries. The CCI Management Group agreed to review this matter in consultation with CBS. However the CCI Management Group requested that regions need to make written requests to WMO on their specific concerns in this subject.

63. As regards aeronautical data, the thirteenth session of CAeM was informed of the possible implications of the migration of operational aeronautical meteorology data from the traditional alphanumeric codes (METAR, TAF SIGMET, AIRMET) to Table Driven Code Forms. At CAeM-XIII, the establishment of a Trust Fund for LDC was decided in order to ensure continued reception and display of World Area Forecast System data for aviation. Members were encouraged to consider the use of the public Internet and standard commercial graphics software to access WAFS data via FTP as an alternative to the costly and maintenance-intensive use of dedicated SADIS-IIG workstations for the replacement of ageing SADIS equipment.

64. In connection with Marine Meteorology and Oceanography data, JCOMM has been developing its data exchange and management mechanisms and procedures within the context of the data exchange policies of both WMO and IOC. In this context, JCOMM is reviewing its Data Management Strategy, which is currently under review by the Commission.

65. Recent developments and initiatives such as on the expanded satellite activities which now cover R&D satellites and the GEOSS initiative have implications to the free and unrestricted international exchange of meteorological and related data and products that are under consideration.

66. Countries and the international community are making efforts to ensure effective follow-up to the Geneva and Tunis outcomes of the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS). It is important that NMHSs are vigilant in their respective countries, as regards the aspects that concern exchange of data and products. This is with a view of getting them involved in relevant aspects that affect their activities.

Social and Economic Value of NMHSs

67. The work started on evaluation of the importance of the social and economic benefits of meteorological and hydrological services. In this context a conference on social and economic benefits of meteorological and hydrological services, was organized in Madrid Spain, 19-22 March 2007. The conference is expected to advance understanding in the way everyday social and economic decisions are influenced by weather, climate and water information and services, and the benefits of this information to society, of the decision-making process and how information providers need to adapt to decision-makers’ needs. The conference provides a unique forum for interaction between both the public and private sector providers of weather, climate and water
services, and present and future users of these services, including many in weather- and climate-sensitive sectors who do not yet incorporate environmental information in their decision-making.

68. As part of the process leading up to the conference, a number of regional events were held in Manila, Philippines (23-25 November 2005) and sub-regional workshops for North, Central and West Africa were held in Bamako, Mali (29 May-1 June 2006), in Brazil (11-14 July 2006), in Nairobi, Kenya (28-30 August 2006), United Republic of Tanzania (1-3 November 2006), Kuwait (18-21 November 2006) and Croatia (February 2007).

IPY 2007-2008

69. Preparation and implementation of the International Polar Year (IPY) 2007-2008 advanced considerably. The Joint Committee for IPY completed evaluation of all full project proposals and endorsed 160 proposals as a prominent and valued part of the IPY programme. The WMO Intercommission Task Group (ITG) on the IPY developed recommendations on the role of technical commissions in the process of the preparation of IPY full proposals. The recommendations are being addressed by the technical commissions. The WCRP has also contributed to the planning of the IPY. In order to facilitate IPY implementation, the Joint Committee had established three Sub-Committees: on Observations, on Data policy and Management and on Education, Outreach and Communications.

FINANCIAL SITUATION OF THE ORGANIZATION

70. The financial situation of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is sound. Arrears in Members’ contributions have been decreasing during the fourteenth financial period. Cash balances and reserves are considered appropriate in view of the specific programme situation and operating principles. The implementation of the regular budget for the financial period processed in accordance with the approval provided by Members and with available resources.

CONCLUSION

71. Despite the wide range of complex issues impacting on the role and operation of WMO, the intense financial and major challenges being faced by many Members in maintaining their meteorological and hydrological service provision at the national level, the Organization, as a whole, has functioned effectively over the past four years and has achieved major progress on core activities. It is well placed to begin the Fifteenth Financial Period with a clear vision of the future, an effective strategy for its achievement and a renewed commitment from Members, the constituent bodies and the Secretariat.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

72. The President wishes to place on record his sincere appreciation to all those who have contributed in one way or another to the continued progress of the Organization over the past four years. He would like to express his special thanks to the Vice-Presidents and to other members of the Executive Council for their important work on behalf of WMO during the past four-year period. Particular thanks are due also to the presidents of regional associations and of technical commissions, especially those who completed their term, the chairmen and members of working groups, advisory groups and expert panels and individual rapporteurs, for the large voluntary effort that they have put in to ensure the effective working of the WMO. The President also records his special thanks to the Secretary-General and to his staff for their valued assistance and support which has, in so many ways, facilitated the work of the Executive Council and the other constituent bodies.

Annexes: 4
ANNEX I

LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
(as of 31 December 2006)

1. Officers

President: A.I. Bedritsky (Russian Federation)
First Vice-President: A. M. Noorian (Islamic Republic of Iran)
Second Vice-President: T. Sutherland (British Caribbean Territories)
Third Vice-President: Comodoro Miguel Angel Rabiolo (Argentina)

2. Ex-Officio members

President of RA I (Africa):
M.L. Bah (Republic of Guinea)

President of RA II (Asia):
A. Majeed H. Isa (Bahrain)

President of RA III (South America):
C.R.J. Vivas Garcia (Venezuela)

President of RA IV (North America, Central America and the Caribbean):
C. Fuller (Belize)

President of RA V (South-West Pacific):
A. Ngari (Cook Islands)

President of RA VI (Europe):
D.K. Keuerleber-Burk (Switzerland)

3. Elected members

P.-E. Bisch (France) (acting)
F. Cadarso González (Spain) (acting)
M. Capaldo (Italy) (acting)
Qamar-uz-Zaman Chaudhry (Pakistan)
F.D. Freires Lucio (Mozambique) (acting)
T. Hiraki (Japan) (acting)
W. Kusch (Germany) (acting)
J.J. Kelly (United States of America)
M. Konate (Mali) (acting)
G.B. Love (Australia) (acting)
J. Lumsden (New Zealand)
P. Manso (Costa Rica) (acting)
A. Divino Moura (Brazil) (acting)
J.R. Mukabana (Kenya)
D. Musoni (Rwanda) (acting)
S. Nair (India) (acting)
I. Obrusnik (Czech Republic) (acting)
H.H. Oliva (Chile)
Qin Dahe (China)
J. Mitchell (United Kingdom) (acting)
B.T. Sekoli (Lesotho)
YAP Kok Seng (Malaysia) (acting)

Five seats vacant
The changes in membership since Fourteenth Congress are given below:

1. Ex-Officio members

Dr M.L. Bah (Republic of Guinea) elected president of RA I at its fourteenth session (February 2007) in replacement of Dr M.S. Mhita (United Republic of Tanzania)

Mr A. Majeed H. Isa (Bahrain) elected president of RA II at its thirteenth session (December 2004) instead of acting president from January 2001

Mr C.R.J. Viñas Garcia (Venezuela) elected president of RA III at its fourteenth session (September 2006) in replacement of Mr Lic. Raúl Michelini (Uruguay) (October 2003 to September 2006), who also replaced H. Valiente (Paraguay) (from April 2003 to October 2003) as acting president

Mr J. Fuller (Belize) elected president of RA IV at its fourteenth session (April 2005) in replacement Dr A.J. Dania (Netherlands Antilles and Aruba) (2003-04.2005)

Mr A. Ngari (Cook Islands) elected president of RA V at its fourteenth session (2006), From June 2005, Mr Ngari as acting president in replacement Dr Woon Shih Lai (Singapore) (2003-June 2005.

Mr D.K. Keuerleber-Burk (Switzerland) international partners, other relevant organizations, academia, the media and the private sector elected president of RA VI at its fourteenth session. From August 2003 as acting president of the Association in replacement of Dr Petras Korkutis (Lithuania), acting president.

2. Acting members designated by the Council

Dr A.Divino Moura (Brazil) designated as an acting member by correspondence in February 2004 in replacement of Mr A.C. Vaz de Athayde (Brazil)

Mr P. Manso (Costa Rica) designated as an acting member by correspondence in March 2004 in replacement of Mr E. Zárate H. (Costa Rica)

Mr I Obrusnik (Czech Republic) designated as an acting member by correspondence in May 2004 in replacement of Mr D.K. Keuerleber-Burk (Switzerland)

Dr G. Love (Australia) designated as an acting member at the fifty-sixth session (2004) in replacement of Dr J.W. Zillman (Australia)

Mr D. F. Cadarso González (Spain) designated as an acting member at the fifty-seventh session (2005) in replacement of Mrs M. Couchoud Gregori (Spain)
Brig. Gen. M. Capaldo (Italy) designated as an acting member at the fifty-seventh session (2005) in replacement of Mr R. Sorani (Italy)

Mr Sanjiv Nair (India) designated as an acting member at the fifty-seventh session (2005) in replacement of Dr S.K. Srivastav (India)

Mr W. Kusch (Germany) designated as an acting member at the fifty-seventh session (2005) in replacement of Dr U. Gärtner (Germany)

Mr P-E. Bisch (France) designated as an acting member at the fifty-eighth session (2006) in replacement of Mr J.-P. Beysson (France)

Mr F.D. Freires Lucio (Mozambique) designated as an acting member at the fifty-eighth session (2006) in replacement of Mr R.D.J. Lengoasa (South Africa)

Mr Yap Kok Seng (Malaysia) designated as an acting member at the fifty-eighth session (2006) in replacement of Mr Chow Kok Kee

Dr T. Hiraki (Japan) designated as an acting member at the fifty-eighth session (2006) in replacement of Mr K. Nagasaka who was designated as an acting member at the fifty-sixth session (2004) in replacement of Dr T. Kitade

Mr M. Konate (Mali) designated as an acting member at the fifty-eighth session (2006) in replacement of Mr J.R. Ouattara (Burkina Faso) who was designated as an acting member by correspondence in May 2005 in replacement of Dr A. N’Diaye (Senegal)

Prof. J. Mitchell (United Kingdom) designated as an acting member at the fifty-eighth session (2006) in replacement of Dr D. Rogers who was designated as an acting member at the fifty-seventh session (2005) in replacement of Mr P. Ewins

Mr D. Musoni (Rwanda) designated as an acting member at the fifty-eighth session (2006) in replacement of Mr B. Kassahun (Ethiopia)

Five seats vacant

one caused by Eng M. Shawky Saadallah (Egypt) who was designated as an acting member at the fifty-seventh session in replacement of Mr M.M. Arafa (Egypt)

one caused by Mr F.P. Mote (Ghana)

one caused by Mr M.D. Everell (Canada)

one caused by Mr Jaser K. Rabadi (Jordan)

one caused by Dr M.L. Bah (Republic of Guinea)
ANNEX II

LIST OF MEETINGS OF PANELS, WORKING OR ADVISORY GROUPS AND OTHER BODIES REPORTING TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

EC PANELS OF EXPERTS


EC WORKING GROUPS AND ADVISORY GROUPS

Ad hoc Group on the Evolving Role of WMO (Geneva, January/February 2004)

Action Group for Enhanced WMO (Geneva, January 2005)

Working Group on the Evolution of NMHSs and WMO (First session, Geneva, April 2006)

Task Team on WMO Integrated Observing System (Geneva, January-February 2007)


Working Group on Antarctic Meteorology (Ninth session, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, November 2006)

Advisory Group on the Role and Operation of NMHSs (Geneva, March 2005)


OTHER ADVISORY BODIES


OTHER BODIES REPORTING TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL


Steering Committee for the Global Climate Observing System (Twelfth session, March, 2004, Geneva; Thirteenth session, October 2005, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation; Fourteenth session, October 2006, Geneva)

Joint IOC/WMO/UNEP Intergovernmental Committee for Global Ocean Observing System (Seventh session, Paris, France, April 2005; Eighth session, Paris, France, February 2007)


WMO Staff Pension Committee (One session at each EC-session)

**SELECTION COMMITTEES**

Selection Committee for the IMO Prize (One session at each EC-session)

Selection Committee for the WMO Research Award for Young Scientists (One session at each EC-session)

Selection Committee for the Professor Dr Vilho Vaisala Award (One session in two years)

Selection Committee for the Norbert Gerbier-MUMM International Award (One session at each EC-session)

**Joint Consultative Meeting of the IOC Officers and WMO Bureau**

Joint Consultative Meeting of the IOC Officers and WMO Bureau (First meeting, January 2006, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Second meeting, January 2007, Moscow, Russian Federation)
ANNEX III

SESSIONS OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS HELD SINCE FOURTEENTH CONGRESS

Regional Association I  Fourteenth session, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 14-23 February 2007
Regional Association II  Thirteenth session, Hong Kong, China 7-15 December 2004
Regional Association III  Fourteenth session, Lima, Peru 7-13 September 2006
Regional Association IV  Fourteenth session, San José, Costa Rica 5-13 April 2005
Regional Association V  Fourteenth session, Adelaide, Australia 9-16 May 2006
Regional Association VI  Fourteenth session, Heidelberg, Germany 7-15 September 2005
Annex IV

Sessions of Technical Commissions Held Since Fourteenth Congress

Commission for Basic Systems (CBS)  Thirteenth session, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation.  23 February to 3 March 2005

Extraordinary session, Seoul, Republic of Korea  9 to 16 November 2006

Commission for Instruments and Methods of Observation (CIMO)  Fourteenth session, Geneva, WMO Headquarters  7 to 14 December 2006

Commission for Hydrology (CHy)  Twelfth session, Geneva, WMO Headquarters  20-29 October 2004

Commission for Atmospheric Sciences (CAS)  Fourteenth session, South Africa  16 to 24 February 2006

Commission for Aeronautical Meteorology (CAeM)  Thirteenth session, Geneva, WMO Headquarters  23 November to 1 December 2006

Commission for Agricultural Meteorology (CAgM)  Fourteenth session, New Delhi, India  28 October to 3 November 2006

Joint WMO/IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM)  Second session, Halifax, Canada  19 to 27 September 2005

Commission for Climatology (CCI)  Fourteenth session, Beijing, China  3 to 10 November 2005

Agenda Item 2.3 – Report and Recommendations of the Financial Advisory Committee

Cg-XV/Rep. 2.3

Introduction

1. The Financial Advisory Committee held its twenty-sixth meeting at the WMO Headquarters on 5 and 6 May 2007. The approved agenda of the meeting is contained in Appendix B. Thirteen members were present. A list of participants appears in Appendix C.
Substantive items *(agenda item 4)*

(a) Report of the Audit Committee

2. The report of the Audit Committee to Cg-XV is contained in Cg-XV/Doc. 10.1(5). The Committee expressed its deep appreciation for the work of the Audit Committee and expressed its support for the continuation of the Audit Committee in the new financial period.

(b) Financial report of the Secretary-General to Fifteenth Congress

3. In accordance with Regulation 135 (11) of the General Regulation, Congress shall review the financial report for the fourteenth financial period (2004-2007). The Secretary-General’s financial report to Fifteenth Congress is presented in Cg-XV/Doc. 10.1(2), submitted under agenda item 10.1. The Financial Advisory Committee examined the financial report. It noted that the approved budget of CHF 262,770,100 included assessed contributions of CHF 249,800,000 and surplus funding of CHF 12,970,100 from the thirteenth financial period. The Committee also noted that budget implementation proceeded in accordance with the approval provided by Members and within available resources. It further noted that the projections of revenue and expenditure for the biennium 2006-2007, based on the present rate of collection of contributions, indicated that the Organization might conclude the current biennium with a surplus of CHF 4.3 million.

4. The Committee noted the level of arrears in Members’ contributions during the fourteenth financial period. In accordance with Financial Regulations 9.3 and 9.4, the Working Capital Fund (WCF) has been established for the purpose of financing appropriations, pending receipt of contributions. The Secretary-General’s proposals regarding the level of the Working Capital Fund are contained in Cg-XV/Doc. 10.2(3). This matter is dealt with in paragraphs 8-11 and Recommendations 3 and 4 below.

Recommendation 1

That Congress take note of the financial report of the Secretary-General to Fifteenth Congress.

(c) Consideration of the Secretary-General’s budget proposals for the fifteenth financial period (2008-2011)

5. In accordance with Article 23 of the Convention, Congress shall determine the maximum expenditures, which may be incurred by the Organization during the fifteenth financial period (2008-2011). In accordance with Article 3 of the Financial Regulation, the Secretary-General presents the budget proposal for the fifteenth financial period (2008-2011) as contained in document Cg-XV/Doc. 8.2. The Financial Advisory Committee examined the Secretary-General’s proposal, and noted that the proposed budget at zero nominal growth level and the proposed budget supplements amount to CHF 249.8 million and CHF 12.0 million respectively.

6. The Committee expressed its appreciation for the budget proposal presented in a results-based budgeting (RBB) format. Noting that the RBB methodology is new to many representatives of WMO Members who will attend the session of Fifteenth Congress, the Committee expressed a need for guidance on result-based budgeting (RBB) to be provided to all Congress delegations, so that they can better understand the new methodology and its benefits.

7. The Committee supported the zero nominal growth (ZNG) option (CHF 249.8 million) with various considerations of additional resources for high priority services, such as Expected Results 5 (Development and implementation of the new WMO information system), 6 (Enhanced capabilities of Members in multi-hazard early warning and disaster preparedness), 7 (Enhanced
capabilities of Members to provide and use weather, climate and environmental applications and services) and 9 (Enhanced capabilities of NMHs in developing countries, particularly LDCs, to fulfil their mandates on weather, climate and water). Some members support the use of surplus revenue for specific one-time projects that will be completed during the fifteenth financial period. The Committee agreed that some of the supplementary activities under Expected Result 8, in particular, special events, should not be funded from supplementary assessment. They also called for consolidation of budgetary implications of new activities presented after the finalization of the budget proposal. FINAC also proposed that future Congress documents contain statements of programme and budget implications as part of the cover sheet.

**Recommendation 2**

That Congress:

2.1 Consider a zero nominal growth (ZNG) budget of CHF 249.8 million with various considerations of additional resources above zero nominal growth for high priority services, such as Expected Results 5 (Development and implementation of the new WMO information system), 6 (Enhanced capabilities of Members in multi-hazard early warning and disaster preparedness), 7 (Enhanced capabilities of Members to provide and use weather, climate and environmental applications and services) and 9 (Enhanced capabilities of NMHs in developing countries, particularly LDCs, to fulfil their mandates on weather, climate and water).

2.2 Consider alongside the proposed budget for the fifteenth financial period the budgetary implications of new activities presented after the finalization of the budget proposal.

2.3 Request the Secretary-General to present statements of programme and budget implications as part of document cover sheets.

(d) Contributions matters

**Scale of assessment**

8. In accordance with Article 24 of the Convention and Article 8 of the Financial Regulations, Congress shall determine the scale of assessment of proportional contributions of Members for the fifteenth financial period (2008-2011). Fourteenth Congress kept in force Resolution 32 of Thirteenth Congress, that the latest United Nations scales to be approved by the United Nations General Assembly should be adopted as the basis for the calculation of the WMO scale of assessments, duly adjusted for differences in memberships. The Secretary-General’s proposals, based on the decision of Thirteenth Congress and the scale of assessment approved during the United Nations General Assembly in December 2006 for the period 2007-2009, are presented in Cg-XV/Doc. 10.2(1).

9. The Committee examined the Secretary-General’s proposals. It agreed that the latest United Nations scales of assessments, as approved by the General Assembly, continue to be used as the basis for the calculation of the WMO scales of assessments, duly adjusted for differences in memberships. It further agreed that the minimum rate of assessment of 0.02 per cent as adopted for the fourteenth financial period be retained as the minimum for the fifteenth financial period and that corrections should be made to ensure that no Member’s rate of assessment would increase to a level which would exceed 200 percent of the WMO scale for 2007.
**Recommendation 3**

That Congress:

3.1 Approve the draft text for inclusion in the general summary of its report, as contained in Cg-XV/Doc. 10.2(1), Appendix A.

3.2 Adopt the draft Resolution 10.2/1 (Cg-XV), submitted by the Secretary-General, as contained in Cg-XV/Doc. 10.2(1), Appendix B.

**Level of Working Capital Fund**

10. In accordance with Financial Regulation 9.3, Congress shall fix the amount of the Working Capital Fund. In Cg-XV/Doc. 10.2(3), the Secretary-General is proposing that the capital of the Working Capital Fund be increased from CHF 5.0 million in the fourteenth financial period (2003-2007) to CHF 7.5 million in the fifteenth financial period (2008-2011). The increase is supported by the Joint Inspection Unit of the United Nations in their report in Cg-XV/Doc. 10.2(4), following their review of the level of the Organization’s Working Capital Fund, as requested by EC-LVIII. The Financial Advisory Committee examined the Secretary-General’s proposal, noting that funds for the proposed increase would be provided from the consolidation of off-budget funds and reserves with the appropriation process from 1 January 2008, proposed in Cg-XV/Doc. 8.2 (Budget Proposal for the Fifteenth Financial Period (2008-2011)).

11. Recalling that the purpose of the Working Capital Fund is to provide a reserve of cash to enable the Organization to carry out its programmes pending the receipt of contributions and recognizing that it proved in the past to be an important means of coping with temporary cash shortfalls, the Committee adopted Recommendation 4.

**Recommendation 4**

That Congress:

4.1 Approve the draft text for inclusion in the general summary of its report, as contained in Cg-XV/Doc. 10.2(3), Appendix A.

4.2 Adopt the draft Resolution 10.2/3 (Cg-XV), submitted by the Secretary-General, as contained in Cg-XV/Doc. 10.2(3), Appendix B.

4.3 Urge Members to pay their assessed contributions in accordance with the recommendation presented by the Joint Inspection Unit in report Cg-XV/Doc. 10.2(4).

**Settlement of long-outstanding contributions**

12. The Secretary-General’s proposals for encouraging Members to settle their outstanding contributions promptly were presented in EC-LVIII/Doc. 4.1(2). The measures that EC-LVIII decided to recommend to Fifteenth Congress are contained in Resolution 12 (EC-LVIII) and presented by the Secretary-General in Cg-XV/Doc. 10.2(2). The proposed arrangement outlines that: (i) the settlement of arrears to recover voting rights should be received by WMO at least one week prior to the beginning of the sessions of constituent bodies; (ii) Members that did not comply with the terms set out in the payment agreement for the settlement of arrears may re-enter the agreement provided that all past required payments have been made; and (iii) Members that did not comply with the terms set out in a payment agreement for the settlement of arrears may enter into a new payment agreement, but only after the approval of the Executive Council has been obtained.
Recommendation 5

That Congress:

5.1 Approve the draft text for inclusion in the general summary of its report, as contained in Cg-XV/Doc. 10.2(2), Appendix A.

5.2 Adopt the draft Resolution 10.2/2 (Cg-XV), submitted by the Secretary-General, as contained in Cg-XV/Doc. 10.2(2), Appendix B.

(e) Review of other Congress documents having budgetary and financial implications

Recommendations concerning the Financial Advisory Committee (FINAC)

13. In accordance with the request of the fifty-eighth session of the Executive Council as contained in paragraph 4.1.18 of publication WMO-No. 1007, the Secretary-General is to convey the views of members of the Executive Council on recommendations concerning FINAC to the Fifteenth Congress for consideration. The Secretary-General’s report on this matter is contained in Cg-XV/Doc. 10.1(4). As requested by the Executive Council, the report of the Secretary-General also contains other information emanating from relevant working groups and task forces and a summary of views expressed by the Council at its fifty-eighth session.

Recommendation 6

That Congress:

6.1 Take into account, inter alia, the proposal to adhere to the following requirements when considering the recommendations concerning the Financial Advisory Committee (FINAC) (document Cg-XV/Doc. 10.1(4)):

- Clear statement of the purpose, role and terms of reference;
- Composition consisting of an open group with a core membership;
- Mode of operation that ensures continuity within a Financial Period;
- Well-formulated objectives that deals with emerging issues (e.g. RBB, targets and KPI);
- Provision for the input of Member States;
- The name of the committee should reflect its purpose which may be more than Programme and Budget;
- Flexibility and sufficient time to complete its work.

6.2 Request the Executive Council to take care when determining the terms of reference of the Audit Committee that there is no overlap with this committee

Revision of Financial Regulations

14. In accordance with Article 8 (d) of the Convention, Congress determines the Organization’s Financial Regulations. As contained in paragraph 4.1.19 of publication WMO-No. 1007, the Executive Council recommended at its fifty-eighth session that Congress approve proposed revisions to the Financial Regulations. The Secretary-General’s report is contained in Cg-XV/Doc. 10.1(1). The proposed revisions cover: (i) terminology related to the result-based budget format; (ii) consolidation of off-budget funds with appropriation process; (iii) strengthening of internal oversight; and (iv) annual audit of financial statements.
Recommendation 7

That Congress:

7.1 Approve the draft text for inclusion in the general summary of its report, as contained in Cg-XV/Doc. 10.1(1), Appendix A.

7.2 Adopt the draft Resolution 10.1/1 (Cg-XV), submitted by the Secretary-General, as contained in Cg-XV/Doc. 10.1(1), Appendix B.

International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS)

15. In accordance with the recommendation of the Secretary-General as presented to the seventh session of the Audit Committee, Congress is invited to approve a decision in principle on the adoption of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS). The Secretary-General’s report on this matter is presented in Cg-XV/Doc. 10.1(3).

16. The Committee recognized that the adoption of IPSAS would require revisions to the Financial Regulations. In order to provide for the implementation of IPSAS prior to the Sixteenth Congress, the Committee recommended that Congress delegate to the Executive Council during the fifteenth financial period the authority to approve the necessary revisions to the Financial Regulations relevant to ensure compliance with IPSAS.

17. The Committee recommended in the implementation of IPSAS that the Secretariat works in a cost-effective way and in close collaboration with other United Nations system institutions.

Recommendation 8

That Congress:

8.1 Approve the draft text for inclusion in the general summary of its report, as contained in Cg-XV/Doc. 10.1(3), Appendix A with appropriate edits with regard to the budgetary language.

8.2 Delegate to the Executive Council during the fifteenth financial period the authority to approve the necessary revisions to the Financial Regulations relevant to ensure compliance with IPSAS and request the Executive Council to report to Sixteenth Congress on the actions taken.

(Report and recommendations on agenda item 4.6 (Review of Executive Council documents having budgetary and financial implications) are reported to the Executive Council in document EC-....)
AGENDA OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH MEETING OF THE
FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. Opening of the meeting

2. Approval of the Agenda

3. Approval of the report of the twenty-fifth meeting of the Committee held on 19 June 2006

4. Substantive items

   4.1 Report of the Audit Committee
   4.2 Financial report of the Secretary-General to Fifteenth Congress
   4.3 Consideration of the Secretary-General’s budget proposals for the fifteenth financial period (2008-2011)

   4.4 Contribution matters:

      4.4.1 Scale of assessment
      4.4.2 Level of Working Capital Fund
      4.4.3 Settlement of long-outstanding contributions

   4.5 Review of other Congress documents having budgetary and financial implications:

      4.5.1 Recommendations concerning the Financial Advisory Committee (FINAC)
      4.5.2 Revision of Financial Regulations
      4.5.3 International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS)

   4.6 Review of Executive Council documents having budgetary and financial implications:

      4.6.1 Accounts for 2006 and Report of the External Auditor
      4.6.2 Appointment of the External Auditor

5. Adoption of the report of the Financial Advisory Committee

6. Date and place of the twenty-seventh meeting
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS TO THE TWENTY-SIXTH MEETING OF THE FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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<th>Country/Designation</th>
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<td>Chairman:</td>
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<td>M.L. Bah</td>
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<td>President of RA I</td>
<td>A. Majeed H. Isa</td>
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AGENDA ITEM 2.4 – CONSOLIDATED REPORT ON AMENDMENTS TO THE TECHNICAL REGULATIONS

Cg-XV/Rep. 2.4

Fourteenth Congress delegated authority to the Executive Council to review and consider for approval the new amendments recommended by CBS and JCOMM to Annexes II, III, IV, V and VI of the Technical Regulations, i.e. to the Manuals on Codes (WMO-No. 306), on the Global Telecommunication System (WMO-No. 386), on the Global Data-processing System (WMO-No. 485), on the Global Observing System (WMO-No. 544) and on the Manual on Marine Meteorological Services (WMO-No. 551) respectively. EC-LV, EC-LVII and EC-LVIII accordingly approved relevant recommendations made by CBS and JCOMM. EC-LVII also approved recommendations by CHy with regard to Volume III of the Technical Regulations (see references 2 to 7). Urgent amendments, e.g. to Annex II (Manual on Codes) may be approved by the President of WMO on behalf of the Executive Council under the authority given to him in Regulation 9 (5) of the General Regulations. All the approved amendments have been or are being introduced in the respective Volumes and Annexes.

AGENDA ITEM 3.1.0 – REPORT ON THE WWW BASIC SYSTEMS AND SUPPORT FUNCTIONS;
THE REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF CBS

Cg-XV/Rep. 3.1.0

In accordance with the 6LTP crucial to the realization of Strategy 6 is the development of the three basic components of the WWW Programme — the Global Observing System (GOS), the Global Telecommunication System (GTS) and the Global Data-processing and Forecasting System (GDPFS). As a basic infrastructure for the WMO Programmes, the WWW Programme contributes to the realization of most of the nine WMO strategies. The report summarizes major implementation activities under WWW carried out during 2003-2006. Basic results achieved within each of small programmes are presented under agenda items 3.1.1-3.1.4.

World Weather Watch Institutional Support

Implementation activities

- CBS-XIII was held 23 February–3 March 2005 in St. Petersburg (Russian Federation);
- CBS-Ext was held from 9–16 November 2006 in Seoul (South Korea);
- CIMO-XIV was held from 7–14 December 2006 in Geneva;
- Meetings of the CBS-Management Group were organized in 2005 and 2006;
- Representation of CBS was facilitated as required through the support to the president and vice-president of CBS;
- The WWW Programme was represented at RA sessions and international conferences, meetings of IOC, IAEA, CTBTO, UNEP;
- An expert meeting was organized to treat the emerging topic of the practical collaboration between GEOSS and CBS.

Global Observing System

Implementation activities

Implementation activities carried out through coordinated efforts by Members, constituent bodies and the Secretariat with a leading and consolidating role of OPAG on the
Integrated Observing System (OPAG-IOS) comprising 5 Expert Teams and 7 Rapporteurs, established by CBS. In overall, during the reporting period 13 expert meetings and workshops were organized within the scope of CBS/OPAG-IOS together with appropriate studies and follow-up. The GOS performance based on WWW monitoring results has been made on regular basis.

Global Telecommunication System and World Weather Watch Data Management

Implementation activities

CBS established an OPAG on Information Systems and Services (GTS and Data Management) comprising 8 Expert Teams and 2 Rapporteurs including three expert teams directly contributing to WIS development and one inter-programme team. The Executive Council established an Inter-Commission Coordination group on the WMO Information System (WIS). The Secretariat organized 30 meetings of these expert teams, meetings of experts for the development of the GTS at the regional level, including for the exchange of disaster early warnings and related information on the GTS, training seminars on table-driven code forms and a Technical Conference on the WIS.

Global Data-processing and Forecasting System

Implementation activities

CBS established an OPAG on Global Data-processing and Forecasting System including four expert teams and two rapporteurs. The Secretariat organized 14 meetings and workshops/seminars.

World Weather Watch System Support Activity, including Operational Information Service

Implementation activities

The expert teams established by CBS and the regional associations contributed to the World Weather Watch System Support Activity, including Operational Information Service, in their respective fields of activities.

Emergency Response Activities (ERA)

Implementation activities

CBS established a Coordination Group on Emergency Response Activities. The Secretariat organized/participated in eight expert meetings and workshops, and carried out a NMHS survey on ERA. IAEA organized a Nuclear ERA ConvEx-3 (2005) Exercise. The activities were coordinated with the CTBTO Working Group B on atmospheric transport modelling.

AGENDA ITEM 3.1.1 – REPORT ON THE GLOBAL OBSERVING SYSTEM (GOS)

Cg-XV/Rep. 3.1.1

Implementation and operation of the surface-based subsystem of the GOS

1. Implementation activities were carried out through coordinated efforts by Members, constituent bodies and the Secretariat with a leading and consolidating role of the CBS OPAG on the Integrated Observing System (OPAG-IOS) comprising 5 Expert Teams and 7 Rapporteurs,
established by CBS. In overall, during the reporting period 13 expert meetings and workshops were organized within the scope of CBS/OPAG-IOS together with appropriate studies and follow-up. The GOS performance based on WWW monitoring results has been made on regular basis.

2. Overall, during 2004-2006, an increasing stability in surface and upper-air observational programmes was achieved and certain cost reductions accomplished. The total number of surface stations had increased globally from 4032 to 4169. The upper-air network density remained unchanged in RA I (104), RA III (58) and the Antarctic (13). The number of upper-air stations had been increased in RA V (from 109 to 119). As a part of the on-going optimization process, the number of upper-air stations had been decreased in RA II (from 328 to 322), RA IV (from 143 to 136) and RA VI (from 135 to 130). The number of AWSs included in RBSN globally had increased from 651 to 858.

3. Global availability of expected reports on the Main Telecommunication Network (MTN) constituted:

- 76% (with only 1% variation over the period) for surface observations;
- 69% (63% in 2003) for upper-air observations;
- 67% (65% in 2004) for CLIMAT reports;
- 65% (68% in 2004) for CLIMAT TEMP reports.

4. Assistance and promotion of individual and collective efforts of Members to rehabilitate and strengthen observational programmes, especially in developing countries had been continued. Following the CBS guidelines for allocation of the priorities for technical cooperation, seven upper-air stations have been put in full operational mode in Armenia, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius and Papua New Guinea. More than 20 on-going VCP projects related to the rehabilitation and upgrading of upper-air observing networks and six projects related to rehabilitation of surface synoptic stations, were launched.

5. Review of evolving observational data requirements from 11 application areas including Global and Regional NWP, Synoptic Meteorology, Nowcasting and Very Short-range Forecasting, Seasonal to Inter-annual Forecasts, Aeronautical Meteorology, Atmospheric Chemistry, JCOMM Ocean Applications Areas, Agrometeorology and Hydrology, was carried out and appropriate adjustments in the WMO data base and the GOS regulatory material have been made.

6. Over 20 Observing System Experiments (OSEs) were carried out at national and international levels to assess the impact of various observing systems on NWP which resulted in conceptual conclusions on the need for and management of specific observation programmes; a WMO Workshop in the Impact of Various Observing Systems on NWP was held in Alpbach, Austria, in March 2004, attended by 49 participants where 30 lectures were presented.

7. Eight semi-annual surface data quality monitoring reports for RA I, RA II, RA IV and RA V were reviewed and the national observational programmes adjusted to meet requirements and Members’ capabilities.

8. Standardization of observing techniques and practices has been carried out within the frame of the IMOP programme (see agenda item 3.1.5)
9. IN ADDITION, THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS SHOULD BE MENTIONED:

- Development and publishing as WWW Technical Report the *Implementation Plan for Evolution of Surface- and Space-based Subsystems of the GOS* (WMO/TD-No. 1267);


- Preparation of a revised version of the *Guide on the Global Observing System* (WMO-No. 488) to be published in 2007;

- Revision of the content and development the database for the WMO publication *Weather Reporting, Observing Stations* (WMO-No. 9, Vol. A);


- Publishing as WWW Technical Report (WMO/TD-No. 1188) the *Handbook on CLIMAT and CLIMAT TEMP Reporting* (2004);

- Eighty-three experts from 42 countries were trained on climatological data reporting during three joint WWW/WCP/GCOS Regional Training Seminars on CLIMAT and CLIMAT TEMP Reporting held in RA I (Casablanca, Morocco) RA III (Buenos Aires, Argentina) and RA II/RA VI (Moscow, Russian Federation);

- Nine CBS Lead Centres for GSN and GUAN data were established;

- To facilitate integration of the AMDAR programme into the WWW operations, a CBS IOS Rapporteur on AMDAR was established, and AMDAR regional training requirements were developed.

### AGENDA ITEM 3.1.2 – WWW INFORMATION SYSTEM AND SERVICES; INCLUDING THE GLOBAL TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEM AND DATA MANAGEMENT

**REPORT ON GTS, DATA MANAGEMENT AND WIS ACTIVITIES**

*Cg-XV/Rep. 3.1.2*

**Status of implementation and operation of the GTS**


**Data-communication systems and techniques**

2. CBS-Ext.(06) endorsed a revised Attachment II-15 (Use of TCP/IP on the GTS) of the Manual on the GTS, including file naming procedures. The Internet was playing an increasing role for the exchange, access to and delivery of a wide range of data and products in complement to the GTS, and has a particular importance for developing countries and LDCs, as the only affordable telecommunication means. CBS-Ext.(06) revised and updated guidance material for the
use of the Internet with minimized operational and security risks, and for the use of adequate ICT for NMHSs of developing countries (Guide on Virtual Private Networks (VPN) via the Internet between GTS centres, Guide on Internet Practices, Guide on use of FTP and FTP servers at WWW centres, Guide on Information Technology Security (ITS) at WWW centres)

GTS operation and information exchange

3. CBS-Ext.(06) reviewed the format of meteorological bulletins for improved operation and to meet new requirements, including for aeronautical meteorology. It agreed on GTS procedures for sea level data and deep-ocean tsunami detection data, seismic data and distribution of Tsunami warnings and related information. The GTS procedures for the exchange of seismic data in parametric form were currently used by some countries. Upgrades of the GTS-WIS may be agreed upon and implemented on a multi-lateral basis to accommodate the additional traffic of seismic waveform data (i.e. data from seismic sensors) that represent large volumes of data; GTS procedures were agreed upon to facilitate such implementation.

4. WMO, in coordination with UN/ISDR, UNESCO/IOC, and NMHSs have ensured the most effective use of the GTS for the support of the Interim Tsunami Advisory Information service and the Tsunami Warning System in the Indian Ocean. This support, which is implemented for the Pacific, would be extended to the Caribbean, Mediterranean and North Atlantic, within a multi-hazard Early Warning approach. Regional Telecommunication Hubs (RTHs) have ensured the efficient routing and distribution of “Tsunami Watch Information” messages, in particular towards NMCs in the Indian Ocean, and to satellite-based data distribution systems covering any part of the Indian Ocean. Tsunami Watch and Warning bulletins are exchanged on the GTS with the highest priority (Priority 1). CBS recognized the requirement for an end-to-end transmission within 2 minutes as being achievable and recommended for the GTS. This had already been proven on the MTN and some other GTS circuits.

WMO Information System

5. The Technical Conference on the WMO Information System (TECO-WIS, Seoul, 6-8 November 2006), immediately preceded CBS-Ext.(06). The TECO-WIS programme included an actual demonstration of the V-GISC and DCPC prototypes that supported the discovery and retrieval of datasets and associated metadata crosscutting different WMO Programmes from several NMSs and International Centres, including DWD, Météo-France, UK MetOffice, ECMWF, EUMETSAT, NCAR and NODC. TECO-WIS reviewed Metadata developments, Information and communication technology building blocks and Pilot & Prototype projects. The TECO-WIS programme also included presentations from various stakeholders, including CAS, CAgM and WMO NDPM Programmes, and from the Information & Communication Technology (ICT) Industry.

6. CBS-Ext.(06) noted with satisfaction the considerable efforts made by a few NMSs in the development of WIS pilot projects and prototypes, especially:

- WMO Core metadata Profile;
- RA VI VGISC project (Exeter, Offenbach, Toulouse);
- DCPCs prototypes including the ECMWF and EUMETSAT DCPC, also including the SIMDAT project;
- A DCPC prototype (World data centre, Obninsk) for JCOMM related data;
- An NCAR DCPC prototype.
7. CBS-Ext.(06) agreed upon recommended governance procedures in principle for the designation of the Global Information System Centres (GISC) and the Data Collection or Production Centres (DCPC) (see Annex to this paragraph). Technical commissions are expected to consider the potential DCPCs under their respective WMO Programmes, and to endorse their programmes’ candidate DCPCs for submission to ICG-WIS, CBS and then the Executive Council.

8. CBS-Ext.(06) urged WMO Technical Commissions and other bodies representing the participating programmes to state their requirements for WIS services. Early identification of, and consultation with potential major users of WIS within the user community external to WMO, in particular within the International Disaster Risk Management community, was an important step towards ensuring that WIS would fully meet its objectives for the benefit of all Members.

WWW Data Management

9. About 90 WMO Member countries participated in the annual global monitoring of the operation of the WWW\(^1\), and six in the Special MTN monitoring\(^2\). Germany (DWD) developed a monitoring application on personal computer (METDATA Monitor); 58 WMO Members requested and downloaded the software, that was offered by Germany (DWD). An operational trial of the Integrated WWW Monitoring (IWM) was successfully carried out at RTH Dakar, using this software. CBS agreed to move from the test phase to a pre-operational phase of the IWM as from October 2007.

10. In view of the migration to Table-Driven Code Forms (TDCF), CBS stressed the importance of monitoring data presented in BUFR code. CBS requested the OPAG-ISS to revise the procedures of the Integrated WWW Monitoring (IWM) with a view to starting the monitoring of the availability of BUFR/CREX reports at WWW centres during the IWM pre-operational phase.

11. ECMWF and some WMO Members made software for encoding/decoding BUFR and CREX available for WMO Members. The total number of countries, where at least one participant had been trained on TDCF, was 100 out of 183 countries. Regulations for reporting traditional observations data in Table Driven Code Forms (TDCF) were included in the Manual on Codes. Information on the migration is available from the WMO Server\(^3\).

12. CBS considered the difficulties slowing implementation of migration by the WMO Members. Developing countries needed the benefit of experience from more advanced countries. CBS requested the Coordination Team on migration to TDCF to prepare a letter to the WMO Members providing an outline of the main actions or tasks which should be considered and possibly undertaken, and a Migration Guidance document, to increase their awareness of the migration, including the benefits expected.

13. EC-LVIII had requested CBS to address the data representation requirements of the user community, in view of the demand for the use of modern industry standards, such as XML. CBS noted the emerging requirements from the aeronautical community, which should be addressed in collaboration with CAeM and ICAO. The Commission decided to establish an Expert Team within the OPAG-ISS for assessing advantages and disadvantages, including implications of different data representation systems (e.g. BUFR, CREX, XML, NetCDF, HDF) for use in real time operational international exchanges between NMHSs and in transmission of information to users outside the NMHSs. All WMO Technical Commissions should be invited to participate in this Ad-Hoc Expert Team.

Radio frequencies for meteorological activities

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\(^1\) See ftp://www.wmo.int/GTS_monitoring/AGM/QM_AGM1.htm  
\(^2\) See ftp://www.wmo.int/GTS_monitoring/SMM/SMM1.htm  
\(^3\) See http://www.wmo.int/web/www/WMOCodes.html
14. CBS-Ext.(06) noted with much appreciation the activities of the Steering Group on Radio-Frequency Coordination (SG-RFC) in the preparation of the forthcoming World Radiocommunication Conference 2007 (WRC-07, November 2007), and its active involvement at the regional level in safeguarding relevant radio frequency. A WRC-07 WMO’s position document, developed by the SG-RFC, was submitted to relevant ITU-R groups and was distributed to WMO Members and relevant international organizations, with a view to facilitating an effective preparation of national WRC-07 positions favourable for the WMO related issues. A Workshop on Radio Frequencies for Meteorology was organized (Geneva, February 2006). The SG-RFC finalized the update of the joint ITU-WMO publication "Handbook on use of radio spectrum for meteorology" that would be an important reference documentation in preparation and for WRC-07. The SG-RFC activities were also an important contribution to the respective GEO task.
Annex to paragraph 7

Recommended Designation Procedures for GISCs and DCPCs

1. Designation Procedure for Global Information System Centres (GISC)

1.1 The procedure for the designation of GISCs consists of four steps, namely:

- **Statement of WIS requirements and acceptance by the programme bodies**
  The WMO Technical Commissions and other bodies representing the participating programmes state their requirements for WIS services and will review them periodically. The list of all relevant requirements will be compiled and regularly reviewed by the Inter-Commission Coordination Group on WIS (ICG/WIS) which reports through the president of CBS to EC.

- **Service offers by potential GISCs**
  The list of WIS requirements and functions as compiled by the ICG-WIS will be published to serve as a basis for offers to perform the required duties. Existing centres from the WMO basic systems may wish to apply for designation as GISC forming the core infrastructure of WIS. The service offer should include:

  - A statement of compliance with the required WIS functions,
  - A proposal for the area of responsibility for WIS data services, and a
  - Formal commitment by the PR of the Member to provide such services on a routine basis.

  The service offer should be addressed to WMO and will be submitted to the ICG-WIS, which will inform the president(s) of the regional association(s) concerned; the ICG-WIS will analyze the proposed services versus WIS requirements as well as the compliance to the required WIS/GISC functions and specifications, and will formulate a recommendation.

- **Demonstration of GISC capabilities**
  The candidate GISCs will be invited to demonstrate to CBS their capabilities to provide WIS services to the accredited users with the necessary reliability and quality. This refers to the real-time functions of data and product collection and dissemination as well as to non real-time services for requests. It should also include storage functions for the complete set of WIS data and products and relevant up-to-date metadata catalogues. The coordination functions with other GISCs and the planning of mutual back-up services should also be demonstrated. Furthermore, the adherence to WIS standards and relevant data exchange policies and access rights must be granted. A formal commitment and time schedule to implement the GISC and to provide GISC services in accordance with the offer will be given by the PR of the Member operating the candidate GISC. Upon acceptance of the demonstration of capabilities of the candidate GISC, CBS will formulate the recommendation for the GISC designation.

- **Designation of GISC**
  The Executive Council will consider for approval the ICG-WIS recommendation and CBS recommendation for the GISC designation; after the EC approval, the GISC will be included in the relevant WMO programme documentation.
2. **Designation of Data Collection or Production Centres (DCPC)**

2.1 There are a considerable number of centres that meet the functional specifications of a DCPC already, either partly or fully. These centres are natural candidates for integration under WIS. Many of these centres have been established under the WWW Programme and have been submitted for a formal acceptance process within CBS (e.g., the World Meteorological Centres (WMC), the Regional Telecommunication Hubs of the GTS (RTH) and the Regional/Specialized Meteorological Centres).

2.2 Apart from the operational WWW centres, there are many other centres that have been established under other WMO Programmes for the purpose of collecting programme-related data or of providing products and making them available to NMHSs and other users in the form of real-time dissemination or non-real-time data services. Most of the above centres and additional centres established under national responsibility have important contributions in the form of data and products to be included in WIS. Some are offering well-developed data management and data dissemination services which are of great interest to WIS.

In view of the fact that many programmes will be participating in WIS, there will be a large number of DCPC candidates. The ICG-WIS has to determine which centres should be integrated in WIS in which function. The total number of DCPCs, unlike the number of GISCs, has no, *a priori*, limitation, provided the GISCs are able to handle the synchronization and other communications with their attached DCPCs.

2.3 In view of the above, the procedure for the designation of DCPCs consists of three steps, namely:

**Service offers by potential DCPCs**

Since potential DCPCs functions would be undertaken by centres that have been established under the respective WMO Programmes, the relevant technical commissions are expected to consider the service offers by potential DCPCs (likely according to procedures similar to 1.1, second step above), and to endorse their programmes’ candidate DCPCs.

The programmes’ candidate DCPCs should then be submitted to the ICG-WIS; the ICG-WIS will analyze the compliance to the required WIS/DCPC functions and specifications, and will formulate a recommendation.

**Demonstration of DCPC capabilities**

As for candidate GISCs, the candidate DCPC will be invited to demonstrate to CBS their capabilities to provide WIS services in compliance with the DCPCs functions and responsibilities. This refers to the possible real-time functions of data and product dissemination as well as to non-real-time services for requests. It should also include the provision of relevant up-to-date metadata catalogues. The coordination and synchronization functions with the associated GISC should also be demonstrated. Furthermore, the adherence to WIS standards and relevant data exchange policies and access rights must be granted. Upon acceptance of the demonstration of capabilities of the candidate DCPC, CBS will formulate the recommendation for the DCPC designation.

**Designation of DCPC**

The Executive Council will consider for approval the ICG-WIS recommendation and CBS recommendation for the DCPC designation; after the EC approval, the DCPC will be included in the relevant WMO programme documentation.
AGENDA ITEM 3.1.3 – REPORT ON GLOBAL DATA-PROCESSING AND FORECASTING SYSTEM (GDPFS); INCLUDING EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACTIVITIES (ERA)

Cg-XV/Rep. 3.1.3

1. Global Data Processing and Forecasting System (GDPFS)

The GDPFS includes a network of operational meteorological centres that collect and then, using Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) systems, assimilate and synthesize observational data and other relevant information from many sources to monitor, assess and predict the state of the atmosphere. Members are encouraged to follow best practices for weather forecasting that include use of relevant outputs of NWP systems.

With the implementation of continuing advances in NWP systems, NWP-based products have established themselves as very relevant and crucial for routine weather forecasting in all time ranges, many specialized meteorological applications, as well as contributing to the assessment and prediction of severe weather, and other hazards or potential disasters that depend on meteorological factors, such as fires or environmental emergencies.

2. Severe Weather Forecasting Demonstration Project (SWFDP)

The Severe Weather Forecasting Demonstration Project has been initiated to increase the availability and use of numerical weather prediction (NWP) in developing countries to improve severe weather forecasts and warnings. This project is contributing significantly and concretely to capacity building in the NMHSs of developing countries through better understanding and use of existing NWP and Ensemble Prediction System (EPS) products, and is providing the opportunity to improve their interactions with disaster management and civil protection agencies, thereby also supporting the goal of increasing the visibility of NMHSs.

NMHSs should apply all efforts to improve their severe weather forecasting process, the methods, and warnings management structures, in order to effectively respond to the needs of agencies concerned about disaster risk reduction.

3. NWP Strategy for Developing Countries

CBS has established an overarching vision for NWP in developing countries. It is:

NMHSs in developing countries are able to implement and maintain reliable and effective routine forecasting and severe weather warnings programmes through enhanced use of NWP products and delivery of timely and authoritative forecasts and early warnings, thereby contributing to reducing the risk of disasters from natural hazards

A strategy could include the following:

Use of existing NWP products:

• Some NMHSs in developing countries can significantly improve their severe weather forecasting and warnings programmes through greater availability and more effective use of products from existing NWP systems of global/regional NWP centres, and the services of the relevant RSMC; the RSMC, collaborating with those NMHSs located in the RSMC’s region of responsibility, synthesizes all available information and provides routine guidance on severe weather forecasting.
Option for increased local data-processing and display:

- Other NMHSs in developing countries could have the capacity to implement plans to access NWP outputs from other NWP centres and perform their own local processing to both increase the use of the input of local observational data and to produce tailored products; or where appropriate, acquire, install, operate and sustain their own limited area NWP models, to better meet their national requirements.

Training:

- Provide focused training on the use of operationally available NWP products, with emphasis on particular forecasting problems of the region.

4. Probabilistic Forecasting and Ensemble Prediction Systems

While 14 GDPFS centres are operationally running Ensemble Prediction Systems (EPS), their outputs and applications are of broad interest to all Members, because these Systems represent a realization of quantifying uncertainty in the numerical simulations of the atmosphere on all forecasting time scales. Probabilistic forecasting, the concept of including uncertainty information in forecasts and warnings, and in other specialized forecast products should be promoted to decision makers, and their needs could be well met by the provision of suitably developed EPS-based products.

5. Since Cg-XIV (2003) there has been increasing accuracy of Numerical Weather Prediction (NWP) models, and the large number of models now implemented at about 80 NMHSs worldwide representing 15% increase since last Congress:

- Progress facilitated by growing computing power at affordable costs leading to implementation of always-higher resolution models on all scales.

- Greater availability and more types of remotely sensed data have improved the analyses through better data assimilation methods and in turn provide the basis for progress of NWP systems.

- Applications of NWP-based outputs are growing as they become increasingly relevant, with better resolution and reliability, to various problems that require meteorological input.

6. CBS established an OPAG on Data-processing and Forecasting System including six Expert Teams and two Rapporteurs

- In 2003–2006, 27 meetings and workshops/seminars/training, co-sponsored training events, and sponsored participation at meetings and training events organized.

7. Ensemble Prediction Systems (EPS)

- Established Standard Verification of EPS, including a Lead Centre at Japan Meteorological Agency, to collect and process Verification data sets provided by the various producing centres of EPS via a dedicated Web site, presently under trial.
One desirable approach for training on EPS would be for centres that produce or have experience using EPS products to host “international training desks” (on-the-job training) for forecasters from other countries or centres. Topics on EPS and probabilistic forecasting concepts should be included in any NWP training event; trainers on NWP at WMO Regional Meteorological Training Centres should be enabled to provide training on these.

8. Long-range Forecasting (LRF)

The Lead Centre for the Standardized Verification System of LRF, jointly managed by the Australian Bureau of Meteorology and the Meteorological Service of Canada is fully operational; the Centre’s functions include creating and maintaining coordinated Web sites for the LRF verification information. Congress urged all Members to actively contribute to or consult the Web site as users or producers of LRF verification information to assure the best use of the available LRF products.

9. Emergency Response Activities (ERA)

The eight RSMCs specializing in environmental emergency response activities are Exeter and Toulouse for RA I and RA VI; Beijing, Obninsk and Tokyo for RA II, Montreal and Washington for RA III and RA VI; Melbourne for RA V.

RSMCs and several NMHSs have operational capabilities in atmospheric dispersion modeling, particularly for supporting non-nuclear response. The ERA programme continues to develop a suitable organization and operational framework for improving emergency response services of NMHSs.

10. The Functions of the GDPFS including WMCs, RSMCs, and NMCs are contained in the WMO Manual on the GDPFS (WMO No. 485), which can be found on the WMO Web site at: http://www.wmo.int/web/www/DPS/gdps.html

AGENDA ITEM 3.1.4 – REPORT ON WWW SYSTEM SUPPORT ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING THE OPERATIONAL INFORMATION SERVICE

Cg-XV/Rep. 3.1.4

WWW System Support Activities

The technical advisory services provided in the form of expert missions, guidance materials and meetings in the framework of the WWW System Support Activities had contributed to the development and improvements of the WWW components.

As regards related technical cooperation activities, in 2005-2006, 57 countries received support in the implementation of 82 projects related to the WWW and funded through VCP, UNDP or Trust Funds. However, 204 VCP projects related to the WWW, for which Members requested support, had not yet been fully supported. CBS defined guidelines for the allocation of priorities in the support of the WWW systems and services, and encouraged donors to take into account these guidelines when considering their support to the WWW.
3. CBS agreed on the preparation of a new edition of the CBS software registry. The WMO Members were invited to review the list of software packages that they are willing to offer to other WMO Members.

4. CBS noted the difficulties met by developing countries in the purchase of software packages, including licences, and their maintenance. CBS agreed that this issue should be taken into account in the offers of donor countries, in particular as regards the possibility of developing common “standard” software packages, such as packages for automatic weather stations or visualisation systems.

Operational Information Service

5. The following operational information is posted on the WMO server under:

- WMO Publication No. 9, Volume A - Observing Stations;
- Catalogue of Radiosondes and upper-air wind systems in use by Members;
- Regional basic synoptic and climatological networks;
- WMO Publication No. 9, Volume C1 - Catalogue of Meteorological Bulletins;
- WMO Publication No. 9, Volume C2 - Transmission programmes;
- Routinng catalogues of bulletins;
- Monitoring Reports (quality and quantity);
- WMO Publication No. 9, Volume D - Information for Shipping;
- WMO Publication No. 47 - International List of Selected, Supplementary and Auxiliary ships;
- Operational Newsletter on the World Weather Watch and Marine Meteorological Services;
- Additional data and products as defined in Resolution 40 (Cg-XII).

6. As requested by Fourteenth Congress, the Manual on Codes and the Manual on the GTS were posted in the WMO server, but only in English.

7. Fourteenth Congress agreed that an important goal was to facilitate the access to the information through interactive on-line access services. An interactive access to Volume C1 through the Internet was developed by the Secretariat.

AGENDA ITEM 3.1.5 – INSTRUMENTS AND METHODS OF OBSERVATION PROGRAMME;
THE REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF CIMO

Cg-XV/Rep. 3.1.5

1. Seventeen technical reports related to standardization of instruments and observing methods and the use and maintenance of instruments and systems were published in the intersessional period. Members can use these in the routine operation of their observation networks to improve the performance and sustainability of their networks.

2. The 7th edition of the Guide to Meteorological Instruments and Methods of Observation (CIMO Guide) was prepared through the effort of 42 experts from 17 countries and adopted by CIMO-XIV. Through these and past efforts the CIMO Guide now has a wider recognition and use by both Members and manufacturers.

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4 See http://www.wmo.int/web/www/CBS_software_registry/introduction.html
5 See http://www.wmo.ch/web/www/ois/ois-home.htm
6 See http://192.91.247.60/wwwois/index.html
3. CIMO addressed the problem of worldwide traceability of measurements to System International (SI) standards. Many Members either do not regularly calibrate their field instruments or do not link their working standards with international standards. There is a significant risk that measurements from such networks can degrade the quality of data assimilation into NWP models and, in turn, the quality of NWP forecasts. Also, research studies attempting to find weak climate change and variability signals based on these measurements are jeopardized.

4. A major step forward was done in strengthening the Regional Instrument and Regional Radiation Centres (RICs, RRCs). According to revised Terms of Reference, the RICs and RRCs must have the necessary facilities and laboratory equipment to perform the functions necessary for the calibration of meteorological and related environmental instruments. They must also maintain a set of meteorological standard instruments and establish traceability of measurement standards and measuring instruments to the SI. In addition RICs and RRCs may provide calibration services to those Members that cannot afford to build their own calibration laboratories at a marginal cost to those charged by the National Metrology Institute, if it exists at a national level. Therefore, the RICs, RRCs are critical to Members in guaranteeing traceability of data to SI, especially for developing countries.

5. Instrument Intercomparison is a unique and cost-effective tool establishing a link between measurements of instruments from different manufacturers. This has a significant implication on data compatibility and accuracy – and, in turn, can affect weather forecast and warning accuracies and climate research (both variability and change). Through instrument intercomparisons hidden flaws and faults in design and reading of instruments are identified and fixed, thus improving sensor performance and, in turn, data quality; this, in turn, affects quality of products and services provided by Members to users.

6. Three instrument intercomparisons that were conducted in the intersessional period: (a) WMO Laboratory Intercomparison of Rainfall Intensity (RI) Gauges, (The Netherlands, Italy, France; September 2004-September 2005); (b) WMO Intercomparison of High Quality Radiosonde Systems, Vacoas, Mauritius, 2-25 February 2005; and (c) The Tenth International Pyrheliometer Comparison and conjointly organized Regional Pyrheliometer Comparisons, Davos, Switzerland, 26 September–14 October 2005. Preparations were made for holding the WMO Field Intercomparison on RI Instruments (Vigna di Valle, Italy, 2007/2008); and WMO Combined Intercomparison of Thermometer Screens/Shields in conjunction with Humidity Measuring Instruments (Ghardaïa, Algeria, 2007/2008). CIMO-XIV agreed on a preliminary list of urgently needed instrument intercomparisons to be implemented in collaboration with other interested parties in the next period.

7. Significant achievements were done in training of instrument specialists. Two hundred and thirty-five persons were trained through 10 training workshops on instruments and observing methods in the areas of upper-air observations, metrology and calibration.

8. At CIMO-XIV, Dr John Nash (UK) and Mr Rainer Dombrowsky (USA) were elected as president and vice-president of the Commission, respectively.

AGENDA ITEM 3.1.6 – TROPICAL CYCLONE PROGRAMME

Cg-XV/Rep. 3.1.6

1. The main activities of TCP during the fourteenth financial period were directed by the Sixth Long-term Plan (6LTP) and focused on upgrade of the capabilities of NMHSs to provide better tropical cyclone and associated flood and storm surge warning services and on development and
implementation of the five comprehensive regional cooperation programmes to promote regional cooperation to mitigate tropical cyclone disasters.

2. A number of workshops, training courses and forecaster attachments were organized to facilitate the transfer of knowledge and technology intended to improve the institutional efficiency of NMHSs, particularly those of developing Member countries. Those activities included:

- RA I Training Course on Tropical Cyclones;
- RA IV Workshop on Hurricane Forecasting and Warning;
- Southern Hemisphere Training Course on Tropical Cyclones;
- Attachment of tropical cyclone forecaster to RSMC La Réunion;
- Typhoon Operational Forecasting Training at the RSMC Tokyo-Typhoon Center;
- Tropical Cyclone Operational Forecasting Training at RSMC New Delhi;
- Attachment of tropical cyclone forecaster to RSMC Miami;
- Attachment of a storm surge expert to the Indian Institute of Technology (Kharagpur);
- Regional Workshop on Storm Surge and Wave Forecasting.

3. Annual and biennial sessions of the five TC regional bodies held during this period brought solid progress in development and implementation of Regional Technical Plans and made significant contribution to the integration of sustainable development of NMHSs in accordance with their comprehensive Regional Cooperation Programme. The TCP has greatly benefited from the continuing development of all the 76 Members of the five regional bodies, six Regional Specialized Meteorological Centres (RSMCs) with activity specialization in tropical cyclones and five Tropical Cyclone Warning Centres (TCWCs) in pursuit of its effort to mitigate tropical cyclone disasters.

4. One of the most effective measures for disaster preparedness is a well-functioning early warning system that delivers accurate and user-friendly information in a timely manner. To this effect, TCP organized the Expert Meeting on Effective Early Warnings of Tropical Cyclones in January 2005. The Meeting set up targets of forecast accuracy improvement for all TC RSMCs and TCWCs (10% by 2015) and encouraged the Members of tropical cyclone regional bodies to reach out to stakeholders for their better understanding of the tropical cyclone forecasts and warnings.

5. The Fifth Tropical Cyclone RSMCs/TCWCs Technical Coordination Meeting took place in Honolulu, Hawaii in December 2005. It was organized to further harmonize the activities of the six TC RSMCs and five TCWCs. The meeting stressed the need for enhanced coordination and closer collaboration between the RSMCs and TCWCs and the importance of strengthening the existing symbiotic relationship between the national warning centres and their respective RSMC and TCWC. It also reviewed the study undertaken by the Systems Engineering Australia Pty Ltd (SEA) to arrive at suitable conversion factors between the WMO 10-minute standard average wind and 1-minute, 2-minute and 3-minute “sustained” winds. Arrangements are underway to include one page executive summary of the study in the Global Guide to Tropical Cyclone Forecasting and in the Operational Plans/Manual of the TC regional bodies in a suitable format.

6. The Sixth International Workshop on Tropical Cyclones (IWTC-VI) was held in San Jose, Costa Rica in November 2006. The Workshop brought together operational tropical cyclone
forecasters from all the five regional tropical cyclone bodies as well as many researchers, with a view to encouraging the application of research results to operational usage.

7. The test site for the Tropical Cyclone Forecaster Web site has been developed and accessible online at WMO server under the Sub-project No. 24. Establishment of the Web site is a response to a recommendation from IWTC IV and V. The Web site will serve as a source for tropical cyclone forecasters to obtain forecasting and analytical tools for tropical cyclone development, motion, intensification, and wind distribution. The Web site will be fully operational within this year.

8. Study on the economic and societal impacts of tropical cyclones has been conducted under the Sub-project No. 25 with emphasis on the assessment by end-users of relevant weather services. A detailed pilot study was carried out in the Philippines and the report was submitted to TCP in February 2005. For the following studies to be undertaken in five tropical cyclone regional bodies, arrangements are being organized to develop a well-defined methodology by use of both qualitative and quantitative methods.

AGENDA ITEM 3.1.7 – REPORT ON WMO ANTARCTIC ACTIVITIES

WMO Antarctic activities

1. Implementation activities have been carried out through coordinated efforts by Members and the Secretariat with a leading role of the Executive Council WG on Antarctic Meteorology (EC WGAM) re-established by EC-LV which now comprises experts from more than 20 Member countries. During the reporting period one session of the EC WGAM and two expert meetings were organized. The status of implementation of the basic WWW systems, including GOS, GTS and GDPFS had been reviewed on a regular basis.

2. Overall, during 2004-2006, a stability in the implementation of Member’s surface and upper-air observational programme was maintained that could be characterized by the following:

- The total number of surface stations almost remained unchanged 74 (75 in 2004);
- The total number of upper-air stations remained unchanged (13);
- The number of AWSs included in ABSN had increased from 48 to 52;
- Eleven countries contributed drifters, deployment opportunities, data collection and processing; 28 drifting buoys were reporting on the GTS by the end 2006.

3. Data from ABSN stations are collected by four collecting centres located in Antarctica (Davis, Frei, Mariambo and McMurdo), and by ten other centres (Darmstadt, Exeter, Hobart, New Delhi, Pretoria, St Petersburg, Tokyo, Toulouse, Wallops and Washington). Twelve stations (12 per cent of the ABSN stations) transmit their data via radio means, mostly HF means, 71 stations (70 per cent of the ABSN stations) via ARGOS, 3 stations via DCPs and 16 stations via other satellite systems. Eighty-seven stations (85 per cent of the stations) use satellite communication systems.

4. Availability of expected reports from the Antarctic area constituted:

- 74% (66% in 2004) for surface observations;
- 54% (61% in 2004) for upper-air observations;
- 76% (69% in 2004) for CLIMAT reports;
- 69% (77% in 2004) for CLIMAT TEMP reports.
5. As regards amendments and updates to the WWW regulatory material related to the Antarctic the following activities were accomplished:

- A revision of observational requirements was carried out for use by Members operating their land-surface and marine observational networks in the Antarctic (VOS, research vessels, SOP, buoys, ADCP, etc.). Appropriate amendments to the Manual on the GOS – Volume II – The Antarctic were developed and will be published in 2007;

- The requirements for data processing in Antarctica had been reviewed; relevant amendments were made in the Manual on the GDPFS (WMO- No. 485) and published;

- Telecommunications arrangements within the Antarctic Region have been reviewed on a biennium basis including the status of collection of data from ABSN/ABCN stations to the collecting centres, insertion of the Antarctic data into the GTS by the collecting centres and distribution of products to Antarctic stations. Amendments to the Manual on the GTS – Volume II – The Antarctic were developed and published.

6. Since 2004 special monitoring reports were made available for Members on the WMO Web server at ftp://www.wmo.int/GTS_monitoring/SAM/SAM1.htm, comprising the analysis of the special monitoring (SMM) of the exchange of Antarctic data.

7. WMO continued to collaborate with the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meetings (ATCM), the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR), the Joint Scientific Committee (JSC) of WCRP, the Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programmes (COMNAP) and the Joint WMO/IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM) to ensure a coordinated and cost effective implementation of the scientific and technical programmes in the Antarctic.

8. Following the guidelines given by the Executive Council, participation in the planning process for IPY 2007-2008 had been ensured and the role of WMO Antarctic activities in relation to the implementation of the 15 IPY projects in the Antarctic was established.

AGENDA ITEM 3.2.0 to 3.2.2 – WORLD CLIMATE PROGRAMME (WCP)

THE REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF CCI
COORDINATION ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE CLIMATE AGENDA
SUPPORT TO CLIMATE CHANGE-RELATED ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING IPCC AND THE CONVENTIONS ON CLIMATE CHANGE, BIODIVERSITY AND DESERTIFICATION

Cg-XV/Rep. 3.2(1)

1. Climate Coordination Activities of WCP provided support to the president of CCI in the EC-LVII and EC-LVIII sessions, 2006 and 2007 Meetings of the Presidents of Technical Commissions (PTC), the Management Group of CCI and other relevant technical meetings. Membership of the CCI Implementation Coordination Team is being completed and the first meeting is scheduled to be held in late 2007.

2. WMO participated in the second meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP2) and the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention (COP-12) in Nairobi, Kenya, 6-17 November 2006. WMO made a statement and presented a Concept Paper on the ‘Role of WMO and NMHSs in the Implementation of the UNFCCC SBASTA Five-Year Programme of Work on Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation to..."
Climate Change’, which improved understanding of delegates on the role of WMO, and NMHSs in the adaptation climate variability and change activities.

3. The Agricultural Meteorology Programme of WCP organized a side event at COP-7 of UNCCD (Nairobi, Kenya, 17-28 October 2005) and distributed a brochure on “Climate and Land Degradation”. WCP contributes to the work of SBSTA-11 of CBD and is co-chairing the WMO/ISDR joint Working Group on Climate Change and Disaster Reduction.

4. WCP organized a brainstorming workshop on the Role of WMO and NMHSs in adaptation process (Geneva, Switzerland, 17-18 October 2006) and developed a Concept Paper.

5. WCP organized meetings for the EC Advisory Group on Climate and Environment (Geneva, Switzerland, 23-24 February 2006) to enhance coordination of the WMO’s climate related programmes.

6. WCP organized one meeting of the ad hoc Committee on World Climate Conference-3 (WCC-3) (Geneva, Switzerland, 28-29 April 2005) and three meetings of the Provisional Organizing Committee on WCC-3 (Geneva, Switzerland on 3-4 October 2005, 27-28 March 2006 and 27-28 November 2006).

7. WCP actively participated in the Seventh Session of the WCRP Joint Scientific Committee (Pune, India, 6-9 March 2006).

9. WCP was also represented in the RA V and RA VI sessions, the GCOS Steering Committee meeting (St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, 5-8 October 2005), IPCC 23rd Plenary WG-I and WG-III meetings (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 6-8 April 2005), 24th session of the IPCC Plenary Session (Montreal, Canada, 26-28 September 2005).

AGENDA ITEM 3.2.4 – WORLD CLIMATE PROGRAMME (WCP)

WORLD CLIMATE DATA AND MONITORING PROGRAMME (WCDMP)

Cg-XV/Rep. 3.2(2)

1. The WMO Statement on the Status of the Global Climate continued in 2005; the Statement was issued in all WMO official languages. WCDMP has also actively contributed in the selection of authors for the annual BAMS article on the State of the Climate in 2005. This article should replace the WMO Global Climate System Review as recommended by CCI-XIV to avoid duplication.

2. Development of the CLIREP software to encode and decode CLIMAT and CLIMAT TEMP messages and joint seminars on CLIMAT and CLIMAT TEMP reporting in Regions II/VI (Moscow, November 2004), Region I (Morocco, December 2005) and Region III (Buenos Aires, October 2006).


4. Implementation of new CDMSs in developing countries. Several climate data management workshops were held with the support of the UK Metoffice. All NMHSs which attended the workshop, benefited from training, software and a laptop to implement the new system installed:

(d) Nadi, Fiji 19 September to 7 October 2005 for the Pacific Region. Number of NMHSs: 10;
(e) Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago, 15 May to 2 June 2006 for the Caribbean, Number of NMHSs: 14;

(f) Kigali, Rwanda, 18 September to 6 October 2006 for Eastern and Southern Africa. Number of NMHSs: 9;

(g) A total of 68 countries have installed a new CDMS (25 countries in Region I, 3 countries in Region II, 20 countries in regions IV, 11 countries in Region V and 9 countries in Region VI).

5. A hands-on training workshop was organized for these countries in March 2006, in collaboration with ICPAC, Nairobi. WCDMP also carried out data rescue from old 7-9 track tapes into modern computer storage media.

6. Several guidelines, documents and research papers that have been published and/or are available on electronic format can be found under the WMO/WCDMP and CCI webpages at the following addresses:

http://www.wmo.int/web/wcp/wcdmp/home.html
http://www.wmo.int/web/wcp/ccl/opags/opag1/opag1_Documents.htm
http://www.wmo.int/web/wcp/ccl/opags/opag2/opag2_Publications.htm

AGENDA ITEM 3.2.5 – WORLD CLIMATE PROGRAMME (WCP)

WORLD CLIMATE APPLICATIONS AND SERVICES PROGRAMME, INCLUDING THE CLIPS PROJECT

Cg-XV/Rep. 3.2(3)

World Climate Applications and Services Programme, including the CLIPS Project

1. Activities relevant to Climate Applications and Services held during 2003-2007 included:

(a) The WMO conference: Living with Climate Variability and Change: Understanding the uncertainties and managing the risks (17-21 July 2006, Espoo, Finland);


(c) Six El Niño and La Niña Updates, with support of Members, GPCs, and research institutions;

(d) Working Groups on Climate-related matters: RA II (2004) and RA VI (2006);

(e) Interdisciplinary applications activities for key socio-economic sectors: Climate and Health workshops in different parts of the world, in partnership with WMO (two every year in 2003-2006 except in 2005 with one workshop);

(f) RCOFs, regularly convened twice a year throughout the period 2003-2006, in the sub-regions Western Africa, Greater Horn of Africa, Southern Africa, Southeastern South
America, West Coast of South America and Central America, and once a year from 2005 onwards in Asia;


(h) Other conferences and workshops related to urban climatology, biometeorology, capacity building for downscaling, climate change futures, tourism, El Niño impacts, etc.

2. Most countries appointed CLIPS Focal Points and several RAs appointed regional CLIPS rapporteurs.

3. Many experts took part in the work of CCI Expert Teams, and in a number of priority tasks related to the work of CCI-XIII OPAG 3 and CCI-XIV OPAGs 3 and 4. At least one expert from each RA serves on each of the Expert Teams under these OPAGs.

4. WCASP/CLIPS participated in and provided input to the Programme and Budget; strategic planning; constituent body sessions; various publications; internal meetings on cross-cutting activities; development of the CCI/WCASP web pages and in support to the CCI.

AGENDA ITEM 3.2.6 – WORLD CLIMATE IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RESPONSE STRATEGIES PROGRAMME (WCIRP)

Cc-XV/Rep. 3.2(4)

National Communications to UNFCCC and Adaptation Activities

1. UNEP continues to assist 30 developing countries to prepare their national communications under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

2. UNEP is working with UN-Habitat to launch a regional adaptation project with the islands in the Indian Ocean and Western Africa. The project aims to reduce the vulnerability of urban coastal zones to the impacts of climate change.

3. The project Integrating Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change into Sustainable Development Policy Planning and Implementation for Southern and Eastern Africa, initiated by UNEP, entered its implementation phase in 2005. This project will assist Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Rwanda and Tanzania to affect policy changes in order to reduce vulnerability, better manage risks and avoid maladaptations.

4. The Assessment of Impacts and Adaptation to Climate Change (AiACC) project involves 46 countries, including several Least Developed Countries (LDCs). The objective of the project is to build capacity in developing countries for research in support of climate change adaptation; to advance scientific understanding of climate change impacts, adaptations and vulnerabilities. During UNFCCC COP-12 in November 2006 a side event on Enhancing Understanding of Vulnerability and Supporting Implementation of Adaptation to Climate Change was convened to present results of UNEP’s activities in this area.

Sustainable Development and Climate Change

5. UNEP’s Risøe Centre on Energy, Climate and Sustainable Development is leading the Development and Climate Project that combines efforts of 12 institutes from developing and
The project has entered the second phase, which includes analysing national strategies, integrating development and climate strategies, identifying key initiatives, building national capacity and forming specific recommendations for global cooperation.

6. UNEP’s energy activities, are linked to mitigation and finance, and are generally developed with broader objectives relating to energy for sustainable development, as follows:
   - The Solar and Wind Energy Resource Assessment (SWERA) project which develops the information and analytical tools to help 13 developing countries;
   - The Cleaner Production – Energy Efficiency project aims to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases by identifying and implementing energy efficiency improvements;
   - The Energy Management and Performance Related Energy Savings Scheme (EMPRESS) refers to a project supporting enhanced energy management through measuring and subsequently verifying reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in Eastern and Central Europe;

Climate Change in relation to Land Use Change and Forestry

7. UNEP supports the development and implementation of environmentally sound and socially equitable carbon sequestration projects. In full partnership with IUCN and FAO, UNEP is assisting countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia on technical and legal matters related to the modalities for afforestation and reforestation CDM projects.

The Kyoto Protocol Mechanisms and National Policy Instruments

8. Following the announcement at UNFCCC COP-12 by the UN Secretary-General of the “Nairobi Framework” that engages six agencies, and namely UNDP, UNEP, the World Bank Group, the African Development Bank, and UNFCCC, in assisting developing countries to effectively participate in the Kyoto Protocol’s Clean Development Mechanism, UNEP is developing a set of activities to enable African countries to access carbon finance and cleaner technologies to stimulate sustainable development.

9. These activities include enhancing public and private sector capacity to implement the CDM, strengthening national capacity to develop project proposals under CDM, identifying investment opportunities in specific carbon finance projects, and extending information sharing and outreach mechanisms.

Support to the IPCC

10. UNEP and WMO continue to strengthen cooperation on IPCC, particularly in the management of the IPCC Secretariat and contributing to the IPCC Trust Fund to encourage participation of experts from developing countries in planning and writing of the IPCC assessments, special, technical and methodology reports. UNEP intends to join the IPCC Secretariat and WMO in facilitating the outreach activities related to forthcoming Fourth Assessment Report within the confines of the IPCC express needs.

Information Outreach and Capacity Building

11. UNEP implements a large-scale climate change outreach project in support of the UNFCCC Article 6 (Education, Training and Public Awareness) that features, inter alia, 15 national climate awareness campaigns in European, African, Asian and Latin American countries, climate
outreach to youth, mass media, business and also compilation of simplified guides to the IPCC Special Reports as well as graphical and information materials based on the IPCC Third Assessment Report. WCIRP activities under the World Climate Programme as implemented by UNEP were successfully reported to the UNFCCC COP-12 in Nairobi in November 2006.

AGENDA ITEM 3.2.3 – WORLD CLIMATE OBSERVING SYSTEM

REPORT FOR THE PERIOD SINCE Cg-XIV

Cg-XV/Rep. 3.2.3

Global Climate Observing System (GCOS)

Major items for GCOS over the reporting period include:

GCOS Steering Committee

The joint WMO-IOC-UNEP-ICSU GCOS Steering Committee continued to provide scientific and technical guidance to sponsoring and participating organizations and agencies for the planning, implementation and further development of GCOS, having met on three occasions since Cg-XIV. Professor John Zillman replaced Professor Paul Mason as Chairman of the Steering Committee in January 2006.

GCOS Planning, Implementation and Further Development

There has been substantial progress towards the realization of GCOS over the past four years through the development of Regional Action Plans, the Implementation Plan for the Global Observing System for Climate in Support of the UNFCCC, and a strategy for implementation of GCOS as the climate component of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems, as well as a range of implementation measures under the WMO technical commissions and other bodies responsible for the component systems of GCOS. Nevertheless, there are major shortcomings in almost all of its component observing systems, and a great deal of further work will be needed worldwide for GCOS to adequately meet its users' needs. Although focussed on meeting the needs of the UNFCCC, the Implementation Plan is now serving as the main overarching plan for the further development of GCOS in support of the full range of its objectives. The Plan was issued in October 2004 and sets out an extensive programme of actions needed to develop some 44 Essential Climate Variables.

GCOS Regional Workshops and Action Plans

By the end of 2006, all ten GCOS Regional Workshops and associated Action Plan development meetings had been completed. Regional Action Plans have been prepared for all developing country regions (the Pacific Islands, Eastern and Southern Africa, Central America and the Caribbean, East and Southeast Asia, Western and Central Africa, South America, Central Asia, South and Southwest Asia, Eastern and Central Europe, and the Mediterranean Basin). The plans focussed on sustaining and improving operational observing networks; recovering historical data; improving national and regional coordination; education, training, and capacity building; and national planning and reporting. Some implementation action has been possible in most regions, with more progress so far in those regions in which the earliest workshops were held. The major impediment to progress is the limited capacity for mobilizing resources for implementation actions.
Climate for Development in Africa

One important initiative flowing out of the Regional Workshop Programme followed from the specific expression of support for GCOS in the 2005 G8 ‘Gleneagles Plan of Action’. With the support of the UK Department for International Development (DfID), the GCOS Secretariat and the Secretariat of the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) organized a meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in April 2006, with potential donors, representatives of the African Union (AU), a number of NMHSs and other service providers, and users of climate information. The final report and implementation strategy, ‘Climate Information for Development Needs: An Action Plan for Africa’, was subsequently endorsed by the African Union Heads of State in January 2007. The Programme on Climate for Development in Africa (‘ClimDev Africa’) is intended to be a fully-integrated, user-driven programme that addresses not only the needs for improved climate observations as expressed in the GCOS Regional Action Plans, but also the needs for climate services, climate risk management, and associated policy development and implementation. WMO and the GCOS Secretariat are represented on the steering committee of ClimDev Africa.

GCOS and Satellites

During 2006, the GCOS Secretariat organized the development of a document (Systematic Observation Requirements for Satellite-based Products for Climate) that provides supplemental details to the requirements identified in the Implementation Plan. This is the basis for extensive interaction with the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites and the UNFCCC on how Parties with Earth observation space agencies were responding to the needs expressed in the Implementation Plan.

GCOS Implementation and the GCOS Cooperation Mechanism

Implementation of GCOS has continued at both the international and national levels under the leadership of the WMO technical commissions and other intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies responsible for its component systems. Following the release of the 2004 IP, virtually all of its identified ‘Agents for Implementation’ have agreed to accept the roles and responsibilities requested of them, including all relevant WMO Programmes and technical commissions. Much improvement of the GCOS networks has been made possible through the support of a number of Members, both directly and through the GCOS Cooperation Mechanism. Given the joint international sponsorship of GCOS, considerable emphasis has been placed on the importance, for effective coordinated implementation at the national level, of the establishment of GCOS National Committees and GCOS National Coordinators. Unfortunately, only a few Members have taken such action to date, and the strengthening of coordination arrangements at the national level in all countries has been identified as a priority by the GCOS Steering Committee.

GCOS, the User Community and the UNFCCC

Through the ClimDev Africa and other initiatives, renewed emphasis has been placed on the mechanisms for ensuring that GCOS serves the needs of its user communities, especially those represented through the various components of the World Climate Programme and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Particular attention has been focussed over the past four years on the role of GCOS in meeting the ‘systematic observation’ requirements of the UNFCCC. GCOS issues and reports have featured strongly in recent sessions of the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) and its Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice.

GCOS Secretariat Operations

Funding for the GCOS Secretariat remains inadequate relative to the responsibilities assigned to it under the WMO-IOC-UNEP-ICSU Memorandum of Understanding and the demands of the present
stage of implementation of GCOS. The core operation of the Secretariat for 2008-2011 is estimated to cost CHF 1,750,000, in addition to the two fixed-term staff positions (Director and Administrative Assistant) supported by WMO. This estimate consists of CHF 1,030,000 for one Senior Scientific Officer and CHF 720,000 for basic services, travel and organization of Steering Committee and most (but not all) Panel meetings. Even with the budgetary funding of CHF 480,000 from the WMO Regular Budget, a further CHF 1,270,000 will have to be found from other sources. Funds to cover Secretariat operations to the end of 2007 have not yet been identified.

AGENDA ITEM 3.2.7 – WORLD CLIMATE RESEARCH PROGRAMME

Cg-XV/Rep. 3.2.7

1. WCRP has made outstanding achievements under its two objectives, improving climate predictability and enhancing understanding of human interactions with climate, since its inception in 1980. Following the celebration of its 25th anniversary in 2005, WCRP has, in line with WMO’s Strategic Objectives, redirected the emphasis of its research to provide practical results of global and regional relevance, importance and value for sustainable development and as input to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and other such Conventions, and thereby contribute to the achievement of United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

2. WCRP contributed to the WMO Madrid Conference on the Social and Economic Benefits of Weather and Climate in order to improve its development of climate-related services and applications and to the advances in understanding and modelling of climate change, as reflected in the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report. WCRP’s continued role in research and capacity building activities in the developing and the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are noteworthy, particularly the activities of its monsoon panels in the Americas, Africa and Asia/Australia; these include the North American Monsoon Experiment (NAME), the Monsoon Experiment South America (MESA), and in the La Plata Basin (LPB, funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF)) and more recently the African Monsoon Multidisciplinary Analysis (AMMA) and its co-sponsoring of START’s capacity building activities. The WCRP project on Variability of the African Climate Systems (VACS, covering the West African Monsoon and wider African climate variability including the East African monsoon) is collaborating with the WCP/CLIPS project. The VACS activity AMMA is addressing monitoring and prediction strategies to improve studies that relate climate to health, water resources, food security and demography for West African Nations. WCRP, jointly with START and WMO, held a workshop in Tanzania in 2006 to address prediction and predictability of the climate of east and southern Africa. An African Climate Atlas has been developed under VACS. The 2006 Norbert Gerbier-Mumm International Award was awarded to Dr Tim Palmer, co-chair, WCRP CLIVAR, and 24 of his collaborators (from 13 institutions and 7 nations), in recognition of their major contribution to ensemble climate prediction applications that significantly improve early-warning techniques including those for malaria outbreaks. The prize money has been dedicated to training scientists in Africa to utilize the ensemble climate prediction products.

3. The JSC session in 2007 was held in Zanzibar, Tanzania and an “Africa-day workshop” held in conjunction with START and WCP during the session was a great success. The JSC praised and repeated the main priority of and the significant contribution made by WCRP to the WMO/UNEP Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fourth Assessment Report (AR4). It noted in particular that modelling activities organized and coordinated by WCRP had been the basis for the IPCC AR4 climate projections. Fifteen modelling groups from 11 countries which participated in these experiments with 23 models have contributed their simulations to the WCRP-CMIP3 (Coupled Model Intercomparison Project-3) Archive at the Program for Climate Model Diagnosis and Intercomparison (PCMDI). More than 200 papers have been submitted to peer-review journals based on results from the multi-model analyses, and 1000 analysis projects
have been registered at the PCMDI. The current and future focus of the WCRP is to study natural and future climate variability in the context of anthropogenic climate change. Its recent initiatives include: the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP), which underpins the IPCC multimodel analysis; the International Cloud Feedback Model Intercomparison Project (CFMIP) and the Coupled Climate Carbon Cycle Model Intercomparison Project (CCCMIP); regional climate modelling; palaeoclimate modelling; and data archiving, management and distribution.

4. In order to achieve its two objectives of better understanding of the predictability of climate and of human impact on climate and through these to contribute significantly to WMO's nine Strategic Objectives, the WCRP depends on the development of comprehensive global models of the full climate system and on high quality and sustained climate observations. The successful WCRP Workshop on Understanding Sea-Level Rise and Variability conducted in support of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) 10-year Implementation Plan in June 2006 identified uncertainties for input into future IPCC Assessment Reports.

5. The joint WCRP/CAS Working Group on Numerical Experimentation (WGNE) leads the development of atmospheric models for both climate studies and numerical weather prediction. WGNE is also the focal point in the WCRP for encouraging and reviewing the reanalysis projects carried out by various centres with fixed state-of-the-art assimilation systems providing a multi-year homogeneous data set for a range of atmospheric and climate diagnostic studies. The 40-year European Re-Analysis (ERA-40) of the global atmosphere was completed by the European Centre for Medium-range Weather Forecasting (ECMWF). One of the results is a comprehensive atlas of the atmospheric general circulation. The Japanese 26-year Reanalysis Project (JRA-25) has been completed. WGNE is playing a crucial role in the planning and implementation of THORPEX, which seeks to improve weather forecasting. Linked to this project are improvements in model resolutions (e.g. to <40 km in global circulation models); the statistics of tropical and extra-tropical storm tracks; and an intercomparison of forecasts of typhoon tracks in the western North Pacific, which is being conducted by the Japan Meteorology Agency. The 3rd WGNE Workshop on Systematical Errors in Climate and NWP Models, held in San Francisco, February 12-16, 2007, was very successful, at which scientists debated some of the most important questions facing the modelling community such as causes of model errors, the evaluation and validation of models, development of next-generation models and limits of parameterization, resolution and computing power amongst others.

6. WCRP works in close cooperation with the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) through co-sponsorship of the WCRP Observation and Analysis Panel (WOAP) and especially with the WCRP/GCOS co-sponsored panels AOPC (Atmospheric Observation Panel for Climate), OOPC (Ocean Observation Panel for Climate) and TOPC (Terrestrial Observation Panel for Climate) to establish requirements of climate researchers for in situ as well as satellite observation networks and systems. WCRP also collaborates with the intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations (GEO) and on data management, recovery and archiving. A crucial need in order to improve analysis and forecasts of extreme events is worldwide sharing of quality high frequency observations. WCRP, having led atmospheric re-analysis for 20 years, is now sharing this role with GCOS in order to move to the challenge of the development of ocean data re-analyses and future consideration of comprehensive Earth system re-analyses.

7. WCRP has established focused cross-cutting activities to develop and coordinate research of immediate importance to end-users. Such challenges include: understanding and improving projections of sea-level rise and variability, monsoons, Atmospheric Chemistry and Climate (AC & C), seasonal prediction and extreme events. The coastal zone is of crucial importance to many Small Island Developing nations (SIDs) and in all countries has changed profoundly during the 20th century, primarily due to growing populations and increasing urbanization. In 1990, 23 percent of the world's population (or 1.2 billion people) lived both within a 100 km distance and 100 m elevation of the coast at densities about three times higher than the
global average. By 2010, 20 out of 30 mega-cities will be on the coast with many low-lying locations threatened by sea-level rise. With coastal development continuing at a rapid pace, society is becoming increasingly vulnerable to sea-level rise and variability. Rising sea levels will increase the vulnerability of coasts and especially low-lying islands. The WCRP organized the Workshop 'Understanding Sea-level Rise and Variability' in June 2006 in Paris, France. The Workshop, which brought together 163 participants from 29 countries, made recommendations on research and observational requirements needed to address uncertainty in sea-level rise and its variability, which will be published in a book in 2008. Dr John Church, the Chair of the WCRP, delivered the 2006 Lecture entitled “Global Sea Levels: Past, Present and Future” and received the Roger Revelle medal at the 39th Session of the IOC Executive Council (Paris, June 2006).

8. The Working Group on Seasonal to Interannual Prediction (WGSIP) under WCRP’s CLIVAR project oversees development of improved models, assimilation systems and observing system requirements for seasonal prediction. Recently, recognizing the potential to improve seasonal prediction by tapping results and outputs from all WCRP elements, the WCRP established a limited term Task Force on Seasonal Prediction (TFSP), which draws on expertise in all WCRP core projects and working groups. The overarching goal of the TFSP is to determine the extent to which seasonal prediction is possible and useful in all regions of the globe with currently available models and data. During the 2nd TFSP Implementation Workshop in 2005, the Task Force presented plans for a seasonal prediction experiment to utilize advances, understanding and assessment skills across all WCRP projects. A workshop (June 2007 in Barcelona, Spain) will assess the skill in seasonal prediction of climate models such as those generating IPCC-type future scenarios. The June Workshop includes WCP-nominated participants tasked to bring to WCRP the needs for improved COFs and to identify the current limitations and prospects for improving seasonal predictions and to develop a strategy for determining the extent to which seasonal prediction is possible and useful in all regions of the globe.

9. WCRP has set up a special Task Team on Anthropogenic Climate Change (ACC) to address ACC issues. WCRP is engaged with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the wider Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP) in a dialogue on the specification of new and standard emission scenarios. At the UNFCCC’s Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) meeting in Bonn, Germany, May 2006, WCRP convened a side event on climate change research achievements and challenges. WCRP will co-convene a follow-up side event on Earth System Science research at SBSTA 26 in May 2007.

10. Two WCRP sponsors, the WMO and ICSU, lead the organization of the International Polar Year (IPY), which will include intensive field investigations from 1 March 2007 to 1 March 2009. All WCRP projects coordinated by the Climate and Cryosphere (CliC) project have very actively participated in the IPY preparations. Climate issues will be at the forefront of the majority of IPY studies. So far, 228 IPY projects have been approved by the IPY Joint Committee. The funding for new IPY activities will be of the order of several hundred million USD. Following the completion of IPY preparations, the WCRP will focus jointly with GEO on creating a strong legacy of better understanding the role of the poles in the Earth System and on more comprehensive and better sustained polar observations.

11. WCRP operates through four Core Projects plus a joint project with IGBP and, increasingly, in collaboration with the Joint Projects of the Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP). Each of these projects have plans flowing from the WMO SOP and aligned with WMO’s nine Strategic Objectives. For example, the Global Energy and Water cycle EXperiment (GEWEX) hosted a special workshop with UNESCO in Cairo, Egypt on 18-20 April 2005 to examine the applicability of climate research and information for water resource management in semi-arid and arid regions. The Stratospheric Processes And their Role in Climate (SPARC) provided crucial input to the WMO/UNEP 2006 Ozone Assessment, which is co-authored by SPARC scientists.
12. The Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP) among WCRP, IGBP, IHDP and DIVERSITAS, established to address issues of major relevance to society and global sustainability that require an integrated approach across a wide spectrum of research disciplines, has been progressing well. As a direct result of this partnership, three projects (on the global carbon cycle, food systems and water resources) have been developed and are being implemented jointly and a fourth joint project on Global Change and human health was launched in Beijing, China 2006. The second major ESSP Open Science Conference (OSC), held in Beijing, China, in November 2006 entitled “Global Environmental Change: Regional Challenges”, was a success and attracted more than 900 scientists, policy makers, practitioners, scholars, members of the private sector and journalists. The Conference Statement urged society and policy makers to collaborate in the face of an ever faster changing environment. Accordingly, governments worldwide shall abandon business-as-usual and undertake actions “to reduce the impact of human activities on the environment in order to ensure sustainable development”. Furthermore, the ESSP declared it necessary to “take responsibility to mobilize knowledge for action, and provide society with the scientific information to better meet present and future needs”.

AGENDA ITEM 3.3 – ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH AND ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (AREP)

Cg-XV/Rep. 3.3

Report of the President

1. The Atmospheric Research and Environment Programme (AREP) consists of two major initiatives: the Global Atmospheric Watch (GAW) Programme and the World Weather Research Programme (WWRP). They share the common goal of supporting research amongst Members aimed at improved observational and prediction systems of weather, climate, air quality and related environmental issues. They are becoming strongly linked through the increasing recognition of the role of atmospheric chemical composition in weather and the key role that forecast modelling will play in future climate and air quality prediction on all scales from urban to global. AREP programmes also contribute to major cross-cutting issues, particularly disaster prevention and mitigation and WMO integrated global atmospheric observations. The World Weather Research Programme (WWRP) now includes support for THORPEX, undertaken through the extrabudgetary initiatives of Members who have major forecast research initiatives that needed more coordination, global capacity building and outreach.

2. CAS-XIV adopted a new operating system with two Open Programme Area Groups (OPAGs) supporting the Global Atmospheric Watch (GAW) and the World Weather Research Programme (WWRP) that includes THORPEX and other research activities. In order to provide oversight and direction a CAS Management Group was also established. The mission of GAW and WWRP is to support research in atmospheric science to:

- Reduce and mitigate natural disasters;
- Protect the environment;
- Enhance understanding and response to environmental change.

3. The next generation GAW (2008-2015) mission that takes into account the Integrated Global Atmospheric Chemistry Observations (IGACO) strategy is to:

- Reduce environmental risks to society and meet the requirements of environmental conventions;
- Strengthen capabilities to predict climate, weather and air quality;
- Contribute to scientific assessments in support of environmental policy.
Through:

- Maintaining and applying global, long-term observations of the chemical composition and selected physical characteristics of the atmosphere;
- Emphasizing quality assurance and quality control;
- Delivering integrated products and services of relevance to user needs.

In fulfilling the above goals following the GAW Strategic Plan: 2008-2015, it thereby addresses Expected Results 1, 4, 7, 8 and 9 of the WMO Strategic Plan 2008-2011.

4. In addition to addressing climate applications, GAW responds to the increasing demand by NWP research and operational forecasting for atmospheric chemistry modules and observations. The addition of chemical variables to NWPs not only adds air quality forecasts and climate-forcing analyses to the products and services of meteorological services but also, influences the accuracy and usefulness of a traditional weather forecast through feedback on direct and indirect radiative forcing and precipitation formation.

5. GAW will respond to the needs and clearly link to the plans of international observing projects/systems/strategies (e.g. GCOS, IGOS, GEO) and of atmospheric process research (i.e. national, regional and international such as the IGAC, SOLAS and ILEAPS projects of IGBP) and the regional projects (GEMS, ACCENT, EUSAAR, SCOUT-O3 and GEOMON of the European Commission).

6. At its first meeting in September 2006, the CAS Management Group decided to develop a strategic plan for implementation of a World Weather Research Programme that included societal and economic benefit research as well as capacity building. The ongoing forecast and research demonstration projects, training and international scientific meetings supported by the former WWRP will be augmented by THORPEX and will involve strengthened activities in the WMO Regions, the joint WWRP/WCRP Working Group on Numerical Experimentation (WGNE), other WMO Programmes, and international organizations particularly GEO and ICSU.

7. The purpose of WWRP is to support research that:

(i) Develops improved and cost-effective forecasting techniques, with emphasis on high impact weather and promotes their application among Members;
(ii) Underpins the WMO Multi-Hazard Prevention Strategy aimed at reducing by 50 per cent over the decade 2010-2019 the number of fatalities caused by meteorological-, hydrological- and climate-related natural disasters compared with the ten-year average fatalities of 1995-2004, through improvement of the early warnings of high impact weather globally;
(iii) Enables governments, societies and economic sectors to realize fully the benefit of weather- and climate-related information in critical decision-making;
(iv) Demonstrates improvements in the prediction of high impact weather, through the exploitation of advances in scientific understanding, new observing systems, observational network design, data assimilation and modelling techniques, and information systems;
(v) Demonstrates the benefits of improved global, mesoscale and nowcasting forecast systems to all societies.

In fulfilling these objectives, WWRP addresses Expected Results 1, 6, 7, 8 and 9 of the Strategic Plan. It will assist Members by fostering research leading to better operational weather forecast services and products and to better application of atmospheric chemistry related to weather, climate, air quality and related environmental issues.
8. The WMO Research Award For Young Scientists was established in 1970. From 2003 to 2006, 46 nominations were received for the annual prize that was awarded after independent review to young scientists from South America, Europe, Southeast Asia and Africa (see EC documents for details).

9. Regarding Weather Modification Activities, CAS has responded to the request of CAS-XIV (Abridged Final Report with Resolutions and Recommendations of the Fourteenth Session of the Commission for Atmospheric Sciences (WMO-No. 1002)) to establish "a process for reviewing the Working Group documents" (see paragraph 3.3.1.6), the CAS Management Group has adopted the following process:

(i) A group of internationally respected scientific experts provide reviews;
(ii) The original drafting group revise the original documents using the reviews;
(iii) The Chair of the Expert Team for Weather Modification reviews the revised documents;
(iv) The Chair of the original drafting group finalizes the document in consultation with the Chair of the Expert Team;
(v) The final drafts are submitted to CAS Management Group for approval in September 2007.

10. A joint ad-hoc WMO/IUGG group established in response to the request of Cg-XIV (Abridged Final Report with Resolutions of the Fourteenth World Meteorological Congress (WMO-No. 960)) has prepared a scientific technical report entitled "Aerosol Pollution Impact on Precipitation: A Scientific Review." [see the AREP CD]. Preparation included a peer-review process. Environment Canada and Météo-France kindly hosted international expert workshops in November 2005 and October 2006. The review has been finalized and presented to the CAS Management Group and IUGG in early 2007. Plans are to publish the review as a book.

Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW), including support to environment-oriented conventions

11. WMO-GAW continued to coordinate global ozone observations in support of the Vienna Convention and its Montreal Protocol and to issue annually Ozone Bulletins on the status of the Antarctic ozone hole on a bi-weekly basis during the period August to November. The first annual WMO Arctic Ozone Bulletin was published in 2006, summarizing the development of stratospheric ozone in the Arctic winter and spring period. The Meeting of the Ozone Research Managers of the Parties to the Vienna Convention and the meeting for the Ozone Science Assessment were organized together with UNEP, and the WMO/UNEP quadrennial Scientific Assessment of Ozone Depletion was published in the spring of 2007. The Balloon Experiment on Standards for Ozone Sondes (BESOS) field campaign was carried out at the University of Wyoming. Intercomparisons of Dobson spectrophotometers took place for Latin America in 2003 and 2006, for RA I in 2004, for RA V in 2006 and for RA II in 2006. The first Brewer comparison, hosted by the GAW Regional Brewer Calibration Centre – Europe, was arranged in Spain in September 2005. Several Brewer spectrophotometers were calibrated by International Ozone Services.

12. The GAW Community and Secretariat actively supported the UNFCCC through contributions to the Strategic Implementation Plan of the Second Report on the Adequacy of the Global Observing Systems for Climate by the Global Climate Observing Strategy (GCOS). GAW is recognized as the lead international programme in coordinating global monitoring efforts of the following Essential Climate Variables (ECVs): greenhouse gases, ozone and aerosols.

13. WMO-GAW continued strong collaboration in Europe specifically by co-chairing the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling (TFMM) of EMEP under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (LRTAP).

14. The emphasis that GAW places on calibration and quality assurance/quality control as a product and service continues to be important for both developed and developing countries. Many Members operate World and Regional Calibration Centres as well as on-site instrumental calibration programmes, which are part of the GAW quality assurance system. Spain established
the first Regional Brewer Calibration Centre at Izaña (Tenerife, Spain) and Canada has provided annual support since 2003 in a WMO trust fund for Brewers. The series of UV reports were continued with “Instruments to Measure Solar Ultraviolet Radiation - Part 2: Broadband Instruments Measuring Erythemally Weighted Solar Irradiance”. UV instrument calibration exercises were organized with partial support from WMO for the first time for multifilter UV instruments. The lack of a global UV calibration facility, or regional centres with global coverage when combined, is seen as a serious problem. The World Calibration Centre (WCC) for CH₄, CO, and O₃ has persistently continued to audit, quality assure, train and support instrument operations at remote GAW stations.

15. The WMO GAW World Data Centres continued collecting and making available data and data products. A new WMO data centre for satellite data on atmospheric chemistry will be established at the German Aerospace Centre (DLR). A MoU and a workplan are being developed and the data centre will be in operation in 2007.

16. The GAW Station Information System (GAW-SIS), established to describe the GAW network metadata, was upgraded in 2004 to include mapping facilities and links to data in GAW World Data Centres. This is a very useful and versatile tool supported by Switzerland for obtaining information on GAW stations. However, it is only as accurate as the information in it, and Members are urged to actively monitor the data and keep it up to date. The Mt Waliguan, Cape Point, and Cape Grim GAW stations celebrated anniversaries and new Global stations were established at Danum Valley, Malaysia and Jungfraujoch, Switzerland. The Secretariat conducted with the help of an intern a survey of existing UV measurement stations.

17. Precipitation chemistry remains an important environmental issue due to concerns over acid deposition, eutrophication, ecosystem health, and global climate change. GAW continues to cooperate with contributing partners and regional networks (DEBITS, EANET, CAPMoN, EMEP, NADP) in order to fill a gap in the GAW precipitation chemistry global data. The document Manual for the GAW Precipitation Chemistry Programme: Guidelines, Data Quality Objectives and Standard Operating Procedures was published in 2004.

18. Progress was made in defining a global aerosol optical depth network. The GAW reports “WMO/GAW Experts Workshop on a Global Surface-based Network for Long Term Observations of Column Aerosol Optical Properties” and “WMO/GAW Aerosol Measurement Procedures Guidelines and Recommendations” were published. A major development in the GAW reactive gas activities was made by finalizing a plan for measurements of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), in a global network. The International HALocarbons in Air Comparison Experiment (IHALACE) was carried out to ensure an integrated global halocarbon database and in the long term to establish a global quality assurance system for these compounds. The report “Joint WMO-GAW/ACCENT Workshop on the Global Tropospheric Carbon Monoxide Observations Systems, Quality Assurance and Applications” was published. As for greenhouse gas meetings, the WMO/IAEA Meetings of Experts on Carbon Dioxide Concentration and Related Tracer Measurement Techniques were continued. In particular, data quality objectives for carbon gas measurements were reviewed.

19. GAWTEC continued training, and 132 participants from 46 countries have participated since its establishment in 2001. Training has been given in aerosols, precipitation chemistry, surface ozone, CO, greenhouse gases, Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) and UV. The training centre at the Solar and Ozone Observatory (SOO-HK) of the Czech Hydrometeorological Institute (CHMI) in Hradec Kralove has trained 11 Dobson operators in the 2003 to 2006 time period.

20. CAS-XIV noted the wide range of accomplishments in the GURME project that provides an international platform for cross-cutting urban air pollution activities. Passive samplers are a potentially powerful cost-effective observational tool for mega-city pollution studies in developing countries. The results of this GURME pilot project were published in Atmospheric Environment. Air quality forecasting was the focus for GURME in this period; workshops were held within the
Latin American Cities project. The development of the GURME training course on air quality forecasting was a major effort and was delivered for the first time in Lima, Peru in 2006. The Moscow and Beijing projects had matured to a second stage.

World Weather Research Programme (WWRP) including THORPEX and Tropical Meteorology Research

21. Since its establishment in 2003 by Cg-XIV, the THORPEX programme has developed rapidly and the following highlights are worthwhile stressing:

- The THORPEX International Science Plan was published in November 2003 and a THORPEX International Research Implementation Plan followed this in December 2004 (both plans are available on www.wmo.int/thorpex/plans.html);
- The establishment of the THORPEX International Programme Office (IPO) and the Boards and Working Groups, reporting to the THORPEX International Core Steering Committee (ICSC);
- The development of enhanced Regional Numerical Weather Prediction activity involving a widened range of scientists from Universities and Research Institutes (through the existing Regional Committees (RCs) in North America (NARC), Europe (ERC), Asia (ARC), the Southern Hemisphere (SHRC) and the National Weather Services); in addition a major effort is underway to develop a regional plan for Africa;
- The scientific and technical success of the first THORPEX Regional Campaign (TreC) carried out under the auspices of THORPEX, the Atlantic regional Campaign (ATReC);
- The International plans for a THORPEX Pacific Asian Regional Campaign (TPARC) for the second half of 2008 which in this case would coincide with the IPY and with the campaign to take additional measurements in support of the Beijing 2008 FDP/RDP;
- The International plans for a European TReC for 2007 relating to summertime high impact weather linked to MAP D-PHASE and the international field experiment of COPS;
- The establishment of the THORPEX Interactive Grand Global Ensemble (TIGGE). A technical proposal for Phase 1 (global analyses and forecasts) has been developed by three archive centres (CMA, ECMWF and NCAR) and agreed by eleven providers (BMRC, CMA, CPTEC, ECMWF, FNMOC, JMA, KMA, Météo-France, Environment Canada, NCEP, UKMO);
- The collaboration with WCRP - with a way forward for joint research and development in forecasting research to improve week 2 forecasting and a TIGGE approach to longer-range forecasting;
- Completion of a successful driftsonde demonstration test in collaboration with AMMA;
- Credible plans for Numerical Weather Prediction elements in GEO and a THORPEX IPY cluster.

However, the current level of commitment of financial resources is well below the level needed for a full programme that was foreseen in the THORPEX Implementation Plan.

22. The following WWRP Projects were initiated and significant progress was made:

- Beijing 2008 FDP/RDP;
- Sand and Dust Storm (SDS) Project;
- MAP-DPHASE;
- RDP on Convective and Orographically-induced Precipitation Study (COPS).

23. The meeting of Science Steering Committee for Sand and Dust Storm (SDS) 2006, Shanghai, China, indicated that large amounts of dust are mobilized and transported by SDS remotely from desert sources. For regions in the desert neighbourhoods, this process represents a serious natural hazard, causing numerous impacts on health, transport, agriculture and environment. A joint initiative of WWRP and GAW was proposed to create a WMO Sand and Dust
Storm Warning System, following the interest of more than 40 WMO Members to improve their capabilities to monitor sand and dust storm occurrences. The proposed warning system will promote research on operational sand and dust storm forecasts. Canada, China and Spain were designated as centres to coordinate regional SDS forecasting activities.

24. In addition to many project meetings, the following major conferences and workshops organized by the Programme significantly promoted research activities to improve high-impact weather forecasts and have contributed to the disaster prevention and mitigation:

- First and Second THORPEX Science Symposium (Montreal, Canada, 2004; Landshut, Germany, 2006);
- Third WMO International Workshop on Monsoons (IWM-III) (Hongzhou, China, 2004);
- Fourth WMO International Symposium on assimilation of Observations in Meteorology and Oceanography (Prague, Czech Republic, 2005);
- WWRP International Symposium on Nowcasting and Very Short Range Forecasting (Toulouse, France, 2005);
- WMO International Workshop on Tropical Cyclone Landfall Processes (Macao, China, 2005);
- Second International Symposium on Quantitative Precipitation Forecasting and Hydrology (Boulder, U.S.A., 2006);
- Sixth WMO International Workshop on Tropical Cyclones (IWTC-VI) (San Jose, Costa Rica, 2006).

25. Major training events organized by the Programme served to transfer technology to developing countries:

- Seventh WMO Regional Workshop on Asian/African Monsoon Emphasizing Training Aspects (Nanjing, China, 2004);
- Third WWRP Nowcasting Training Workshop (Pretoria, South Africa, 2005);
- Third International Verification Methods Workshop (Reading, UK, 2007);
- International Training Workshop on Tropical Cyclone Disasters (Guangzhou, China, 2007).

Weather Modification Activities

26. The Expert Team on Weather Modification was established in response to CAS-XIV. The Register of National Weather Modification Projects for the period 2003-2005 has been published and a new, more concise questionnaire has been delivered to the Member States in order to produce the next Register. The quadrennial 9th Scientific Conference on Weather Modification Research will be held in Istanbul, Turkey in October 2007.

AGENDA ITEM 3.4.1 – PUBLIC WEATHER SERVICES (PWS) PROGRAMME (PWSP)
REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 2004-2007

Cg-XV/Rep. 3.4.1

Public Weather Services Programme (PWS)

The following Technical Documents were produced and distributed under the PWS Programme during the fourteenth financial period:

- PWS Strategy for Developing Public Education and Outreach (WMO/TD-No. 1354)
- Guidelines on Integrating Severe Weather Warnings into Disaster Risk Management (WMO/TD-No. 1292)
2. The following training events were held:

- RA I/V (SIDS) Workshop on PWS (Australia September 2007)
- RA I Workshop on Public Weather Services (La Réunion, November 2006)
- RA II/VI PWS Regional Seminar (Germany, September 2006)
- Media Training Workshop (Geneva, Switzerland February 2006)
- RA VI PWS Regional Seminar (Germany, September 2006)
- RA I/V (SIDS) Workshop on PWS (Melbourne, Australia, May 2005)
- RA I Media Training Workshop (Senegal, September 2004)
- RA I Public Weather Services (La Réunion, November 2003)
- Four annual PWS Workshops for RAIII/IV (Miami, USA, 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007)
the intersessional period. A summary of the implementation of the 6LTP and other activities in the implementation of the Agricultural Meteorology Programme has been presented in the Annual Reports.

3. The fourteenth session of CAgM was held in New Delhi, India, from 28 October to 3 November 2006. Eighty-eight participants from 55 countries and five international organizations participated in this session. The session reviewed the activities of the Commission and found it to be an outstanding achievement that all the meetings of the management group of CAgM, the three implementation/coordination teams (ICTs) and the nine expert teams (ETs) were organized during the intersessional period in an efficient and effective manner. The Commission noted with satisfaction the progress made in the implementation of the AgMP during the intersessional period and was pleased with the large number of publications issued. The Commission evaluated its performance over the thirteenth intersessional period and noted that the new working structure was effective and enabled the Commission to address a number of emerging issues such as the locust invasion of 2004, natural disasters etc., in an efficient fashion. In light of these assessments and considerations, the Commission decided to re-establish the three OPAGs and the three ICTs associated with them. The Commission established the six new ETs under the three OPAGs. The Commission established a CAgM Management Group and selected the chairpersons for the three OPAGs. The session also appointed the ICTs for the three OPAGs with representation from all the Regions. Leaders and members of the six ETs were identified. Dr M.J. Salinger (New Zealand) and Dr L.S. Rathore (India) were declared elected by acclamation as president and vice-president of the Commission, respectively.

4. AgMP responded to an immediate urgent challenge of a locust plague in Africa by convening an Expert Meeting on Meteorological Information for Locust Control in October 2004. Subsequently AgMP organized two Regional Training Workshops on Meteorological Information for Locust Control for the Francophone and Anglophone countries, in collaboration with FAO, in Niger and Oman respectively, which led to significant action items on operational meteorological support for locust monitoring for the National Locust Control Centres (NLCCs).

5. AgMP undertook crosscutting activities with other departments in WMO. These included the organization of a Topic Session on Drought Management at the Fourth World Water Forum (Mexico City, March 2006) in collaboration with the Hydrology and Water Resources (HWR) Department and a presentation on “Early Warning Systems for Desert Locusts – A West Africa Pilot Project” at the Third International Early Warning Conference (Bonn, March 2006) in collaboration with the Natural Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Programme (DPM).

6. AgMP collaborated actively with a number of international, regional and national organizations in implementing its programme. WMO and FAO collaborated actively through participation at technical meetings of mutual interest, including meetings of expert teams of CAgM, sessions of the Committee on World Food Security, training programmes and data exchange. AgMP collaborated closely with the System for Analysis, Research and Training (START) and with the International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI) in the CLIMAG (Climate Prediction and Agriculture) project by organizing the Synthesis Workshop of the Advanced Institute on Climatic Variability and Food Security and the International Workshop on Climate Prediction and Agriculture: Advances and Challenges in Geneva in May 2005 and by bringing out the proceedings of the two workshops in a Special Supplement of Climate Research journal and in a book published by Springer. AgMP collaborated with COST Action 718 on "Meteorological Applications for Agriculture" of The European Science Foundation in jointly organizing two meetings and for jointly publishing their proceedings. AGRHYMET and ACMAD co-sponsored meetings organized by WMO.
AGENDA ITEM 3.4.3 – AERONAUTICAL METEOROLOGY PROGRAMME;
REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF CAeM

Cg-XV/Rep. 3.4.3

1. INTRODUCTION

This report covers the overall activities and organization of the Commission since the Fourteenth Congress in 2003. The Management Group of CAeM has met formally twice: in Hall, Austria, in April 2004, and in Boulder, Colorado, USA, in April 2006, and CAeM–XIII was held in Geneva in November 2006.

2. PLANNING

The activities of the Commission have been fundamentally driven by the Aeronautical Meteorology Component of the Sixth Long-term Plan (6LTP).

In line with the development of the WMO Strategic Plan 2008-2011, the Management Group has formulated an AeMP Operating Plan for 2008-2011. The Plan focuses on:

(a) Providing access to training;
(b) Facilitating good relationships and collaboration between Members and their customers and partners including civil aviation authorities and air navigation service providers;
(c) Assisting Members in planning for future aeronautical meteorological service provision;
(d) Collaborating with ICAO on the design and assessment of a new terminal weather forecast;
(e) Ensuring aeronautical meteorology interests are taken into account and capabilities made available in cross-cutting activities and other constituent bodies of WMO;
(f) Ensuring that WMO Members’ interests are represented in ICAO regional planning, study and operations groups;
(g) Surveying Members’ capabilities for aeronautical meteorological service provision with a view to identify and quantify benefits from the AeMP.

The AeMP Operating Plan will directly contribute to WMO’s Top Level Objectives 1 and 2, and Expected Results 1, 6, 7, 8 and 9 as contained in the WMO Strategic Plan.

3. STRUCTURE AND EXPERTISE

The former structure of the Commission with 2 OPAGS and 4 Expert Teams achieved important results, but in light of limited resources both in financial terms and available time of Experts, a more streamlined structure was adopted by CAeM-XIII, with 3 Expert Teams and 1 Expert Network supporting the Management Group together with a Rapporteur on Aviation and Environment.
Budget

The Executive Council, at its fifty-eighth session in Geneva in 2006, did recognize the difficulties of maintaining the required momentum of the programme with the extremely limited funds available under the zero-growth policy in its report, where paragraph 3.4.3.1 stated that:

“Concerning the importance of the Aeronautical Meteorology Programme, the Council:

(a) Requested the Secretary-General to endeavour to provide increased resources to the Aeronautical Meteorology Programme, which currently represented about 1 percent of the WMO budget, while aeronautical meteorology brought in as much as 30% of the budgets of many NMHSs;

(b) Requested the Secretary-General to highlight and promote the role of NMHSs to ensure they were properly recognized for their operation of the basic system on which aeronautical meteorological services throughout the globe depended. “

4. TRAINING AND PUBLICATIONS

Support for Members to assist them in training is an important component of our work. Despite the lack of adequate funding, we have managed to continue to conduct training events, thanks to the cooperation and support of Members and other Organizations, and to the availability of funds from the “cash surplus” from the previous financial period. These events have had a beneficial impact on Members' activities as can be seen from our Members surveys.

There was significant progress made by the Expert Team on Education and Training, including the establishment of a dedicated Web site with online training materials at http://www.caem.wmo.int.

5. AMDAR

Excellent progress on AMDAR continues to be made. Data counts show that we now have something like 230,000 automated aircraft reports per day. Comparable numbers were around 10,000 in 1990, 50,000 in 1998, and 100,000 in 2001.

In accordance with directions of Congress and the Executive Council, a migration of responsibility for the AMDAR Programme from the AeMP to the World Weather Watch is underway. For that reason, the Operating Plan for 2008-2011 does not refer to AMDAR activities.

6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I want to thank the many people who have contributed to the work of the Commission over the last four years. The former president of the Commission, Dr Neil Gordon, has done a wonderful job ably assisted by the Management Group. The Expert Teams, and their chairs in particular, have valiantly grappled with the tasks allotted them. The Secretariat team have been a great support and gave guidance in difficult questions. Many Members have supported the programme by hosting seminars, workshops and meetings, for which they deserve our appreciation.

There are also many countries and organizations who have supported the activities of the Commission, and there has been excellent cooperation with organizations including ICAO, IATA and ASECNA.
AGENDA ITEM 3.4.4 – MARINE METEOROLOGY AND OCEANOGRAPHY PROGRAMME; 
THE REPORT OF THE CO-PRESIDENTS OF JCOMM

REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 2004-2007

Cg-XV/Rep. 3.4.4

1. This report covers the overall activities and organization of the Programme and its Commission (JCOMM) since the Fourteenth Congress (Cg-XIV) in 2003. The Management Group of JCOMM has met formally every year in Geneva or Paris, and JCOMM–II was held in Halifax, Canada in September 2005.

2. Substantive achievements under the JCOMM were reached during the period 2004-2007. These included, *inter alia*:

   (i) The GMDSS (Global Maritime Distress and Safety System) Marine Broadcast System is fully operational, with the new Website being increasingly utilized ([weather.gmdss.org](http://weather.gmdss.org)). Future developments of this Website are planned jointly with other international organizations through pilot projects. There are some ongoing technical issues, including, in particular, the possible transmission of graphical information over Inmarsat, as a part of the GMDSS services;

   (ii) The MPERS (Marine Pollution Emergencies Response Support System) is now operational, a new standing Expert Team established, and a Website developed ([www.maes-mperss.org](http://www.maes-mperss.org));

   (iii) Outline of a *Guide to Storm Surge Forecasting* has been prepared. The finalization of this Guide is a priority for 2007;

   (iv) The Expert Team on Sea Ice (ETSI) is providing substantial support to the IPY, in particular, by developing an Ice Information Portal ([www.polarview.org](http://www.polarview.org)) that was operationally implemented in March 2007;

   (v) At present, regular meteorological forecasts and warnings for shipping under the GMDSS do not extend to the Polar Regions. In response to this issue, a joint IMO/IHO/WMO Correspondence Group on Maritime Safety Information Services was established to address this problem and other associated issues. The work of this group was summarized, reported and endorsed at the Eleventh Session of the IMO Sub-committee on Radio Communications and Search and Rescue (COMSAR-XI), in February 2007;

   (vi) The surface buoy network is now essentially complete and needs to be sustained; Argo profiling float programme is 93% complete; the tide gauge network is 40% complete; VOSClim programme which targets a sustained network of some 200 voluntary observing ships delivering high quality observational data for climate related applications is 57% complete. Overall, the ocean *in situ* observing system is approximately 56% implemented, with the JCOMM plan driving to full implementation, in principle by 2012; however, such implementation will require additional resources;

   (vii) Development of interoperability of the ocean data management systems, including the WIS and assistance with regard to implementation of metadata collection and delivery to end users, in a way consistent with ocean community data management practices, and also consistent with the WMO Information System (WIS). In particular, the JCOMM End-to-End Data Management (E2EDM) Pilot Project is planned for integration in the WIS as a DCPC;
3. A new sub-structure was adopted by the Commission during its Second Session. JCOMM's work is accomplished through a Management Committee and three programme areas (Observations, Data Management and Services), and their subsidiary expert and task teams, as well as two cross-cutting activities for capacity building and satellite data requirements. Since JCOMM-II, all Programme Area Coordination Groups, and almost all Expert Teams have met and have defined their Strategic and Work Plans in time for the Congress session.

4. The new or ongoing priority areas to be addressed by the JCOMM include, in particular:

(i) Further coordinate and facilitate the sustained provision of global and regional data, products and services to address the continued and expanding requirements of the maritime user community for met-ocean services and information; further integration of science and standards into operational services supporting Maritime Safety, Marine Accident Emergency Response, Disaster Risk Reduction and Maritime Hazards;

(ii) Implementation of the ocean observing system and its long-term maintenance on an operational basis, including existing pilot projects such as Argo, OceanSites, VOSClim, and the key ocean satellite missions; further development of the ocean surface drifter network to eventually include barometers on all units;

(iii) Greater involvement of smaller maritime countries, in particular, in the work of the Commission, in support to the MMOP;

(iv) Substantial enhancement of the JCOMM data management and interoperability, and its integration with the IODE and WIS;

(v) Engagement with the private sector in support of the implementation of the JCOMM work programme and of operational oceanography in general.

5. In reviewing the WMO and IOC regular budget allocations to JCOMM, the Commission stressed that the Secretariat resources would meet only about 50% or less of the funding requirements associated with the actions agreed and requested by the JCOMM-II session. Major efforts will be made during the remainder of the intersessional period to attract extrabudgetary resources required for effective JCOMM implementation, in a coordinated fashion, not only within the UN system, but also from external sources.

AGENDA ITEM 3.5 – HYDROLOGY AND WATER RESOURCES PROGRAMME (HWRP)

Cg-XV/Rep. 3.5

Hydrology and Water Resources Programme

Activities of CHy

1. The adoption of weather, climate and water as the sub-title for WMO has placed significant responsibility on the Commission for Hydrology. To meet this challenge, additional efforts are required in order to focus activities on meeting the needs of the water communities within countries and provide them with hydrological solutions. Typically, the water sector within the various countries is organized under many different sectors and institutions, and it is important that
the outputs of the HWRP address their differing concerns and provide them with relevant solutions. This places extra responsibilities on the Permanent Representatives to be able to get the support of a Hydrological Adviser who could coordinate with the various national entities engaged in the water sector. The products, outputs and publications of the Programme should reach all users of the hydrological services. CHy-XII had also looked into this issue and had recommended that Members review the membership of their country in CHy in line with this perspective.

2. CHy-XII, held in Geneva in November 2004, re-organized its structure by eliminating two sub-groups and establishing only the Advisory Working Group with nine members including the president and the vice-president. However, to encourage wider participation of experts, it established Open Panels of CHy Experts (OPACHEs) in the following five areas of activities: Basic Systems (Hydrometry and Hydraulics), Water Resources Assessment and Water Use, Hydrological Forecasting and Prediction, Disaster Mitigation – Floods and Droughts (hydrological aspects) and Analysis of Hydro-climatological data for variability and trends.

3. The president of CHy chairs the AWG, and represents the Commission directly or through selected representatives in various bodies within WMO and outside the Organization. The update of the *Guide to Hydrological Practices* is also under his responsibility. The vice-president of CHy assists the president of the Commission and is responsible for the coordination of regional activities and the review and update of INFOHYDRO.

4. Five members of the AWG have under their responsibility the activities of one of the areas with the support of the respective OPACHE. Of the two remaining members, one is responsible for activities associated with WHYCOS and international data access and exchange, while the other deals with capacity building and technology transfer including the coordination of the preparation of Technical Regulations.

5. As part of its activities, CHy undertook a review of the Data Rescue activities undertaken in Hydrology in the Member countries with a view to assess the gaps and needs to ensure that valuable hydrological data collected are not lost. Members have been requested to provide information on the status of data storage and archiving practices and needs.

6. During the last intersessional period, a significant effort was made to make CHy fully assume its role of leader of the HWRP, as mandated by 6LTP. As a consequence, the details of the activities of the Commission are reported under the programme headings.

*Panel of Experts on Fresh Water*

7. Congress, through its Resolution 18 (Cg-XIV), had requested Secretary-General to explore the possibility of setting up a Panel of Experts on Fresh Water in collaboration with the other UN organizations and international agencies working in water issues. Based on the report submitted by the Secretary-General, the existence of the UN-Water mechanism, the discouraging response of the other agencies and the limited resources available to the programme, EC-LVI saw little merit in continuing with the proposal and as such the issue was not pursued further. It is therefore recommended that Resolution 18 (Cg-XIV) be discontinued.

*Regional Activities*

8. Regional Associations I, II, IV, V and VI have re-established their Working Groups on Hydrology, while at its session in September 2006, RA III established its Working Group on Hydrology and Water Resources. All Working Groups had met at least once during the intersessional period. The Working Groups had each recommended that meetings should be convened more than once during the intersessional period. The WGHs of RA I and RA III had met two times during the reporting period.
9. During the intersessional period most of the Regional Working Groups in Hydrology have decided to work towards concrete projects, instead of continuing to compile reports. However, due to reduced financial support these regional activities have not progressed well. CHy-XII expressed its concerns at the decline in support to the regional activities of the WGHs during the last intersessional period. During the intersessional period, the AWG has actively sought to align the activities of the Working Groups with those of the Commission with the aim to increase the support available for these activities.

Publications

10. CHy-XII, while discussing the publication of the sixth edition of the *Guide to Hydrological Practices*, had recommended that widest distribution and availability should be ensured, including by making it available on the Internet.

11. A number of publications were completed under the Programme. One Operational Hydrology Report: *Guidelines on the Role, Operation and Management of National Hydrological Services*, and one Technical Report on *Intercomparison of Forecast Models for Streamflow Routing in Large River*. Proceedings of the international workshop on “Management and Governance of Groundwater in Arid and Semi-arid Countries” was jointly published with IAEA. Five publications on Integrated Flood Management were published under the APFM (see paragraph 39 below) and widely distributed. These are also available on [www.apfm.info](http://www.apfm.info). In addition information material on WHYCOS in the form of “WHYCOS Guidelines” for the development, management and governance of HYCOS projects; on water-related disasters, “Be informed and be prepared” on the occasion of World Water Day 2004; on IWRM and Floods “Making Integrated Management of Floods part of the Development Agenda” were also published.

Technical cooperation and VCP

12. A number of requests under VCP had been received for supporting NHSs. However, only two data rescue projects, in Egypt and Nigeria, could be supported through the VCP funds.

13. WMO, in response to a request from the Nigerian Ministry of Water Resources, is making an assessment of the NHS: the status of its hydrological network, database and services, including an assessment of the maintenance and calibration capacity for the hydrological measuring instruments in the country, to ensure quality assurance in hydrologic measurements. A national team of experts assisted by WMO prepared a detailed status report.

14. WMO assisted the Kenyan Ministry of Water and Irrigation in developing a Flood Management Strategy in the Lake Victoria basin as a pilot project under the WMO-GWP Associated Programme on Flood Management (APFM). The Flood Management Strategy prepared in collaboration with Kenyan experts and in consultation with various national stakeholders, Ministries, and Departments has been adopted by the Government to ensure sustainability of development in the flood prone areas in the Lake Victoria Basin. WMO in collaboration with the World Bank (WB) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is now assisting the Kenya Government to implement the recommendations and proposed activities envisaged within the Strategy.

15. WMO is implementing another pilot project under the APFM in Zambia, where a strategy for flood management in the Kafue Basin, a sub-basin of the inter-state River Zambezi, is being developed based on the Integrated Flood Management (IFM) approach. The strategy integrates land and water resources development in the river basin, with a view to maximize the efficient use of floodplains whilst minimizing loss of lives.
16. The Comisión Nacional de Agua (CONAGUA) of Mexico signed a new agreement with WMO in September 2005, under the framework of which it is now requesting the assistance of the Organization to implement a Project to strengthen IWRM in Mexico. This new project, called PREMIA, and financed entirely by Mexican fiscal funds, will implement recommendations of the previous, successful WMO-World Bank-CONAGUA project, PROMMA, which was concluded in 2005. Experts from CHy and staff of the HWRD have participated actively in the implementation of both these projects.

**Basic Systems in Hydrology**

**Water Resources Assessment**

17. WMO continued its efforts in promoting the use of the WMO/UNESCO Handbook on Water Resources Assessment - Review of National Capabilities. Apart from the English, French, Spanish and Russian versions, now available in the WMO Home Page, the handbook has also been translated into Chinese. To promote the use of the handbook, WMO has organized a series of regional workshops on the subject in all WMO’s Regions. The last three workshops were organized in collaboration with AGRHYMET for French-speaking countries of west and central Africa in Niamey, Niger in November 2005 and with UNESCO for Spanish-speaking countries of RA IV in Bogotá, Colombia in February 2006 and for English-speaking countries of RA IV in 2007.

18. CHy had decided to prepare a user-friendly manual to provide information on techniques to undertake the actual assessment of water resources of a country, in terms of location, amount and variability. To decide the scope of the manual, WMO, in cooperation with UNESCO organized an expert meeting in Geneva, in September 2005. Experts are providing their contribution and the final version is expected to be published in 2008.

**Quality Management Framework**

19. Major activities in QMF as adopted by CHy are the update and revision of publications such as the Technical Regulations and the Guide to Hydrological Practices, complemented by the update and preparation of Manuals on Stream Gauging, Flood Forecasting and Warning, Water Resources Assessment, Design Flood Estimation and on Low-flow Estimation and Prediction.

20. The new edition of Volume III - Hydrology of the WMO’s Technical Regulations incorporating all the changes that were approved by Congress and EC, was published in English in 2006.

21. The Commission established a Review Committee under the chairmanship of Prof. K. Hofius (Germany) and composed of experts from India, South Africa, Uganda, Canada and Venezuela to provide guidance to update the fifth edition of the Guide to Hydrological Practices 1994 (WMO-No. 168). The sixth edition would consist of two volumes (Volume 1: Hydrology - From Measurement to Hydrological Information; Volume 2: Management of Water Resources and the Application of Hydrological Practices). Each chapter has been revised/updated by lead author/co-authors and peer reviewed under the overall guidance of the members of the Review Committee. The final draft is currently under editing process and it is expected that at the end of 2007 the new edition of the Guide will be published. As per the decision of CHy and Cg-XII the sixth edition of the Guide would be a living document and made available in electronic form on the Internet and on CD.

22. Recognizing the prevalent new technologies in stream gauging, the Manual on Stream Gauging (WMO-No. 519 - OHR 13), published in 1980, is being revised after more than 25 years. The draft of the revised version of the Manual, composed of two volumes, is presently under a peer review process.
23. The need to update the *Manual on Probable Maximum Precipitation* was recognized by CHy-XI. After the designated CHy expert prepared the first draft, a meeting of reviewers with the author was held in Burlington, Canada, in October 2004. Because of linguistic aspects it was decided to prepare a further version edited in English before sending it back to the reviewers in early 2006.


25. The first meeting to develop the scope of a *Manual on Flood Forecasting and Warning* was held in January 2005. Some chapters have already been prepared. The progress on the preparation of the Manual is being closely watched. Similarly, due to some logistical problems, such as the resignation of the AWG member responsible for this activity, the preparation of the *Manual on Design Flow Estimation* has suffered some delay. The president of CHy and the Secretariat are currently taking the necessary measures to finalize this project in the scheduled time.

26. CHy-XII had identified an activity “to develop a proposal and implement a project to assess the performance of flow measurement instruments and techniques against WMO standards” in the theme area “Basic systems (hydrometry and hydraulics)”. The proposal aims to address the absence of standards and guidance material for uncertainty analysis in relation to recent advances in flow measurement instruments and techniques such as acoustic Doppler current profilers (ADCPs), point acoustic velocity meters, surface-velocity radar, and large-scale particle image velocimetry (LSPIV). The proposal has been widely distributed and has received the support of several organizations, including the International Association of Hydraulic Engineering and Research (IAHR), the International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), the Association of Hydro-Meteorological Equipment Industry (HMEI) and various NHSs.

27. Following up on the recommendation of CHy-XI, a revised format for INFOHYDRO based on meta database standards and internationally recommended structures was developed. CHy-XII, aware of the difficulties encountered in collecting and updating data in the framework of the previous release of INFOHYDRO, assigned the vice-president of CHy to further simplify the new version of INFOHYDRO with the assistance of the WMO Secretariat. The simplified version was put to trial in a few countries and was extremely satisfactory. The INFOHYDRO input form has now been sent to all NHSs for providing the information. The responses received are being used to continuously update the database that is now available on the WMO Website.

### WHYCOS

28. As requested by Cg-XIV, a comprehensive report on “WHYCOS and the status of the HYCOS components” had been prepared and submitted to EC-LVII. Recognizing that the concept of WHYCOS had considerably evolved over the years, CHy-XII recommended a greater focus on regional and national operational objectives in order to provide impetus for HYCOS project development, implementation and sustainability. The report, prepared in consultation with the WHYCOS International Advisory Group (WIAG) and with inputs from CHy, reviewed the approach to the concept, current status of implementation of the programme including the regional components: their success and pitfalls, the issues of data exchange and standardization, and their long-term sustainability. EC was satisfied with the progress of activities under the programme.

29. CHy-XII had also recommended preparing adequate information material to disseminate the evolving concept of WHYCOS to all its partners and stakeholders. As a consequence, guidelines on the development, implementation and governance of HYCOS components were prepared,
published in English, French and Spanish and disseminated to various partners. A special web page for the WHYCOS www.whycos.org was developed and launched in January 2006.

30. Working together with the Niger Basin Authority, the Volta Basin Authority, the Mekong River Commission and SOPAC, financial resources for the implementation of five of the HYCOS components were secured. In RA I, SADC-HYCOS Phase II with financial support from EC and the Netherlands, Niger-HYCOS and Volta-HYCOS with financial support from the Government of France and the African Water Facility, are under implementation with a total participation of 24 countries. Mekong-HYCOS in RA II, with financial support from France, involves four countries. Pacific-HYCOS being implemented in partnership with SOPAC and with financial support from the EU will help build capacities in 14 island countries in the region.

31. As regards other HYCOS projects under advanced development, the status is as follows:

- A preparatory workshop for Carib-HYCOS (CIC) was jointly organized by the Research Institute for Development (IRD) of France and WMO and hosted by the authorities of Martinique (Regional Council) in Fort de France, Martinique in December 2004. Experts from countries discussed the draft project document and the proposed budget with potential donors. Thus far no definitive confirmation of funding has been received from donors;

- Within WMO efforts to get financial support for HYCOS projects, WMO circulated the second call from the EU-ACP Water Facility for submission of financial proposals for projects to all countries and regional institutions involved in potential HYCOS components in the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) region, urging them to make use of the facility and apply for funding. The IGAD Secretariat with assistance from the WMO Secretariat applied for the funding for the IGAD-HYCOS. The project has passed the first evaluation and the full application form is currently under in-depth evaluation;

- The existing project proposal for Aral-HYCOS was revised in collaboration with the Executive Committee of the International Fund for the Aral Sea (EC IFAS) and the NMHSs of the Aral Sea basin states to take into account the implementation of related hydrological projects in the basin. The project document was endorsed by the five Aral Sea basin states in the regional consultation meeting held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, in December 2006;

- Based on three regional meetings organized jointly by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and WMO, and funded by USAID/OFDA, the project document for HKH-HYCOS was endorsed by representatives of NMHSs and government officials of the six countries in Thimpu, Bhutan in May 2005. The feasibility of the regional flood information system in the HKH-region was successfully demonstrated in a pilot project during the flood season of 2005;

- The draft project proposal for ARCTIC-HYCOS has been developed in cooperation with the NHSs of the Russian Federation, Norway and Iceland and forms the core component of the Arctic Hydrological Cycle Monitoring, Modelling and Assessment Programme (ARCTIC-HYDRA) that is an approved project to be undertaken in the International Polar Year (IPY).

32. Other HYCOS components under development are Lake Chad-HYCOS, Senegal River-HYCOS and Congo-HYCOS, where certain financial partners have indicated their interest.

33. Technical and financial partners showed their keen interest in the new approach to the activities of WHYCOS as evident from their participation in the seventh meeting of the WIAG held
in February 2006, which was preceded by a two days Technical Conference. Fifty experts, representing HYCOS projects, basin organizations, space agencies, universities and research institutes, development banks and other donors, attended the technical conference and the meeting.

**Forecasting and Applications in Hydrology**

**Flood Forecasting Initiative**

34. The principal objective of the Flood Forecasting Initiative has been to strengthen the cooperation between National Hydrological and Meteorological Services to deliver timely and more accurate products and services required in flood forecasting and warning.

35. A series of eight regional workshops were organized in Pretoria, Republic of South Africa (November 2003); Nairobi, Kenya (August 2004); Valencia, Spain (April 2004, for Ibero-American countries); Bangkok, Thailand (December 2005); Bratislava, Slovakia (December 2005); Niamey, Niger (April 2006); Zaragoza, Spain (September 2006, for Mediterranean countries) and altogether an approximately equal number of meteorologists and hydrologists from NMHSs of 86 countries participated in these regional workshops. The aim of the regional workshops was to discuss problems, identify major gaps that should be addressed and suggest solutions for issues related to strengthening flood forecasting capabilities at national and regional level. Outputs from the meetings have been the identification of opportunities and challenges in the development and use of forecasting tools available today; the use of meteorological and climatological forecasting methods including now-casting for flood forecasting; and the definition of an outreach. Another major and spontaneous output has been the establishment of the Ibero-American network for the monitoring and forecasting of hydrometeorological phenomena (PROHIMET), created on the initiative of some participants of the Valencia workshop, with core funding from CYTED (Ibero-American Programme of Science and Technology for Development). See Website at [http://hercules.cedex.es/hidraulica/PROHIMET/](http://hercules.cedex.es/hidraulica/PROHIMET/)

36. Realizing that in many parts of the world flash floods are a major cause for the loss of lives, a series of activities were conducted to address this issue as part of the Flood Forecasting Initiative. In particular, two regional workshops were co-sponsored by WMO and held in Tsukuba, Japan in February 2005 and in Lhasa, China in November 2005. An International Workshop on Flash Flood Forecasting was jointly organized by WMO and NOAA along with USAID and the Department of Environment of the Government of Canada in San José, Costa Rica in March 2006. More than 100 participants from 48 countries participated in the workshop.

37. These events provided a perfect input to the Synthesis Conference organized in November 2006 in Geneva to establish and agree on a strategy and action plan to improve national and regional capacities for flood forecasting. The “Strategy and Action Plan for the Enhancement of Cooperation between National Meteorological and Hydrological Services for Improved Flood Forecasting” prepared by the Synthesis Conference, is included in the CD-ROM of background documents, and an Executive Summary is contained in the Annex to Appendix C (Res. 3.5/2 (Cg-XV)).

**Integrated Flood Management**

38. The Associated Programme on Flood Management (APFM) is a joint initiative of WMO and the Global Water Partnership, supported by the Governments of Japan and the Netherlands since 2001. Its main objective is to develop and promote the concept of Integrated Flood Management (IFM) as a development policy concept. The concept aims at maximizing the net benefits from flood plains while minimizing losses of life from flooding.
39. The concept has been formulated in the IFM Concept Paper and subsequently the publications of the ‘Flood Management Policy Series’. Apart from the IFM Concept Paper, the Flood Management Policy Series consists of four publications, dealing with the Environmental, Economic, Social as well as Legal and Institutional Aspects of IFM. The series constitute the conceptual framework of IFM and forms the basis for policy advice provided by APFM.

40. Regional pilot projects have been implemented to test and refine various aspects of the concept, and have included assistance to governments in formulating flood management strategies (Kenya and Zambia), in fostering the flood management capacity on the community level (South-Asia: Bangladesh, India and Nepal), in addressing the transboundary dimension of flood management (South America: Brazil and Uruguay) and in dealing with rapid onset floods in forecasting and warning for affected municipalities (Central and Eastern Europe: Poland, Romania and Slovakia).

41. The APFM has established a network of institutions involved in flood management and has pro-actively disseminated the concept of IFM to policy makers and flood managers through various workshops and specialized conferences.

42. The current phase of the APFM (2006-2010) moves from “Concept to Field Demonstration” through field demonstration projects and developing the necessary tools for implementation and providing adequate mechanisms for capacity building. Based on support from various specialized partners in APFM’s network of institutions, an IFM Help Desk function is planned. This would allow governmental and non-governmental institutions that want to implement IFM to approach the Help Desk for policy and strategic guidance, as well as for technical assistance in project formulation.

43. The International Flood Initiative (IFI) started to be developed as the Joint UNESCO/WMO Flood Initiative (JUWFI) in 2005. EC-LVII through its Resolution 5, had approved the participation of WMO in the International Flood Initiative to ensure that Members would be provided with added value in their efforts towards adoption of an integrated flood management approach. In its current organization, key participating organizations are UNESCO and WMO and it has further expanded to include the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), the United Nations University (UNU), IAHS, IAHR, the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) and the Institute of Catastrophic Loss Reduction of Canada. The Secretariat of the Initiative is the International Centre for Water related Hazards (ICARM), hosted by the Public Works Research Institute of Japan. The first meetings of the Advisory Committee and the Management Committee have been held in Geneva in January 2007.

**Hydrology in the context of global environmental issues**

44. In order to promote hydrological activities in the World Climate Programme and related conventions, WCP-Water continues to work in close collaboration with UNESCO, IAHS, IPCC and the Cooperative Partnership on Climate and Water (CPCW). Under this framework an expert meeting on hydrological sensitivity to climate conditions was organized in December 2003 at Wallingford, United Kingdom. Three technical reports were published in 2004, addressing the detection of change in hydrological time series of maximum annual flow, trends in flood and low flow hydrological time series and the development of a data analysis system. In June 2005 the fourth meeting of the WCP-Water Steering Group was organised in Wallingford. In an effort to guide activities in trend analysis, Members have been requested to identify pristine river basins in the countries that could serve as reference basins to detect climate change signals in hydrological time series.

45. WMO organized an expert meeting under the banner of WCP-Water on “The needs of Water Managers for Climate Information in Water Resources Planning” in December 2006 in Geneva. The results of the expert meeting could form the basis for the integration of climate information in water resources planning and management, at the national level in collaboration with
WMO’s Climate Prediction Centre, and the climate research community. The national demonstration projects, to be undertaken through extrabudgetary resources, would help water managers to adapt solutions that take due consideration of long-term potential climate change. WCP-Water places high importance in the enhanced cooperation with CCl.

46. The Global Terrestrial Network – Hydrology (GTN-H) supports a range of climate and water resource objectives identified by GCOS. Its areas of activity include the development of a meta-data base in close cooperation with activities undertaken in the context of the WMO Information System (WIS) and the establishment of a global hydrological monitoring network building on the subset of 380 key hydrological stations, “Global Terrestrial Network – Runoff” (GTN-R), to monitor continental freshwater fluxes to the World Oceans. Eighty-two Members have been requested to make available hydrological data from these stations in an institutionalized, timely fashion. The second session of the GTN-H panel was held in July 2005 in Koblenz, Germany.

47. In order to address the needs of observations related to water in the context of climate studies and to facilitate the use of observational data in water management, IGOS had accepted the objectives for IGWCO. The IGWCO theme has been developed with support from the HWRP and was approved as an IGOS theme in 2004. The organizational structure of IGWCO consists of a Science Advisory Group and Executive Committee. Since May 2005, WMO hosts the IGWCO Secretariat for the Executive Committee with shared secretarial responsibilities and support from Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA). GTN-H forms a key programme in support of IGWCO and both contribute to support the Water Tasks of GEO.

48. The Global Runoff Data Centre operating under the auspices of WMO continues to be the world’s prime depository of global hydrological data and information. Members continue to send large amounts of hydrological time series to the Centre although there are also significant gaps in hydrological data from a number of regions. Recognizing the importance of groundwater as a resource, WMO and UNESCO have worked together to launch the IGRAC. The Centre is hosted by the Government of the Netherlands and operates since 2005 under the auspices of WMO.

Sustainable Development of Water Resources

49. CHy, based on their recommendation from EC-LVI, concentrate the activities of the HWRP on WMO’s core areas of competence i.e., water resources assessment and flood forecasting, and the experience of the last two financial periods had noted that every activity of the HWRP contributes to sustainable development. As such, it was difficult to identify any specific activity to undertake under this heading. It therefore had recommended to eliminate this sub-programme during the next financial period and redistribute its activities to other sub-programmes. Furthermore, the reduction of component sub-programmes of the HWRP had the added advantage of concentrating the scarce resources available.

50. In order to help improve groundwater management in arid and semi-arid countries, WMO in collaboration with the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation of Egypt organized an International Workshop on Groundwater Management in Arid and Semi Arid Countries in April 2005. UNESCO, UNEP, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Islamic Development Bank also joined and supported the workshop. More than 70 experts, including 25 women, from 45 countries representing NHSs, academic institutions and the private sector, participated in the workshop. WMO, in collaboration with IAEA, published and distributed the proceedings of the workshop to participants and WMO experts.

51. In collaboration with the non-governmental organization FogQuest, efforts were made to increase the involvement of NMSs in the countries to harness the non-conventional source of freshwater in form of fog and dew. The fourth conference on Fog and Dew Collection being
organized in June 2007 is being cosponsored to encourage attendance of participants from the NMSs.

52. Other activities contributing to sustainable development were undertaken under the other sub-programmes of HWRP, such as: the regional workshop on Water Affairs, the Global Course on IWRM, the training for local communities in IFM, the courses on IWRM and on the contribution to the achievement of the MDGs.

**Capacity Building in Hydrology and Water Resources**

53. After a lengthy and thorough review process, the "Guidelines on the Role, Operation and Management of NHSs" were published in 2006. This document, the main objective of which is to provide guidance to the senior managers of NHSs on the key issues that they might face as they, lead, manage and administer their Services, has been widely disseminated. The initial feedback received has been mainly a positive one, a fact that supports the recommendation of the CHy’s AWG, which had suggested that the Guidelines should be translated in all official languages of the Organization.

54. The economic value of the hydrologic information and services provided by NHSs is not fully recognized by policy/decision makers, other stakeholders and the general public and therefore the adequate funding of NHS is not usually a national priority. This is reflected in inadequate budgetary allocations for the Hydrological Services, which has resulted in the systematic deterioration of the hydrological networks around the world, particularly in developing countries. To address this issue and to help managers of NHSs to effectively demonstrate to their governmental authorities and other stakeholders the benefits that can be gained through investment in improved hydrological services, Guidelines on the “Economic Valuation of National Hydrological Services” are being developed. It is planned to finalize the draft and publish the Guidelines in 2007.

55. CHy-XII had adopted a WMO Strategy on Education and Training in Hydrology and Water Resources, which had been approved by EC-LVII, with the objective of optimizing the available resources, by concentrating WMO’s support in those areas identified by the “WMO hydrological community” as requiring priority attention.

56. In accordance with the Strategy, an identification of requirements had been initiated through the RA WGHs. Surveys on training needs had been carried out in 2005 (in RAs III, V and VI) and in 2006 in RA I and RA IV, while RA II will be covered during 2007. In response to the survey in RA III, a Workshop on Maintenance of Automatic Hydrometric Stations was organized in November 2005 in Santiago, Chile followed by two roving seminars on the topic in Colombia and Brazil in 2006. In RA V, based on a similar assessment of training needs, following an initiative of the WGH a series of courses for Hydrographic Technicians was held with the support of New Zealand.

57. In December 2006 a Workshop on Water Affairs for South and Southeast Asia was held in Hanoi, Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. This activity, the first of a series of regional workshops, was aimed at personnel of NMHSs in mid-managerial positions, with the objective of putting their work into an international, socioeconomic and geopolitical context.

58. In the framework of WHYCOS, three workshops were organized for Niger-HYCOS in Niamey (the topics were Hydrometry and Topography, IWRM and Rating Curves), two for SADC-HYCOS in Cape Town and Pretoria, South Africa (Space Technology for WRA and Network Design), and one for Volta-HYCOS in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso on Hydrometry and Topography. All these training events took place in 2006.
59. Training activities undertaken by APFM include the co-organization of the Global Course on IWRM, Neuchâtel, Switzerland, October 2004; the organization of a series of workshops on flood management strategy formulation for policy makers and stakeholders in the Lake Victoria Basin, Kenya in 2004, and in the Kafue Basin, Zambia in 2006; the training for local communities on their approach to flood management in flood affected areas of Bangladesh, India and Nepal, 2003-2005; the organization of workshops on IFM in the Quarai Basin, in Uruguay and Brazil, in December 2005; the organization of national and regional outreach workshops with governmental and non-governmental stakeholders for the community approach to flood management in Bangladesh, India and Nepal, 2005-2006; a workshop on the integration of flood warnings in areas prone to flash floods, in Poland, April 2006 and the provision of lectures on IFM during the JICA Training Courses on River and Dam Engineering, as well as on Flood Hazard Mapping, in Japan, in November 2006.

60. The regular training courses supported by the HWRP, on the other hand, have continued to be supported and during the last intersessional period two Latin-American courses (2003-2004 and 2006-2007) on Operational Hydrology were held under the distance learning modality in Caracas, Venezuela and the International Postgraduate Diploma Course in Applied Hydrology and Information Systems for Water Management, was held in Nairobi, Kenya, in 2004. The Secretariat is assisting the RMTC Nairobi in redesigning this course to update its contents.

61. The training activities on hydrology and water resources, together with the decision of EC-LVIII to widen the scope of WMO Regional Training Centres to include other areas of interest of WMO, have sparked the interest of several institutions specialized in hydrology and water resources in cooperating more closely with the Organization.

62. An Expert Meeting on Computer Aided Distance Learning in Meteorology and Hydrology was held in Nanjing, China in September 2006. The meeting produced a series of innovative recommendations on which the Secretariat has already started acting. [More information will be provided during Cg-XV.]

HOMS

63. There are currently about 180 components in the HOMS Reference Manual (HRM). The online version of the HOMS Reference Manual has undergone a major revision, in particular by uploading the French, Spanish and Russian versions. It should be noted that the HOMS web pages are the first set of WMO web pages that are so thoroughly translated to four languages. The incorporation of other WMO languages has led to the revision of the overall structure of the web pages.

64. At its first meeting in March 2005, the CHy AWG stressed that the HOMS concept was still a fundamental pillar of the capacity building activities of the HWRP but noted the slow rate of incorporation of new components in HOMS. It recommended a comprehensive updating campaign, which was initiated in early 2007. Once this process is completed, a circular letter to all Members will announce the updated and refilled HRM online and will encourage a greater use of this facility. The effects of these different measures will be monitored.

65. In order to take an informed decision on the future of HOMS, the CHy AWG requested the implementation of a system to monitor the utilization of the online version of the HOMS Reference Manual. This was installed in October 2005. The results obtained to date, even though of preliminary nature, show a steady number of visitors to the HOMS Web site (approximately 300/month).

66. Three experts from Africa (Kenya, Ghana and Nigeria) attended a short training course, in Canada, on Canadian HOMS components. The course was conducted as training of trainers in
order to conduct similar courses at national level. Five national training workshops were supported
by WMO and organized by the trainers in Kenya, Ghana and Nigeria.

Water-related Issues

**Cooperation with other UN agencies**

67. WMO has continued supporting and participating in UN-Water meetings and activities
during the last intersessional period by collaborating in the preparation of policy briefs, the
establishment of its Website, organizing seminars and participating in various meetings and
videoconferences. On behalf of UN-Water, activities under World Water Day 2004 with the theme
“Water and Disasters” were coordinated by WMO jointly with ISDR. Another output of this
collaboration, the World Water Development Report, was launched during the Fourth World Water
Forum (WWF4). WMO collaborated in the preparation of three chapters together with UNESCO
and ISDR.

68. WMO has continued its active participation in UN-Water/Africa, the regional body of
UN-Water in the region. WMO organized the 3rd session of UN-Water/Africa in Addis Ababa,
Ethiopia in March 2005 and is since then the chair of the group, therefore representing it in the
AWF Governing Council (GC).

69. In response to the Cg-XIV request to the Secretary-General of maintaining WMO’s
support for the African Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW) [see reference 1], WMO was very
active in the organization of the Pan-African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water,
held in Addis Ababa, in December 2003, convened by AMCOW. WMO coordinated activities of
the thematic session of “Managing Risks – Water and Climate”, which was attended by thirty
experts from the NMHSs of different African sub-regions. The Secretary-General addressed the
session, and WMO’s activities in the field of water and climate were displayed at the conference
exhibition. In August 2005, the Chairman of the AMCOW Technical Committee was invited to a
joint meeting with the sub-regional coordinators of the RA I - WGH to coordinate their respective
activities. WMO also provided financial and technical support to several AMCOW meetings.

70. The AWF, conceived as a financial instrument to assist in meeting the targets and goals
established by the African Water Vision for the water sector and the MDGs, provides investment
support for water resources management and water service provisions in Africa. The African
Ministers endorsed the proposal for the AWF, presented by the African Development Bank (ADB),
during the AMCOW meeting in Addis Ababa in December 2003. The ADB hosts the AWF. The
inaugural meeting of the African Water Facility was organized by ADB in Tunisia in June 2005.
WMO’s membership in the AWF-GC has provided a good opportunity to WMO to assist the African
Member states and River Basin Organizations in securing funds from the AWF to support their
water activities.

71. The eighth and last session of the UNESCO/WMO Standing Committee on
Terminology was held in Geneva in March 2007. The Standing Committee has finalized its work
and prepared the final draft of the third edition of the UNESCO/WMO International Glossary of
Hydrology, which is now being revised.

72. The joint activities with UNESCO are planned through the regular meetings of the
UNESCO/WMO Liaison Committee. Its last meeting was held in Geneva in January 2007, which
among others confirmed the work plan to finalize the third edition of the UNESCO/WMO
International Glossary of Hydrology. Other joint activities with UNESCO such as IFI, IGRAC,
Water Resources Assessment activities and World Water Development Report are reported under
respective items.
Cooperation with other IGOs and NGOs

73. The WWF4 was held from 16 to 22 March 2006 in Mexico City, Mexico. The WMO delegation to the event was headed by the Secretary-General and included D/HWR, the president of CHy and other professional staff. WMO coordinated the preparation of the framework theme on Risk Management through a consultative process, including holding a virtual forum, and developed the Baseline and Thematic Documents. WMO convened three technical sessions on the Importance of Information for IWRM; Flash Floods; and Drought Management and co-convened two sessions on Integrated Flood Management and International Collaboration in Flood Management under the Risk Management theme. The Secretary-General addressed the plenary session on the Risk Management Day and on the Regional Day of Africa. WMO participated in the water exhibition. The booth was visited by Ministers, Head of Organizations and more than 3000 delegates of various nationalities. There was a high demand for WMO publications on climate change issues, disaster prevention, flood management and water resources.

74. Close collaborative activities are planned with the European Space Agency (ESA) in Volta and Niger-HYCOS through its TIGER initiative launched in 2002 during WSSD to overcome problems faced in the collection, analysis and dissemination of water related geo-information by exploiting Earth Observation technology. Realizing the complementary nature of the activities under the TIGER initiative and WHYCOS, WMO invited TIGER to the last WIAG meeting.

75. ICHARM, established at PWRI in Tsukuba, Japan under the auspices of UNESCO, serves as the secretariat of the IFI. WMO is closely collaborating with its activities through APFM and is also represented in its Board of Governors.

76. The International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) is a non-governmental technical organization dealing with irrigation and flood management. As a representative of one of the major water consumers and in view of its interest in the application of climate information, close links are being maintained.

77. IAHS regularly participates in the activities of HWRP by attending the CHy and AWG meetings as an observer, while WMO regularly supports participation of hydrologists from LDCs in IAHS General Assembly.

78. WMO works closely with the Stockholm Water Institute and has participated in the Stockholm Water Week in 2004, where it organized a session on Coping with Climate Variability, Climate Change and Water-related Hazards, in 2005 when it convened a seminar on behalf of UN-Water, and in 2006.

79. Through its close collaboration with River Basin Authorities such as those for the Lake Chad and those for the Mekong, Niger, Volta, Senegal and Sava Rivers, the HWRP assists in the development of hydrologic networks and information systems. The Programme has also been involved in activities related to the Rhine, Zambezi, La Plata and Yellow River Commissions and Basin Authorities.
AGENDA ITEM 3.6 – EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMME

Cg-XV/Rep. 3.6

EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMME

Overview

1. Information on the implementation of the Education and Training Programme (ETRP) since Cg-XIV is given in the relevant Annual Reports of WMO, the Abridged Reports of the Executive Council, and the Report on the monitoring of the implementation of the Sixth Long-term Plan (Cg-XV/Doc. 6.1). Proposals for ETRP activities during the fifteenth financial period are contained in the WMO Strategic Plan 2008-2011 and beyond (Cg-XV/Doc. 6.2), and in the Programme and Budget document (Cg-XV/Doc. 8).

2. The Resolution proposed in the main part of this document (Cg-XV/Doc. 3.6), is aimed to ensure the continued implementation of the ETRP during the fifteenth financial period, through the following mutually supporting sub-programmes:

   - Human resources development;
   - Training activities;
   - Education and training fellowships;
   - Support to training events under other WMO major programmes.

Human resources development

3. Starting from 1986, an overall assessment of Members’ training needs in meteorology and hydrology is undertaken during each financial period. The sixth WMO Survey on Members training requirements, opportunities and capabilities was carried out during 2006. The design and content of the Questionnaire underlying the Survey was revised aiming at a better identification and prioritization of training needs during the next financial period. The main sections of the Survey are:

   - The current status of education and training in meteorology and operational hydrology;
   - Plans for human resources development and future training requirements;
   - Members assessment of the WMO training activities;
   - Education and training of aeronautical meteorological personnel;
   - Public education and outreach.

4. The results of the Survey-2006 will be used in the cross-programmes coordination and in the overall monitoring of the ETRP assistance with respect to the subjects to be taught, level of training, teaching language, and category of personnel to be trained, as well as to the regional specifics and balanced geographical coverage.

5. The ETRP, in close collaboration with the programme for Public Weather Services, established an Expert Group on Public Education and Outreach, with an aim to create better awareness amongst users and communities of the products and services provided by NMHSs, and to promote a better understanding of the earth sciences in schools and the public at large. The
“Strategy for developing public education and outreach programmes” which was prepared by the Expert Team was posted on the WMO Web site, and is also available as hard copy.

**Training activities**

6. In order to help training institutions in the updating of their curricula for aeronautical meteorological personnel in line with the WMO classification of personnel in meteorology, a Supplement to the publication WMO-No. 258 (4th edition; 2002) was prepared by an Expert Team on Accreditation and Certification in Meteorological Education and Training. Following a review by the EC Panel of Experts on Education and Training at its 22nd session (November 2005; Geneva), the consolidated version of this Supplement was published and distributed to all Members, as well as to the WMO-RTCs, ICAO, ASECNA and other institutions.

7. The nearly 140 training experts from 54 countries who attended the Tenth WMO Symposium on Education and Training (SYMEX-X; 18-22 September 2006, Nanjing, China) agreed a number of recommendations that provide useful guidance for relevant training institutions and organizations at national, regional and international level:

- Encourage meteorological/hydrological education and training for targeted user groups, including public, media, schools, emergency responders and others;

- Promote the development of training on the operational use of ensemble prediction systems, with special emphasis on the support for risk assessment by decision-makers; and on the application of probabilistic forecasts by agriculture groups, emergency managers, health authorities, aviation operators, and other economic sectors;

- Further enhance the capacities of the WMO-RTCs and training units of NMHSs through: special training modules on disaster prevention and mitigation; development of guidance for short courses on risk assessment of natural disasters; addressing the need for NMHSs to train in areas such as management and communication; the use of computer-aided distance learning for large and geographically dispersed groups.

8. In conjunction with SYMET-X, WMO organized an Expert Meeting on Computer-Aided Distance Learning in Meteorology and Hydrology (14-16 September 2006; Nanjing). The experts made a number of recommendations aimed to increase learning opportunities and training quality; in particular they stressed the need to:

- Develop a website that establishes a WMO community of CAL users in order to share existing contents and experiences;

- Develop “Train the Trainers” courses in blended learning to promote this approach amongst trainers at WMO-RTCs and other training establishments.

**Education and training fellowships**

9. Since 1 January 2004, the policies and procedures for fellowships were reviewed, and the reinforced regulations were implemented on a regular basis. The Fellowships Committee, besides screening all formal requests for fellowships, has made over 25 decisions to effectively coordinate and further enhance the fellowships programme. Out of 438 requests there were 264 awards (i.e. 60.3% of the requests were approved), which totalled over 2700 fellow x months.

10. The reviewed EC Criteria for the Award of WMO Fellowships place more emphasis to supporting LDCs’ candidates, and encourage women candidatures; these criteria also strengthen
the role of the WMO Regional Offices in evaluating the "special circumstances" of requests for fellowships extending beyond 18 months duration.

11. VCP donor Members who continued to provide VCP fellowships included Australia, China, France, Hong Kong China, India, Japan, Nigeria, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Spain, UK, and USA.

Support to the training events under other WMO Programmes

12. The cross-programmes coordination by the new Training Management Team (TMT) will give Departments the opportunity to leverage their training programme funds to provide more opportunities for individuals than would otherwise be possible. An enhanced partnership with educational institutions world-wide will facilitate the carrying out of cost-effective training, giving due consideration to the required teaching subjects, levels and language, on the one side; and to the availability of facilities, training materials and expertise, as well as to the involved costs, on the other side.

AGENDA ITEM 3.7 – TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME

Cg-XV/Rep. 3.7

TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME

Overview

13. Information on the implementation of the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCOP) since Cg-XIV is given in the relevant Annual Reports of WMO, Final Reports of the fifth and sixth meetings of the Executive Council Advisory Group of Experts on Technical Cooperation (EC-TC), and Final Reports of the Informal Planning Meetings (IPM) on the Voluntary Cooperation Programme and Related Technical Cooperation Programmes. Proposals for TCOP activities during the fifteenth financial period are contained in the WMO Strategic Plan 2008-2011 and beyond (Cg-XV/Doc. 6.2(1)), and in the Programme and Budget document (Cg-XV/Doc. 8).

Institutional support to the Technical Cooperation Programme

2. In order to improve the delivery of services to Members and to enhance partnerships with national, regional and international institutions and organizations, a new Department of Regional Activities and Technical Cooperation for Development (RCD) was created in December 2004. Participation of the Regional Offices and Field Offices enhanced technical cooperation activities in identifying requirements of Members, developing projects, mobilizing resources in the region, and implementing national and regional projects.

3. A stakeholder survey was conducted during December 2005 to February 2006 to improve performance of RCD Department and to better meet the needs of Members. Based on the stakeholder survey and in-depth in-house consultations on proposals for a new structure and responsibilities of the staff, a revised vision, mission and strategy of the Development Cooperation and Regional Activities (DCR) Department were prepared and implemented in November 2006. The reorganization of DCR Department would focus on improving the resource mobilization capabilities of the Department and on seeking new ways to provide better implementation of projects to the Member countries.

4. The total delivery for technical assistance to Members amounted to approximately US$ 22.4, 20.6, 17.7 and 24.0 million in 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006, respectively. In comparison
with 1999-2002, the technical assistance under the VCP had increased while that under UNDP had decreased.

Voluntary Cooperation Programme (VCP)

5. Within the framework of the VCP, during the period from 2003 to 2006, a total of 255 project requests from 92 Members were approved for circulation. Among these, 179 VCP projects are related to the implementation of the WWW Programme: 59 of them concerned the improvement of the upper-air observing stations, 24 were related to the surface observing stations, 22 for data processing systems, 52 for telecommunication systems, 21 for satellite receiving systems and one for a radar system. Other major areas were: 27 projects related to climatological activities, 12 to hydrological activities, 20 to aeronautical meteorology activities, nine aiming at improving public weather services and three at enhancing agricultural meteorological activities. Sixty-four Members received support for a total of 115 VCP projects for equipment. As at 31 December 2006, approximately 200 valid projects were still without any support.

6. During 2003-2006, ten Members made cash contributions amounting to approximately US$ 880,000. The cash contribution supported mainly expert services, short-term fellowships and training activities, Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries (TCDC) activities, and high priority programmes, in particular for support to upper-air and surface observing stations, for the improvement of telecommunication systems including the Internet capabilities, climate database management systems and climatological activities, operational hydrological activities, support to ACMAD, and mitigation of natural disasters and emergency assistance activities, in accordance with the guidelines for the utilization of VCP(F) approved by EC-XLVIII and modified by EC-LVIII.

7. A total of 25 donor Members and four private companies provided equipment, expert services and fellowships amounting to approximately US$ 36.6 million. Major VCP coordinated projects implemented were: the installation of satellite-receiving systems at 31 NMHSs in Africa, eastern Europe and the Newly Independent States; replacement of Regional Meteorological Telecommunication Network workstations in Central and South America and the South-West Pacific; provision of a number of upper-air observing systems and consumables, and hydrogen generators for GCOS Upper-Air Network stations; and upgrading of satellite receiving equipment for the South-West Pacific to enable access to meteorological satellite images in Low Rate Information Transmission (LRIT) format. Several projects related to enhancing WWW facilities, including the GTS and Internet connection, and rescuing climatological and hydrometeorological data were successfully implemented with the support of donor Members. Various technical projects including training have been implemented satisfactorily under the VCP coordinated programmes approved by EC-LVI.

8. The VCP brochure was updated in February 2006 with the support of the UK. VCP web pages have been regularly updated. The distribution of VCP-related documents and publications continued to be made through the Internet and in print. Full information on VCP project requests; Annual VCP Reports; Guidelines for submission of requests and Request Forms as well as Project Evaluation Forms and information on the WWW Implementation Support Revolving Fund were made accessible on the VCP Home Page.

9. The sixth evaluation of VCP project implementation was carried out in October 2005-February 2006 using the revised evaluation report form for VCP projects completed in the last five years. A total of 141 evaluation reports were submitted to the Secretariat from 64 recipient Member countries. Most of the reports showed satisfactory achievement of expected services.
WWW Implementation Support Revolving Fund

10. Since its establishment in 1985 the WWW Implementation Support Revolving Fund of the VCP had permitted the provision of urgent temporary assistance to a number of Members for the operation and the maintenance of WWW facilities through loans for the purchase of spare parts and consumables for a total amount not exceeding US$ 10,000 per loan. In 2004, Egypt utilized the Revolving Fund to purchase recording charts for an anemograph.

11. In accordance with the Rules of the Revolving Fund, Egypt and Zambia reimbursed the due amount to the Fund. With agreement by EC-LVI on the arrangements for the Members who were not able to pay the outstanding reimbursements due to special circumstances such as civil strife, Guinea Bissau, as a LDC emerging from conflict, has submitted a normal VCP request for the provision of five anemographs and recording charts. In 2005 Australia offered support to this VCP project request for Guinea Bissau to reimburse the amount of US$ 10,091 outstanding since 1989. Two Members, Ecuador and Uganda, are in the process of reimbursement.

Emergency Assistance activities

12. Since the establishment of a WMO Emergency Assistance Fund within the framework of the WMO Technical Cooperation Programme in 1991, several Member countries received assistance within the framework of this fund with the support by Members and private companies to meet the urgent requirements for the restoration of basic facilities affected by natural disasters. During the period 2003-2006, assistance was provided to Afghanistan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guinea Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe, and Sri Lanka as well as some island States in the South-West Pacific, through donations of Member countries for rehabilitating networks of stations and associated facilities destroyed by disasters. The Emergency Assistance Response Team (EART) was playing a lead role in coordinating efforts aimed at the rehabilitation of the Meteorological Service of Iraq.

13. Following the earthquake of 8 October 2005 in northern Pakistan, a WMO expert mission was carried out in early November 2005 to assess the short-, medium- and long-term requirements with priorities, and the development of a proposal for the enhancement of the Pakistan Meteorological Department. The proposal/requirement was given high priority, thus supported by the Government and donors for the reconstruction of the meteorological and seismic infrastructure.

Regular budget cooperation activities

Programme development activities

14. Two project proposals were developed to support activities of the DMC in Harare in the development and application of climate information and products in Southern Africa, and in natural disaster management and mitigation. Similar project proposals were developed for the ICPAC in Nairobi. The proposals were submitted to cooperating partners for funding. Two cooperation agreements were signed between the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC) and WMO as well as between the Government of Burkina Faso and WMO under Burkina Faso’s cloud-seeding project, SAAGA.

15. A joint mission of WMO and the National Meteorological Institute of Spain was carried out in Bolivia to assist in the implementation of the project “Modernization of the Bolivia Meteorological and Hydrological Service”, in particular the training programme and capacity building. The project received funds from Spain.

16. WMO continued cooperation with the World Bank and the IDB in climate change, natural disaster prevention and mitigation, El Niño and integrated water resources management.
Cooperation was sought with the World Bank Institute in the areas of capacity building and training. A project proposal aimed at improving and reorganizing the hydrometeorological activities in Panama was discussed with the relevant national authorities and the IDB.

17. In September 2005, WMO and the Government of Mexico signed a Technical Cooperation Agreement to promote and strengthen the country’s integrated, sustainable water resources management. Based on the successful experience in the PROMMA project, a new project proposal was prepared on Integrated Management of Basins and Aquifers, expected to be funded by the World Bank. Following the floods that affected Haiti in 2004, a WMO mission was organized in January 2005 with the participation of UNDP, IDB and Météo-France to prepare a project proposal for the development and establishment of an early warning system to prevent floods in Haiti, to be funded by the IDB. The WMO contribution was incorporated in the project formulated by IDB, which was under implementation.

18. WMO in collaboration with Finland developed a project proposal concerning the adaptation to climate change and variability and capacity building for meteorological and hydrological facilities for natural disaster prevention and mitigation in the SIDS in the Pacific. A consultancy mission was carried out from March to May 2006 and the outcome of the mission and the draft proposal was presented to the participants during the fourteenth session of RA V, May 2006. A project proposal has been submitted to the Government of Finland for funding support.

19. The WMO programme to provide hydrometeorological safety of the transport corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia (HYMES-TRACECA) was revised. A project proposal for the 14 participating countries was presented to the TRACECA Intergovernmental Commission for consideration in Yerevan, Armenia, in October 2003. A reorientation of the programme was taking place in the European Commission to protect the transport sector from catastrophe by disaster mitigation and prevention process.

20. Negotiation continued with the Governments of some countries, regional development banks and technical cooperation/development agencies.

Resource mobilization activities

21. Following the establishment of a mechanism for effective coordination and promotion of the Secretariat resource mobilization efforts, the WMO resource mobilization activities were carried out with increased participation of WMO Field Offices, taking into account the awareness by funding agencies of areas of competence of WMO; the priority areas of funding agencies relevant to NMHSs; project proposals to conform to formats and procedures of funding agencies; and the active involvement of the recipient NMHS(s).

22. In connection with the reorganization of the DCR Department, new ways, means and opportunities were identified to involve a wide spectrum of potential donors; and new innovative approaches were further developed for the mobilization of resources for the Programme. EC-TC-VI in March 2006 reviewed the existing opportunities and potential funding sources and proposed actions for enhancing the performance of technical cooperation activities and for the development of partnerships. [ref. Report of EC-TC-VI.] EC-TC suggested to include in the strategy for resource mobilization the benefits for donors and to align the strategy for LDCs along the MDGs.

23. Efforts continued to establish stronger strategic partnerships and alliances with NMHSs of donor countries, funding institutions, the UN system and regional and international organizations. WMO contributed to and participated in the implementation of international initiatives, such as the United Nations Millennium Declaration; the Johannesburg Plan of Action of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD); the Mauritius Strategy for Small Islands; the Hyogo Declaration
and Hyogo Framework of Action; the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD); and GEO.

Other components of the Programme

**UNDP and related activities**

24. Five UNDP-funded projects were being implemented in Bahrain; Libyan Arab Jamahiriya; Maldives; United Arab Emirates and Zambia. In Bahrain, consultancy missions in agrometeorology, marine meteorology, radar meteorology, satellite meteorology and climatology were carried out. A number of staff members participated in the various short-term and long-term training courses. An automatic weather station (AWS) network composed of six stations was established, and a TV weather presentation system and a climate database management system were installed. In Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, 17 AWSs, an integrated terminal weather system for Tripoli airport, an Integrated Telecommunication System: Transmet/SADIS, Forecasting Workstations, Synergie and a calibration and maintenance workshop, an MSG satellite receiving system were installed at the National Meteorological Centre with related training activities. In Maldives, a project continued to build human resources capacity in the Department of Meteorology of Maldives through various long-term and short-term training activities. In the United Arab Emirates, within a project aimed at strengthening meteorological services for the Armed Forces, a numerical weather prediction system was installed. In Zambia, a project was successfully implemented aiming at formulating strategies for enhancing the integration of weather and climate information, products and services into the national economic planning process.

25. Under the UNDP/Global Environmental Facility project “Capacity Building for Observing Systems for Climate Change”, several regional workshops were organized for Central Asia, South-East Asia, South-Southwest Asia, South America, West Africa, Eastern and Central Europe, and for the Mediterranean to facilitate the development of regional action plans.

**Trust-fund projects, including bank-funded projects**

26. Trust-fund projects were being implemented for IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) and SADC Drought Monitoring Centre (DMC) with the support of USAID; CILSS countries; Chad and Mali with a contribution from the Swiss Development Cooperation Department; Islamic Republic of Iran; Oman; Brazil; CIIFEN; Mexico; SIDS-Caribbean; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Latvia; and Serbia and Montenegro.

27. The DMCs in Nairobi and Harare and the AGRHYMET Centre in Niamey continued to provide weather and climate information and products, as well as early warning advisories on the occurrence of extreme climate events with donor support. The implementation of the project for Vulnerability Monitoring in the Sahel (SVS) continued satisfactorily, with Italy’s support, aiming at providing the nine Member countries of the Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) with the tools developed to evaluate the region's vulnerability as regards food security and to ensure better management of natural resources. Two projects in Chad and Mali, to strengthen and extend operational meteorological assistance to rural committees were completed satisfactorily. The African Center of Meteorological Applications and Development (ACMAD), with the collaboration of the AGRHYMET Center, continued to provide seasonal and inter-seasonal climate prediction in the region.

28. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, within a project to establish a weather radar network, one S-band and two C-band Doppler weather radars were installed. In order to expand the weather radar network, three C-band Doppler weather radars were being installed. In Oman, the development for the Model Output Statistics (MOS), improvement of the numerical wave model, and enhancement of the software for the Oman Regional Model were continued. A staff member
of the Department of Meteorology completed a PhD programme on regional numerical modelling at a university in UK.

29. Under the agreement between WMO and the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) on a joint project entitled “Support to the Implementation of the Regional Haze Action Plan of ASEAN Member Countries” financially supported by Australia, measurement instruments were installed in Indonesia and Malaysia. Training courses for the use of the instruments were implemented.

30. In Brazil, WMO assisted INMET in the implementation of the modernization project that includes the establishment of 400 new AWSs in Brazil, the improvement of numerical forecasting modelling and the upgrading of the database for the management of meteorological data in Brazil. The International Research Centre on El Niño (CIIFEN) in Guayaquil, Ecuador, continued with the development of innovative products with regional impact. WMO provided support to several regional events organized by the Centre. In Mexico, the implementation of the large-scale Water Resources Management Project (PROMMA) was completed in 2005 with the support of the World Bank, in which WMO provided technical assistance, training and transfer of technology to the National Water Commission (CNA) in the areas of meteorology, operational hydrology, groundwater, water quality, water resources planning and sustainable use of groundwater. A WMO Project office was established in 2006 at CNA in Mexico City to support the development and implementation of projects in Mexico, in particular the PREMIA project for the strengthening of water resources management in Mexico.

31. The regional project “Preparedness to Climate Variability and Global Change in Small Island Developing States, Caribbean Region” (SIDS-Caribbean) funded by Finland was completed in 2004 with measurable success in the implementation of all components. The main achievements included the upgrade of the ISCS workstations for meteorological telecommunications; and installation of 29 AWSs in 12 countries as well as installation of conventional meteorological equipment in 11 countries and training activities. Using the capacity built and the results achieved under the SIDS-Caribbean Project, a pilot project on the development of an automatic weather service production system in selected Caribbean countries was successfully completed in Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago in 2006.


AGENDA ITEM 3.8.1(1) – REPORTS OF THE PRESIDENTS OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

REPORT BY THE PRESIDENT OF RA I

Cg-XV/Rep. 3.8.1(1)

Introduction

1. This report covers the period from Cg-XIV until 28 February 2007. If necessary, an addendum will be issued to cover the period up to the fifteenth session of the Congress.

Members of the Association

2. The number of members of the Association has remained at 56 Members.
Officer of the Association

3. During the period from the Fourteen Congress to the fourteenth session of the Regional Association I, Dr M.S. Mhita (United Republic of Tanzania) and Dr L. Bah (Guinea) served as president and vice-president of Association, respectively. The fourteenth session of RA I elected Dr Lamine Bah (Guinea) and Mr Amos Makarau (Zimbabwe) as president and vice-president of the Association, respectively.

Regional Working Groups and Rapporteurs

4. The working groups and rapporteurs of the Association that were established by the RA I-XIII session performed their activities satisfactorily.

Major Regional Events and Outcomes

5. During the period of the report, many seminars, workshops and other events were organized or sponsored by WMO. There was active participation by the Members of the Association in these events. Some of the events were:

(a) Meeting of Directors of NMHSs of Central African countries held in Bangui, Central Africa Republic in February 2004; meeting of Directors of NMHSs of West African countries held in Bamako, Mali in February 2004; East African Community (EAC), Directors meeting (several meetings); SADC Directors Meeting (three meetings) and COMESA 2006;
(b) Seventh Technical Conference on Management for Development of NMHSs, Brazzaville, Congo, November 2004;
(c) New Climate Database Management Systems for Central Africa, Douala, Cameroon, July 2004;
(d) Training Seminar on Cost Recovery for Aeronautical Meteorological Services, Nairobi, Kenya, November 2004;
(e) WMO media weather presentation training, Maputo, Mozambique, December 2005;
(f) Conference of Parties (COP-7) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Nairobi, Kenya, October 2005;
(g) WMO Commission for Atmospheric Sciences, Cape Town, South Africa, February 2006;
(h) Subregional meeting on the participation of women in meteorology and hydrology, Bangui, Central Africa Republic, March 2006;
(i) RA I Working Group on Climate Matters, Dakar, Senegal, February 2006;
(j) RA I Working Group on Planning and Implementation of WWW and Climate Matters, 2006;
(k) Regional Workshop on Socio-economic Benefits of Meteorological Services, Bamako, Mali, June 2006; Nairobi, Kenya, August 2006; Arusha, Tanzania, September 2006;
(l) Conference of Parties (COP-12) of the UN Framework on Climate Change Convention (UNFCCC) in 2006;
RA I Working Group on Hydrology, Arusha, Tanzania;

RA I Advisory Working Group, Arusha, Tanzania, December 2006;

International Workshop on Climate and Land Degradation, December 2006, Tanzania;

Implementation Coordination Meeting on Specific Communication Techniques/GTS in RA I, Dakar, Senegal, February 2006;

Several Climate Outlook Fora were held in the Region.

WMO Regional Office for Africa

6. The Regional Office continued to assist Members in the Region in the development of their National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and in the implementation of regional components of WMO Programmes and activities. The WMO Sub-Regional Offices in the Region provide a critical role in providing service to the Members. The Regional Office also continued to provide support and advice to the president and vice-president of RA I in their work.

Future work of the Association

7. The fourteenth session of RA I held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, from 14 to 23 February 2007 highlighted many issues that Members in the Region are most concerned about and that are being taken into account for the development of the Strategic Plan and associated Action Plan:

(a) The Strategic Plan for RA I, which should have a clear vision to the future, and should take into account the need for horizontal cooperation, be creative and include feasible, specific and practical activities;

(b) The Advisory Working Group will propose a draft outline for the RA I Strategic Plan and designate experts to develop the various chapters;

(c) The African Conference of Ministers in charge of Meteorological Services tentatively planned to be held in 2008;

(d) With 36 out of 49 countries categorized as the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) located in Africa, poverty alleviation remains an important issue in the Region and it must be ensured that NMHSs make contributions to various aspects of socio-economic development. In this regard, assessment missions will be carried out to several LDCs in the Region with a view to developing project proposals and to initiate a resource mobilization process for enhancing the operations of the respective NMHSs;

(e) Participation in the proposed regional programmes in particular the AMESD and CLIMDev projects.

Acknowledgements

8. The president would like to express his thanks to the Members of RA I for the cooperation he received in discharging his responsibilities. The president would also like to express his gratitude to all Permanent Representatives who have contributed to the work of RA I, the chairpersons, rapporteurs and members of working groups for their work, and to Members who offered to host the various meetings that have taken place, and Members who provided assistance
and extended cooperation under VCP or bilaterally. Special appreciation is also due to Dr M.S. Mhita, the immediate former president of RA I.

9. Finally, The president wishes to express his gratitude and appreciation to Mr Michel Jarraud, Secretary-General of WMO, to the Secretariat, and in particular, the Director and staff of WMO/RAF Office for their valuable support and advice in the work of the president of RA I. Further, the president is grateful to the Technical and Support Departments of WMO for their cooperation during this period.

AGENDA ITEM 3.8.1(2) – REPORTS OF THE PRESIDENTS OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

REPORT BY THE PRESIDENT OF RA II

Cg-XV/Rep. 3.8.1(2)

Introduction

1. This report covers the period from Fourteenth Congress to 15 March 2007. [An addendum will be submitted to cover the period up to the Fifteenth Congress, if necessary.]

Members of the Association

2. The number of Members of the Association has remained at 35.

Officers of the Association

3. Mr A. Majeed H. Isa (Bahrain) continued to serve as acting president of RA II. The position of vice-president was assumed by Mr Chiu-Ying Lam (Hong Kong, China) by a vote by correspondence in October 2003. Mr Isa and Mr Lam were unanimously elected as president and vice-president of the Association, respectively, at the thirteenth session of the Association in December 2004.

Regional working groups and rapporteurs

4. The working groups and individual rapporteurs of the Association performed their activities satisfactorily. They submitted their reports with proposals to the thirteenth session of the Association. The session re-established six working groups including the Advisory Working Group. It also established two Coordination Groups on RA II pilot projects on “Provision of City-Specific Numerical Weather Prediction Products to Developing Countries via the Internet” and “Support for the Developing Countries in the Aeronautical Meteorology Programme”.

Major regional events and outcomes

5. During the period of the report, many seminars, workshops and other events were organized or sponsored by WMO. Members of the Association actively participated in these events:

(a) The Second Meeting of Directors of National Hydrometeorological Services of Countries in Central Asia was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, 27-28 May 2004. The Meeting reviewed the progress made and activities undertaken by WMO and the Members since its first meeting (2003) and identified key areas from capacity building and Subregional cooperation. The Meeting made a number of recommendations to the NMSs to implement;
(b) The Regional Seminar on Cost Recovery and Administration was held in Hong Kong, China, 4-6 December 2004. The Seminar provided an opportunity for Directors and senior officials of NMHSs to exchange experience and knowledge in cost recovery and administrative issues and made a number of recommendations to respond to the rapid advances in meteorological sciences and technology and increasing public expectations for improved meteorological services as well as decreasing funds available for NMHSs operations;

(c) WMO Subregional Workshop on Social and Economic Benefits of Weather, Climate and Water Services to Society for the League of Arab States was held in Kuwait City, Kuwait, 18-21 November 2006. The Workshop reviewed and discussed the value of weather, climate and water services provided by the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) to the various social and economic sectors and made a number of important recommendations for NMHSs to respond adequately to societal challenges;

(d) The Fourth Technical Conference on Management of Meteorological and Hydrological Services in Asia, - Weather, Climate and Water Services for Secure and Sustainable Living - was held in Islamabad, Pakistan, 5-9 February 2007. The Conference provided an opportunity for Directors and senior officers of NMHSs to review and discuss management of NMHSs within new initiatives and frameworks and made a number of recommendations for operations of NMHSs for secure and sustainable living;

(e) Three geostationary meteorological satellites (MTSAT-1R, MTSAT-2 and FY-2D) which cover Region II were successfully launched. Meteorological satellite coverage of Region II was secured satisfactorily during the period, including the Indian Ocean Data Coverage (IODC) conducted by Meteosat-5 (EUMETSAT);

(f) The Data Rescue (DARE)/Climate Data Management Seminar in RA II, Vientiane, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, October 2003;

(g) The RA II/RA V Regional Training Seminars on Data Processing and Forecasting System in Improvement of Public Weather Services, Brunei Darussalam, December 2003;

(h) The Seminar on Partnership Building on Meteorological Technology and Policy for National Meteorological Services (NMSs), Seoul, Republic of Korea, 12-18 September 2004;

(i) GEO Training Workshop on Numerical Weather Prediction, Seoul, Republic of Korea, 9-13 April 2007;

(j) Aviation Meteorological Seminar hosted by the China Meteorological Administration, Beijing, China, 6-8 March 2007.

WMO Regional Office for Asia and the South-West Pacific

6. The Regional Office for Asia and the South-West Pacific continued to be located at the WMO Headquarters in Geneva.

7. At its thirteenth session, the Association agreed that the Regional Office for Asia and the South-West Pacific should remain in Geneva in view of the advantages of its location in the WMO Headquarters to ensure effective and efficient implementation of the Regional Programme related activities.
Establishment of the WMO Office for West Asia

8. In connection with the reorganization of the Development Cooperation and Regional Activities (DCR) Department and with the kind support of the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain, the WMO Office for West Asia was officially inaugurated on 12 March 2007, with the duties and responsibilities, among others, as follows: identification of requirements for the development of NMHSs; participation in the development and formulation of project proposals/documents; initiation and follow-up on actions related to the mobilizations of resources; and close coordination with UN organizations and regional organizations. The WMO Representative for West Asia has been appointed.

Missions of the president

9. In his capacity as acting president of the Association, Mr A. Majeed H. Isa, participated in the Third Regional and the First National Conference on Climate Change (Esfahan, Islamic Republic of Iran, October 2003). In his capacity as president, Mr Isa participated in the Commissioning of the Seventh Virtual Laboratory (VL) Centre of Excellence (CoE) for satellite training in meteorology in Muscat, Oman on 11 February 2006.

Future work of the Association

10. Priority should be given to the coordination and establishment of a climate outlook forum for Asia.

11. The establishment of a Regional Climate Centre (RCC) network of multifunctional and specialized centres on a pilot basis will be pursued based on the views and comments on: (a) draft guidelines on eligibility of RCC; and (b) draft designation procedures for RCC network in RA II which have been finalized and distributed to all Members inviting them to apply for RCC taking into consideration the criteria.

12. Two pilot projects are to be further implemented: the provision of city-specific NWP products to developing countries via the Internet; and support for developing countries in the Aeronautical Meteorology Programme. These projects would assist LDCs in enhancing their capacities as part of the WMO Programme for the LDCs.

13. Attention should be given in assisting those NMHSs without Web sites of their Services, as meteorological information and data are becoming increasingly important in communities.

14. The cost recovery, commercialization of products and services and certification/quality management continue to be of great interest to the Members. Members and WMO should give the highest priority to these subjects in order to be able to face the future challenges.

Acknowledgements

15. The president would like to express his appreciation and gratitude to all those who have contributed to the work of the Association. Particular thanks are due to the vice-president, Mr Chiu-Ying Lam (Hong Kong, China), and the chairpersons and members of working groups as well as individual rapporteurs of the Association. Thanks are due to the Members of the Organization who have hosted various meetings, conferences and training events.

16. Finally, the president would also like to express his deep gratitude and appreciation to the Secretary-General of WMO and the Secretariat, in particular the Regional Office for Asia and the South-West Pacific, for their valuable support and advice.
AGENDA ITEM 3.8.1(3) – REPORTS OF THE PRESIDENTS OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

REPORT BY THE PRESIDENT OF RA III

Cg-XV/Rep. 3.8.1(3)

Introduction

1. This report covers the period from Cg XIV until 31 December 2006. [An addendum will be submitted to cover the period up to the fifteenth session of Congress, if necessary.]

Members of the Association

2. The number of members of the Association has remained at 13 Members.

Officers of the Association

3. Following the resignation of Mr Nelson Salazar, Mr Raul Michelini (Uruguay) was elected acting president of the Association as from 2003. The position of vice-president of the Association was assumed by Mr Ramon Viñas-Garcia (Venezuela) through a vote by correspondence. The fourteenth session of RA III elected Mr Ramon Viñas-Garcia (Venezuela) and Mr Carlos Costa-Posada (Colombia) as president as vice-president respectively.

Regional working groups and rapporteurs

4. The working groups and rapporteurs of the Association were established and performed their activities satisfactorily.

Major regional events and outcomes

5. During the period of the report, many seminars, workshops and other events were organized or sponsored by WMO. There was an active participation of the Members of the Association in these events:

(a) Meetings of Directors of NMHSs of Ibero-American countries were held in La Antigua, Guatemala in November 2003, Cartagena, Colombia in July 2004, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia in November 2005 and Buenos Aires, Argentina in November 2006. The meetings were organized by the National Meteorological Institute of Spain and co-sponsored by WMO. As a result of these meetings, the Conference of Directors of Ibero-American NMHSs was created and a Cooperation Programme for meteorology and hydrology for NMHSs of Ibero-American countries has been established, which are shared by NMHSs of the RA III and RA IV Regions. The programme of cooperation includes assistance on training, operational meteorology, formulation of projects for the development of NMHSs, and other relevant areas aimed at strengthening the NMHSs of the Ibero-American region in a context of regional integration. The Cooperation Programme began activities in 2006 with the support from Spain with an initial contribution of 1.1 million Euros;

(b) Regional Technical Conference, organized jointly with RA IV on Social and Economic Benefits of Weather, Climate and Water Services, in preparation for the Global Conference in Madrid in 2007 on the same subject (Brasilia, Brazil, 12-14 July 2006);
Technical Seminar on Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, with the participation of NMHSs, civil protection agencies and development and funding agencies in the Region (Lima, Peru, 4-6 September 2006);

The Conference on Climate Change and Natural Disasters with participation of NMHSs, civil protection agencies and climate change offices of Ibero-American countries (Guayaquil, Ecuador, 7-9 June 2006);

Signature of an MoU between WMO and the Government of Brazil for the establishment of a Project office in Brasilia at INMET facilities to support the development and implementation of projects in Brazil, in particular the INMET project, which continues its implementation successfully with the support of WMO;

The Second Meeting of the Working Group on Internal Matters of RA III (Montevideo, Uruguay, 30 August -1 September 2005);

First Stakeholders Meeting of the International Research Centre of El Niño Phenomenon (CIIFEN) (Guayaquil, Ecuador, 9-10 January 2003);

Climate Outlook Forums for MERCOSUR in Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, respectively in 2005;

Training Workshop on Ensemble Prediction System for RAs III/IV (Brasilia, Brazil, January 2005);

Training Workshop on Early Warning Systems for RA III (Brasilia, Brazil, February 2005);

Meeting of the Working Group on Hydrology of RA III (Montevideo, Uruguay, April 2005);

RA III WWW Working Group on Planning and Implementation (Buenos Aires, Argentina, May 2005);

Regional Technical Meeting on CLIPS and Agrometeorology Applications for the MERCOSUR Countries (Sao Paulo, Brazil, July 2005);

RA III CLIPS Focal Training Workshop (Lima Peru, August 2005);

RA III Working Group on Climate Matters (Montevideo, Uruguay, December 2005);

The 21st session of the WMO-IOC Data Buoy Cooperation Panel (DBC) was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 17-21 October 2005;


WMO Regional Office for the Americas

6. The Regional Office continued to assist Members in the Regions in the development of their National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and in the implementation of regional components of WMO Programmes and activities. The Regional Office also continued to provide support and advice to the president and vice-president of RA III (South America) in their work.
Future work of the Association

7. The fourteenth session of RA III held in Lima, Peru, from 7 to 13 September 2006 highlighted many issues that Members in the Region are most concerned about and that are being taken into account for the development of the Strategic Development Plan and associated Action Plan:

(a) The Strategic Development Plan (SDP) for RA III, which should have a clear vision to the future, should take into account the need for horizontal cooperation, be creative and include feasible, specific and practical activities;

(b) SDP should recognize existing differences and gaps between NMHSs in the Region and design strategies for reducing such gaps;

(c) SDP should consider adequate allocation of budgetary resources (WMO and national funds) to ensure implementation of selected priorities;

(d) The Action Plan should include, among others, a time frame for implementing the activities and performance indicators to facilitate efficient and effective monitoring;

(e) SDP should enhance the integration in the Region;

(f) SDP should be linked and consistent with the WMO’s Strategic Plan and with the allocation of specific funding for priority projects;

(g) The SDP should address the need for enhancement of WMO’s advocacy activities at national level aimed at assisting NMHSs in the development of projects and initiatives as requested by Members.

Acknowledgements

8. The president would like to express his appreciation and gratitude to all those governments, organizations and persons who have provided support to the NMHSs of the Region. In particular we wish to mention the exceptional support from Spain and from the USA.

9. Finally, the president wishes to express his gratitude and appreciation to Mr Michael Jarraud, Secretary-General of WMO, to the Secretariat, and in particular, the WMO/RAM Office for their valuable support and advice in the work to the president of RA III.

AGENDA ITEM 3.8.1(4) – REPORTS OF THE PRESIDENTS OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

REPORT BY THE PRESIDENT OF RA IV

Cg-XVI/Rep. 3.8.1(4)

Introduction

1. This report covers the period from the Fourteenth Congress to December 2006. An addendum will be submitted to cover the period up to the Fifteenth Congress, if necessary.

Members of the Association

2. During the period under review, RA IV continued being composed of 26 Members.
Officers of the Association

3. During the period from the Fourteen Congress to the fourteenth session of the Regional Association IV, Mr Arthur Dania (Netherlands Antilles and Aruba) and Mr Carlos Fuller (Belize) served as president and vice-president of the Association, respectively. From the fourteenth session of the Regional Association IV to December 2006, Mr Carlos Fuller (Belize) and Mr Paulo Manso (Costa Rica) served as president and vice-president of the Association, respectively.

Regional working groups and rapporteurs

4. The working groups and individual rapporteurs of the Association have carried out their tasks according to their terms of reference, as explained in the reports submitted by the chairmen of the working groups and the rapporteurs under relevant agenda items.

Major regional events and outcomes

5. During the period of the report, many seminars, workshops and other events were organized or sponsored by WMO. There was an active participation of the Members of the Association in these events:

(a) As a result of the International Conference for the Establishment of a Tsunami and other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions held in Mexico D.F. in June 2005, UNESCO, IOCARIBE, and other related organizations, including WMO, called for a regional meeting in Bridgetown, Barbados in January 2006 to establish an Intergovernmental Coordination Group for Tsunami and other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions. Ten representatives of NMHSs of the Caribbean Region attended the meeting, which noted the important role that NMHSs could play in implementing a tsunami and coastal hazard warning system. The meeting noted that NMHSs operated a dedicated telecommunication system, which could be used as the backbone of the warning system; they provided a 24/7 service and already had national mechanisms to initiate warnings and response;

(b) The RAMSDIS System that provides, in real time, high-resolution satellite imagery and products to Central American countries, continued its execution with great success. The System is supported by the United States Government and the Universidad de Costa Rica and assisted by WMO;

(c) The WMO is implementing a bi-national project on Integrated Flash Flooding System for the Sixaola river basin between Costa Rica and Panama. WMO is executing the project through its Department of Hydrology and Water Resources and with the assistance of the WMO/NCAC Office;

(d) The WMO, through the Space Programme Office, and the RA IV-RMTC at the University of Costa Rica, have in operation a Centre of Excellence in meteorological satellites at the University of Costa Rica, and its main activities are: organizing training seminars, updating and disseminating satellite methods for image reception, promoting the use of satellite information in the NMSs, disseminating training material and promoting the participation of the focal points of the WMO Virtual Laboratory, in weather discussions in real time;

(e) The SIDS Caribbean project, funded by Finland, concluded its implementation in a satisfactory way in June 2004. It covered six main areas which are telecommunications with emphasis in the replacement of the old Star-4 workstations and in solving the non-VSAT islands communications issues, rehabilitation of existing networks, renovation of the
(f) The implementation of the water resources management project (PROMMA) in Mexico was completed successfully in 2005 and a new agreement of cooperation between WMO and the Government of Mexico was signed in 2005, which included the establishment of a project office in 2006;

(g) Meetings of Directors of NMHSs of Ibero-American countries were held in La Antigua, Guatemala in November 2003, Cartagena, Colombia in July 2004, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia in November 2005 and Buenos Aires, Argentina in November 2006. The meetings were organized by the National Meteorological Institute of Spain and co-sponsored by WMO. As a result of these meetings, the Conference of Directors of Ibero-American NMHSs was created and a cooperation programme for meteorology and hydrology for NMHSs of Ibero-American countries has been established, which are shared by NMHSs of RA III and RA IV Regions. The programme of cooperation includes, assistance on training, operational meteorology, formulation of projects for the development of NMHSs, and other relevant areas aimed at strengthening the NMHSs of the Ibero-American region in a context of regional integration. The cooperation programme began activities in 2006 with the support from Spain with an initial contribution of 1.1 million Euros;

(h) Costa Rica hosted the Training Seminar on WMO Table Driven Codes for RA III & RA IV (10-14 November 2003);

(i) It is also important to mention the RA IV Workshops on Hurricane Forecasting and Public Weather Services that took place in Miami, USA. These very important workshops are organized on an annual basis at the National Hurricane Center in Miami, USA, with the strong support of WMO and the USA. All Members of RA IV strongly endorse the need for continued support for these workshops;

(j) The 2005 Hurricane Season was the most active on record, as 26 tropical storms developed. Fifteen of these became hurricanes and seven attained intensities of category three or higher. Several of these tropical cyclones had a very strong impact in several countries of the Region associated to great losses in human lives, infrastructure and housing. The hurricane activity and the impact of these systems highlighted the important role played by NMHSs in weather observations, data exchange and the preparation and distribution of warnings;

(k) At the kind invitation of the Government of the United States of America a series of meetings were convened in Miami, Florida from 13 to 15 February 2006 to discuss a protocol to establish a mechanism to enable an NMHS to assist another NHMS in the event it could not perform any or all of its functions because of emergencies, to discuss support to those NHMSs affected by the active 2004 and 2005 hurricane seasons, and to draft a Regional Action Plan for RA IV;

(l) The president was very pleased to inform that the WMO, the University of Costa Rica and the University of Oslo have opened a Master Degree Programme in Hydrology with long distance and computed-aided learning components in the RA IV-RMTC. The programme started with 10 students from Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guyana, Panama and 3 students from the University of Oslo. The creation of a similar e-learning MSc degree in Meteorology is in the planning stage;

(m) Also the president wants to inform that the RMTC of Costa Rica has continued its support of multimedia and computed-aided learning for continuing education by translating

WMO Office for North America, Central America and the Caribbean

6. The president wishes to emphasize the success of the WMO Office for North America, Central America and the Caribbean (WMO/NCAC) in supporting the countries of RA IV and strongly support the structuring process inside the DCR Department in the Secretariat, in order to serve the Region in a more efficient manner. In particular with respect to technical cooperation and resource mobilization the field offices are having a more active role in the Region.

Future work of the Association

7. I would like to call to your attention that the working groups which were established during the last session of the regional association should also have all the necessary means to meet at least once during the intersessional period. Also the regional rapporteurs should be able to meet with some experts in their field, so that they can do a better job.

8. The president has followed up, with great interest, the natural disaster prevention and mitigation activities in the Region. The majority of the countries of the Region replied to the WMO national survey and the president will expect the same success in relation to the regional survey.

9. Climate change and related environmental issues have been of great concern to the governments in the Region. In order to enable Members to provide relevant advice to their government policy-makers, future climate scenarios in a regional context and on a short time-scale should be developed by NMHSs.

10. Initiatives were taken for the establishment of a Regional Climate Centre in accordance with guidelines of WMO Congress and the Executive Council. With funding by NOAA/NWS and WMO a short meeting was organized for a small Ad Hoc Advisory Working Group to have first discussions on a Regional Climate Centre. The meeting was held in Miami Florida in July 2003. The president of RA IV, with the strong support of WMO and the USA, continues to strive towards the implementation of the RA IV Regional Climate Centre.

Acknowledgements

11. The president would like to express his appreciation and gratitude to all those governments, organizations and persons who have provided support to the NMHSs of the Region. In particular we wish to mention the exceptional support of the USA regarding the training needs and telecommunications and to Spain for its support for the recovery of the meteorological and hydrological infrastructure in the countries affected by hurricanes.

12. The president would like to express its gratitude to Canada, Finland, France, Japan, Spain and USA as well as to other Members of WMO who provided fellowships and arranged study programmes for several Members of the Region and provided support to a wide range of areas beneficial to the Region and to individual Members and in particular to those Members who have acted as hosts to the organization of the many events in the Region.

13. Finally, the president wishes to express his gratitude and appreciation to Mr Michael Jarraud, Secretary-General of WMO, to the Secretariat, and in particular, the WMO/NCAC Office for their valuable support and advice in the work of the president of RA IV.
Introduction

1. This report covers the period from Cg-XIV to December 2006. [An addendum will be submitted to cover the period up to Cg-XV, if necessary.]

Members of the Association

2. The Association’s membership has remained at 21.

Officers of the Association

3. Following the retirement of Mr Wong Shih Lai (Singapore), Mr Arona Ngari (Cook Islands) assumed the position of acting president of the Association. Following an election by correspondence, Mr Rajendra Prasad (Fiji) was elected as vice-president of RA V. During the fourteenth session of RA V, Mr Arona Ngari (Cook Islands) and Mrs Sri Woro B. Harijono (Indonesia) were elected as president and vice-president of the Association, respectively.

Regional working groups and rapporteurs

4. The working groups and individual rapporteurs of the Association were established and performed their tasks according to their terms of reference.

Major regional events and outcomes

5. During the period of the report, many seminars, workshops and other events were organized or sponsored by WMO with active participation of RA V Members. Some of the major events are as follows:

(a) Fourth Technical Conference on Management of Meteorological Services in RA V, Samoa, 5-9 December 2005;

(b) WMO Regional Seminar on Cost Recovery and Administration in RA V, Tonga, 1-5 December 2003;

(c) WMO Regional Seminar on Enhancing Service Delivery by NMHSs in RA V, Malaysia, 2-6 April 2007;

(d) Annual Meetings of Regional Meteorological Services Directors in the Pacific region in Tonga (2003), Niue (2005) and New Caledonia (2006);

(e) Tenth and eleventh sessions of RA V Tropical Cyclone Committee, Australia, 4-8 July 2004 and 4-8 May 2006;

(f) WMO RA V Climate Data Management Training Workshop, Australia, 29 November–3 December 2004;

(g) WMO Workshop on Multi-hazard, Early Warning Centres Concept of Operation for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System, Singapore, 12-23 November 2005;
Sixth session of RA V Working Group on Planning and Implementation of the WWW in Region V, Samoa, 30 November–3 December 2005;

First session of the Working Group on Agricultural Meteorology, Indonesia, March 2006;

Second session of the RA V Working Group on Climate-related Matters, Singapore, 7-10 February 2006;

Commission for Agricultural Meteorology ICT on Climate Change/Variability and Natural Disasters in Agriculture, New Zealand, 21-23 February 2005;

Commission for Agricultural Meteorology ICT on Agrometeorological Services, Philippines, 29-30 March 2004;

Meeting of the WCRP International Programme for Antarctic Buoys, New Zealand, 3-4 December 2005;

WHO/WMO Regional Workshop on Climate Variability and Change, and Health for Pacific Islands Countries, Fiji, 14-15 September 2005;

First Session of CliC Scientific Steering Group, Australia, 25-29 October 2005;


The USA East-West Centre, USP and NIWA training programme on climate and climate extreme events, Fiji, June 2004;

WMO THORPEX Meeting for Operational Forecasts based on the NWP made available to Members, Australia, 30 November–3 December 2005;

Annual Pacific International Desk Training Programme, at RSMC-Honolulu, USA;

Regional Meteorological Training Course – Capacity Building in Medium Range Weather Forecasting for Pacific Islands, New Caledonia, 4-8 September 2006;

Regional Training Course for Maintenance Technicians for NMSs in the South Pacific, French Polynesia, 14-18 November 2005;

Climsoft Training Workshop for Small Island States in the Pacific Region, Fiji, 19 September–7 October 2005;

Three training events on the Regional Training Courses on Surface and Ground Water – A Programme Towards Meeting the Climate Information and Hydrological Training Needs of Pacific SIDS, Fiji, 2003, 2004 and 2005;

Three training events in meteorological observations were held in, Fiji, 2003, 2004 and 2005;

Several meetings of the Pacific Islands GCOS Steering Committee and the Pacific Communication Committee were held in the Region.
Regional Office for Asia and the South-West Pacific and WMO Office for the South-West Pacific

6. The Regional Office for Asia and the South-West Pacific continued to remain at the WMO Headquarters and the WMO Office for the South-West Pacific continued to remain in Apia, Samoa with the support of the Samoa Government. The Offices have been providing support to NMHSs in their efforts to enhance their services as well as representing WMO in a number of regional events. In connection with the restructuring process inside the DCR Department in the Secretariat, the Regional Office for Asia and the South-West Pacific and the WMO Office for the South-West Pacific supported the Members of RA V and served the Region in a more efficient manner, in particular, with respect to technical cooperation and resource mobilization.

Future work of the Association

7. The fourteenth session of RA V (Adelaide, Australia, 9-16 May 2006) established six working groups, which are expected to meet at least once during the intersessional period. The chairpersons are invited to participate in all working group sessions, with the view to strengthening the coordination and cooperation, as well as synergizing WMO programme activities in the Region. Also the regional rapporteurs are expected to participate in the working group sessions relating to their fields, as well as meeting with experts in their respective fields, so that they can work more efficiently.

8. The Strategic Action Plan for the Development of Meteorology in the Pacific Region 2000-2009 (December 1999) and the Needs Analysis for Strengthening Pacific Islands Meteorological Services: Meeting the Challenge report (August 2000) have continued to provide strategic direction and promote regional initiatives to support and strengthen the capability of NMSs in the Pacific region to meet the growing demand for improved weather and climate services and products, as well as contributing to WMO Programmes. The Plan and the Needs Analysis report took into full consideration RA V regional priorities. A number of regional initiatives identified in the Needs Analysis report have been implemented. In this respect, an RA V Strategic Plan is under development. WMO support is required for adequate resources within its scientific and technical programmes and national programmes budget, as well as mobilization of extrabudgetary resources for the implementation of the future RA V Strategic Plan.

9. With regard to the natural disaster prevention and mitigation activities in the Region, following the successful implementation of the WMO country level surveys, the president expects the same success in relation to the regional survey. Furthermore, the implementation of WMO programme activities in the Region to address the gaps identified in the country level and regional surveys is expected.

10. Climate change and related environmental issues have been of particular concern to the governments in the Region. There is a need to identify the link between climate change and tropical cyclone activities in the Pacific region and to quantify the social and economic cost of the impacts of climate variability and climate change to enable governments in the Region to assess existing and/or develop new adaptation options, as well as implementing the most appropriate measures. Climate data and information are vital in this process, and the president encourages Members to continue to support the implementation of the Pacific Islands and the East and South-East Asia GCOS Regional Action Plans.

11. The “Climsoft” climate database management system is targeted at small- to medium-scale databases but can also be scaled upwards and has many advantages for Pacific SIDS. The president is expecting the Climsoft software to be fully operational in all Pacific SIDS: a valuable tool for data and information for NMHSs to use in providing advice to policy-makers on climate change issues.
12. Initiatives were taken for defining an appropriate mode for delivering Regional Climate Centre (RCC) services for the Region. The president is expecting WMO to put in place a mechanism, as well as making available the means to expedite the development of clear delineation between RCC services delivered at a regional level and the services delivered by NMHSs at national and local levels, with a view to establishing RCC(s) during the intersessional period, to enable the provision of advice to policy-makers on the impacts of climate change and adaptation measures to reduce these impacts.

13. Due attention should be drawn to the concern of the Commission for Hydrology with regard to the decline in financial support to WMO Hydrology and Water Resources Programme activities in the Region. The president is expecting WMO to allocate adequate resources for hydrology and water resources activities that result in benefits to the Region.

14. Capacity building is very crucial for the Region. The president would like to make efforts to increase fellowships in the Region for professional and technical training in the fields of meteorology and operational hydrology, including specific training in related fields such as telecommunication systems, ICT, modern data processing systems, climate change and natural disasters and atmospheric environment.

Acknowledgements

15. The president would like to express his appreciation and gratitude to all those governments, organizations and persons who have provided support to the NMHSs of the Region. Special appreciation is extended to Australia, China, France, Japan, New Zealand, UK, and the USA for supporting the training and telecommunication needs, and other meteorological and hydrological infrastructure requirements in the Region.

16. The president would also like to express his gratitude to the Government of Finland for the consideration of supporting the project proposal entitled “Preparedness to Climate Variability, Natural Hazards and Global Change in Small Island Developing States, Pacific Region (SIDS-Pacific)”.

17. Finally, the president wishes to express his gratitude and appreciation to the Secretary-General of WMO, and to the Secretariat Departments and Offices, in particular, the Regional Office for Asia and the South-West Pacific and the WMO Office for the South-West Pacific for their support and advice in the work of the president of RA VI.

AGENDA ITEM 3.8.1(6) – REPORTS OF THE PRESIDENTS OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

REPORT BY THE PRESIDENT OF RA VI

Cg-XV/Rep. 3.8.1(6)

Introduction

1. This report covers the period from the Fourteenth Congress to 15 February 2007. An addendum will be submitted to cover the period up to the Fifteenth Congress, if necessary.

2. The Association held its fourteenth session in Heidelberg, Germany, from 7-15 September 2005. The session adopted 24 resolutions, established five working groups, the management group and one task team, and named 13 individual rapporteurs for ten specific fields. An informal network of international focal points of NMHSs of RA VI was established as well. The
fifty-eighth session of the Executive Council considered the report of the session and took the necessary decisions thereon.

Members of the Association

3. Since Fourteenth Congress, the total number of Members of the Association has increased from 49 to 50. After Fourteenth Congress, Montenegro exercised the right to become a Member of the Association.

Officers of the Association

4. Following the resignation of the president Dr Petras Korkutis (Lithuania) in August 2003, Mr Daniel K. Keuerleber-Burk (Switzerland) became the acting president and in June 2004 Dr Andris Leitass (Latvia) was elected by correspondence as vice-president. At the fourteenth session of the Association, Mr Daniel K. Keuerleber-Burk and Dr Andris Leitass were elected president and vice-president, respectively.

Regional working groups and rapporteurs

5. During the period under consideration, the working groups and rapporteurs of the Association performed their activities satisfactorily.

Regional events

6. During the period of the report, a number of seminars, workshops and other events were organized or sponsored by WMO.

7. The Regional Training Workshop on CLIPS was held in Erfurt, Germany, in June 2003.
8. The WMO Coordination Meeting of Directors of NMHSs from the ten new EU members was held in Exeter, UK, in June 2004.

9. The Regional Training Workshop on PWS was held in Langen, Germany, in October 2004.

10. The AMDAR Workshop for Central and Eastern Europe was held in Budapest, Hungary, in December 2004.

11. The Workshop for International Advisers to the Permanent Representatives from Central and Eastern Europe was held in Bucharest, Romania, in May 2005.

12. The Technical Conference on International Cooperation in Weather, Climate and Water Issues in RA VI was held in Heidelberg, Germany, from 5 to 6 September 2005.

13. The Technical Conference on Strategic Planning in RA VI (Europe) was held in Riga, Latvia, from 6 to 7 November 2006.

14. The Regional Workshop on Social and Economic Benefits of Meteorological and Related Services to Society was held in Zagreb, Croatia, from 5 to 6 February 2007.

Regional Office for Europe

15. The Subregional Office for Europe continued to assist Members in the Region in the development of their NMHSs and implementation of regional components of WMO Programmes. The Office provided support and advice to the president and vice-president of RA VI.
16. As part of the revised functions and the new structure of the Development Cooperation and Regional Activity Department (DCR), the Subregional Office for Europe was promoted to Regional Office for Europe on 22 November 2006.

**Status of implementation of the regional aspects of WMO Programmes**

17. During the period, the number of RBSN surface stations was slightly increased (by 2%). According to the results of the monitoring of the operation of the WWW, the percentage of SYNOP reports actually received at MTN centres during these years oscillated around 94 per cent. The number of upper-air stations included in the RBSN was maintained around 135.

18. The key role in developing improved and integrated observing networks in the Region is played by EUMETNET EUCOS. One of the objectives of the EUCOS Programme is also to monitor and control the EUCOS performance.

19. The RMDCN inter-connects 35 countries in RA VI, ECMWF and EUMETSAT. Several MTN circuits linking RTHs in Region VI and Region II were implemented through an extension of the RMDCN. The plan to migrate the RMDCN technology to MPLS will be implemented during 2007. The other RA VI Members are operating leased point-to-point GTS circuits.

20. Meteosat Second Generation (MSG) is a significantly enhanced follow-on system to the previous generation of Meteosat. MSG consists of a series of four geostationary meteorological satellites, along with ground-based infrastructure, that will operate consecutively until 2018. The first MSG satellite was launched already in 2002. The second satellite followed up in December 2005. The EPS is Europe's first polar orbiting operational meteorological satellite system, and it is the European contribution to the Initial Joint Polar-Orbiting Operational Satellite System (IJPS). In this joint European-US polar satellite system, EUMETSAT has the operational responsibility for the "morning orbit" with the MetOp satellites.

21. Five RSMCs (Exeter, Moscow, Offenbach, Toulouse and ECMWF) are running global models. The four RA VI RSMCs with geographical specialization: Exeter, Moscow, Offenbach and Rome provide regional products to assist NMCs. Several advanced RSMCs are operationally running coupled ocean-atmosphere models producing useful long-range forecasts up to seasonal and multi-seasonal prediction periods.

22. Thirty NMCs in RA VI run Limited Area Models through ALADIN, HIRLAM or COSMO grouping. Six Centres run operationally high-resolution non-hydrostatic models.

23. In addition to the old Regional Instrument Centre (RIC) in Trappes (France), two new RICs were established by XIV-RA VI, namely in Bratislava (Slovakia) and Ljubljana (Slovenia). They started to operate in 2006 by organizing training workshops for Members from Central and Eastern Europe.

24. The NMHSs and several climate centres in RA VI have been working closely with CLIPS. Capacity building in CLIPS is one of the major priorities in RA VI, especially for the Mediterranean and Caucasus region.

25. Several Members started to use the recommended climate database management systems (CDMS), offered by Members from RA VI.

26. The fourteenth session of RA VI decided to take immediate steps to implement a network of multiple multifunctional centres and/or specialized centres on a pilot basis as the structure for implementing Regional Climate Centre activities in RA VI, in order to determine optimal composition of the RA VI RCC network which would best comply with the functions of RCC.
27. The implementation of GCOS is continuing with the full-scale operation of the monitoring, analysis and archiving centres for the GCOS Surface Network (GSN) and GCOS Upper-Air Network (GUAN). The GCOS Regional Action Plans, covering parts of RA VI, were developed, namely for Central Asia and Caucasus, for Eastern and Central Europe, and for the Mediterranean.

28. Continuous progress has been made in the Mesoscale Alpine Programme (MAP) and Mediterranean Experiment on Cyclones that Produce High Impact Weather in the Mediterranean (MEDEX). Important contribution was also made in the development of THORPEX. The European Regional THORPEX committee was developing a regional plan.

29. There are five global and 236 regional GAW stations officially registered in RA VI. This is the largest number of stations held by any of the six WMO Regions. Many important GAW quality assurance, calibration, data centres and training facilities are located in Region VI. WMO/GAW continued to co-chair the Task Force on Measurements and Modelling of EMEP.

30. The PWS Programme has focused on capacity building, transfer of knowledge and technology and providing guidance and advice to Members of the Region for the development and enhancement of their national PWS programmes. In the conduct of these activities to assist Members, the OPAG on PWS has benefited from the positive contributions of experts from the Region.

31. WAFC London is operating a SADIS Second Generation broadcast in parallel with the first generation to be taken out of service at the end of 2008. Improved back-up procedures with WAFC Washington are ensuring the continued global availability to users of aviation meteorological data and products in case of one WAFC failure. Cooperation between Eurocontrol and WMO through established focal points continues regarding in particular the implementation of the EU Single European Sky. Collaboration between the AMDAR Panel and the E-AMDAR Management continues, particularly on improving AMDAR data acquisition in sparse upper-air data areas.

32. During the intersessional period, Members of the Association have been very active in support of existing and new components of the integrated ocean observing system being implemented under JCOMM. Members of RA VI were playing a prominent role in the Argo Programme and contributed to the goal to reach the target of 3,000 operating floats in 2006/2007.

33. The Agricultural Meteorology Division continued to promote applications in agricultural meteorology in the Region through the organization of expert meetings. Slovenia was selected to host the new Drought Management Centre for South-Eastern Europe (DMCSEE). The decision was made on 26 September 2006 at a meeting hosted by WMO in Geneva with the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

34. Under the activity “Networking for contributions to regional initiatives related to water” within the RA VI Working Group on Hydrology close collaboration continued with the European Commission Strategic Coordination Group for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive and in the preparation of the Flood Directive. There was also close cooperation with the European Commission in the European Flood Alert System programme.

35. The WMO Secretariat provided support to the development of a project for reinforcing the cooperation among the six riparian countries of the Sava River in the areas of meteorology and hydrology.

36. Under the EURORISK initiative, involving civil protection authorities, NMHSs and industrial partners, risk management projects had been proposed in the European Commission (EC) and ESA GMES framework. Those projects were to develop risk management services for European
NMHSs, give them visibility in that domain at European level, and ensure that they would become key operators in the domain of risk management.

37. Nowcasting techniques based on extrapolation of radar information, to be compared with a reference atlas of critical information had been developed in the framework of the METEORISK INTERREG project led by the Austrian Meteorological Services (ZAMG) on the Alps. Other activities in the Region that focused on nowcasting included the EUMETSAT Satellite Application Facility (SAF) on Nowcasting and the Cooperation Meeting of European Forecasters.

38. The EUMETNET EMMA (Meteoalarm) project aiming at providing information on potential meteorological risks for the general public was a major project that had contributed to the WMO Programme on Natural Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DPM).

39. In a number of cases of flood events, the cooperation between meteorological and hydrological services helped in issuing timely forecast of critical or hazardous conditions. Further improvements are still required, for instance in the dissemination of these forecasts to the potentially affected communities, to the civil security and disaster managers.

40. Regional Meteorological Training Centres (Israel, Italy, Russian Federation and Turkey) continued to carry out satisfactorily their normal training programmes and to organize specialized courses. Some Members, including Germany and the UK, hosted and implemented specialized courses in response to the needs of other Members.

41. Given continued pressing needs by Members for capacity-building and human resources development in meteorology and hydrology, and in view of the need to strengthen the contribution of education and training in meeting those needs, XIV-RA VI agreed to nominate a Rapporteur on Education and Training Matters.

42. The fourteenth RA VI session recognized the importance of establishing strategic partnerships and alliances with NMHSs of donor Members, funding institutions, the United Nations system and regional and international organizations, as well as with the private sector, as a strategy in accessing extrabudgetary resources for technical cooperation activities. WMO had concluded a Memorandum of Understanding with the European Commission in December 2003 to foster collaboration in the areas of natural disaster prevention and mitigation, climate change, water resources management, protection of the environment and others.

43. An agreement has been reached between WMO and EUMETNET on the establishment of a joint office, in order to represent their interest to the European Commission in Brussels. The maintenance of close cooperation and contacts of WMO and EUMETNET with relevant EU bodies and the European Commission will be of great importance and an opportunity for NMHSs from RA VI.

44. The World Bank was active in developing projects to assist NMHSs in the eastern part of RA VI, starting with the Russian Federation, and continuing with the SE Europe and the Caucasus countries.

45. The assistance under VCP was focused primarily at improving or strengthening the main components of the WWW Programme. VCP support particularly contributed to the implementation of the coordinated programmes for the improvement of the GTS and the global network of upper-air stations.

Strategic planning in the Region

46. The most important outcome of XIV-RA VI session was a decision to develop the Regional Strategic Plan for the Enhancement of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services
The goal of the Plan is to strengthen the capabilities of all NMHSs throughout the Region by providing appropriate meteorological, hydrological and related services; highlighting the important role of WMO and its Members in the prevention and mitigation of natural disasters; protection of life and property; safeguarding of the environment and contributing to sustainable development.

47. The Association agreed on guiding principles and key elements to serve as a basis for the Strategic Plan. It builds on the nine strategies contained in the Sixth WMO Long-term Plan (2004-2011). Members also approved the adoption of an Action Plan for implementation while the Strategic Plan is being developed.

48. The RA VI Strategic Plan should be linked to the WMO SP and be valid for the same time period. This would require the final draft of the RA VI Strategic Plan to be presented to the president of RA VI and the Management Group during the side event of the Fifteenth WMO Congress, and for the president to request any last amendments (following consultation with the RA VI Members at Congress) before approving the Plan for implementation from January 2008.

Acknowledgements

49. The president of the Association would like to express his appreciation to all those who have contributed to the work of the Association. Particular thanks are due to Dr Petras Korkutis (Lithuania) for the service he rendered to the Association. Thanks are also due to the chairmen and members of the working groups as well as the rapporteurs of the Association.

50. Finally, the president would also like to express his deep gratitude and appreciation to the Secretary-General of WMO and his staff for their invaluable advice and assistance.

AGENDA ITEM 3.8.2– REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

Cg-XV/Rep. 3.8.2

1. A stakeholder survey was conducted in 2005/2006 to review the regional and technical cooperation activities structure and functioning. It involved the members of the Executive Council, partner and funding agencies, WMO staff concerned and Directors. The outcomes of the stakeholder survey were used as a basis for the development of a new approach and a new structure was established as the Development Cooperation and Regional Activities Department (DCR).

2. The responsibilities and functions of the Regional Offices and the related WMO Offices in the Regions were redefined. Appropriate actions were taken to make the new structure operational during the last part of the intersessional period.

3. The Regional Offices and Offices in the Regions assisted actively the Department concerned and Members in organizing all the meetings of the regional working groups.

4. The following regional technical conferences were organized:


- Fourth Technical Conference on Management of Meteorological and Hydrological Services in Asia on weather, climate and water services for secure and sustainable living, Islamabad, Pakistan, 5-9 February 2007;
- Regional Technical Conference, organized jointly with RA IV on Social and Economic Benefits of Weather, Climate and Water Services, Brasilia, Brazil, 12-14 July 2006;

- Fourth Technical Conference on Management of Meteorological Services in Regional Association V (South-West Pacific) on Sustainable Management of Meteorological Services, Apia, Samoa, 5-9 December 2005;


- Technical Conference on Strategic Planning in RA VI, Riga, Latvia, 6-7 November 2006.

5. The regional seminars and workshops organized were as follows:

- WMO Regional Seminar on "African Meteorological Services, Media and Development". Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 12-13 February 2007;

- Second Regional Seminar on Cost Recovery and Administration in Regional Association II (Asia), Hong Kong, China, 4-6 December 2004;

- Technical Seminar on Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, with the participation of NMHSs, civil protection agencies and climate change offices of Ibero-American countries, Guayaquil, Ecuador, 7-9 June 2006;

- The Conference on Climate Change and Natural Disasters with participation of NMHSs, civil protection agencies and climate change offices of Ibero-American countries, Guayaquil, Ecuador, 7-9 June 2006;

- WMO Regional Seminar on Enhancing Service Delivery by National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in Regional Association V (South-West Pacific), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 2-6 April 2007.

6. A series of workshops on socio-economic benefits of meteorological and related services to society were organized as follows:


- Subregional Workshop on the Social and Economic Benefits of Meteorological and Related Services for North, Central and West Africa, Bamako, Mali, 29 May–1 June 2006;

- Regional Technical Conference on Social and Economic Benefits of Weather, Climate and Water Services, Brasilia, Brazil, 12-14 July 2006;


WMO Subregional Workshop on Social and Economic Benefits of Weather, Climate and Water Services to Society for the League of Arab States, Kuwait City, Kuwait, 18-21 November 2006;


The Regional Offices and the WMO Offices in the Regions supported and actively participated in several meetings of Directors of NMHSs, including:

Fourth Meeting of Directors of NMHSs of Ibero-american countries, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 15-17 November 2006;

7th ECOWAS Meeting of Directors of NMHSs, Bamako, Mali, 17-19 February 2004;

3rd CEMAC Meeting of Directors of NMHSs, Bangui, 10-12 February 2004.

AGENDA ITEM 3.9– NATURAL DISASTER PREVENTION AND MITIGATION PROGRAMME

Cg-XV/Rep. 3.9

Natural Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Programme

1. Summary of actions during the fourteenth intersessional period:

Executive Council’s Actions:

(a) EC-LVI (June 2004), through Resolution 5, established an Executive Council Advisory Group on Natural Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (EC-AG DPM);

(b) The first session of the EC-AG DPM (March 2005) provided recommendations for a Revised Implementation Plan of the DPM Programme, which was adopted through Resolution 9 of EC-LVII;

(c) EC-LVIII (June 2006) provided further guidance on programmatic aspects and agreed to a work plan proposed by the Secretariat based on four fact-finding surveys and consultation with all WMO Programmes, technical commissions, regional associations (RAs), Members and partners and requested its Advisory Group to consider the outcomes of these surveys and consultations;

(d) The second session of the EC-AG DPM (29-31 January 2007) reviewed progress to date and provided recommendations on governance, organizational and programmatic aspects of the DPM Programme;

Organizational Aspects:

(e) In the first quarter of 2004, the Secretary-General established:

   (i) A Secretariat Steering Committee on Disaster Reduction, chaired by WMO Deputy Secretary-General, involving Directors of Programme Departments, to oversee the coordination of DPM-related activities within the Secretariat;

   (ii) The DPM Programme Office;
(f) All technical commissions’ and Programme Departments’ DPM Focal Points;

(g) Six WMO Regional Associations’ Working Group on DPM;

(h) 140 National DPM Focal Points have been designated by the Permanent Representatives (PRs);

(i) EC-LVIII decided to strengthen the role of the Presidents of Technical Commissions (PTC) as a group to coordinate the contributions of technical commissions, including inter-commission activities related to the DPM Programme;

(j) The 2007 PTC Meeting decided to address in greater detail possible inter-commission project areas, based on priorities established by Fifteenth Congress;

Consultation Process to develop programmatic focus:

(k) As a benchmark, the fact-finding surveys were submitted to the Members through the PRs, DPM focal points and working groups for completion. These included:
   
   (i) Country-level DPM survey – To map relevant hazards, role of NMHSs in national plans and structures, their capacities, gaps and needs and priorities to support disaster risk reduction. 139 Members contributed to the survey. A report of this analysis is being finalized and an electronic database has been developed with statistical capacities for direct utilization by WMO Programmes for projects planning and monitoring;

(ii) Regional-level DPM Survey - To map relevant hazard with trans-boundary impacts, capabilities, needs and opportunities at regional level. Survey was coordinated by the chairpersons of the WMO Regional Associations’ Working Groups on DPM (RA WG DPM) and the results will be incorporated in the RA strategic plans;

(iii) Programme Department-level and Technical Commission DPM Surveys – To map all DPM-related projects and activities of WMO Programmes and technical commissions. Both surveys were launched in parallel and were coordinated jointly by DPM focal points of Programme Departments and technical commissions. Projects and activities were identified and compiled in a “WMO DPM Programme Project Compendium”, which is being reviewed and updated and used for identification of synergistic projects;

(l) Regional disaster prevention and mitigation events were facilitated during the RA III (Lima, Peru) and RA I (Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso) sessions, to foster partnerships and collaborations for development of concrete projects;

(m) Consultations were held with a number of international partners including the World Bank, UNDP, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC), Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and several other partners, to identify concrete areas of collaboration (see paragraph 7 of this Report);

(n) The Secretariat convened the DPM focal points of all technical commissions and Programme Departments, Chairpersons of Regional Associations’ Working Groups on DPM, and selected partners, for the First WMO DPM Coordination Meeting (on 4-6 December 2006 at the WMO Headquarters), chaired by Dr Carlos Costa, Chairman of the RA IV Working Group on DPM and PR of Colombia. The meeting: (i) provided further inputs into the results of the surveys; and (ii) reviewed the “DPM Programme Project
Compendium” and identified a number of projects that are synergistic and present opportunities for inter-programme and inter-commission collaborations and coordination, as input to the Second Meeting of the EC–AG DPM.

**WORLD CONFERENCE ON DISASTER REDUCTION (WCDR) AND HYOGO FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION: 2005 – 2015 (HFA), AND OTHER MAJOR EVENTS**

2. WMO proactively participated in or convened the following international events:

(a) WCDR - WMO participated in all aspects and outcomes and Members were informed through circular letters. WMO participated in the drafting of HFA, prior to the conference and several PRs participated in the final negotiations of the draft to ensure that the role and contributions of WMO and NMHSs are reflected. HFA represents a set of outcomes and results that must be achieved if disaster risks are to be reduced. HFA can be obtained at [http://www.unisdr.org/eng/hfa/hfa.htm](http://www.unisdr.org/eng/hfa/hfa.htm). The Five Priorities for Action in HFA are:

   (i) Ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation;

   (ii) Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warnings;

   (iii) Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels;

   (iv) Reduce the underlying risk factors;

   (v) Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels;

(b) Third International Early Warning Conference (27-29 March 2006; Bonn, Germany), where the coordinated network of NMHSs involving GOS, GTS, and GDPFS was identified as an effective global mechanism in support of early warning systems. The conference presented 12 exemplary projects among which five were submitted by WMO. The ISDR Secretariat through Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning (PPEW) is following up with resource mobilization efforts for these projects. Members were informed through circular letters that more information is available at [http://www.wmo.int/disasters/ewc3/index.htm](http://www.wmo.int/disasters/ewc3/index.htm);

(c) WMO convened the Multi-Agency Symposium on Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems for Integrated Disaster Risk Management (May 25-26, 2006, Geneva, Switzerland), which was sponsored by six other agencies including the ISDR Secretariat, World Bank, UNDP, IFRC, OCHA, and UNESCO and was participated in by 99 experts from 18 international and regional agencies. Challenges in different stages of early warning systems were identified. Potential areas of collaboration among agencies were discussed. Four national practices were identified and are being pursued by WMO and partners. WMO is working to initiate a multi-agency task team for facilitation and implementation of early warning system projects at national and regional levels. Members were informed through circular letters that more information is available at [http://www.wmo.int/disasters/ews_symposium_2006/](http://www.wmo.int/disasters/ews_symposium_2006/).

**WMO PARTICIPATION IN RESTRUCTURING OF THE STRENGTHENED ISDR SYSTEM**

3. In 2005 several countries requested a review of ISDR and its Secretariat to ensure effective and coordinated approach for the implementation of the disaster risk reduction at national to international levels. A restructured ISDR System will be proposed for consideration of the 62nd UN General Assembly in 2007. ISDR System involves: (i) A Management oversight Board (MOB) chaired by UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator in his role as the Head of ISDR System, which members are the heads of UNDG, WMO, World Bank, IFRC, UNEP, and OCHA; (ii) A Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction
(GPDRR), meeting bi-annually; (iii) Several components such as Regional and Thematic Platforms, and a Scientific Advisory Committee; (iv) An Inter-Agency Secretariat. Details can be obtained at http://www.unisdr.org/eng/isdr-system/In-a-nutshell.htm. WMO through its Secretary-General is a Member of MOB, and through the DPM Programme Office has participated in the developments of different components of this system.

**IDENTIFICATION AND PRIORITIZATION OF NATIONAL AND REGIONAL CAPACITIES, GAPS AND REQUIREMENTS BASED ON COUNTRY- AND REGIONAL-LEVEL DPM SURVEYS**

4. The analyses of country-level surveys revealed common gaps and requirements, including needs falling under the following areas:

**Governance:**

(a) Understanding, at the ministerial level, of the benefits of NMHSs in support of national disaster risk reduction planning and related operations;

**Organizational:**

(b) Coordination and partnerships among NMHSs and other national agencies involved in disaster risk reduction;

**Technical:**

(c) Standardized hazard data products, metadata and methodologies for statistical analysis of hazard characteristics and mapping;

(d) Strengthened capacities for hazard early detection and warning, and integration of warnings and other specialised forecasting services in support of emergency preparedness, response and relief operations;

**Training and Public Outreach:**

(e) Technical training and capacity development of NMHSs’ management and operational staff;

(f) Multi-disciplinary training programmes targeted at strengthening operational linkages between NMHSs and other national agencies involved in disaster risk reduction;

(g) Public outreach programmes.

The analysis of the country-level surveys are being documented in a report as well as compiled in an electronic database to facilitate this information to WMO Programmes, technical commissions and regional associations for the prioritization and development of focused projects targeted at Members’ gaps and needs. The report of the analysis is expected to be launched at the ISDR Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (5-7June 2007, Geneva, Switzerland).

**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 2ND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ADVISORY GROUP ON NATURAL DISASTER PREVENTION AND MITIGATION MEETING**

5. Report of the Second Session of the EC AG DPM, can be accessed at http://www.wmo.int/disasters/ecagdpm2/. A summary of the recommendations include:

(a) A proposed Vision Statement:
"To enhance the contributions of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, in a more cost-effective, systematic and sustainable manner, towards the protection of lives, livelihoods and property, through strengthening of capabilities and cooperation in the field of disaster risk reduction at national to international levels."

(b) A proposed set of organization-wide strategic goals in disaster risk reduction derived from Priorities for Action of HFA, that should be reflected in WMO Strategic Plan 2008-2011 and Beyond to stress the area of disaster risk reduction as one of the high priorities of WMO and NMHSs. The proposed strategic goals include:

**Strategic Goal 1:** Development, improvement and sustainability of early warning systems in particular related to scientific and technical infrastructures, systems and capabilities for research, observing, detecting, forecasting and warnings of weather-, water- and climate-related hazards;

**Strategic Goal 2:** Development, improvement and sustainability of systems, methods and tools for recording, analyzing and providing hazard information for risk assessment, sectoral planning and other informed decision-making;

**Strategic Goal 3:** Development and delivery of warnings, specialized forecasts and other products and services that are timely, understandable to those at risk and driven by requirements of disaster risk reduction decision processes and operations;

**Strategic Goal 4:** Stimulate a culture of disaster preparedness through strengthening of capacities for better integration of NMHSs’ products and services in disaster risk reduction, and public outreach campaigns;

**Strategic Goal 5:** Strengthening cooperation and partnerships of WMO and NMHSs in national to international mechanisms and structures for implementation of disaster risk reduction;

(c) Need for improved organization-wide governance and operational mechanisms, along with more clear definitions of roles and responsibilities;

(d) WMO budget should reflect the importance of crosscutting projects and disaster risk reduction. Furthermore, through a result-based work planning and budgeting process, activities, expertise and resources across WMO should be leveraged for delivery of enhanced benefits to the Members;

(e) Need for a WMO-wide project management framework taking into consideration implications for projects that would require integrated planning and implementation;

(f) Need for identification and implementation of concrete crosscutting DPM projects that: (i) are result-based driven; (ii) are prioritized based on needs and priorities of Members; (iii) ensure focused deliverables that are achievable in a timely fashion; (iv) leverage existing activities, expertise and resources of relevant Programmes, technical commissions, Members and external partner agencies; and (v) involve resource mobilization strategy to ensure that projects are properly funded;

(g) Change the Programme name to WMO “Disaster Risk Reduction Programme,” to better reflect the scope of the Programme and its alignment with the international terminology and developments.
Examples of DPM Programme National and Regional Projects

6. The Secretary-General has embarked on several national and regional projects under the DPM Integrated Capacity Development Work plan.

(a) Examples include:

(i) CBS Severe Weather Forecasting Demonstration Project in Africa (SWFDP); Regions: RA I and at a later stage RA V; Lead Department: WWW; Contributing Departments: APP/PWS, APP/OCA, APP/TCP, Space, DPM, HWR, AREP, DCR, ETR;

(ii) Multi-Hazard Early Warning Demonstration Project – Shanghai; Region: RA II (China); Lead Department: AREP; Contributing Departments: WWW/ERA, WCP, CER/CPA, APP/TCP, APP/MMOP, APP/PWS, DPM, Space, HWR, ETR;

(iii) Multi-Hazard Early Warning Demonstration Project – France; Region: RA VI (France); Lead Department: DPM; Contributing Departments: WCP, WWW, AREP, HWR, APP/PWS, ETR;

(iv) Global Flash Flood Guidance System; Regions: RA IV, RA I, RA II; Lead Department: HWR; Contributing Department: DPM, WWW, ETR;

(v) Drought Monitoring and Risk Assessment in Southeast Europe and Africa; Region: RA I, RA VI; Lead Department: WCP/AgM; Contributing Departments: HWR, APP/PWS, Space, DPM, ETR;

(vi) Coordinated Training Activities Related to the DPM Crosscutting Projects; Lead Department: APP/PWS; Contributing Departments: ETR and all technical Programmes engaged in the projects;

(vii) WMO Guidelines in Disaster Risk Reduction; Lead Department: APP/PWS; Contributing Departments: all technical Programmes;

(b) These crosscutting projects:

(i) Are overseen by the Secretariat’s Steering Committee on Disaster Reduction and implemented through crosscutting project task teams;

(ii) Are being developed within the result-based project approach with clear expected outcomes, deliverables and timelines;

(iii) Are being designed to be scalable and serve as a pilot for implementation in other regions;

(iv) Involve cross-programme coordinated planning and budgeting;

(v) Will involve a resource-mobilization strategy for raising extrabudgetary funds.

STRENGTHENING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

7. The WMO Secretariat, through the collaborations of DPM and other Programme Departments, has established connection to several key UN and international agencies involved in disaster risk reduction. Potential strategic partners among the development, humanitarian, technical and funding agencies have been identified. Contacts were established at the level of the
heads of organizations as well as with working-level focal points, and potential areas of collaboration are identified. A number of concrete partnership initiatives are underway. Examples include:

(a) ISDR Secretariat and UNDP (through the UN country teams) to link NMHSs to national and regional ISDR Platforms (coordination forums for implementation of HFA) to facilitate their partnerships with disaster risk reduction authorities and agencies and mainstreaming their services in national and regional disaster plans and operations;

(b) World Bank and ISDR Secretariat on: (i) Modernization of NMHSs under the Bank’s Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), a newly established funding mechanism for disaster risk reduction projects at international, regional and national levels, with a major project in Southeast Europe, and other projects underway in Africa and the Middle East; (ii) development of standard methodology for socio-economic benefits of NMHSs in disaster risk reduction; (iii) incorporation of benefits of NMHS in the national Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers being prepared in some countries to increase investments in NMHSs by governments, development and funding agencies;

(c) Global Risk Identification Programme (a joint initiative of UNDP, ProVention Consortium, IFRC and a number of bi-lateral donor agencies) to facilitate risk assessment projects at national and regional levels through fostering partnerships, enhancing hazard and disaster loss databases, and provision of risk assessment tools, methodologies and trainings. Primary focus of WMO and GRIP would be on enhancing risk assessment for floods and droughts and WMO (through Integrated Flood management and Drought monitoring and risk assessment initiatives) will lead GRIP activities. Through GRIP, WMO will have access to other experts and initiatives, training and funding opportunities;

(d) UNESCO on: (i) enhancing flood forecasting through International Flood Initiative; (ii) public outreach programmes on weather-, water- and climate-related hazards targeted at schools; and (iii) with its IOC on development and strengthening of the tsunami early warning systems, particularly, related to telecommunication aspects of tsunami-related information on WMO Global Telecommunication System; as well as enhanced utilization of ocean observations in operational tropical cyclone and storm surge forecasting;

(e) IFRC, UNICEF, OCHA, IASC and UNOSAT, projects for strengthening of NMHS capacities through delivery of early warnings, and specialized products and services targeted at humanitarian planning and response operations at the national to local levels are being considered;

(f) GEO and its GEOSS through its “disaster benefit area” through multi-hazard early warning and hazard mapping, flood risk management related tasks.

AGENDA ITEM 3.10 – WMO SPACE PROGRAMME (WMOSP)

Cg-XV/Rep. 3.10

1. Fourteenth WMO Congress agreed the main thrust of the WMO Space Programme should be to make an increasing contribution to the development of the WWW Global Observing System (GOS) as well as to other WMO and supported programmes and associated observing systems through the provision of continuously improved data, products and services, from both operational and R&D satellites, and to facilitate and promote their wider availability and meaningful utilization around the globe. In addressing the directive from Fourteenth Congress, the WMO Space Programme Implementation Plan for 2004-2007 detailed a set of activities organized along four main
areas: expanding the space-based GOS; enhancing access; enhancing use; and training. Major accomplishments during 2004-2007 in the four main areas as well as key initiatives that have started and will be carried forward within the WMO Space Programme Implementation Plan for 2008-2011 are described below:

Expanding the space-based observing system and improving its capabilities

(N.B. A more complete description of the space-based component of the GOS is contained in paragraph 3.10.2, the following only describes the expansion since Cg-XIV)

Major accomplishments during 2004-2007

2. New contributing space agencies - The Korean Meteorological Agency (KMA), the Korean Aerospace Research Institute (KARI) and the Chinese National Space Administration (CNSA) have made formal commitments to WMO for their COMS-1 and HY and HJ series satellites, respectively, to be included as part of the space-based component of the GOS. KMA/KARI and CNSA join NASA, NOAA, EUMETSAT, ESA, JMA, JAXA, IMD, CMA, ROSCOSMOS and ROSHYDROMET as space agencies contributing to the GOS.

3. Update to the Implementation Plan for the space component of the GOS - The Implementation Plan for the Evolution of the Space and Surface-based Subsystems of the GOS contains 22 recommendations relevant to space-based observations that have been systematically addressed and used as guidance within the WMO Space Programme.

4. Global Contingency Planning - The draft Global Contingency Plan prepared by the WMO Space Programme Office was finalized and adopted by CGMS Members as the first version of the CGMS Global Contingency Plan. The plan was updated at CGMS-XXXIV as concerns the nominal and back-up positions for geostationary satellites.

5. Global Space-based Inter-calibration System (GSICS) - Action to establish GSICS was agreed by CGMS-XXXIII. The goal of GSICS is to ensure comparability of satellite measurements provided at different times by different instruments and programmes, and to tie these measurements to absolute references and SI standards. GSICS is expected to improve the use of space-based observations of the GOS and to enable recalibration of archived data.

6. Optimization of GEO and LEO plans – At the first WMO/CGMS Workshop on Optimization, the discussion on LEO systems focused on the distribution of Equatorial Crossing Time (ECT) of sun-synchronous satellites, comparing the planned missions for each type of payload with the GOS baseline and the underlying requirements for temporal sampling. CM-7 agreed on Workshop recommendations with respect to several particular types of instruments.

7. Response to GCOS requirements for space-based products - A preliminary analysis suggested current satellite plans provided impressive capabilities to meet most of GCOS requirements. It highlighted however a risk of gaps for some specific variables such as Earth radiation budget, sea level, sea surface winds or global precipitation. The analysis suggested re-defining the scope of the WMO Global Observing System beyond its current objectives that are driven by operational requirements of the World Weather Watch programme taking into account the need for long-term “sustained” measurement of all Essential Climate Variables.

Key initiatives for 2008-2011

8. Update and optimization of GOS baseline - CM-7 strongly supported the proposal to convene a second Workshop on Optimization, with participation of both operational and R&D agencies, in order to assess scenarios in more detail and refine the recommendations cited in the
CM-7 Report. CM-7 felt the role of the WMO Space Programme was particularly important in facilitating such discussions that have potentially a large impact on the overall efficiency of the space-based observation investment to meet global requirements.

9. CBS-Ext.(06) decided to commence an update of the baseline of the space-based GOS with 2025 as a new horizon, and expand its scope beyond the World Weather Watch in order to include sustained observations of additional variables required for climate monitoring, and ultimately to address the needs of other WMO Programmes as well.

10. IGeoLab - CM-7 supported the idea of using the IGeoLab framework for a demonstration mission based on Molniya orbits. Initiating such a project seemed particularly appropriate in the context of the International Polar Year (IPY) as it would pave the way for possible long-term sustained missions providing quasi-permanent coverage of the polar-regions.

11. Transition from Relevant R&D Instruments to Operational Missions – CM-7 agreed that improvements were possible in the transition from relevant R&D instruments to operational missions and suggested that WMO could help facilitate enhanced cooperation in this respect by preparing guidelines on the transition. It agreed that the guidelines should describe the benefits for transition by addressing issues that should be considered early in the transition process including data access, transition principles of operation, timetables and the need for user input.

Enhancing access to satellite data and products

Major accomplishments during 2004-2007

12. Integrated Global Data Dissemination Service (IGDDS) - IGDDS is a project within the WMO Information System (WIS) with a goal to ensure that WMO requirements for access to space-based observation data and products are satisfied in all WMO regions and for all WMO or co-sponsored programmes. One particular objective of IGDDS is to implement a satellite-based Digital Video Broadcast (DVB-S) dissemination service that would integrate data flows from multiple sources, with quasi-global coverage and inter-regional data exchange between the various regional hubs. This particular objective is about to be achieved through joint efforts of EUMETSAT, NOAA and CMA. Other dissemination means shall however be considered as a complement to the DVB-S broadcast, namely the GTS, Direct Readout from meteorological satellites, and the Internet.

13. Regional ATOVS Retransmission Service (RARS) - The objective of a RARS is to collect and deliver polar-orbiting sounding data for regional and global NWP with a timeliness requirement of less than 30 minutes. The global RARS network currently includes three regional RARs based in Europe, Asia-Pacific and South America respectively. The EUMETSAT EARS covers European, Atlantic, North American and Arctic areas. The global RARS network currently covered about 45% of the globe’s surface at the end of 2006 and is planned to cover 62% of the globe in 2007 and 68% by the end of 2008. Further action is needed to extend the coverage towards Africa.

Key initiatives for 2008-2011

14. IGDDS and RARS – While initial capabilities have been established for both RARS and IGDDS, further developments are required. During 2008-2011, Implementation Groups for IGDDS and RARS will work towards more global coverage in response to user data and product requirements that will guide the data management aspects for inter-regional exchange. WMO will seek to ensure that the GEONETCast initiative contributes to fulfil WMO IGDDS requirements.
Enhancing the use of satellite data and products

Major accomplishments during 2004-2007

15. Regional Specialized Satellite Centres (RSSC) - CM-6 reviewed a proposal to identify specific centres of excellence in thematic areas that could be designated Regional/Specialized Meteorological Centres for Satellite Products (Regional Specialized Satellite Centres). CM-7 discussed a proposal by EUMETSAT for a high-level concept of a global network of Regional Specialized Satellite Centres on the thematic area of operational climate monitoring (RSSC-CM). The concept would address the requirements of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS), and would utilize both environmental R&D and operational meteorological space agencies’ data, as well as GSICS. The goal of a global network of RSSC-CMs would be the sustained and operational provision of high-quality data for the Essential Climate Variables (ECV products) on a global scale.

Key initiatives for 2008-2011

16. RSSC for Climate Monitoring (RSSC-CM) - CM-7 noted the proposed timetable for RSSC-CM and strongly urged all participants to work towards development and approval of an Implementation Plan. CM-7 agreed that the global network would take advantage of existing facilities and could include virtual centres, each of them having several or many physically distinct components.

Supporting training activities on the use of satellite observation data and products, through new Centres of Excellence and the expansion of the Virtual Laboratory

Major accomplishments during 2004-2007

17. Virtual Laboratory for Education and Training in Satellite Meteorology (VL) – The VL has expanded from the original set of six Centres of Excellence (CoE) (Barbados, Costa Rica, Melbourne, Nairobi, Niamey and Nanjing) to the present set of nine CoEs. Argentina agreed to establish a CoE in Buenos Aires for training in satellite meteorology in Spanish. CBS-Ext.(06) was informed that Brazil had proposed the Centre for Weather Forecast and Climate Studies of Brazil (CPTEC) as a new CoE. A new CoE in Muscat (Oman) was inaugurated on 11 February 2006.

18. High Profile Training Event (HPTE) - The HPTE was held during 16-27 October 2006. The two-week event featured regional face-to-face training activities carried out in the VL CoEs in Melbourne, Australia and Nanjing, China with support from the other VL CoEs. Each CoE established a regional focus group. An analysis at the end of the HPTE indicated that more than 2,000 participants received lectures in more than 120 WMO Member countries. Finally, a training event of the Portuguese-speaking countries ended on 20 November 2006. CPTEC/INPE was responsible for this event. They also used the four WMO key lectures and translated all key lectures into Portuguese.

Key initiatives for 2008-2011

19. New CoEs - Two new CoEs will be considered in 2008-2011 including appropriate reviews by CBS OPAG IOS Expert Teams and approval by CBS. In particular, the southern African region as well as a CoE where Russian would be the working language for participants.

20. HPTE – Based on the success of the HPTE, a VL Management Group will consider a structured approach to benefit from capabilities demonstrated during the HPTE with the expectation that more training will be accomplished under the HPTE concept rather than the present traditional short-term classroom approach. Consideration will also be given to implementation of regional HPTEs to complement global ones.
AGENDA ITEM 4.1 – CONFERENCES
Cg-XV/Rep. 4.1

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

CONFERENCES

1. Invitations to host a session

Taking due account of the views of the presidents of regional associations and technical commissions, as provided for in the WMO General Regulations (see reference 1), the Executive Council at its fifty-eighth session (see reference 2) coordinated the provisional programme of sessions of constituent bodies to be held during the fifteenth financial period (2008-2011).

A circular letter was sent to all Members on 24 October 2006 (see reference 3), together with guidance material on the arrangements to be made by host countries, to enquire whether they would be able to invite one or more sessions of technical commissions or regional associations.

Invitations to host some sessions of the constituent bodies have been received and these are included in the Annex to paragraph 4.1.1 of Cg-XV/Doc. 4.1. If further invitations arrive before the opening of Fifteenth Congress, an addendum to the present document will be issued.

To facilitate the task of Congress, Permanent Representatives of Members attending Congress may wish to consult their Governments beforehand, should they wish to extend invitations during the Congress session.

2. Cost of sessions

The procedure by which provision is made of an amount equivalent to that which would be required if the session were held in Geneva was established for sessions of technical commissions. As for sessions of regional associations, Eleventh Congress had approved the proposal of the Executive Council that the budgetary allocations for these sessions should be based on the cost of the meeting at the Regional Office location (if there was one) or on the cost of the meeting in Geneva, whichever was the most favourable to the host country, in order to encourage hosting the session in the Region. This decision has been confirmed by Twelfth, Thirteenth and Fourteenth Congresses. The relevant budget estimates for the fifteenth financial period (2008-2011) have been made in accordance with the current practice for sessions of technical commissions, whereby the cost of holding a session away from Geneva is borne by WMO up to the amount which the session would cost if it were held in Geneva. Any amount in excess has to be covered by the host country.

AGENDA ITEM 4.3(1) – OFFICE AUTOMATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT
Cg-XV/Rep. 4.3(1)

A. Executive summary

1. During 2006/2007 the Secretariat has made progress towards standardization and integration of infrastructure and systems, while simultaneously bringing the systems and infrastructure up to a level where they can be supported by external vendors.
2. Further expansion of automation to streamline processes and support staff as recommended by both internal and external audits is possible in the area of procurement, document management, staff self-services, human resources, automated controls, reporting, disaster recovery, improved business continuity, etc.

B. Introduction

3. In 2006, the Secretary-General introduced a new Information Technology and Information Management Strategy for the Secretariat. Recognizing the limited investments made over the years for strategic use of IT advancements, WMO Members requested the Secretary-General in the Long-term Plan and the WMO Strategic Plan 2008-2011 to:

(a) Enhance the effectiveness of WMO by effective use of IT; and

(b) Improve its efficiency by advancing its use of technology and acquiring the skills required to cope with evolving needs.

C. Information Technology and Information Management Strategy

4. The Information Technology and Information Management Strategy addresses the concerns raised in the Long-term Plan and the recommendations made by internal and external audits. It outlines a framework for the Secretariat that integrates the management of skills/people, information and systems based on best practices, value assessment and risk management.

5. The WMO Secretariat will concentrate on its three core business areas:

(a) Servicing Member countries with better and timelier information;

(b) Establishment of an appropriate knowledge base;

(c) Internal administrative and management systems.

6. The main challenges for the WMO Secretariat are:

(a) Staff will have to adapt to an integrated approach;

(b) Staff will also have to learn how to work with electronic workflow tools;

(c) The Governance of Information Technology/Information Management must define what is “good enough” within the available resources and accept the consequent risk.

7. The table in the Annex shows the 11 major actions requiring either organizational/cultural changes or managerial/technical issues to be addressed and measured against set benchmarks, in order to assess the impact of the Strategy.

Status according the Information Technology/Information Management Strategy

8. With the roll-out of most of the necessary infrastructure, the Oracle support system and the new managerial capabilities, one could argue that a WMO reform has just begun. Now that the tools are in place, all concerned will have to learn to take full advantage of the new management approach and work with its management tools. The most difficult part will be to manage the cultural change that the new management approach is bringing to the Organization. Therefore, a core concern for the Secretariat is the regular and ongoing training of Directors, Chiefs, Managers and support staff.
Oracle implementation

Action 1 – Efficiency

9. During 2006 the implementation of Oracle E-business-suite to support the Secretary-General’s decentralization process and enabling aligning of responsibility and accountability for resources was concluded.

10. The major deliverables are:

   (a) A standard off-the-shelf implementation of the Oracle E-Business Suite (to avoid costly customization) and maintenance that can be operated by the end-user only requiring a standard web-browser;

   (b) Basic functions to cover WMO processes from requisition-to-payment and from recruitment-to-retirement. This includes standard modules such as: i-Procurement, Purchase, Human resource management services, Payroll, Account payable, Account receivable. This not only streamlines processes but also provides an audit trail to all actions and improves in this way the transparency;

   (c) WMO Portal providing all staff with online access to data and information to support Directors and staff in their daily management duties. The benefit of such a tool is improved efficiency as data and information are readily available.

11. The Oracle Project was originally planned as an upgrade to the old Oracle system for which additional funding was approved over and above the WMO budget. Both internal and external audits have noted that the Secretariat took the opportunity to review thoroughly and streamline the administrative processes and that the deliverables have gone beyond what was originally planned (e.g. online portal and i-Procurement) without requesting additional funding from Members.

12. Today, all staff have online access to the Oracle portal, the payslip is no longer distributed on paper, managers have online reports to support them in their daily management duties, all departments are preparing requests for goods & services, temporary staff, travel, etc., using the Oracle i-Procurement module. The introduction of “electronic approval” has reduced the amount of internal memos, thus increasing speed and enhancing auditability.

13. Without doubt, more functionality, controls and services could be added to the system. Internal audit recommends expansion in the area of procurement, self-services, human resources, business re-engineering, payroll, electronic funds transfer to banks, i-Procurement, further automated controls and integration of all reporting.

14. The Information Technology Division undertook a review, inter alia, of Oracle technology recurrent licenses cost/model jointly with Oracle and the United Nations International Computer Centre (UNICC). The review showed that the cost of the recurrent WMO licenses is fully in line with the United Nations master agreement for the Oracle licenses scheme and is equal to the model that other United Nations agencies are using.

Action 2 – Transparency and accountability

15. With the introduction of the Oracle system and especially the WMO portal, online management reports are now available to all staff to ease access to information, enhance transparency and assist directors in monitoring and managing their daily activities. This role-based
The tool will be expanded further in the future to fully integrate human resources self-service and document management facilities.

16. The combination of the Secretary-General’s budget decentralization process and the Oracle system’s implementation has changed the perception of the budget. From being an accounting tool it has become a management tool for directors. Furthermore, assigning individual responsibilities, with corresponding approval authorities and lines of accountability, has been aligned and implemented using electronic workflow.

**Action 3 – Policies**

17. In early 2007, the Secretary-General introduced a new policy on the use of WMO computing resources, which clearly defines roles and responsibilities regarding the use of WMO equipment and staff expectations with respect to privacy. Other policies on the use of mobile devices were put in place to regulate and control costs.

**Action 4 – Governance**

18. In 2006, the Secretary-General re-established the Information Systems Strategic Advisory Committee (ISSAC) with new Terms of Reference and composition, to advise on IT and Information Management strategies, business plans and budgets for approval. The committee meets quarterly.

19. A Document Management Board has been established to guide and oversee the establishment of a Document Management Policy and to streamline information management processes in the Secretariat.

20. The WMO Secretariat has increased its use of United Nations negotiated agreements for the procurement of standard IT and communication equipment and services, which, because of the bigger volumes, benefits from better conditions with faster, more cost-effective deliveries for small organizations.

**Action 5 – System redundancy**

21. The WMO Secretariat has expanded its use of the UNICC for infrastructure support to ensure higher availability and facilities for disaster recovery. Today, UNICC is hosting and managing the infrastructure for critical applications such as the Oracle E-Business Suite, Oracle Portal, WMO Public Web and performing backups. It is envisaged to take further advantage of UNICC to provide other critical services including but not limited to e-mail.

**Action 6 - Archiving**

22. In 2006 a consultant reviewed the WMO archiving situation. The recommendation will be considered by the Document Management Board (see Action item 4)

**Action 7 – Infrastructure**

23. In line with the Information Technology/Information Management Strategy, WMO’s mandate does not require the Secretariat to rely on “cutting-edge” technology (e.g. upgrade every time IT manufacturers produce an improved capability) provided that its infrastructure is sustainable and supported by vendors.
24. To bring WMO Secretariat on a level with other United Nations agencies and ensure support from vendors, the following major improvements to the infrastructure were undertaken in 2006-2007:

(a) The user environment was upgraded to Windows 2003, for which the WMO Secretariat had the necessary license agreement in place under the United Nations Master Agreement with Microsoft. It should be noted that future upgrades (Vista) would require new licenses to be purchased. The upgrade included the replacement of 150 obsolete PCs and upgrade of 100 PCs that were not capable of running the XP operating system and Windows 2003;

(b) A central storage area network was put in place in early 2007 enabling staff to move data away from their local PC hard–disk and introduce proper backup facilities to avoid loss of data;

(c) The Secretariat introduced wireless access for meeting rooms;

(d) A virtual private network was established to link regional offices and the Secretariat in a secure manner. Together with the central storage area network, the virtual private network enables staff to work from home in a secure manner, thus enhancing the “availability” of staff;

(e) The introduction of BlackBerry (phone, e-mail and calendar) services to authorized staff has increased the “availability” of staff while away from office on mission, etc. ;

(f) Electronic voting is being introduced by “piggybacking” on the International Labour Organization investment as recommended by the United Nations Chief Executive Board to maximize of the return on investments among United Nations agencies;

(g) Components of the internal telephone system are being scheduled for an upgrade to ensure support from vendors;

(h) Outsourcing of e-mail administration to the UNICC to ensure 24x7 services and reduce costs.

Action 8 – Electronic Document Management Systems (EDMS)

25. On the basis of the recommendation of the Information Systems Strategy Advisory Committee (ISSAC) (see Governance – Action 4), the Secretary-General approved the streamlining of information management processes in the Secretariat and taking advantage of the off-the-shelf document management system (Documentum) to enhance efficiency and promote a more effective information management culture with adequate use of IT and information management tools.

Action 9 – Regional offices

26. With the implementation of the Oracle system, Oracle portal and the virtual private network (Actions 1, 2 and 7) the WMO Regional Offices can now be fully integrated into the Secretariat infrastructure in a secure manner and benefit from better and faster access to information and data.

Action 10 – Disaster recovery

27. More of the WMO systems are being moved to the UNICC to benefit from disaster recovery. For example, the Oracle system, the WMO portal and the public web already benefit from that service. With plans also to move e-mail to UNICC, most of the critical systems and services in WMO will thus profit from the UNICC disaster recovery systems. It should be noted
that WMO is participating in the United Nations-wide emergency notification system that will allow messages (voice, SMS, e-mail, fax, etc.) to be sent to staff simultaneously in case of emergency. This is required for avian flu preparedness, for example.

**Action 11 – Staff skills**

28. Within the Information Technology Division, several job descriptions have been revised and the posts advertised so as to acquire the necessary expertise and skills to deliver the above action items. Weekly training sessions for WMO staff are being conducted by REM primarily to help staff get acquainted with the new streamlined processes and tools and to overcome the fear of change.

Annex: 1
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<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Speed</th>
<th>Flexibility</th>
<th>Accountability</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Transparency</th>
<th>Reduced admin. costs</th>
<th>Business continuity and risk reduction</th>
<th>Quality</th>
<th>Time frame</th>
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AGENDA ITEM 5 – INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMME  
Cg-XV/Rep. 5

Capacity building

1. The Secretariat initiated and implemented the following activities:

- Training workshops for weather presenters were organized with the support of Members on 20-24 September 2004 in Dakar, Senegal; on 12-16 December 2005 in Maputo, Mozambique; and on 20-24 February 2006 at the WMO Headquarters;
- WMO was involved in training events organized by the *Forum international de la météo* (FIM) and the International Association of Broadcast Meteorology (IABM), as well as in the China TV Weather Presenters’ Contests;
- 25-minutes training film “10 steps to broadcast meteorology”; with accompanying course notes, was produced for use by NMHSs and the media;
- WMO online, multilingual weather presenters’ forum (www.wmofeed.org) was launched, aimed at improving the communication of meteorological information to the public by encouraging professionals to exchange data and experiences, and to discuss presentation skills;
- WMO joined partners (e.g. FIM, IABM, Médias Nord-Sud and Agenda 21) in workshops for journalists on major topics, such as climate change and disaster reduction;
- Media communication skills workshops have been organized for senior WMO staff at the WMO Headquarters in 2004, 2005 and 2006.

Information campaigns

2. Information campaigns encompassing press conferences, information kits, specific media products and exhibitions have been set up by the Secretariat with the invaluable assistance of Members on the occasion of the following major events:

- Annual sessions of the Conference of Parties to UNCCD and UNFCCC;
- Several meetings of meteorological societies;
- 150th Anniversary of international cooperation in meteorology (Brussels, Belgium, 2003);
- International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Mauritius, 2005);
- World Conference on Disaster Reduction (Kobe, Japan 2005);
- World Summit on the Information Society (Tunis, Tunisia, 2005);
- Important events of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;
- Various international climate-related events in Geneva (Switzerland);
- World Expo 2005 (Japan, United Nations Pavilion)

Public information and media products

3. Comprehensive public information and media kits were produced and disseminated for the following major events:
128 PROGRESS/ACTIVITY REPORTS

- World Water Day 2004 on the theme of “Water and disasters” was developed and disseminated worldwide by WMO, which jointly with ISDR was the lead agency within the UN System for the global public information campaign about the Day;
- World Meteorological Day on the themes of “Weather, climate and water in the information age” (2004); “Weather, Climate, Water and Sustainable Development” (WMD 2005), “Preventing and Mitigating Natural Disasters” (WMD 2006) and “Polar meteorology; global impacts” (WMD 2007);
- SIDS Conference (2005);
- World Conference on Disaster Reduction (2005);

4. WMO Annual Report and quarterly WMO Bulletin were re-designed in 2004. Other new public information products issued during the reporting period included, but were not limited to, the following brochures and books:
- MeteoWorld (quarterly issue in both print and on-line versions);
- WMO at a glance;
- A career in meteorology;
- We care for our climate (comic book);
- Elements for Life (216 pages).

**Video production**

5. Video material produced on various occasions included:

- WMO Public Service Announcements were aired by CNNI;
- Films for each of WMD (in the six languages, on videotape and DVD);
- Newsfeeds, video news releases and B-rolls, drawing on WMD film materials, used by for television networks at various occasions, e.g. the international launch of the International Polar Year 2007-2008;
- Film entitled The other side of Paradise (12 minutes, English), produced for television on the contribution of WMO to the sustainable development of SIDS, had been widely used and had been chosen as an exhibit in Stories from the Field, the First United Nations Documentary Film Festival.

**Website**

6. The WMO Website was re-designed. The WMO communications were enhanced through the Website, notably through the further development of Meteoworld online, the News segment, and News from Members in the media section.

**Other activities**

7. Increased visits by the public to the WMO Headquarters, notably by Parliamentarians, students on study tours of universities and academic institutions.
AGENDA ITEM 6.2(1) – WMO STRATEGIC PLAN 2008-2011 AND BEYOND

Cg-XV/Rep. 6.2(1)

1. EC-LVIII (June 2006) recognized the need to focus WMO long-term planning on strategies to achieve the desired outcomes of the Organization. The Council had decided that the Seventh Long-term Plan should be referred to as the WMO Strategic Plan 2008-2011 and Beyond, which would be a statement of strategic intent for the Organization for the period 2008-2011, corresponding with the fifteen financial period.

2. In furtherance of the Council decision, the EC Working Group on Long-term Planning (WG/LTP) supported by the Secretariat developed a draft final version of the Strategic Plan. It should be noted that the Strategic Plan builds upon a long-term planning process that had enabled WMO to respond to the changing needs of its Members and society, as well as to expected technological advances. Based on the synthesis of all relevant factors and fiscal realities, the Plan outlined a four-year programme focused on 2008-2011. Although its primary focus was on the WMO financial period 2008-2011, because of the longer lead times required for certain development and implementation activities, it extended into the future. This would enable it to accommodate societal and technological issues that may impact WMO objectives. Furthermore, the Strategic Plan should motivate and guide the collective and coordinated activities of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, activities of regional associations and technical commissions.

3. The Strategic Plan was the end result of a planning process driven by the needs and priorities identified by Members. The Plan outlines the organization’s Top Level Objectives and provided guidance and direction to ensure focused and coordinated approaches across the Organization. These Objectives were to: produce more accurate, timely and reliable forecasts and warnings of weather, climate, water, and related environmental elements; improve the delivery of weather, climate, water, and related environmental information and services to the public, governments and other users; provide scientific and technical expertise and advice in support of policy and decision-making and implementation of the agreed international development goals and multilateral agreements.

4. The WMO Strategic Plan has five strategic thrusts: science and technology development and implementation to monitor and observe the environment, to forecast and warn of significant weather, water and climate conditions, and to understand the Earth system; service delivery to ensure that society can realize the full benefit of the weather, water and climate information and services that WMO Members produce; capacity building to sustain and improve the ability of all Members, with a particular focus on developing and least developed countries to provide essential environmental services to their societies; partnership to work with international agencies, other organizations, academia, the media and the private sector to improve the range and quality of critical environmental information and services; efficient management and good governance to ensure environmental information and services remain affordable.

5. The desired outcomes of WMO activities to be attained through the Plan, are: improved protection of life, livelihoods and property; improved health and wellbeing of citizens; increased safety on land, at sea and in the air; sustained economic growth in both developed and developing countries; and protection of other natural resources and improved environmental quality.

6. To realize these opportunities requires a vision, a plan, and a strong organizational commitment. The WMO Strategic Plan lays out the vision and roadmap whereby Members of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) build on their achievements and collectively identify their commitment to advance their efforts to address critical societal and development needs of today and the future. In the Plan, the desired societal outcomes are addressed by the
Organization’s long-term objectives. These objectives are achievable through a series of initiatives, which emphasized five strategic. Expectations associated with each of these initiatives defined a set of eleven Expected Results and associated performance measures, which formed the basis for the development of WMO Operating Plan and the WMO Budget or Result-based Budget document.

7. The Strategic Plan was developed with the aim of ensuring that it serves as foundation for an overall WMO Operating Plan and support evaluation and monitoring of results-based budgeting for the Secretariat and within Member countries. It should be noted that a WMO Secretariat Operating Plan (see to Cg-XV/Doc. 6.2(3) on Secretariat Operating Plan) for the WMO Programmes and Major Activities has been prepared in agreement with the Strategic Plan. Alignment of the WMO Programmes with the WMO Strategic Plan 2008-2011 and Beyond is expected to commence soon after fifteenth session of Congress.

8. Congress adopted the WMO Strategic Plan 2008-2011 and Beyond under the provisions of Article 8 of the WMO Convention with the following comments:

(a) Under Article 8(a), Congress approves the general policies set down in the Plan for the fulfilment of the purposes of the Organization. These general policies do not impose any specific commitments on Members of the Organization but provide an agreed framework within which Members work together to achieve their common objectives;

(b) Under Article 8(b), Congress recommends to Members that they contribute to the implementation of the Plans. As far as the Members of WMO are concerned, the individual Plans thus have the status of recommendations and do not carry the force of commitments;

(c) Under Article 8(c), Congress refers to the relevant bodies of the Organization those matters that fall within their individual terms of reference. The constituent bodies and the Secretariat are thus expected to take appropriate action within the framework of the agreed policies to help to realize the vision, desired societal outcome, strategies, strategic thrusts and initiatives set down in the Plan.

AGENDA ITEM 6.2(3) – WMO STRATEGIC PLAN 2008-2011 AND BEYOND

MEASURING THE SUCCESS OF WMO

Cg-XV/Rep. 6.2(3)

Background

1. Following the decision of Cg-XIV, WMO has introduced a system of Results-based Budgeting. This system, already prevalent in public institutions in a number of countries, is being introduced throughout the United Nations System. The main difference over previous budgeting methodologies is that resources are allocated on the basis of the results the Organization intends to achieve over the budgeting period. WMO has expressed these “Expected Results” in terms of the impacts and benefits of WMO’s activities on society and Members in a form which should be understandable to decision-makers.

2. With the move to Results-based Budgeting and Management there is a need to monitor how successful WMO is being at achieving its Expected Results. In an environment where government spending in many nations is being reduced it is of greatest importance to demonstrate to Members who invest in the programmes of WMO (through assessed contributions, voluntary
contributions and through the Members’ NMHSs) that tangible benefits to society are being delivered.

3. Therefore, it is in the interests of the Organization to identify tangible, measurable indicators which demonstrate the success with which WMO is delivering its Expected Results. Such indicators are often referred to as Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).

Previous discussion on KPIs

4. Although simple in principle, the practice of identifying and measuring such indicators can prove a major challenge when an organization is embarking on the activity for the first time. This has been demonstrated in the discussion to date within the Executive Council and its working groups.

5. The Executive Council Working Group on Long-term Planning (WG/LTP) discussed the principles behind identifying KPIs at its meeting in March 2006. They concluded that indicators should be:

(a) Indicative, not exhaustive;
(b) Based on existing, baseline data;
(c) Symbolic;
(d) Justifiable; and
(e) Foreseen to be relevant and stable measures.

6. At EC-LVIII in June 2006, KPIs were discussed further. EC recognized that the absence of specific and measurable performance indicators in the Sixth Long-term Plan (6LTP) limited the evaluation of the 6LTP to being largely qualitative and reduced its utility, and that this should be remedied in the preparation of the WMO Strategic Plan 2008-2011 (paragraph 6.2). Further noting the difficulty of evaluating performance, EC agreed that the Strategic Plan should be linked to the performance of the Organization through a set of KPIs and targets (KPTs) which would be used to measure the progress towards the Expected Results. Council stressed that the KPTs should be realistic, achievable, unambiguous and be of an optimum number (paragraph 6.6).

7. Further discussions took place under the Programme and Budget item. EC agreed to the establishment of an Informal Group of Experts to provide further guidance to the Secretary-General on the preparation of the programme and budget proposals for 2008-2011, in particular with regard to the definition of performance indicators (paragraph 5.2.3).

8. The informal group of experts carried out its work by correspondence during August 2006. A number of members of EC and their representatives provided input to the Secretariat. This input was incorporated into the definition of KPIs which were included in the Programme and Budget proposals for 2008-2011 (Cg-XV/Doc. 8.2) and the draft WMO Strategic Plan 2008-2011 (Cg-XV/Doc. 6.2(1)).

9. Further discussion and refinement of the KPIs was prompted following a letter from the Permanent Representative of the UK with WMO to the Secretary-General. An informal meeting was held in February 2007 attended by representatives of the UK and Germany and the Secretariat. The meeting proposed a revised set of KPIs which were felt to be more measurable and more relevant to decision-makers than the set included in the already issued Cg-XV documentation. These have since been subject to minor modifications and are presented in the Annex to the document part of this document.
10. Whilst the use of KPIs is seen as integral part of Results Based Management, and has been endorsed by Executive Council, it has proved a challenge to identify a set of KPIs which could best demonstrate to Members the success of WMO and the benefits of their investments in WMO and their NMHSs. The suggested KPIs included in this document represent another step forward in this process, but they are in need of still further development before being suitable for effectively measuring the success of WMO.

Discussions and decisions for Congress

11. There is a need to further clarify how the performance indicators would be measured. Whilst this is very clear for some of the suggestions – for example I.2 “The number of Members providing forecasts out to at least 3 days on the World Weather Information Service.” – this is not necessarily the case for others, e.g. how to measure the reliability of projections of climate variability and change (II.1).

12. Congress is invited to consider the set of KPIs presented in this document, and to request Executive Council to use them as the basis for further development of the KPIs with the aim of establishing a final set of KPIs and recommendations for their measurement by the beginning of the fifteenth financial period.

AGENDA ITEM 7.1 – MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGs)

Cg-XV/Rep. 7.1

1. The Eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and related targets are recalled in the attached Annex.

2. Although WMO plays an important role in the development arena, it continued to be seen as first and foremost a technical and scientific organization by most of the stakeholders at national, regional and global levels.

3. An illustration of the WMO relevant link to the MDGs follows:
   (a) The MDG No.1 (Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger) may not be an achievable objective for governments and development agencies without improved weather and climate services, flood forecasting or an advance in agrometeorological services that affect food security, water resources and land use. Also, weather, climate and water patterns may trigger drought, crop failure, forest fires and massive loss of life and livelihoods across entire regions, ruining economies and wiping out decades of development efforts;

   (b) With reference to MDG No. 7 (Environmental sustainability) at the global level, WMO spearheads world efforts to monitor the environment and shield it from such potential hazards as global warming, climate change and sea-level rise. Substantial contributions are also made to protecting the ozone layer, and regular open access bulletins are issued on its conditions. At the country level, WMO has initiated important cross-cutting programmes to respond to the special needs of those most in need of support and assistance to reach the MDGs, in particular the LDCs and the SIDS;

   (c) With regard to MDG No. 6 (Combating HIV/Aids, malaria and other diseases), WMO has set up a global hydrological network (WHYCOS) for water quality monitoring and water resources assessment, an abiding prerequisite for sustainable development, but also an
essential tool to prevent the spread of water-borne diseases. Specific action is being taken concerning the development of a global partnership for development. Furthermore, climate information and prediction services would be used in combating malaria and respiratory diseases;

(d) Concerning MDG No. 3 (Promote gender equality and empower women), WMO organizes Conferences on Women in Meteorology and Hydrology. The Education and Training Programme, Applications of Meteorology Programme and Hydrology Water Resources Programme, among others, provide tools to consider the gender sensitive aspects of the activities of NMHSs such as the fellowships request for female candidates, the application of climate information by rural women and the special roles women play in water management and disaster response;

(e) The MDG No. 8 (Develop a Global Partnership for development) would be supported through WMO Programmes addressing special needs of the LDCs, SIDS and other developing countries. Weather-, climate- and water-related events are factors that most influence the development of those countries, which at the same time have the least capacity to deal with it. In this regard, the implementation of the Natural Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Programme and the WMO Programme for the LDCs would assist the poorest countries to improve their productive capacities in support of economic growth.

4. Most of WMO Programmes incorporated means of helping NMHSs to improve the provision of weather, climate and water services having a direct impact on the relevant MDGs. For the awareness and understanding of the MDGs by Heads and senior staff of NMHSs, relevant presentations were made by the Secretariat at various regional technical conferences, seminars and workshops so as to improve the advocacy capacity of NMHSs.

Annex: 1
ANNEX

THE EIGHT MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND RELATED TARGETS

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
Target 1 Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day
Target 2 Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education
Target 3 Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women
Target 4 Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and to all levels of education no later than 2015

Goal 4: Reduce child mortality
Target 5 Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate

Goal 5: Improve maternal health
Target 6 Reduce by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
Target 7 Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS
Target 8 Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability
Target 9 Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources
Target 10 Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation
Target 11 By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers
Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development

Target 12: Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system. This includes a commitment to good governance, development, and poverty reduction—both nationally and internationally.

Target 13: Address the special needs of the Least Developed Countries. This includes: tariff and quota free access for LDC exports; enhanced programme of debt relief for HIPC and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous ODA for countries committed to poverty reduction.

Target 14: Address the Special Needs of landlocked countries and small island developing States (through the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the outcome of the 22nd special session of the General Assembly).

Target 15: Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term.

Target 16: In cooperation with developing countries, develop and implement strategies for decent and productive work for youth.

Target 17: In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable, essential drugs in developing countries.

Target 18: In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications.

AGENDA ITEM 7.2 – FOLLOW-UP TO THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (WSSD)

Cg-XV/Rep. 7.2

1. WMO continued to participate in international meetings which were relevant to issues to the Follow-up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), including sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) which had developed indicators of sustainable development in a framework of themes and sub-themes as given in Annex 1. Most of the thematic clusters of the multi-year programme of work of the CSD are of interest to WMO as indicated in Annex 2.

2. Actions have been taken by the Secretary-General through the various Scientific and Technical Programmes as well as specific new initiatives, in order to support the implementation of the outcomes of WSSD, including those aimed at poverty eradication, food security, adaptation to the effects of climate, establishing a multi-hazard Early Warning System, water resources management, environment protection, and science and technology development.

3. Background information and activity reports on the implementation of some internationally-agreed development actions and goals are given under relevant agenda items.

4. In order to mobilize resources from all sources for the implementation of the Programme of Action for the SIDS, WMO, with the support of donor countries, implemented various SIDS regional projects. A SIDS-Caribbean Project “Preparedness to Climate Variability and Global
Change in Small Island Developing States, Caribbean Region*, funded by the Government of Finland, was fully implemented in support of upgrading meteorological and hydrological services in line with the Programme of Action. The 18 countries covered by this project benefited from activities aimed at:

- Improvement of the telecommunication system on national and regional levels;
- Rehabilitation and upgrading of the observing network;
- Renovation of the regional laboratory for the calibration and maintenance of instruments;
- Upgrading of the database management systems;
- Implementation of data rescue programmes;
- Training and awareness building.

Another funding of the Government of Finland was used to formulate a SIDS-Pacific Project which requires financial support for its implementation in 16 Pacific Island countries.

5. Although the Mauritius Strategy clearly identified activities related to weather, climate and water as critical for sustainable development and growth in SIDS (see Annex 3) the NMHSs of SIDS are not sufficiently included in national and regional socio-economic development agendas. In this connection, a consultant mission was implemented to initiate a WMO Strategic Action Plan for SIDS that will focus on the development plans of the respective NMHSs. The Strategic Action Plan would enhance the capacities of NMHSs of SIDS so that they can contribute efficiently and in a timely manner towards environmentally and economically sound sustainable development. As the activities in the Strategic Action Plan are essentially cross-cutting in nature, WMO Scientific and Technical Programmes as well as regional associations, relevant regional economic groupings, development partners and regional centres/institutions would be involved in its development and implementation.

6. Further actions are planned to assist NMHSs of SIDS in resource mobilization and mainstreaming the Mauritius Strategy for implementation in their work programmes.

Annexes: 3
ANNEX 1

FRAMEWORK OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THEMES AND SUB-THEMES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Poverty</th>
<th>Governance</th>
<th>Health</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Demographics</th>
<th>Natural hazards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Sub-themes | - Income poverty  
- Income inequality  
- Sanitation  
- Drinking water  
- Access to energy  
- Living conditions | - Good governance  
- Crime | - Morality  
- Health Care Delivery  
- Nutritional Status  
- Health status and risks | - Education level  
- Literacy | - Population  
- Tourism | - Vulnerability to natural hazards  
- Disaster preparedness and response |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Atmosphere</th>
<th>Land</th>
<th>Oceans, seas and coasts</th>
<th>Freshwater</th>
<th>Biodiversity</th>
<th>Economic development</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| Sub-themes | - Climate change  
- Ozone layer depletion  
- Air quality | - Land use and status  
- Desertification  
- Agriculture  
- Forests | - Coastal zone  
- Fisheries  
- Marine environment | - Water quantity  
- Water quality | - Ecosystem  
- Species | - Macroeconomic performance  
- Sustainable public finance  
- Employment  
- Information and communication technologies  
- Research and development  
- Tourism |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Global economic partnership</th>
<th>Consumption and production patterns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Sub-themes | - Trade  
- External financing | - Material consumption  
- Energy use  
- Waste generation and management  
- Transportation |
## MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (CSD)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cycle</th>
<th>Thematic Cluster</th>
<th>Cross-cutting issues</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004/2005</td>
<td>- Water</td>
<td>Poverty eradication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Sanitation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Human settlements</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006/2007</td>
<td>- Energy for sustainable development</td>
<td>Changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Industrial development</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Air pollution / atmosphere</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Climate change</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2008/2009</td>
<td>- Agriculture</td>
<td>Protecting and managing the natural resource vase of economic and social development</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Rural development</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Land</td>
<td>Sustainable development in a globalizing world</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Drought</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Desertification</td>
<td>Health and sustainable development</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Africa</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2010/2011</td>
<td>- Transport</td>
<td>Sustainable development of SIDS</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Chemicals</td>
<td>Sustainable development for Africa</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Waste management</td>
<td>Other regional initiatives</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Mining</td>
<td>Means of implementation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- A ten-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns</td>
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<td>2012/2013</td>
<td>- Forests</td>
<td>Institutional framework of sustainable development</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- Biodiversity</td>
<td>Gender equality</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Biotechnology</td>
<td>Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Tourism</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Mountains</td>
<td></td>
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<td>2014/2015</td>
<td>- Oceans and seas</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Marine resources</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Small island developing states</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Disaster management and vulnerability</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016/2017</td>
<td>- Overall appraisal of implementation of Agenda 21, the programme for the further implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MAURITIUS STRATEGY

Identified Priority Areas

- Climate change & sea-level rise
- Natural and environmental disasters
- Management of waste
- Coastal and marine resources
- Freshwater resources
- Land resources
- Energy resources
- Tourism resources
- Biodiversity resources
- Transport and communication
- Science and technology
- Graduation from Least Developed Country states
- Trade globalization and trade liberalization
- Sustainable production & consumption
- National and regional enabling environments
- Health
- Knowledge management and information for decision making culture
- Implementation

AGENDA ITEM 7.3 – WMO PROGRAMME FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (LDCs)

Cg-XV/Rep. 7.3

1. Activities were carried out at the Secretariat level and at LDCs level to mainstream WMO’s support to the NMHSs into the Brussels Programme of Action for the LDCs for the decade 2001-2010, in particular some of its seven commitments which are the following:

   Commitment 1: Fostering a people-centred policy framework;
   Commitment 2: Good governance at national and international levels;
   Commitment 3: Building human and institutional capacities;
   Commitment 4: Building productive capacities to make globalization work for LDCs;
   Commitment 5: Enhancing the role of trade in development;
   Commitment 6: Reducing vulnerability and protecting the environment;
   Commitment 7: Mobilizing financial resources.

2. A few Members contributed to the Trust Fund for the NMHSs of the LDCs, in particular Australia, Colombia, Egypt, Hong Kong, Pakistan and Turkey, in cash and in kind of training, fellowships, Internet connectivity, among others.

3. Support and assistance were provided to LDCs by various Scientific and Technical Departments under their respective Programmes, including:

   (a) Development of Community approach to Flood Management, implementation of HYCOS projects, and organization of workshops on groundwater management;

   (b) Development and implementation of projects on website development for NMHSs of LDCs initiated in cooperation with the Hong Kong Observatory;
(c) Organization of workshops on Public Weather Services, instrumentation, aviation and
cost recovery;

(d) Provision of climate data rescue equipment to 23 LDCs;

(e) Support for the development of GAW stations;

(f) Award of high priority fellowships;

(g) Support for the participation of experts from LDCs in WMO and other related meetings,
and

(h) Development of projects to support NMHSs of LDCs affected by the December 2004,
Indian Ocean Tsunami.

4. A national awareness raising workshop on the creation and development of the NMHS
in Djibouti was organized in December 2005. One of the outputs of the workshop was a project
proposal for enhancing meteorological services in the country.

5. Assistance was provided to the Central African Republic is organizing a seminar for
women in meteorology, hydrology and related sciences which has enhanced the activities of the
Association of Female Meteorologists and Hydrologists (OFMHYCA) and the visibility of the NMHS.

6. WMO missions were carried out to a number of LDCs using VCP and WMO Trust Fund
for the LDCs to sensitize and raise Government awareness on the role and function of National
Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in sustainable development in Burundi, Eritrea,
Liberia, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Zambia, Haiti, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and
Vanuatu. Projects proposals were consequently developed for enhancing the capacities of
NMHSs and resources need to be mobilized accordingly.

7. A meeting on the WMO Programme for the LDCs was organized in Geneva,
Switzerland, in April 2005 with the active participation of representatives of LDCs leading to the
development of a Strategic Action Plan for enhancing the contribution of the NMHSs of the LDCs
to socio-economic development. The fifty-seventh session of the Executive Council in June 2005
endorsed the Strategic Action Plan, as well as the specific recommendations of the meeting.

8. A workshop on the Malian good practices on the beneficial and effective use of
meteorological information and products by rural communities was organized in January 2006 in
Bamako, Mali to share experiences with seven other LDCs (Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad,
Gambia, Guinea, Mauritania and Senegal).

9. Internet connection projects were implemented in the NMHSs of Sierra Leone and
Zambia to facilitate the dissemination of early warning information and products to the user
community and the case of Guinea Bissau is underway.

10. The Senior Staff of NMHSs of several LDCs participated actively in a series of
workshops on socio-economic benefits of meteorological and related services to society organized
in Bamako, Mali in May 2006; Nairobi, Kenya in August 2006; Manila, Philippines in November
2005 and Kuwait City, Kuwait in November 2006. The objective of the workshops was to start a
process for evaluating socio-economic benefits of meteorological and hydrological services in the
respective countries with a view to increasing the visibility of and allocation of resources to the
respective NMHSs and to contribute to the 2007 Madrid Conference “Secure and sustainable living:
social and economic benefits of Weather, Climate and Water Resources”. Several pilot projects are foreseen to be implemented in selected LDCs as follow-up actions.

11. Representatives from NMHSs and end-users sectors of four LDCs (Ethiopia, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia) participated in a project development workshop, which was organized in Livingstone, Zambia, 22–24 January 2007 in the framework of the Finland Trust Fund to enhance the capabilities of NMHSs in seven African countries.

12. WMO participated in inter-agency consultation meetings on the preparation of the midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action (BPoA) for the Least Developed Countries for the decade 2001-2010. It also participated in the Regional Preparatory Meeting of the African LDCs in UNECA, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, February 2006, and in the Ministerial Conference of all the LDCs for the Midterm Comprehensive Global Review of the BPoA, Cotonou, Benin, June 2006. The outcomes of those meetings were a better coordination with other UN agencies and the adoption of the African LDCs’ Strategy Paper and the Cotonou Strategy for the further implementation of the BPoA. The United Nations General Assembly, during its sixty-first session in 2006, welcomed the Cotonou Strategy as an initiative owned and led by the LDCs.

13. As part of the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Brussels Plan of Action (BPoA) for the Least Developed Countries for the decade 2001-2010, WMO on 13 September 2006 organized a WMO Special Event entitled “Weather, Climate and Water Services for Development and Disaster Mitigation in LDCs” at the UN Headquarters in New York with the effective participation of high level officials from LDCs. WMO also participated in the High-level Meeting of the 61st session of the UN General Assembly on 18 and 19 September 2006 where the World Leaders adopted a Declaration in which they noted that while the Programme of Action has registered some progress in its implementation, the overall socio-economic situation of the LDCs remains precarious. They recommitted themselves to meeting the special needs of the LDCs as set out in the BPoA for the LDCs for the decade 2001-2010, sketched out directions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action over the remaining five years and recognized that the efforts of the LDCs need to be reinforced with substantial support from the international community.

14. A leaflet on “Weather, Climate and Water Services for the Least Developed Countries” was published in 2006 and distributed as appropriate.

15. A WMO Country Profile Database project was initiated in order to promote synergies between Members, Secretariat, Cooperating partners, funding agencies and other stakeholders. A project management team involving all Secretariat departments concerned was established to assure the project planning, risks and resources assessment and execution.

AGENDA ITEM 7.4(1) - EVOLUTION OF NMHSs AND WMO

Cg-XV/Rep. 7.4(1)

EVOLUTION OF NMHSs AND WMO

Overview and background

1. The various issues in this document was discussed by the EC Working on Evolution of NMHSs and WMO which held its first session at the WMO Headquarters from 24 to 28 April 2006 under the chairmanship of Dr A.I. Bedritsky, WMO President. Furthermore, EC-LVII, EC-LVIII,
various intervening sessions of regional associations and technical commissions also discussed aspects of issues contained in the document.

Evolution of WMO

Communication and advocacy

2. WMO has been collaborating with NMHSs, with the aim of developing their capability on communication and advocacy. The major areas in which efforts have been concentrated include public outreach campaigns, raising awareness of new and emerging issues, disseminating of user-focused information materials, capacity building in form of training of weather presenters, and coordinated cooperation among NMHSs with regard to public outreach.

Role and operation of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs)

Statements on the Role and Operation of NMHSs for Decision Makers and for Directors

3. A Statement on the Role and Operation of NMHSs for Decision Makers was developed and adopted by EC-LVII. That statement was developed with the aim of supporting policy development and implementation, especially at national level, as well as at international level. To ensure consistency and effectiveness, EC-LVIII requested the development and publication of a complementary statement on the role of and operation of NMHSs for Directors. That statement should particularly help the Directors of NMHSs in working with government agencies and the user sectors. That statement is under development.

Questionnaires relating to the role and operation of National Meteorological Services (NMHSs)

4. In addition to revising the earlier used questionnaire on status and trends of role and operation of NMHSs to be addressed to NMHSs, the Secretary-General has embarked upon developing a complementary one to be addressed through the NMHSs to users of meteorological and hydrological services and information.

Social and Economic Benefits of NMHSs

5. With a view to enhancing the WMO conference, “Secure and sustainable living: social and economic benefits of weather, climate and water services” held in Madrid, Spain, from 19 to 22 March 2007, WMO organized a number of national/regional workshops between 2005 and 2007. [The major results and recommendations of that Conference will be provided in a separate document]. The workshops which were held in Manila, Philippines (23-25 November 2005), Bamako, Mali (29 May-1 June 2006), Brasilia, Brazil (12-14 July 2006), Nairobi, Kenya (28-30 August 2006), Arusha, Tanzania (1-3 November 2006), Kuwait City, Kuwait (18-21 November 2006), and Zagreb, Croatia (5-6 February 2007) ensured that requirements, opportunities and experiences of NMHSs were contributed and consolidated from all WMO Regions, as input to the Madrid Conference.
TRANSPARENCY OF WMO GOVERNING BODY BETWEEN CONGRESSES

Proposals for greater transparency and involvement of Members in governance issues of WMO between Congresses

Why change?

Climate change, disaster prevention, water resources management and other issues are subjects of growing focus on the international political agenda. WMO has acquired core scientific expertise on these issues, but its contributions are not always recognized or utilized to their full potential.

Increasing awareness of WMO’s vital role and promoting broader use of the products and services it delivers will require the Organization to be more transparent and inclusive. These characteristics promote good governance as well as efficient and effective management.

In this context, it is necessary to address the needs of those WMO Members who want to participate in a more transparent and inclusive governance process – opening the door to broader participation of Member States along their ad personam Permanent Representatives in the Executive Council; and more regular participation for those Members who do not have a national in the Executive Council.

At a time when system-wide UN reform is under active consideration, intensified engagement of Member States would facilitate the use of broader UN expertise in governance, management and financial issues. At the same time, it would also allow WMO’s reform experiences and its lessons learned to be shared with other organizations. In sum, it would help guarantee the use of the best available practices in WMO.

Experience shows us that a fraud case, even an isolated one, can significantly damage an organization. While the fraud case discovered in 2003 has been addressed, it is imperative for the WMO to show that it is doing everything it can to increase transparency and strengthen its management practices to avoid a repetition of such a case. Intensified Member State involvement in governance is a critical component of such a response.

For all these reasons, the time is ripe for constructive change. This change should logically complement measures taken by the Secretary-General since 2004 in his Action Plan to improve the transparency, integrity and efficiency of the Secretariat. Member States should do their part to promote the transparency, integrity, and effectiveness of WMO through better governance practices.

What is the current situation?

1) Transparency

Meetings of the Executive Council (EC) are held in private – they are not even open to other Permanent Representatives or to observers from Member States - and the documents submitted to the EC are not accessible on the Website for non-EC members. Also, the results of the Bureau
meetings, that take place between sessions of the Executive Council, are not shared with Member States.

This closed atmosphere does not accord with the spirit of Rule 123 of the “General Regulations” of the Organization: “The meetings of constituent bodies shall be held in public, unless otherwise decided by the constituent bodies concerned” and does not seem to be justified nowadays.

2) Involvement of Member States in governance issues between Congresses

WMO Member States have almost no role in governance issues between Congresses according to the rules of the Organization:

- **Art 6 (b)** In the performance of their duties, all officers of the Organization and members of the Executive Council **shall act as representatives of the Organization and not as representatives of particular Members** thereof;

- In 1987, Resolution 29 (Cg–X) created a **Financial Advisory Committee (FINAC)** to advise Congress and the Executive Council (EC) on budgetary and financial matters. Although one important objective was to give the possibility for some Member States to have an advisory role to the EC between Congresses, the Resolution stipulates in the annex to Resolution 29 (Cg-X) that the FINAC **shall be composed of the Permanent Representatives** of eight Member States and the six presidents of the WMO Regional Associations, all members of EC. Consequently, the FINAC as such does not provide a platform for advice from non-EC experts (financial in particular) of the Member States;

- Also in an **Audit Committee** created in 2004 there are no government representatives as such but members of the EC acting in their personal capacity and external experts.

**The proposals:**

Clearly it is essential that EC members continue to be closely engaged in budgetary, financial and audit issues. Yet it is also imperative to bring in and involve Member States in governance. In particular, it is important that Member States that do not have nationals on the EC be provided avenues for engagement.

It is important that the role of the WMO in providing technical expertise on the matters within its mandate be maintained and that there is no politicisation of the Organization. The broader involvement of Member States on governance matters would seem in no way to run the risk of politicising the WMO’s technical mandate.

There is no other example of a specialized, technical UN agency in Geneva that restricts Member States’ involvement in governance matters as is currently the case in WMO. In fact, there are several examples of such agencies that have developed structures with stronger involvement of Member States and of experts specialized in governance and financial issues.

The objective is not to change the WMO Convention or call into question the *ad personam* status of the members of EC. Rather, the objective is to augment the current scientific and technical expertise with the governance, budgetary, and financial expertise that Member States can provide and to allow Member States to be more aware of what WMO is doing.
We have identified the following possibilities for consideration as a package or individually:

1) **Openness of meetings**

   - Reaffirm the openness of meetings of the constituent bodies (Regulation 123 of the General Regulations);
   - Make it clear that the rule of the EC stating that all meetings are private is in contradiction with the general principle of openness of the Organization;
   - Grant to Member States the observer status to EC and FINAC meetings.

2) **Access to documents**

   - Give free access to the documents of the Executive Council, including its subsidiary and advisory bodies;
   - Make the reports of the meetings of the Bureau available for Member States.

3) **Reform or replacement of FINAC**

   As contained in the recommendations of EC-LVIII (2006), the new body would mainly cover the tasks of the actual FINAC with special emphasis on results-based budgeting.

   From our point of view, the following changes should be made:

   - The body, even though it could remain constituted of a core group of Members and include the Regional Association presidents, should be open to representatives of other Member States interested and ready to actively participate in it;
   - The delegations to the body should be nominated by the countries themselves and aim at including representatives with a good knowledge of UN system-wide governance and budgetary questions;
   - The body should meet during sufficient time and well in advance of the EC and the Congress so as “to carry out its work and prepare its recommendations in good time to enable sessions of Congress and the EC to take into consideration advice and recommendations made” (extract from the resolution having created FINAC).

**AGENDA ITEM 7.4(2) - EVOLUTION OF NMHSs AND WMO**

**WMO QUALITY MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK**

*Cg-XV/Rep. 7.4(2)*

**WMO QUALITY MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK**

General aspects of the WMO QMF

1. Fourteenth Congress decided that WMO should work towards a Quality Management Framework (QMF) for NMSs and tasked the Executive Council (EC) to take the lead in its development, with the help of the technical commissions. An Inter-Commission Task Team on Quality Management Framework (ICTT-QMF) was set in place by EC to further study the matter
and to develop the framework. At its last session, the Council recognized that quality management was of utmost importance for WMO and that it comprised two distinct aspects: (1) an overall strategy for WMO, which should cover all WMO technical programme activities that relate to the delivery of products, data and services; and (2) the implementation of quality management systems (QMS) by its Members.

2. In view of the benefits that can be gained from QMSs, NMHSs are encouraged to implement QMSs following appropriate internationally recognized standards. However, since the implementation of a QMS is very customer-driven and country specific, NMHSs should be free to choose for which sector they want/need to implement a QMS and which standard they want to follow. In their QMSs, NMHSs can reference the appropriate WMO technical publications (Technical Regulations, Manuals, Guides, …), which they are following. (It should be recalled that the WMO QMF is complementary to the implementation of quality management systems following the ISO 9001 standard and not incompatible with it.)

3. The WMO technical publications provide the base for the WMO QMF since they give guidance and requirements to Members on how to conduct their work and so ensure proper standardization of methods, procedures and practices. These documents consequently need to be up-to-date and managed in a way that allows them to be used as appropriate reference material in the Members’ QMSs.

4. The Executive Council recognized that an overall Framework for QM needed to be developed for WMO as a whole which would cover all WMO technical programme activities that relate to the delivery of products, data and services. This Framework would need to be launched by issuing a quality policy and specifying the role of each of the constituent bodies in the WMO QMF. Specific proposals addressing this were developed by the ICTT-QMF.

5. The WMO QMF should be based on the area of excellence of the organization and focus on the technical aspects of the operation of NMHSs. Therefore, the ICTT-QMF recommended to develop a Volume IV on “Quality Management” of the Technical Regulations, that would be generic and describe the WMO QMF as a coordinated approach to the delivery of meteorological, climatological, hydrological, marine and related environment data, products and services. That volume would include as a minimum the WMO quality policy, the 8 quality management principles, the roles of the WMO constituent bodies and harmonized approaches towards quality management among the technical commissions.

6. The role of the technical commissions in the QMF is primarily to develop the necessary technical standards to ensure proper standardization across the Members. In that sense QM should be an integral part of the work of the technical commissions.

Situation of NMHSs relative to the implementation of QMSs

7. Two surveys were carried out to assess the situation and needs of NMHSs relative to the implementation of quality management systems (QMS). They revealed that several Members had gained positive experience with QMSs based on the ISO 9000 series of standards that resulted in a continuous process of improvements in the operation and delivery of services to users. Such implementations can be carried out for separate sectors or for the service as a whole. NMHSs are free to decide the extent of the QMS they need according to their activities and situation. The overall cost for the implementation of a QMS varied widely, depending among others on the size of the NMHS and the area covered by the QMS. However, the certification costs were generally much lower than the cost for consultants necessary to provide help in setting up the QMS. It consequently appeared that it would neither be cost-effective nor appropriate to develop a WMO-own certification scheme.
8. A number of countries, including developing countries, see the implementation of quality management systems as unavoidable in order to remain competitive and comply with the increasing user requests and national and/or regional requirements. Numerous NMHSs are not free to choose whether or not to introduce a QMS (such as ISO 9001) but are required by national or regional regulations to do so and even to follow a specific standard. Since any QMS needs to be specifically designed for the organization in which it will be used and to its specific activities and structure, it is not possible for WMO to provide a standard QMS to be implemented by all Members.

9. The implementation of a QMS following the ISO 9001 standard is possible without having to go through certification, since it is not an explicit requirement of the standard. It is consequently possible to state that a QMS was implemented in accordance to the standard in a statement of conformity. Such a statement of conformity has a lower recognition than certification since it does not include an assessment by an independent party and may not satisfy the customers, who are usually those requesting that the QMS be certified.

Technical guidance documentation on quality management

10. In view of the urgent need for early advice on the development and implementation of QMSs expressed by Members, various documents were developed and made available to them. These included case studies, examples from quality manuals provided by certified NMHSs, a website dedicated to the WMO-QMF providing access to most guidance documents and guides such as the “Guidelines on quality management procedures and practices for public weather services”, the “Guide on the quality management system for the provision of meteorological service for international air navigation”, and the “First WMO technical report on the WMO quality management framework”. The contact points from a number of certified NMHSs willing to receive visitors were distributed to Members in view of fostering cooperation and experience exchange.

Capacity building and training

11. A number of training seminars on quality management were held in various regions and lectures on QM were held in combination with other meetings. As far as other capacity building activities related to the implementation of QMS are concerned, the Executive Council felt that it would be best addressed through the VCP programme by including “Implementation of Quality Management System” as one of its high-priority area and by promoting partnerships and cooperations.

Documentation review and management of documentation

12. The WMO technical publications have a core role in the WMO QMF to achieve the aim of the Organization, by ensuring proper standardization of methods, procedures and practices. Therefore, the ICTT-QMF and the Meeting of the Presidents of the Technical Commissions recommended that Members should have free access to electronic versions of WMO technical publications to ensure their widest distribution and application. The ICTT-QMF also recommended that the WMO technical publications be developed, published and managed according to quality management principles.

13. Due to the core role of the WMO technical publications in the WMO QMF, the technical commissions were requested to consolidate and update their technical publications as a priority activity to ensure their suitability as references within national QMSs so that Members have easy access to, and can reference all the relevant valid documents. This review should also rectify any deficiencies, duplications, inconsistencies and errors. The technical commissions were requested to follow the definitions provided in the ISO 9000:2005 standard for quality related terms to harmonize the nomenclature used in the WMO publications and to prevent misunderstandings.
ISO

14. Consultation with ISO took place in view of developing joint ISO-WMO technical standards based on WMO Technical Regulations, Manuals and Guides. The present status of those deliberations is presented under agenda item 9.1 “Cooperation with the United Nations and other international organizations”.

AGENDA ITEM 7.4(4) - EVOLUTION OF NMHSs AND WMO

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF NMHSs

Cg-XV/Rep. 7.4(4)

International Conference on Secure and Sustainable Living: Social and Economic Benefits of Weather, Climate and Water Services
Madrid, Spain, 19-22 March 2007

1. The International Conference on ‘Secure and Sustainable Living: Social and Economic Benefits of Weather, Climate and Water Services’ organized by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), took place in Madrid, Spain from 19 to 22 March 2007. The Conference was held under the gracious patronage of Her Majesty Queen Sofia and hosted and supported by the Ministry of Environment and the National Meteorological Institute (INM) of Spain. The purpose of the Conference was to contribute to secure and sustainable living for all the peoples of the world by evaluating and demonstrating, and thence ultimately enhancing, the social and economic benefits of weather, climate and water services. It sought to assemble authoritative feedback from the users of these services.

2. The Conference was attended by some 450 participants from 115 countries and consisted of an opening ceremony presided over by Her Majesty the Queen Sofia, seven plenary sessions and seven main focus events. It included the launched by the WMO Secretary-General of the WMO book “Elements for Life” published by Tudor Rose, which includes many case studies and examples of weather, climate and water services in support of poverty alleviation, disaster mitigation, climate change assessment, pollution abatement, water resource, energy and health management and protection of the environment.

3. The Conference reviewed a range of sector-specific decision-making techniques and case studies of increased use of weather, climate and water information and services leading to improved decisions and improved outcomes in the six key socio-economic sectoral groupings. Having evaluated a range of methodologies for assessing the value of, and benefits from, the use of the services, the Conference concluded that more work is required to further develop these socio-economic techniques and methods.

4. Each plenary session of the Conference consisted of a number of keynote addresses, presided over by a member of the International Steering Committee (ISC), followed by an extended debate and question period. Rapporteurs from the WMO Task Force on Socio-Economic Applications of Meteorological and Hydrological Services recorded the key conclusions from each session as the basis for the summary findings and proposed follow-up actions. The Conference sessions covered: (1) Agriculture, Water Resources, and the Natural Environment, (2) Human Health, (3) Tourism and Human Welfare, (4) Energy, Transportation and Communications, (5) Urban Settlement and Sustainable Development, and (6) Economics and Financial Services.
5. The Conference benefited greatly from the series of seven regional and sub-regional preparatory workshops organized by WMO over the period November 2005 to February 2007 in the Philippines, Mali, Brazil, Kenya, Tanzania, Kuwait and Croatia. The many sectoral and national case studies presented at these workshops, and the interaction they generated between provider and user communities, contributed greatly to the range and depth of the discussion at the Conference and to the achievement of its ultimate objectives.

6. The principal goal of the preparatory workshops was to provide a forum for the interdisciplinary assessment of socio-economic benefits of meteorological and hydrological services involving service providers and different users. Only a few countries reported on quantitative evaluations that had been made of the benefits of the NMHS’ services.

7. In addition to the plenary sessions of the Conference, seven focus events complemented and elaborated many of the issues that emerged in the plenary discussions and regional workshops. In addition to the major focus event that reviewed the findings of the seven regional workshops and identified the common issues across regions, these events focused on:

- The developing role of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) in fostering increased coordination and interoperability amongst atmospheric, oceanic and terrestrial observing systems to support the delivery of information and services to nine major socio-economic benefit areas;
- Work by NASA (US National Aeronautics and Space Administration) on the current opportunities of using remote sensing observation technologies for understanding and predicting critical natural disasters, and supporting decisions for reducing risks of disasters and managing natural resources;
- Indian research and demonstration of bamboo-based technologies for developing countries to cope with deforestation and climate-related extreme events;
- Progress in air quality monitoring and modelling and the benefits which flow from improved air quality services, and the role GURME (the Global Atmosphere Watch Urban Research Meteorology and Environment project) plays in enhancing the capabilities to address these issues;
- The NMHS perspective on the provision of timely and accurate weather, climate and water services; and
- A series of important studies carried out by the World Bank on the economic benefits of modernizing the NMHSs of a number of Eastern European and Central Asian countries

8. The Conference, inter alia, ended with a wide-ranging outcome, including the adoption of a Conference Statement and the Madrid Action Plan. The purpose of the Plan is to achieve, within five years, a major enhancement of the value to society of weather, climate and water information and services in response to the critical challenges represented by rapid urbanization, economic globalization, environmental degradation, natural hazards and the threats from climate change. The implementation of the Plan will contribute towards the enhancement of the capacity of Members to deliver services, build partnerships and make contributions to a wider range of recurrent and development activities.
AGENDA ITEM 7.5 - GENDER MAINSTREAMING
Cg-XV/Rep. 7.5

Gender Mainstreaming

1. The Secretary-General has taken positive steps to promote gender equality in WMO in line with the United Nations Strategy for promoting gender equality and the Millennium Development Goal 3 “promote gender equality and empower women”, through encouraging and facilitating the increased participation of women in the activities and Programmes of WMO, and urging Members to adopt policies and practices ensuring equal opportunities for women in their Meteorological and Hydrological Services.

2. Results of past surveys conducted by WMO on the participation of women in meteorology and operational hydrology, and in the activities of WMO had helped the Organization to make informed decisions on the solutions to gender issues. It will be important to continue monitoring future changes in the participation of women in WMO activities at all levels and the Secretary-General was encouraged to continue carrying out similar surveys in future.

3. Two international conferences had been organized on the participation of women in meteorology and operational hydrology in 1997 and 2003 respectively. An important outcome of those conferences had been the designation of Gender Focal Points by a number of Members, the majority of technical commissions and some regional associations.

4. A preparatory expert meeting was held in the WMO Headquarters building from 21-22 September 2006 with the participation of experts from Canada, Ethiopia and the United Kingdom, as well as representatives from WIPO and ILO. The purpose of the meeting was to: (a) prepare the outline of the WMO Policy on Gender Mainstreaming; (b) prepare a draft programme for the Expert Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming (Geneva, 26-29 March 2007); and (c) to make a list from among the national gender focal points for participation at the Expert Meeting. The preparatory meeting debated at length the policy document and the accompanying Action Plan: what such a WMO policy document should contain, what constituted the goals, purpose and objectives. The participation of an expert from the Gender Bureau of ILO at the meeting was crucial in providing advice and in guiding the process through the very complicated aspects of gender mainstreaming and gender equality. It became clear during the meeting that WMO was one of the last UN entities that did not have a policy on gender mainstreaming and while this may be attributed to some extent to the technical nature of WMO, the Organization can no longer ignore the necessity to include gender mainstreaming in its activities and programmes. On the positive side, WMO benefited from the opportunity to learn from the lessons of other UN agencies, as discussed during the meeting, to adopt a policy based on best practice and avoid the negative experiences of other UN organizations in their gender mainstreaming work.

5. The Expert Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming discussed and prepared a draft implementation plan (see Annex to this report) which would be further developed by the proposed EC Advisory Panel of Experts.

6. The proposed budget for the fifteenth financial period (2008-2011) of CHF 269.0 million does not include any specific budget provision for the implementation of recommendations on gender mainstreaming contained in this document. Additional requirements would need to be covered from additional provisions under the regular budget. Alternatively, extrabudgetary funding could be considered.

Annex: 1
### Annex to Progress Report

*Draft Implementation Plan of the WMO Policy on Gender Mainstreaming*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome Area</th>
<th>Main Activities</th>
<th>Comments</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Governance</strong></td>
<td>Establish a WMO Gender Expert position</td>
<td>Consider options for provision:</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>WMO Secretariat</td>
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<td>- E.g. Permanent Representatives to provide seconded expert</td>
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<td>- Full time post to be provided</td>
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<td>NMHS’s/ regional associations/ technical commissions to establish and support gender focal points</td>
<td>Provide Terms of Reference to PR’s PRs can designate men or women as gender focal points</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>WMO</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Establish an EC Advisory Panel of Experts on Gender Mainstreaming</td>
<td></td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>WMO</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Enhanced Service Delivery</strong></td>
<td>Assess the status of products and services with respect to gender issues</td>
<td></td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>WMO</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Evaluate the gaps in the service delivery processes</td>
<td></td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>WMO</td>
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<td><strong>Employment</strong></td>
<td>Attract and retain young specialists</td>
<td>Establish mentoring programmes</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>WMO</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Establish and develop continuous education, including distance learning</td>
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<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>WMO</td>
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<td>Outcome Area</td>
<td>Main Activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Improve the procedures and processes related to staff management, including vacancy information, employment, selection and career promotion based on equal opportunities for men and women</td>
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<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>WMO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Develop staff potential, culture and organizational environment, including establishment of national, sub-regional and regional networks for experience and political decisions exchange</td>
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<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>WMO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Effective Monitoring and Evaluation</td>
<td>Provide regular reporting of gender focal points, Permanent Representatives, regional associations and technical commissions</td>
<td>Improve reporting systems</td>
<td>Annually</td>
<td>WMO</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collect and analyze gender-related statistics, make conclusions and suggestions on improved activities, enhance awareness</td>
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<td>Annually</td>
<td>WMO Secretariat and the EC Panel</td>
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AGENDA ITEM 9.1(1) – COOPERATION WITH UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Cg-XV/Rep. 9.1(1)

MAJOR EVENTS IN THE UNITED NATIONS

1. WMO actively participated in the 2005 World Summit (September 2005), the World Summit on the Information Society (November 2005), the High-level Forum of the UN Environment Management Group (January 2006), the third International Conference on Early Warning (March 2006), the Fourth World Water Forum (March 2006), COP-11/MOP-1 (Montreal, November/December 2005) and COP-12/MOP-2 of the UNFCCC (Nairobi, 6-17 November 2006), COP-7 of UNCCD (Kenya, October 2005), and the thirteenth (New York, April 2005), fourteenth (New York, May 2006) and fifteenth sessions (New York, April/May 2007) of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), the sessions of the UN Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) and its High-level Committees on Programme and Management, as well as in a number of high-level meetings on various issues, including consultations of the UN system reform, ECOSOC reform and the restructuring of the ISDR system, where the WMO Secretary-General is a Member of the ISDR Management Oversight Board.

RESOLUTIONS ADDRESSED TO SPECIALIZED AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS

2. The General Assembly and other bodies of the UN adopt each year a number of resolutions and decisions containing requests to organizations within the UN system. The resolutions and decisions from the UN are considered by Congress, or by the Executive Council at its annual sessions, for appropriate action in so far as WMO is concerned.

3. Resolutions adopted by the sixty-first session of the UN General Assembly (New York, 12 September-22 December 2006) and related to WMO are listed in the Annex to this report. They can also be accessed at www.un.org/Depts/dhl/resguide/r61.htm. The WMO Secretary-General communicated to Members the outcomes of the General Assembly which are related to WMO activities in his circular letter each year. Resolutions having a direct bearing on the WMO scientific and technical programmes are dealt with under the appropriate agenda items.

FOLLOW-UP TO THE 2005 WORLD SUMMIT

4. Following the 2005 World Summit (New York, 14-16 September 2005), which reaffirmed that sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental aspects constituted a key element of the overarching framework of the UN activities and which recognized that climate change was a serious and long-term challenge, EC-LVIII requested the Secretary-General to continue efforts towards the implementation of the World Summit Outcome.

5. WMO participated and sponsored numerous international meetings, among which the Third International Conference on Early Warning (EWC III) (Bonn, March 2006) which adopted the Global Survey Report containing the results of the ISDR-coordinated Global Survey of Early Warning Systems in which WMO was involved as co-chair of a working group for its preparation, the Symposium on Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems for Integrated Disaster Risk Management (Geneva, May 2006) to identify an integrated approach to warning systems for enhanced disaster risk reduction and to explore further the concept of multi-hazard approach to early warning systems, the First International Workshop on Flash Flood Forecasting (Costa Rica, March 2006), the international Conference Living with Climate Variability and Change: Understanding the Uncertainties and Managing the Risks (Espoo, Finland, July 2006).
6. The 2005 World Summit requested the UN Secretary-General to strengthen the management and coordination of UN operational activities, giving priority to maximizing the UN contribution to achieving internationally agreed development goals such as those set out in the Millennium Declaration and to improving UN effectiveness, coherence and performance in the three key areas of development, environment and humanitarian assistance. In this respect, the UN Secretary-General established in April 2006 a High-level Panel on UN System-wide Coherence in the Areas of Development, Humanitarian Assistance, and the Environment (HLP). WMO participated in the consultations. The HLP report, entitled *Delivering as One*, was issued in November 2006. Among the recommendations is the establishment of strong thematic partnerships among the key agencies concerned on the issues of water, energy and climate change. Recommendations also call for synergy to be pursued between the UN organizations that address environment. WMO and NMHSs will continue to be actively involved in this process through the UN Development Group (UNDG) and the Environment Management Group (EMG). In this respect, the sixtieth session of the General Assembly established an Informal Consultative Process (ICP) on the Institutional Framework for UN Environmental Activities.

**UNITED NATIONS INTERAGENCY COOPERATION**

**Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB)**

7. The Secretary-General actively participated in regular sessions of the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) as well as its High-Level Committees on Programmes and Management. The fall CEB session in 2006 focussed on the current political and economic situation and on the future challenges facing the UN system, particularly on the issues of security, development, and reform as well as on how the UN system should respond to the recommendations that were being finalized by the High-level Panel on System-wide Coherence (the report could be found in web [http://www.un.org/events/panel](http://www.un.org/events/panel)). As a follow-up to the discussion, Executive Heads initiated a review of CEB. The UN Secretary-General had sent the report of the High-Level Panel to the Executive Heads of CEB Members and requested that this report should be transmitted to respective governing bodies for their consideration.

**UN Development Group (UNDG)**

8. During the 2005 World Summit, countries committed to develop their own strategies with a focus on the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals. WMO, as a recent member of UNDG, is involved in the UN multilateral coordination and planning of the development actions at the regional and national levels, which are currently undertaken by UNDG. The thirty-fifth meeting of UNDG (New York, October 2006) considered, among other things, the detailed proposal to support better Non Resident Agencies (NRAs). The proposal stems from the report of the NRA Task Team which calls for a more institutionalized involvement of the NRAs in UN country development work and a more enhanced NRA involvement in country programming promoting a better access of Resident Agencies to NRA expertise. The Executive Committee of UNDG, at its forty-third meeting (November 2006), approved the list of 28 countries (including eight pilots: Albania, Cape Verde, Mozambique, Pakistan, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uruguay, and Viet Nam) for consideration for joint office initiative and invited UN funds, programmes as well as specialized agencies to join the consultation/implementation process. WMO focal points in countries, and Regional Offices were being involved. As WMO is represented in countries by NMHSs, it is essential that Permanent Representatives be involved in the scope of work of joint Offices, which are supposed to coordinate one-country UN programmes and associated budget.
**UN Environment Management Group (EMG)**

9. WMO is a member of EMG and actively participated in activities of EMG, in particular involving preparation of information for sessions of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD). For example, in 2005, the Secretariat of CSD invited EMG to prepare a report on air pollution/atmosphere. The report was prepared by WMO in collaboration with other 10 organizations and agencies and became one of the main inputs to CSD-14 (May 2006), which focused on the themes of water, energy, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change for sustainable development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere and climate change. Further discussions on these topics took place at CSD-15 (April 2007).

10. At the EMG High Level Forum on the UN Reform Initiatives (Geneva, July 2006), it was agreed that a comprehensive overview of collaborative initiatives and actions of the organizations of the UN system should be undertaken in the area of environment at the global, regional and national levels. As a follow-up, a task force was established consisting of representatives of UN agencies, including WMO.

**WSIS follow-up and the UN Group on Information Society (UNGIS)**

11. In 2001, the UN General Assembly decided to organize a World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) to promote and foster the potential of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) for development. WMO participated in the two WSIS phases held in Geneva in December 2003 and in Tunis in November 2005. The WSIS Tunis Agenda recognizes the intrinsic relationship between disaster reduction, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty, while stressing the enabling role of ICTs for disaster early warning, management and emergency communications. WMO is contributing to the multi-stakeholder implementation and follow-up of the E-environment Action Line of the WSIS Plan of Action.

**UN/ISDR**

12. WMO actively participated in various UN activities related to natural disaster reduction and mitigation with close cooperation with the International Strategy of Disaster Reduction (ISDR). WMO, as a Member of the Management Oversight Board of ISDR, participated in the second meeting of the Board in October 2006 to review progress with restructuring of the ISDR system and provide strategic recommendations on the governance structure of the ISDR System and integrated work planning framework to be adopted through ISDR system partners for delivery of more coordinated assistance to Members. As part of this meeting, WMO participated and delivered a statement during an "ISDR Update Event" involving Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York and the Media on the role of WMO and NMHSs in the implementation of Hyogo Framework for Action. *(see also item 3.9)*

**UN-Oceans**

13. WMO participated in the fourth meeting of UN-Oceans (June 2006), in the first meeting of an Ad hoc Steering Committee on the regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of marine environment (GMA) and in the Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (June 2006). WMO also participated actively in the development of a Web-based UN Atlas of the Oceans under the leadership of FAO. The system brings together data on ocean and marine sustainable development and management issues, and related maps produced by the UN organizations and selected partners. All agencies and organizations were invited to continue to co-sponsor the project. *(see also item 3.4)*
UN-Water

14. WMO participated in the Fourth World Water Forum (Mexico City, March 2006) in which the Second UN World Water Development Report (WWDR2) was launched as a joint undertaking of several UN agencies, including WMO, in partnership with governments and stakeholders, and coordinated by the World Water Assessment Programme. WMO was also involved in preparing the 2007 World Water Day (22 March) on the theme Coping with Water Scarcity and has been participating in the UN Decade on Water 2005-2015. (see also item 3.5)

Third World Climate Conference (WCC-3)

15. WMO has widely consulted with at least 14 UN Organizations and Agencies to ensure their support and sponsorship in the World Climate Conference-3 (WCC-3) whose overarching theme will be Climate Prediction for Decision Making; Focusing on Seasonal to Inter-annual Timescales. The Conference will be held late 2009. The WCC-3 has a strong potential to provide a platform for stronger coordinated activities on climate issues across the UN system. (see also item 3.2)

COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

16. Fifth Congress, through Resolution 6 (Cg-V) requested the Executive Council and the Secretary-General, as appropriate, to ensure compliance with the policy defined in the resolution regarding WMO relations with the United Nations and other international organizations. This policy has served as the basis for collaboration with other organizations and many examples of its implementation as well as of collaboration in the various technical fields are discussed under the appropriate agenda items.

17. Since Fourteenth Congress, several measures have been taken to enhance and strengthen cooperation with other international organizations. The Secretary-General met and discussed with Executive Heads of specialized agencies and other organizations concerned on issues of common interest at various occasions including the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the 2005 World Summit, and the COPs of UNFCCC and UNCCD. WMO took part in these events with an increased number of Permanent Representatives of Members participating in them. (see also item 3.2)

18. WMO actively continued to strengthen cooperation with international funding agencies including the World Bank in capacity building of NMHSs. Starting from 2005, based on the President’s initiative, the World Bank undertook actions to study the state and development of Hydrometeorological Services in 19 countries of Europe and Central Asia. The purpose of the study is to enhance capacity building of NMHSs in the fields of weather and climate forecasting, while using the most effective ways of their development, so as to meet the needs of sustainable development at the national, regional as well as global levels. At present, studies have been successfully completed for Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Serbia, indicating potential benefits they could achieve due to investments to the programmes/projects of modernization of their NMHS. The Governments approved the feasibility of such activities. Others will be finished during the second half of 2007. The Governments of Belarus and Kazakhstan are looking to co-finance state Programmes/Projects with the World Bank for modernization of their NMHS.

19. During the period, the Executive Council, at its fifty-fifth session, authorized the establishment of a working arrangement with the Permanent Inter-State Committee on Drought Control on the Sahel (CILSS). Details of this working arrangement are included in the publication “Arrangements and Working Arrangements with other International Organizations” (WMO-No. 60). No international organization was granted consultative status, thus maintaining the number of international organizations having consultative status with WMO to 17.
20. The Secretary-General, on behalf of the Organization, signs Memoranda of Understanding or relevant cooperation documents on specific or broader cooperation, with international organizations including IGOs and NGOs at either the subregional, regional or global levels. The Secretary-General also signs Memoranda of Understanding that are known by various names. During the fourteenth financial period, Memoranda of Understanding were signed and implemented with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD), the East African Community (EAC), the European Commission (EU), the European Meteorological Society (EMS), the Netherlands Organization for Applied Scientific Research (TNO), the International Research Institute (IRI), the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), the Asian Disaster Reduction Centre (ADRC), the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOSAT) of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP), and the International Council for Science on the International Polar Year (IPY) 2007-2008. WMO cosponsored several meetings of Regional and National Meteorological/Hydrological Societies, such as the European Meteorological Society (EMS), American Meteorological Society (AMS), Cuban Meteorological Society etc.

21. The Executive Council at its fifty-sixth session in 2004 requested the Secretary-General to assess the level of implementation of various cooperation arrangements with other international organizations and to evaluate the need for continuing those arrangements where there had been no active cooperation over several years and none was envisaged. A survey was carried out for the period 2001-2004 to assess the level of cooperation among the 57 organizations with which WMO has established cooperation relationship approved by Congress and the Executive Council. Of these, cooperation has been dormant with 17 organizations. In 2005 and 2006 several measures were taken to contact those organizations. As a result, the International Federation of Air Line Pilots Associations, the International Federation for Agriculture Producers, the International Radio Maritime Committee, the International Society of Soil Science, the International Union of Radio Science as well as the Oil Industry International Exploration and Production Forum nominated experts to be members of working groups in CAeM, JCOMM and CAgM. Re-establishment of cooperation projects with remaining organizations, including the International Federation for Documentation, the International Union of Radio Science, the World Energy Conference, are being undertaken. The remaining dormant agreements were, in part, due to the fact that WMO did not have the means including lack of funding to support the proposed joint projects from other organizations and to participate in the meetings to which it was invited.

22. The Executive Council at its fifty-eighth session had considered it necessary to establish closer cooperation with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) with a view to develop international standards based on WMO Technical Regulations, Manuals and Guides, which would widen the recognition of WMO standards. Consultation between the WMO and ISO Secretariats identified the possibility to develop a formal working arrangement with ISO that would allow the development of joint ISO-WMO technical standards based on WMO Technical Regulations, Manuals and Guides. In that arrangement, WMO would be recognized by ISO as an international standardizing body, which means that ISO would recognize that WMO develops its standards in a way similar to ISO, based on international consensus. This recognition would allow WMO to propose its own standards for adoption by ISO as joint ISO/WMO standards. The proposed joint standards would consequently undergo the normal WMO review process and an expedited ISO review and approval, by introducing them at an advanced stage of the ISO standard development process. In this arrangement, the technical commissions would choose the material that they want to submit for consideration as joint ISO/WMO standards. WMO would retain WMO-specific standards and would retain control over the development and updating of the joint standards. The ISO-WMO technical standards would be part of the WMO publications catalogue that Members could directly refer to in quality management systems.
23. In order to strengthen cooperation with the United Nations and North America, as well as the European Commission, the WMO Liaison Office in New York and Joint Office of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the European Meteorological Services Network (EUMETNET) at the European Commission (EC) in Brussels were re-established and established in 2005, 2006 respectively.

STRENGTHENING COOPERATION BETWEEN NMHSs AND WMO

24. WMO had co-sponsored with the China Meteorological Administration (CMA) the first Symposium on Strengthening Cooperation among NMHSs and WMO (Beijing, 4-6 September 2006). The Symposium had been well attended by 22 participants (mainly advisers to Permanent Representatives on external relations as well as Permanent Representatives). The Symposium addressed, inter alia, external relations policy and strategy for WMO and NMHSs, and the role of adviser to the Permanent Representatives with WMO on external relations. The recommendations of the Symposium include, among other things, the usefulness of organizing such symposia in the future, the need to establish a network of advisers or focal points on international cooperation and external relations, and to submit these recommendations to Fifteenth Congress to highlight the importance of external relations activities for NMHSs and WMO.

(Detailed information on number of issues reflected in the report are provided under relevant agenda items)

Annex: 1
ANNEX

RESOLUTIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES BY THE SIXTY-FIRST SESSION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Explanatory notes on status of actions:
(1) Taken into account within the programmes and activities of the Organization. Additional actions, as necessary, are taken through the Chief Executive Board for Coordination (CEB).
(2) In connection with requests for special assistance to individual countries, WMO, as an executing agency and through VCP, is already implementing projects in a number of countries (see agenda item 3.7.)
(3) These resolutions have been noted and action is taken, as appropriate and necessary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resolution No.</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Status of Actions</th>
<th>Cg-XV Relevant Item(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Resolutions on scientific and technical matters directly relevant to the activities of WMO and NMHSs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61/63</td>
<td>Observance of environmental norms in the drafting and implementation of agreements on disarmament and arms control.</td>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61/109</td>
<td>Effects of atomic radiation</td>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61/110</td>
<td>UN Platform for Space-Based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>3.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61/111</td>
<td>International cooperation in Peaceful Uses of Outer Space</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>3.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61/131</td>
<td>International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61/132</td>
<td>Strengthening emergency relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and prevention in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster</td>
<td>(2)</td>
<td>3.1, 3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61/192</td>
<td>International Year of Sanitation 2008</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61/193</td>
<td>International Year of Forests, 2011</td>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61/197</td>
<td>Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations</td>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>3.3, 3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61/198</td>
<td>International Strategy for Disaster Reduction</td>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>3.3, 3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61/199</td>
<td>International Cooperation to reduce impact of the El Niño Phenomenon</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>3.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resolution No.</td>
<td>Title</td>
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<tr>
<td>61/200</td>
<td>Natural disasters and vulnerability</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61/201</td>
<td>Protection of the global climate for present and future generations of mankind</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61/202</td>
<td>Implementation of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61/203</td>
<td>International Year of Biodiversity, 2010</td>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>3.2, 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61/204</td>
<td>Convention on Biological Diversity</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>3.2, 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61/205</td>
<td>Report of the Governing Council of the UN Environment Programme on its ninth special session</td>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>9.1, 9.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61/222</td>
<td>Oceans and the law of the sea</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>3.4</td>
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**B**

Resolutions on general policy issues relevant to WMO

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resolution No.</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Status of Actions</th>
<th>Cg-XV Relevant Item(s)</th>
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<tr>
<td>61/1</td>
<td>Declaration of the high-level meeting of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010</td>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>7.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61/2</td>
<td>Scale of assessments for the appointment of the expenses of the UN: requests under the Article 19 of the Chapter</td>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>10, 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61/3</td>
<td>Appointment of the Secretary-General of the UN</td>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61/6</td>
<td>Cooperation between the UN and the Inter-Parliamentary Union</td>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>9, 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61/16</td>
<td>Strengthening of the Economic and Social Council</td>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>9, 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61/29</td>
<td>Criminal Accountability of the UN officials and experts on mission</td>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61/54</td>
<td>Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security</td>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>4, 9, 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61/138</td>
<td>New international humanitarian order</td>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>3.3, 9, 7, 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Resolution No.</td>
<td>Title</td>
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<td>Cg-XV Relevant Item(s)</td>
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<tr>
<td>61/141</td>
<td>Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly</td>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>7, 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61/145</td>
<td>Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>7, 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61/186</td>
<td>International Trade and Development</td>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>7, 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61/195</td>
<td>Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development</td>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>7, 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>61/196</td>
<td>Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States</td>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>3.7, 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61/207</td>
<td>Role of the UN in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence</td>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>7, 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61/208</td>
<td>International migration and development</td>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>3.3, 7, 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61/211</td>
<td>Third UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries</td>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>7, 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>61/213</td>
<td>Implementation of the first UN Decade for the Eradication of Poverty</td>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>7.1, 7.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Since last Congress in 2003, the following reports of the Joint Inspection Unit have been formally transmitted to the World Meteorological Organization:


(3) From the optical disk system to the official documents system (ODS): status of implementation and evaluation (JIU/REP/2003/3).


(5) Achieving the universal primary education goal of the millennium declaration (JIU/REP/2003/5).


(8) Multilingualism and access to information: case study of the International Civil Aviation Organization (JIU/REP/2004/1).

(9) Review of the headquarters agreements concluded by the organizations of the United Nations system: human resources issues affecting staff (JIU/REP/2004/2).


(12) Overview of the series of reports on managing for results in the United Nations system (JIU/REP/2004/5).


(16) Procurement practices within the United Nations system (JIU/REP/2004/9).

(17) Harmonization of the conditions of travel throughout the United Nations system (JIU/REP/2004/10).

(18) Review of management and administration at WIPO: budget, oversight and related issues (JIU/REP/2005/1).


(20) Policies of United Nations system organizations towards the use of open source software (OSS) in the secretariats (JIU/REP/2005/3).


(23) External review of the implementation of strategic budgeting within a results-based management framework in the International Labour Organization (ILO) (JIU/REP/2005/6).

(24) Policies of United Nations system organizations towards the use of open source software (OSS) for development (JIU/REP/2005/7).

(25) Further measures to strengthen United Nations system support to the new partnership for Africa’s development (NEPAD) (JIU/REP/2005/8).


(27) Evaluation of results-based budgeting in peacekeeping operations (JIU/REP/2006/1).

(28) Oversight lacunae in the United Nations system (JIU/REP/2006/2).

(29) Follow-up to the management review of the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (JIU/REP/2006/3).

(30) A second review of the implementation of headquarters agreements concluded by United Nations system organizations: provision of headquarters premises and other facilities by host countries (JIU/REP/2006/4).

(31) Towards a United Nations humanitarian assistance programme for disaster response and reduction: Lessons learned from the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster (JIU/REP/2006/5).

Noting further the Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit for:

- 2005 and programme of work for 2006;
AGENDA ITEM 9.2 – WMO’S ROLE IN THE GLOBAL EARTH OBSERVATION SYSTEM OF SYSTEMS (GEOSS)

Cg-XV/Rep. 9.2

1. At the invitation of the United States of America on 31 July 2003 in Washington DC, thirty-three nations and the European Commission joined together at the first Earth Observation Summit (EOS-I) to adopt a Declaration that called for action in strengthening global cooperation on Earth observations. The purpose of EOS-I was to: Promote the development of a comprehensive, coordinated, and sustained Earth observation system or systems among governments and the international community to understand and address global environmental and economic challenges; and begin a process to develop a conceptual framework and implementation plan for building this comprehensive, coordinated, and sustained Earth observation system or systems.

2. To this end, Summit participants launched an ad hoc Group on Earth Observations (GEO), with the goal of furthering the creation of a comprehensive, coordinated, and sustained Earth observing system or systems. In order to promote the development of the now named Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), GEO decided that a document describing the GEOSS framework and an associated 10-Year Implementation Plan would be developed.

3. The document describing the GEOSS framework (referred to as the Framework Document) for the 10-Year Implementation Plan was presented for adoption at the second Earth Observation Summit (EOS-II) attended at the ministerial-level, in Tokyo, Japan on 25 April 2004, and the 10-Year Implementation Plan itself was presented for adoption at the third Earth Observation Summit (EOS-III) hosted by the European Commission and held on 16 February 2005 in Brussels.

4. GEOSS is intended to:
   - Cover the full spectrum of in situ and remotely sensed (space-based and aircraft) observations;
   - Provide an opportunity for all nations and international organizations to work together for a common cause, under a commonly agreed approach, framework, and methodology;
   - Actively involve developing countries in making improved observations within their national territories, and access and use observations made by others;
   - Provide high-level (ministerial) recognition of the universal need for improved Earth observation;
   - Promote consensus building among participants about the highest priority observation needs, which are unmet or require significant increase in resources to provide comprehensive solutions.

5. In the long-term, implementation of the 10-Year GEOSS Implementation Plan should result in:
   - Commitment of nations to make a more complete long-term collection of high-priority Earth observations;
   - Filling of the gaps in observing capabilities;
• Attention to capacity-building in both developing and developed countries;

• Greater interoperability and connectivity among individual component observing systems for improved exchange and appropriate sharing of data and information to commonly agreed standards.

GEOSS development activity review

6. Six sessions of the ad hoc GEO, a special session on GEO Governance, the second Earth Observation Summit (EOS-II) and the fifty-sixth WMO Executive Council were held between EOS-I in July 2003 and EOS-III in February 2005 resulting in the development of the 10-Year GEO Implementation Plan. Specific activities from the GEO sessions, the second Earth Observation Summit and WMO Executive Council that are relevant to WMO follow in chronological order:

GEO-1 (July 2003) (All GEO sessions prior to EOS-III used arabic numbers)

7. GEO-1 occurred immediately following EOS-I. After GEO-1, WMO Secretariat personnel were nominated to participate in the work of each of the five GEO Sub-groups. Furthermore, two Sub-groups were co-chaired by Permanent Representatives and WMO became one of three entities with Co-chair responsibilities for the Sub-group on Architecture. GEO-1 requested each Sub-group, with assistance from the GEO Secretariat, to develop a Framework Document for review at GEO-2.

GEO-2 (November 2003)

8. GEO-2 met in Baveno, Italy, 28-29 November 2003, and agreed with the following recommendation from the GEO Sub-group on Architecture:

GEOSS would be a system of systems supplemented by new observing components as and where required. This architecture would allow existing individual observing systems, e.g., WMO’s WWW GOS, to remain within their mandates as well as providing for new observing components. The architecture would require a new interface between individual observing components as well as a new component to exchange and disseminate observational data between those components. GEO Members and Participating Organizations would need to agree upon a global interoperability arrangement to which all individual observing components would adhere.

9. GEO-2 also agreed that GEOSS would encourage an end-to-end process of transforming data into information. This implied that a World Weather Watch-like structure, including telecommunication and data processing would be developed for each of the end user communities.

GEO-3 (February 2004)

10. GEO-3 was hosted by the government of South Africa in Cape Town from 23 to 27 February 2004. There were four major accomplishments at GEO-3: approval of a draft Communiqué; approval of a draft Framework Document; agreement on Terms of Reference for an Implementation Plan Task Team (IPTT) and approval of the report from all five Sub-groups. Prominence was given to WMO’s mandate in the draft Framework Document as well as the universally recognized contributions made by the World Weather Watch in the draft Communiqué.

GEO-4 (April 2004)

11. GEO-4 agreed to prepare three tiers of documentation for the 10-Year Implementation Plan: a Communiqué, an Executive Summary of the 10-Year Implementation Plan (to be called the 10-Year Implementation Plan) and the Implementation Plan Technical Blueprint.
12. A major discussion area at GEO-4 concerned international cooperation. While significant progress had been made, agreement could not be reached on the successor mechanism to GEO. However, GEO-4 agreed on eight principles (key considerations and a strategy) towards such a successor mechanism. Further, it agreed to meet again on 27-28 September 2004 in Brussels as a Working Session of GEO to discuss comments by GEO Members on the eight principles. GEO-4 had requested those intergovernmental organizations with observing systems, especially those countries that are not within the GEO membership, to provide their views on the eight principles. GEO-4 agreed that a successor mechanism must be identified to allow it to be inserted into the Executive Summary of the 10-Year Implementation Plan and the Implementation Plan Technical Blueprint as required in the Framework Document.

EOS-II (April 2004)

13. EOS-II approved a Communiqué stating approval of the Framework Document, pointing the way forward in the GEO effort, and encouraging broad participation in and support for the GEO effort. Also agreed at EOS-II, was a Framework Document consisting of: a high-level synopsis of the GEO effort for senior policymakers; a description of the GEOSS purpose and expected benefits; and a broad framework for developing the 10-year Implementation Plan. The Framework Document was prepared by the GEO Secretariat with substantive input from GEO Sub-groups, GEO Co-chairs, and high-level experts within GEO.

14. EOS-II was opened by Mr Junichiro Koizumi, Prime Minister of Japan. The WMO Secretary-General made two statements at EOS-II, the first describing WMO’s experience in observations and its commitment and potential contribution towards the goal to establish a comprehensive, coordinated and sustained Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS). The second was a joint statement on behalf of the Executive Heads of FAO, UNEP, UNESCO (including its IOC), and WMO to identify modalities for increased integration and coordination of a resulting enhanced UN-based observing system, and to seek approval from their respective governing bodies. The Executive Heads also offered to work within the GEO process and resulting intergovernmental coordination mechanism in order to ensure the success of GEOSS. EOS-II culminated with the agreement of a Framework Document for GEOSS, as well as a Communiqué, endorsed at ministerial level.

EC-LVI

15. EC-LVI was briefed on an overview of the components and processes for the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS). EC-LVI noted the high level of participation in the various GEO groups by representatives of NMHSs and in many cases by the Permanent Representatives, as well as by the WMO Secretariat. With regard to the Implementation Plan, EC-LVI suggested that GEO take into consideration the existing processes already available in NMHSs to provide an ability to measure the success in the societal areas embraced by GEO as described in its Framework Document.

16. EC-LVI was strongly of the opinion that GEOSS was one of the most important and key initiatives which would enable WMO to address the challenge of the coming decades. GEOSS was a significant opportunity to provide key benefits in many societal and economic areas world-wide and make data available to a broad range of user communities through improved observational systems. EC-LVI strongly agreed that WMO’s long-term experience in operational observing and telecommunications systems clearly demonstrated to those involved in the GEO process that WMO can provide effective leadership in the implementation and operation of GEOSS. EC-LVI was strongly of the opinion that several WMO components would be candidates for GEOSS and certainly be a significant contribution, if not the core, to GEOSS. Those components would include WMO’s unique systems, e.g. WWW GOS and GDPFS, GAW, WHYCOS, GTN-H, WIS and co-sponsored systems, e.g. GCOS, GOOS and GTOS. With
regard to WIS, EC-LVI noted the requirement for GEOSS to establish a new data exchange and dissemination component and that WIS could serve as an initial system requiring expansion as appropriate to accommodate other GEOSS related data and products.

17. EC-LVI also recalled its considerable experience in providing the venue for important and related secretariats within the Geneva Headquarters’ building, e.g. the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Secretariat, the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) Secretariat and the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) Joint Planning Staff. Such co-location had proven to be of great benefit to all the involved sponsors. Thus, EC-LVI agreed that the Secretary-General should indicate a strong willingness to provide the venue for any future GEOSS Secretariat under conditions comparable to those enjoyed by the present co-located secretariats. EC-LVI also noted that WMO provided the necessary administrative infrastructure for Trust Funds supporting the working of the co-located secretariats and that this service could also be made available to any future GEOSS Secretariat under similar conditions.

18. EC-LVI, in adopting Resolution 9, decided to endorse GEOSS in affirming its full support for the GEO process and resulting GEOSS and to support its implementation to the maximum extent possible within WMO’s mandate;

**GEO Special Session on Governance (September 2004)**

19. A GEO Special Session on Governance was held in Brussels, Belgium, (27-28 September 2004) and hosted by the European Commission. During the Special Session and at the request of the European Commission, the Secretary-General provided details for the potential hosting of the GEO Secretariat in the WMO Building and he expressed WMO’s willingness to do so. The reaction of GEO Members and participating organizations at the Special Session was most supportive.

**GEO-5 (November 2004)**

20. GEO-5 was held in Ottawa, Canada (29-30 November 2004) at which a draft GEOSS Implementation Plan and enabling Resolution were negotiated. Additionally, GEO-5 reviewed a proposal by WMO to host the GEO Secretariat and reached consensus in principle to consider an Agreement describing the WMO offer at GEO-6 to be held in Brussels, 14-15 February 2005.

**GEO-6 and EOS-III (February 2005)**

21. The Implementation Plan, enabling Resolution and hosting of the GEO Secretariat by WMO were submitted to GEO-6 hosted by the European Commission in Brussels, 14-15 February 2005. All three were endorsed by EOS-III. EOS-III also established GEO as a new intergovernmental organization.

**GEOSS implementation activity review**

22. Three sessions of the new intergovernmental GEO and two sessions of the WMO Executive Council have been held since EOS-III. Specific activities from the GEO sessions and the WMO Executive Councils that are relevant to WMO follow in chronological order:
**GEO-I (May 2005) (Roman numerals are being used by GEO since EOS-III)**

23. GEO-I was held at the WMO Headquarters, 3-4 May 2005. All GEO Secretariat staff members are WMO staff members administratively but report directly to GEO through the GEO Director. A GEO Trust Fund has been established as a mechanism to pay for GEO staff members and related GEO activities. GEO-I had several important agenda items for discussion including: a pledging session to identify 1M USD for 2005 and 3.5M USD for 2006 GEO activities; formal acceptance of the structure and voting on members for a new Executive Committee with 12 to 15 members; agreement on a Science and Technical advisory mechanism; and a User Interface mechanism.

**EC-LVII (June, 2005)**

24. EC-LVII was informed of the procedure to become a GEO Member while noting that GEO Membership incurred no mandatory financial commitment. EC-LVII agreed that GEOSS activities had the potential to greatly contribute to capacity building efforts through WMO Members and especially in developing countries. EC-LVII agreed to endorse the GEOSS Implementation Plan as contained in Resolution 18 Global Earth Observing System of Systems (GEOSS).

**GEO-II (December 2005)**

25. GEO-II was held at the WMO Headquarters in December 2005. GEO-II reviewed the Work Plan for 2006 and accepted a process for additional revisions within the budget of known contributions. Rules of Procedures for GEO were also approved including Terms of Reference for four Committees (Architecture and Data; Science and Technology; Capacity Building; and User Interface) and an ad hoc Working Group on Tsunamis. The 2006 GEO Work Plan was developed through a process involving the four above-named Committees that have overall responsibilities for monitoring the progress for 96 specific tasks. GEO Member countries and Participating Organizations submitted proposals for leadership and/or contributions towards the 96 individual tasks proposed in the 2006 GEO Work Plan.

**EC-LVIII (June 2006)**

26. EC-LVIII noted that WMO would either lead or contribute to more than 36 of the 96 GEO 2006 Work Plan tasks including the development of GEONETCast and specific tasks related to weather, water, climate and disasters. It recalled that it had already agreed that several WMO key systems would be core GEOSS components. In so doing, the Council recalled that GEOSS was based on the principle that existing systems contributing to GEOSS would retain their mandate and responsibilities. Thus, the GEO System (GEOS) would be owned and operated by GEO Members while existing WMO components in fulfilling their “of Systems” role would continue to be owned and operated by WMO Members. The interoperable arrangements being developed by GEO - and to be funded by GEO Members - would provide access to WMO Members’ data without adversely impacting WMO systems’ functionalities or operations. In order to further quantify the firm commitment and contribution to be made to GEOSS by WMO Members, EC-LVIII agreed to Resolution 15 in which all essential data as defined in WMO Resolution 40 (Cg-XII) would be made available through the GEO interoperable arrangements to serve the needs of the global community.

27. EC-LVIII noted a Service Level Agreement identifying in detail the administrative services provided by WMO in support of the GEO Secretariat had been finalized on 24 January 2006. The services were calculated on an incremental cost basis not to exceed a maximum amount of seven percent of the total GEO annual expenditure, excluding the charges for incremental costs under the Service Level Arrangement. EC-LVIII also noted that on 12 January 2006 the GEO Director had received full Delegation of Authority from the WMO
Secretary-General enabling him to effectively and efficiently direct his staff while meeting GEO Members’ request for full transparency in staffing, as well as financial matters in the implementation of GEOSS. EC-LVIII also noted that the GEO Director had been invited to consider inviting a representative of the National Audit Office to the next meeting of the GEO Plenary.

**GEO-III (November 2006)**

28. GEO-III was held in Bonn, Germany in November 2006. GEO-III reviewed a three year GEO Work Plan for 2007-2009 that continued appropriate tasks from 2006 as well as initiating new tasks including a new Task for the WMO Information System (WIS). As part of the development of the interoperable arrangements for GEO, its Architecture and Data Committee is conducting four pilot projects, WIS being one of them. GEO-III also commenced activities for the fourth Earth Summit to be hosted by the government of South Africa in November 2007.

**AGENDA ITEM 9.3 – INTERNATIONAL POLAR YEAR 2007-2008 (IPY)**

Cg-XV/Rep. 9.3

**INTERNATIONAL POLAR YEAR 2007-2008 (IPY)**

1. IPY 2007-2008 is an intensive and internationally coordinated campaign of high quality research activities and observations in Polar Regions during the period from 1 March 2007 to 1 March 2009. Following Resolution 34 (Cg-XIV), Resolution 11 (EC-LVI) and a Resolution of the 28th ICSU Assembly, WMO and ICSU as lead agencies for the IPY preparation and implementation, established in November 2004 a Joint Committee (JC) for IPY (Co-chairs Dr Allison, Australia and Dr Beland, Canada). The main role of the JC is to facilitate projects and activities within IPY that are consistent with the six themes and observational initiatives outlined in the IPY Framework document and in the Scope of Science for IPY 2007-2008. The JC had established three Sub-Committees: on Observations including the Space Task Group, on Data Policy and Management, and on Education, Outreach and Communications.

2. The Inter-commission Task Group (ITG) on IPY established by EC-LVI under the chairmanship Prof Qin Dahe, China, developed a number of recommendations to JC and technical commissions regarding ways and means for the better coordination of the IPY preparation among NMHSs, international agencies and multinational programmes, took an active part in the process of preparation of full project proposals for IPY and coordinated the involvement of technical commissions in the development and implementation of IPY activities addressing observational data and products, data management and information services. During the period 2005-2006 almost all technical commissions addressed the IPY preparation and developed relevant actions to facilitate the effective IPY implementation.

3. In April 2006 JC had completed an evaluation of 452 full project proposals received from nations for scientific or educational significance, for consistency with the IPY themes, for evidence of international collaboration, and for evidence that activities proposed would contribute to an IPY legacy. Out of these 452 project proposals JC endorsed 228 (170 scientific project proposals, one for data and information services, and 57 proposals for education and outreach) in which over 60 countries participate.

4. Proponents of all endorsed projects have applied for funding from national and international funding agencies. The Secretary-General and Executive Director of ICSU addressed Ministers of Foreign Affairs and of Science and Technology of WMO and ICSU Members and urged governments to provide financial support for IPY implementation, in the context of their respective national research budgets, in order to allow scientists to make a contribution to the extraordinary
international scientific collaborative effort. As a result, many nations have developed new funding to support these innovative and coordinated studies.

5. The IPY Sub-Committee on Observations, with the participation of technical commissions, made an assessment of the observing systems proposed in IPY scientific projects. The results were very informative, in particular with respect to technology/institutional gaps, data requirements and potential legacy of observing systems to be established during the IPY, and were used to assist projects in filling the gaps. To meet the project requirements for satellite data, products and services the Space Task Group was established to review the IPY space data requirements and to make recommendations regarding contributions of the Space Agencies in terms of data acquisition plans, processing, archiving, and distribution of data and products. The Group is developing the concept of an effective space component of the observing system for the polar regions during IPY.

6. The IPY Sub-Committee on Data Policy and Management finalized a Policy on IPY data management and is developing an IPY Data and Information Service, based on the existing systems, and started to develop a strategy for the overall data flow within IPY.

7. JC had accepted the kind offer of Norway to host an IPY Science Conference tentatively scheduled for 2010 in Oslo. The Science Conference is considered as a compliment to many polar science meetings already scheduled or planned, and particularly as a way to accelerate progress on the interdisciplinary and integrating themes of IPY.

8. The detailed information on the IPY and reported activities is available on the Website www.ipy.org.

AGENDA ITEM 10.1(1) – FINANCIAL MATTERS

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE FINANCIAL REGULATIONS OF THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

Cg-XV/Rep. 10.1(1)

1. The fifty-eighth session of the Executive Council considered the revisions to the Financial Regulations of the World Meteorological Organization proposed by the Secretary-General as outlined in the Annex to draft Resolution 10.1/1 (Cg-XV). The Executive Council recommended that Fifteenth Congress approve the proposed revisions to the Financial Regulations.

2. The revisions to the Financial Regulations of the World Meteorological Organization result from decisions by the Executive Council and/or proposals prepared by the Secretary-General in response to requests by the Executive Council. The Annex to draft Resolution 10.1/1 (Cg-XV) shown in Appendix B of Cg-XV/Doc. 10.1(1) indicates the proposed changes by listing only those regulations which are effected by the revisions. Revisions are included under Article 3 (Maximum Expenditures for the Financial Period), Article 6 (The Biennial Budget), Article 7 (Appropriation), Article 8 (Provision of Funds, Article 10 (Other Income), Article 13 (Internal Control) and Article 14 (The Accounts).

Result-based budget format

3. By Resolution 15 (EC-LVII) on Outline Priorities and Resources for the Fifteenth Financial Period (2008-2011), the Executive Council addressed the new format of the presentation of the programme and budget for 2008-2011. Specifically, the Council established an Ad Hoc Group on the Presentation of the Programme and Budget for 2008-2011 to provide guidance on an improved results-based budget approach. The Ad Hoc Group met on 26 and 27 October 2005 and concluded to recommend the revision of the programme and budget structure to the Executive Council. The Ad
Hoc Group recommended to replace the current budget format that distinguishes between parts, major programmes and programmes, with the result-based budget format including expected results and performance indicators. In addition, the Ad Hoc Group recommended that the corresponding revisions of the Financial Regulations be submitted to the Executive Council. The recommendations of the Ad Hoc Group are contained in its report to the fifty-eighth session of the Executive Council. As outlined in paragraphs 5.2.1 to 5.2.3 of WMO-No. 1007, the Council approved the new format of the programme and budget for 2008-2011, including expected results and performance indicators, on the basis of the proposals presented by the Secretary-General. The required revisions of the Financial Regulations are outlined for Article 3 (Maximum Expenditures for the Financial Period), Article 6 (The Biennial Budget) and Article 7 ( Appropriations).

Consolidation of off-budget funds with appropriation process

4. By Resolution 15 (EC-LVII), the Executive Council requested the Secretary-General:

- To further consolidate the budgetary presentation by including, in particular, programme support income, interest income, income from sales of publications and from rental of facilities and to propose the necessary budget adjustment in the context of the proposed programme and budget for the fifteenth financial period (2008-2011); and

- To submit for approval revisions of the Financial Regulations as appropriate which reflect the adjustment in budgetary arrangements.

5. In accordance with the request of the Executive Council, the Ad Hoc Group on the Presentation of the Programme and Budget for 2008-2011 examined the issues involved during its session on 26 and 27 October 2005. The Ad Hoc Group recommended to the Executive Council the approval of the consolidation of off-budget funds with the appropriation process on the basis of the proposals presented by the Secretary-General. Specifically, it is proposed to consolidate the income of off-budget funds in the General Fund as miscellaneous income. Miscellaneous income, including interest income, would be utilized to reduce the regular budget appropriation. In addition, the Ad Hoc Group recommended that the corresponding revisions of the Financial Regulations be submitted to the Executive Council. The recommendations of the Ad Hoc Group and the proposals of the Secretary-General were submitted to the fifty-eighth session of the Executive Council. As outlined in paragraph 5.2.4 of WMO-No. 1007, the Council approved the consolidation of off-budget funds with the proposed programme and budget on the basis of the proposals presented by the Secretary-General. The required revisions of the Financial Regulations are outlined for Article 8 (Provision of Funds) and Article 10 (Other Income).

Strengthening of internal oversight

6. At its fifty-seventh session, the Executive Council noted the development of internal oversight in WMO and the growing range, nature and volume of relevant activities required of the Service. In order to respond adequately to the requirements for audit services, the Council requested the strengthening of the internal audit services on an urgent basis within the budget envelope proposed for the biennium 2006-2007 (paragraph 4.1.17, Abridged Final Report with Resolutions of the Fifty-seventh Session of the Executive Council (WMO-No. 988)). The decision by the Executive Council was based on the recommendation of the WMO Audit Committee on the urgent need to strengthen oversight operation as reflected in the report of the Audit Committee to the Executive Council (Paragraphs 21 to 25 of Annex V, Abridged final report and resolutions, EC-LVII, WMO-No. 988) and proposals submitted by the Secretary-General on the Strengthening of the Internal Oversight presented in document EC-LVII/Doc. 4.1(4).

7. As requested by the Executive Council, a concept for a strengthened oversight service was developed, including audit, investigation, evaluation and monitoring. The new concept
included the establishment of an Internal Oversight Office (IOO) to replace the Internal Audit and Investigation Service (IAIS). The Office is headed by a Director (D1) as compared to the Chief (P5) of IAIS. The Office also includes the Internal Audit Service (IAS) and the Evaluation and Monitoring Service (EMS), both headed by a Chief and reporting to the Director, IOO. The new organizational structure was announced by WMO Service Note No. 2/2006 of 6 January 2006 and implemented on 1 February 2006. As outlined in paragraph 4.1.20 of WMO-No. 1007, the fifty-eighth session of the Executive Council noted and supported the action taken by the Secretary-General to strengthen the internal oversight function.

8. In accordance with the concept for a strengthened oversight service, corresponding revisions have been indicated for Article 13 (Internal Control) of the Financial Regulations. Specifically, it is proposed to change reference to Chief, Internal Audit and Investigation Service (IAIS) to Director, Internal Oversight Office (IOO). In addition, the concept of programme monitoring has been introduced.

Annual audit of financial statements

9. By Resolution 10 (EC-LVII) on Consideration of the Accounts of the World Meteorological Organization for the year 2004, the Executive Council:

- Decided that financial statements will be audited on an annual basis starting 2005; and
- Requested the Secretary-General to prepare amendments to the Financial Regulations as appropriate on the frequency with which financial statements are prepared and audited.

10. In accordance with the request of the Executive Council, corresponding revisions have been indicated for Article 14 (The Accounts) of the Financial Regulations. Specifically, it is proposed to prepare annual accounts covering income and expenditure of all funds and assets and liabilities of the Organization. In addition, the Secretary-General would submit for the second year of the biennium biennial accounts showing the biennium status of appropriations.

AGENDA ITEM 10.1(2) – FINANCIAL MATTERS

FINANCIAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL IN ACCORDANCE WITH GENERAL REGULATIONS 135 (11)

Cg-XV/Rep. 10.1(2)

1. This report refers to the financial situation of the fourteenth financial period (2004-2007) and is submitted in accordance with the General Regulations 135 (11).

Assessment and outstanding contributions (General Fund)

2. Total assessment for the fourteenth financial period (2004-2007) amounts to CHF 249.8 million. Amount paid by 31 March 2007 amounts to CHF 200.8 million and amount estimated to be paid between 1 April to 31 December 2007 amounts to CHF 33.8 million. Annex 1 to this document shows the contributions receivable at 31 March 2007. The following table summarizes the information presented in the Annex (amounts in millions of Swiss Francs):
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contributions due (at 31 December 2003)</th>
<th>Amount due</th>
<th>Amount paid by 31/03/2007 (*)</th>
<th>Outstanding at 31/03/2007</th>
<th>Amount estimated to be paid between 1/04/2007 and 31/12/2007</th>
<th>Estimated amount outstanding at 31/12/07</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22.4</td>
<td>16.4</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>5.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004 Assessment</td>
<td>62.4</td>
<td>61.0</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005 Assessment</td>
<td>62.4</td>
<td>61.0</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006 Assessment</td>
<td>62.5</td>
<td>55.9</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007 Assessment</td>
<td>62.5</td>
<td>22.9</td>
<td>39.6</td>
<td>27.6</td>
<td>12.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>272.2</strong></td>
<td><strong>217.2</strong></td>
<td><strong>54.9</strong></td>
<td><strong>33.8</strong></td>
<td><strong>21.1</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Payments received are credited first to the Working Capital Fund, then applied in chronological order to the reduction of the contributions which are due in accordance with the scale of assessments (Financial Regulation 8.7).

3. As at 1 January 2007, thirty-nine Members were subject to the provisions of Resolution 37 (Cg-XI) – Suspension of Members for failure to meet financial obligations. By 31 March 2007, nine of these Members had satisfied the requirements for waiving the application of the provisions of Resolution 37 (Cg-XI). At the same date, two Members had concluded and complied with Repayment Agreements for the settlement of their arrears of contributions.

4. At the end of the thirteenth financial period, the sum of CHF 22.4 million in assessed contributions was outstanding in respect of certain Members. The Secretary-General has pursued his efforts to encourage the defaulting Members to meet their financial obligations to the Organization by addressing appeals for payment, arranging acceptance of local currency through UNDP, and informing Members of arrangements approved by Congress for the settlement of arrears in instalments. At 31 December 2007, unpaid contributions are estimated to total CHF 21.1 million.

**Budgetary appropriations (General Fund)**

5. Budget appropriation for the financial period 2004-2007 amounts to CHF 262.8 million, including an amount of CHF 130.7 million for 2004-2005 and CHF 132.1 million for 2006-2007. It is estimated that total budget appropriation will be utilized.

6. The initial budget appropriation for 2004-2007 amounted to CHF 262.8 million. The unspent appropriations of the 2004-2005 budget amounted to CHF 5.6 million. By decision of the Executive Council, the unspent balance was re-appropriated to the corresponding programmes and parts of the budget of the following biennium 2006-2007.

7. For the first time, the programme budget document was presented in the results-based budgeting (RBB) format for the 2006-2007 biennium. The RBB format provides performance information against which to evaluate programme and budget performance of the Secretariat, which includes long-term objectives for the 2000-2009 period, expected results for the 2006-2007 biennium, performance
indicators and project activities. In line with the guidance provided by EC-LIII and EC-LIV with regard to the performance evaluation in the RBB process, measurement of programme and budget performance is currently carried out on the basis of the approved budget and the above performance baseline data for the 2006-2007 biennium.

The following table summarizes the budgetary situation for the fourteenth financial period 2004-2007 (amounts in millions of Swiss Francs):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maximum expenditures approved by Fourteenth Congress, including High Priority Activities</td>
<td>262.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actual expenditure incurred in first biennium 2004-2005</td>
<td>125.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget approved for second biennium 2006-2007</td>
<td>132.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re-appropriation from first biennium</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total approved for second biennium</td>
<td>137.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total estimated actual expenditure for the fourteenth financial period</td>
<td>262.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8. A statement of actual expenditure incurred during the first biennium and a statement of appropriations for the second biennium is presented in Annex 2 to this Appendix.

**Revenue and surplus (General Fund)**


10. During the first biennium 2004-2005 revenue amounted to CHF 132.6 million, of which CHF 124.9 represented assessed contributions, CHF 1.6 million voluntary contributions to the General Fund, and CHF 1.9 million interest on short-term investments and miscellaneous income. Arrears of contributions from Members decreased by CHF 4.2 million during the biennium. Therefore, funds available during the first biennium 2004-2005 amounted to CHF 145.6 million, including the surplus of CHF 13.0 million carried over from the thirteenth financial period. Actual expenditures incurred during the first biennium 2004-2005 amounted to CHF 126.7 million. Other adjustments amounted to a decrease of surplus in the amount of CHF 0.4 million. The actual accumulated cash surplus at the end of the first biennium was CHF 18.5 million. The cash surplus was carried over to the 2006-2007 biennium. Of this amount, CHF 12.8 million was allocated to the 2006-2007 biennium, representing financing of the budgetary surplus of CHF 5.6 million re-appropriated from the first biennium (2004-2005) to the second biennium (2006-2007), as approved by the Executive Council, and allocation of CHF 7.2 million to the approved budget of the biennium. Projections based on the current and historic rates of collection of contributions indicate that total revenue for the second biennium (2006-2007) is estimated to be CHF 123.5 million. The projected cash surplus at the close of the fourteenth financial period 2004-2007 is estimated at some CHF 4.3 million.
The following table summarizes the actual results from the first biennium 2004-2005 and the projected situation for the biennium 2006-2007 (amounts in millions of Swiss Francs):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td>132.6</td>
<td>123.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus brought forward 1 January 2004</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus brought forward 1 January 2006</td>
<td></td>
<td>18.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total revenue and surplus</td>
<td>145.6</td>
<td>142.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure, actual 2004-2005 projected 2006-2007</td>
<td>127.1</td>
<td>137.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus/(Deficit)</td>
<td>18.5</td>
<td>4.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**WMO Technical Cooperation Fund**

11. This fund finances the operational Secretariat support to the WMO Technical Cooperation Programme. Funding derives from support costs provided by donors for trust fund arrangements and UNDP for UNDP funded projects. The following table summarizes the situation of the Technical Cooperation Fund for the fourteenth financial period 2004-2007:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>Budget 2004-2005 (CHF’000)</th>
<th>Actual 2004-2005 (CHF’000)</th>
<th>Budget 2006-2007 (CHF’000)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UNDP</td>
<td>720.0</td>
<td>224.9</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust Funds</td>
<td>4,730.0</td>
<td>2806.8</td>
<td>1,600.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Fund</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Revenue</td>
<td>5,450.0</td>
<td>3,031.7</td>
<td>1,600.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12. The expenditure budgets approved by the Executive Council for the biennia 2004-2005 and 2006-2007 were CHF 5.5 million and CHF 1.6 million respectively. Expenditure levels of the Technical Cooperation Fund have been brought down to match available support cost resources. The deficit of CHF 1.9 million at the end of the first biennium (2004-2005) was carried over to the second biennium and will be offset against support cost revenues to be earned during that biennium.

**United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

13. During the fourteenth financial period WMO continued to administer the WMO/UNDP programme financed by allocations from the United Nations Development Programme.
The following table presents details of the assistance programme implemented during the first three years of the current period and the estimated programme for 2007.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHF ('000s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programme implemented in 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme implemented in 2005</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programme implemented in 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approved and expected programme 2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expected programme implementation during the fourteenth financial period</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Trust Funds Administrative Costs Pool Account**

14. The establishment of this account was approved by EC-XXIX, for the purpose of meeting some of the administrative costs related to trust funds administered outside the Technical Cooperation Department. Revenue derived from support costs was included in agreements with donors. At the close of the first biennium of the current financial period, an amount of CHF 339,200 remained in the fund to finance costs during the second biennium.

**Publications Fund**

15. A report on the Publications Programme is contained in a document submitted under agenda item 4.3.

The following table sets out the situation of the Publications Fund for the fourteenth financial period as at 31 March 2007:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHF('000)</th>
<th>CHF('000)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance of fund as at 1 January 2004</td>
<td>124.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appropriations from General Fund</td>
<td>1,239.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sales of Publications</td>
<td>562.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advertisements in Bulletin</td>
<td>212.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>23.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total income to 31 March 2007</td>
<td>2,037.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total income available</td>
<td>2,162.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditure</td>
<td>1,465.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance at 31 March 2007</td>
<td>696.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Working Capital Fund (WCF)**

16. Fourteenth Congress, in Resolution 37 (Cg-XIV), fixed the principal of the Working Capital Fund (WCF) during the fourteenth financial period (2004-2007) at CHF 5,000,000 with the
provision that any shortfall was to be covered by crediting interest earned on the investment of cash resources of the Working Capital Fund.

17. By 31 December 2005, the capital had been fully funded. At 31 March 2007 unpaid advances amounted to CHF 2,454 and actual cash available in the fund at the same date was CHF 4,981,916.

Trust Funds

18. Throughout the period under review the Secretary-General continued to act as custodian and administer some one hundred and twenty multi donor or bilateral trust funds, for a wide range of purposes related to the WMO Programmes. These trust funds can be broadly grouped into three categories: Funds for Awards and Prizes, Voluntary Cooperation Fund and Related Activities, and Other Trust Funds.

Voluntary Cooperation Fund and related activities (amounts in thousands of Swiss Francs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund/Project</th>
<th>Balance at 1 January 2004</th>
<th>Contributions and other income</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Balance at 31 March 2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary Cooperation Fund</td>
<td>950.7</td>
<td>893.8</td>
<td>453.0</td>
<td>1,391.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary Cooperation Prog. Coord. Projects</td>
<td>2,236.3</td>
<td>3,382.2</td>
<td>2,838.2</td>
<td>2,780.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust Fund for Implem. Of VCP(ES) Projects</td>
<td>31.0</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>25.9</td>
<td>9.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Assistance Fund</td>
<td>52.1</td>
<td>103.4</td>
<td>(9.0)</td>
<td>164.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Weather Watch Impl. Support Rev. Fund</td>
<td>162.5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>162.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,432.6</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,383.3</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,308.1</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,507.8</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Other Trust Funds (amounts in thousands of Swiss Francs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Balance at 1 January 2004</th>
<th>Contributions and other income</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>Balance at 31 March 2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agromet. Prog in the Sahel</td>
<td>1,646.8</td>
<td>3,160.2</td>
<td>3,695.0</td>
<td>1,112.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical Cooperation Projects</td>
<td>11,842.3</td>
<td>23,353.6</td>
<td>26,605.9</td>
<td>8,590.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Trust Funds</td>
<td>2,595.8</td>
<td>8,570.6</td>
<td>6,294.7</td>
<td>4,871.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDP-Financed Projects</td>
<td>2,037.5</td>
<td>301.5</td>
<td>3,232.8</td>
<td>(893.8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNDP Trust Funds</td>
<td>(842.4)</td>
<td>1,221.1</td>
<td>756.2</td>
<td>(377.5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>17,280.0</strong></td>
<td><strong>36,607.0</strong></td>
<td><strong>40,584.6</strong></td>
<td><strong>13,302.4</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Joint WMO/ICSU/IOC Climate Research Fund (JCRF)

The JCRF was established by Resolution 29 (Cg-VIII) and is jointly funded by WMO, ICSU and IOC.

The following table summarizes the financial situation of the fund during the fourteenth financial period up to 31 March 2007:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>CHF (’000)</th>
<th>CHF (’000)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance at 1 January 2004</td>
<td>641.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WMO</td>
<td>8,067.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICSU</td>
<td>1,034.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IOC</td>
<td>716.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>820.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total contributions</strong></td>
<td>10,639.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total income available for programmes</td>
<td>11,280.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditures</td>
<td>9,259.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Balance of fund 31 March 2007</strong></td>
<td>2,021.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WMO/UNEP Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fund

20. This fund was established in 1989 following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between WMO and UNEP. The fund is largely funded from voluntary contributions from Member States and other organizations.

The following table summarizes the financial situation of the fund during the fourteenth financial period up to 31 March 2007:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHF ('000)</th>
<th>CHF ('000)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance of fund at 1 January 2004</td>
<td>8,222.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions and other income:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- WMO</td>
<td>606.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- UNEP</td>
<td>413.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Governments and other institutions</td>
<td>20,562.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Interest and other income</td>
<td>440.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total income during fourteenth Financial Period (to 31 March 2007)</td>
<td>22,022.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total income available</td>
<td>30,245.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditures</td>
<td>19,502.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance of fund 31 March 2007</td>
<td>10,742.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WMO Special Trust Fund for Climate and Atmospheric Environment Activities

21. This fund was established by Resolution 5 (EC-XLI). The fund is wholly financed by voluntary contributions by Member States. At the close of the thirteenth financial period a balance of CHF 1.1 million was carried over for activities to be implemented during the current period.

The following table summarizes the financial situation of the fund during the fourteenth financial period up to 31 March 2007:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHF ('000)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance from thirteenth financial period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest earned</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total resources available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance for future activities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Global Climate Observing System (GCOS)

22. GCOS was established in 1991 by Resolution 8 (Cg-XI). A memorandum of understanding between WMO, IOC, ICSU and UNEP established a special fund to administer extrabudgetary resources made available for support of GCOS activities.

The following table summarizes the financial situation of the fund during the fourteenth financial period up to 31 March 2007:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>CHF ('000)</th>
<th>CHF ('000)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance of fund at 1 January 2004</td>
<td>2,860.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions and other income:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- WMO</td>
<td>441.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Governments and other institutions</td>
<td>3,388.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Interest and other income</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total income during fourteenth Financial Period (to 31 March 2007)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total income available</td>
<td>6,779.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenditures</td>
<td>5,366.4</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance of fund 31 March 2007</td>
<td>1,412.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Staff Compensation Plan Reserve Fund

23. This fund was initially established by Resolution 35 (Cg-III) for the purpose of meeting the WMO financial liability in respect of injury, disability or death of staff resulting from service incurred accident or illness. At the close of the thirteenth financial period a balance of CHF 306,000 was carried over for liabilities of the fourteenth period.

The following table summarizes the financial situation of the fund during the fourteenth financial period up to 31 March 2007:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>CHF ('000)</th>
<th>CHF ('000)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Capital of fund at 1 January 2004</td>
<td>306.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest earned and subventions:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Interest</td>
<td>22.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Subventions</td>
<td>227.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total income during fourteenth Financial Period (to 31 March 2007)</td>
<td>249.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total income available</td>
<td>555.8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenditures</td>
<td>302.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital of fund at 31 March 2007</td>
<td>253.5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
24. By 31 March 2007, expenditure amounting to CHF 302,000 had been incurred and revenue of CHF 22,800 earned from the investment of the capital. Of the shortfall of CHF 279,200, an amount of CHF 227,000 has already been covered by subventions from the General Fund and other funds. At the end of the period, subventions will be raised to cover the remaining shortfall as of that date so that the capital of the fund is maintained at CHF 306,000.

Other matters

25. Throughout the period, the financial records and transactions have been examined by the External Auditor. His reports have been transmitted to Members with the statutory accounts for the years 2004 and 2005.

Annexes: 2

ANNEX 1
ANNEX 2

(Amounts in thousands of Swiss Francs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget Part</th>
<th>2004-2005 Actual Expenditures</th>
<th>2006-2007 Appropriations*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Part 1:</td>
<td>Policy-making organs</td>
<td>2,773.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 2:</td>
<td>Executive management</td>
<td>7,316.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Part 3:</strong></td>
<td><strong>Scientific and technical programmes:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 3.0:</td>
<td>Overall coordination of the scientific programmes</td>
<td>5,046.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 3.1:</td>
<td>World Weather Watch Programme</td>
<td>10,357.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 3.2:</td>
<td>World Climate Programme</td>
<td>12,124.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 3.3:</td>
<td>Atmospheric Research and Environment Programme</td>
<td>5,767.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 3.4:</td>
<td>Applications of Meteorology Programme</td>
<td>6,498.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 3.5:</td>
<td>Hydrology and Water Resources Programme</td>
<td>5,563.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 3.6:</td>
<td>Education and Training Programme</td>
<td>6,187.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 3.7:</td>
<td>Technical Cooperation Programme</td>
<td>3,390.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 3.8:</td>
<td>Regional Programme</td>
<td>7,248.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Part 3.9:</td>
<td>Natural Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Programme</td>
<td>1,108.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 3.10:</td>
<td>WMO Space Programme</td>
<td>1,075.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Part 3, Scientific and technical programmes</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>64,367.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 4:</td>
<td>Linguistic, Publication and Conference Services</td>
<td>22,442.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 5:</td>
<td>Resource management</td>
<td>25,529.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 6:</td>
<td>Other budgetary provisions</td>
<td>1,285.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part 7:</td>
<td>Acquisition of capital assets - Headquarters Building</td>
<td>1,386.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>125,100.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Note: 2006-2007 appropriations include the unspent balance re-appropriated from the 2004-2005 biennium.
## GENERAL FUND

**STATEMENT SHOWING STATUS OF CONTRIBUTIONS AS AT 31 MARCH 2007**

(Amounts expressed in Swiss Francs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Oldest Year</th>
<th>Past Years 2007</th>
<th>Due at 1 January 2007</th>
<th>Contributions paid</th>
<th>Oldest Year</th>
<th>Past Years 2007</th>
<th>Current Arrears</th>
<th>Due to Working Capital Fund</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>1997</td>
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<td>12'490.00</td>
<td>12'445.50</td>
<td>12'490.00</td>
<td>136'935.50</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albania</td>
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<td>37'369.50</td>
<td>12'490.00</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>37'369.50</td>
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<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>-</td>
<td>49'960.00</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>49'960.00</td>
<td>49'960.00</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Angola</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>5'130.30</td>
<td>5'130.30</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antigua and Barbuda</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>12'490.00</td>
<td>12'490.00</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
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<td>561'979.18</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>12'490.00</td>
<td>1993</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>980'465.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
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<td>530'825.00</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Azerbaijan</td>
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<td>12'490.00</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>12'490.00</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>18'735.00</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
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<td>12'490.00</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2007</td>
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<td>12'490.00</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbados</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>12'490.00</td>
<td>12'490.00</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belarus</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>2007</td>
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<td>12'490.00</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>12'490.00</td>
<td>12'490.00</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
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<td>13.00</td>
<td>12'490.00</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bosnia and Herzegovina</td>
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<td>6'797.50</td>
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<td>5'692.50</td>
<td>5'692.50</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Botswana</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>12'490.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>British Carribean Territories</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>12'490.00</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>12'490.00</td>
<td>12'490.00</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burkina Faso</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>11'919.13</td>
<td>12'490.00</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>11'919.13</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>8'664.35</td>
<td>8'664.35</td>
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<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## GENERAL FUND

**STATEMENT SHOWING STATUS OF CONTRIBUTIONS AS AT 31 MARCH 2007**

(Amounts expressed in Swiss Francs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Oldest Year</th>
<th>Past Years</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>Contributions paid</th>
<th>Oldest Year</th>
<th>Past Years</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Due to Working Capital Fund</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1'729'865.00</td>
<td>- 2007</td>
<td>- 1'729'865.00</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1'729'865.00</td>
<td>- 1'729'865.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>12'490.00</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>62'352.96</td>
<td>- 62'352.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>12'490.00</td>
<td>- 1981</td>
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<td>12'490.00</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>287'317.00</td>
<td>- 287'317.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chad</td>
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<td>12'490.00</td>
<td>- 1983</td>
<td>259'273.32</td>
<td>12'490.00</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>271'763.32</td>
<td>- 271'763.32</td>
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### General Fund

**Statement Showing Status of Contributions as at 31 March 2007**

(Amounts expressed in Swiss Francs)

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**Note:** Contributions are paid by the end of the year, and arrears are due by 31 December of the following year.
## GENERAL FUND

**STATEMENT SHOWING STATUS OF CONTRIBUTIONS AS AT 31 MARCH 2007**

(Amounts expressed in Swiss Francs)

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## GENERAL FUND

**STATEMENT SHOWING STATUS OF CONTRIBUTIONS AS AT 31 MARCH 2007**

(Amounts expressed in Swiss Francs)

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## GENERAL FUND

### STATEMENT SHOWING STATUS OF CONTRIBUTIONS AS AT 31 MARCH 2007

(Amounts expressed in Swiss Francs)

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<th>Member</th>
<th>Due at 1 January</th>
<th>Contributions paid</th>
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* Following the decision of the United Nations General Assembly on 8 April 1993, the state is being provisionally referred to for all purposes within the Organization as "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" pending settlement of difference that has arisen over its name.
AGENDA ITEM 10.1 (3) – FINANCIAL MATTERS

ADOPTION OF INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

Cg-XV/Rep. 10.1 (3)

INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC SECTOR ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its fifty-eighth session in June 2006, the Executive Council requested the Secretary-General, in accordance with the recommendation of the External Auditor and the Audit Committee, to prepare a report to the Audit Committee, on the expected benefits of adopting International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), the expected additional resource requirements for adopting IPSAS, the experience of other United Nations system organizations in adopting IPSAS, and his proposed plan for adopting IPSAS.

2. The Audit Committee considered the possible adoption of IPSAS during its seventh meeting on 13 and 14 November 2006. The Committee noted that the Executive Council had not taken a decision on the adoption of IPSAS but rather requested further information. The Audit Committee considered the benefits of establishing IPSAS, the associated costs and timelines of adoption. The Committee felt that the initially provided cost estimates for adoption of IPSAS were too low and requested the Secretary-General to develop revised estimates. The Committee also emphasised the need to secure appropriate approval of the IPSAS project and necessary revisions to WMO regulations and policies. This would imply in particular approval by Congress. It was recommended by the Secretary-General to the Audit Committee that the fifteenth session of the Congress may be invited to make a decision in principle on the adoption of IPSAS. Following such approval, the Secretary-General would submit a detailed project plan for approval to the Executive Council through the Audit Committee. The Secretary-General presents this report in accordance with the discussion held during the seventh meeting of the Audit Committee.

II. BACKGROUND


4. When UNSAS were first approved in 1993, they were high quality accounting standards in comparison to standards applied by many other comparable organizations. However, UNSAS have not been able to keep up with rapidly changing accounting developments. United Nations system accountants, managers and auditors have had concerns for several years about the continued viability of UNSAS. After an in-depth review, sponsored by the High Level Committee on Management (HLCM), into the possibility of United Nations system organizations adopting external accounting standards, the Task Force on Accounting Standards recommended that the United Nations system adopt International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS). The Finance and
Budget Network endorsed this recommendation. On 30 November 2005, the High Level Committee on Management (HLCM) accepted the recommendation of the Task Force on Accounting Standards that the United Nations system adopt IPSAS (CEB/2005/HLCM/R.25).

5. On July 14 2005, the Chairman of the Panel of External Auditors of United Nations system Organizations wrote to the President of the General Assembly recommending that:

‘...the United Nations system ... apply international accounting standards, policies and practices consistently in line with recognised good practices...with the objective of presenting stakeholders with adequate financial information uniformly and in a meaningful manner, while keeping abreast of the latest developments in financial matters.’

6. In Resolution A/60/283 (July 2006) the UN General Assembly decided to approve the adoption of IPSAS.

III. ADOPTION OF INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC SECTOR ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

7. The adoption of good quality accounting standards is essential for transparent financial reporting, strong accountability and good governance.

8. IPSAS are credible, high quality independently produced accounting standards, underpinned by a strong due process and supported by governments, professional accounting bodies, and international development organizations such as the World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), International Monetary Fund (IMF), International Accounting Standards Board (IASB), and International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI). They represent best practice for governments and not-for-profits. The OECD, European Commission (EC) and NATO have recently adopted IPSAS for their financial reporting. Annex I contains a brief description of the process of setting IPSAS.

9. The credibility of United Nations system financial reporting, including the accounting standards that underpin its financial statements, is important to Member States’, donors’ and the general public’s confidence in United Nations system organizations, particularly within the context of challenging media scrutiny. The proposed adoption of IPSAS is a vital component of WMO’s drive to excel as a modern, progressive organization that attains and remains up-to-date with best management practices.

10. IPSAS standards will require WMO accounting to change from modified accruals to full accruals. The resulting more comprehensive information about costs will better support results based management. Full-accrual accounting is considered best accounting practice by international organizations for the public as well as the private sector.

11. Under IPSAS accounting requirements, WMO accounting will include full recognition of liabilities for employee benefit obligations such as After Service Health Insurance (ASHI), annual leave and repatriation grants; recognition and depreciation of capital assets such as vehicles, furniture and equipment; preparation of audited annual financial statements; and recognition of expenses on the basis of goods and services received rather than issuing of a purchase order. A full comparison of IPSAS with UNSAS, as well as the impact of the proposed adoption, are described in Annexes III and VI.

12. These accounting changes will have a big impact on the reported information. Reported assets and liabilities are expected to increase substantially. Full recognition of WMO’s ASHI liabilities will result in negative overall equity (i.e. a negative overall fund balance) for WMO.
13. The current implementation of the WMO enterprise resource planning (ERP) system, Oracle Business Suite, is not IPSAS-ready. An appropriate version will have to be implemented to support IPSAS. The estimated cost of this and other implications of the adoption of IPSAS are listed in Annex IV.

14. The experience of other United Nations system organizations with implementation of IPSAS is described in Annex V.

15. IPSAS adoption has wider implications for budgeting, funding and management. It raises the question of whether the budget basis should change to full accruals. IPSAS financial reporting requirements will highlight differences between funds availability and funds requirements with respect to future ASHI payments. IPSAS standards better integrate non-expendable equipment into the accounting system. This increased internal control should improve the validity, accuracy and completeness of non-expendable equipment records with consequential improvements in its management.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION

16. IPSAS adoption is a major change that will require investment in information systems, people, project management and staff training. IPSAS adoption is expected to require the implementation period of the fifteenth financial period (2008-2011), with the first set of IPSAS compliant financial statements available for the year ending 31 December 2012. A provisional IPSAS adoption implementation timetable is provided in Annex II.

17. Significant amendments to the Financial Regulations and Rules, and new policies, procedures and guidance will be needed. A first review of the necessary amendments needed to the Financial Regulations to reflect International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) was carried out with the assistance of the External Auditor the result of which is presented in Annex VII. WMO’s Financial Regulations will need to be amended in order to reflect IPSAS. As stated in Financial Regulation 1.1, ‘these Regulations … may be amended only by Congress’. As stated in Rule 101.1, the Financial Rules are promulgated by the Secretary-General in accordance with the provisions of the Financial Regulations adopted by Congress, and therefore are not subject to the same time pressures for amendment.

18. The required budget envelope for the adoption of IPSAS is estimated to amount to CHF 4.0 million for the fifteenth financial period as detailed in Annex IV. With full implementation as of 2012, it is estimated that recurrent CHF 1.0 million per biennium are required to maintain the more detailed and complex information system associated with IPSAS. With the development of a detailed project, those budget envelope estimates will be developed in detail.

19. In order to proceed with the IPSAS project with the required approval, Congress may approve the project in principle with the budget envelope of CHF 4.0 million for the fifteenth financial period. On the basis of this approval, the Secretary-General would further develop the project proposal and initiate first steps in project implementation. A detailed project document could be submitted to the sixtieth session of the Executive Council in June 2008. The Council could be entrusted by Congress to appropriate the budget project within the approved envelope and on the basis of the detailed project document. The cost of preparatory work until June 2008 would be covered within the approved budget of the financial period 2008-2011.

V. FUNDING OF IPSAS PROJECT

20. The proposed budget of CHF 269.0 million for the financial period 2008-2011 does not include any specific budget provision for the implementation of the IPSAS project estimated to require an amount of CHF 4.0 million. In addition, no budgetary allocation has been included for the IPSAS project in the proposed budget supplement of up to CHF 12.0 million. In order to approve the
IPSAS project, a corresponding funding arrangement would need to be approved by Congress. The following funding options could be considered:

(i) Increase the proposed budget for the fifteenth financial period (2008-2011) from CHF 269.8 million by CHF 4.0 million to CHF 273.8 million;

(ii) Include the project as a priority activity within the proposed supplement of CHF 12.0 million by reducing corresponding activities in the same amount;

(iii) Fund the project from surplus, if available during the fifteenth financial period;

(iv) Seek extrabudgetary contributions for the project.

21. Option (i) is considered to provide funding security for the IPSAS project without impact on proposed activities as would be the case under option (ii). Options (ii) and (iii) might put in jeopardy the implementation of the IPSAS project since the amount and timing of funding would not be assured.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

22. The Secretary-General considers that adoption of IPSAS will improve the quality of WMO’s financial reporting with consequential benefits to governance, accountability and transparency. On the basis of information currently available, Congress may wish to take a decision in principle with regard to the implementation of IPSAS with a project envelope of CHF 4.0 million for the fifteenth financial period. In addition, Congress might wish to entrust the sixtieth session of the Executive Council to approve the detailed project appropriation within the approved envelope and on the basis of the detailed project document to be submitted by the Secretary-General. Finally, Congress may wish to decide on the funding option for the project envelope of CHF 4.0 million for the fifteenth financial period.

Annexes: 7
ANNEX I

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROCESS OF SETTING INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC SECTOR ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

1. When United Nations system accounting standards were first developed, international accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations did not exist. Because of this gap, the Panel of External Auditors recommended that the United Nations system develop its own accounting standards. Since then, IPSAS have been developed for not-for-profit public sector organizations. IPSAS are a set of high quality, independently developed accounting standards. They are the only international accounting standards applicable to not-for-profit organizations.

2. IPSAS standards are produced by the International Public Sector Accounting Standards Board (IPSASB), which is part of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC), the international organization representing professional accounting institutions from 193 countries. The development of new accounting standards requires a significant investment in people and time. The IPSASB is a dedicated independent international standard setting body, which uses strong due process, including public consultation and public meetings. The IPSASB acts for the public interest rather than the interest of organizations preparing financial statements. The IPSAS Board presently includes representatives from Australia, Argentina, Canada, France India, Israel, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States. The World Bank, Asian Development Bank, International Monetary Fund, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations have provided funding to the IPSAS Board, because of the benefits to public sector financial management and good governance expected to arise from the existence of high quality international public sector accounting standards. The United Nations system presently holds two observer places, for the United Nations and the UNDP, on the IPSASB. Board observers participate fully in discussions and receive all meeting papers at the same time as other Board members. They have ‘full rights of the floor.’ The IPSASB considers United Nations system issues, when developing accounting standards.

3. The IPSAS standards for adoption require accounting on a ‘full accruals’ basis. Full accruals is considered best accounting practice by international organizations for the public as well as the private sector.

4. The IPSASB applies a policy that IPSAS standards will be the same as International Financial Reporting Standards (previously called International Accounting Standards) (IAS/IFRS), unless there are demonstrable reasons for public sector/not-for-profit differences. This policy is consistent with the principle of accounting standards convergence. The effect of this policy combined with the generally accepted practice of applying IAS/IFRS where no equivalent IPSAS exists is that approximately two-thirds of the accounting standards under IPSAS adoption are the same as those that would apply under IAS/IFRS adoption. Although the not-for-profit differences in the other third of the applicable standards are important, the majority of the requirements in these standards remain the same as those in the equivalent IAS/IFRS standards. This means the guidance and software developed for IAS/IFRS accounting is applicable to IPSAS accounting with no or little amendment. It also means that the financial information produced and standards applied are understandable and largely comparable between public and private sector organizations. This facilitates movement of accounting expertise between the two sectors.

5. The OECD, EC and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) organizations have adopted IPSAS for their financial reporting. Where a public sector organization operates as a financial institution, IPSAS requires that the organization apply IAS/IFRS. Consistent with that requirement, development banks such as the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) apply IAS/IFRS. More than 30 countries have either already adopted or are in process of adopting IPSAS for financial reporting by all or part of their public sectors.
ANNEX II

IPSAS ADOPTION IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE

2007

As of January: External Auditor reviews implications of adoption of IPSAS for revision of Financial Regulations

May: Fifteenth Congress approves in principle to adopt IPSAS and approve project budget envelope and appropriation until the sixtieth session of the Executive Council (June 2008)

As of June: Secretariat establishes steering committee and project team and develops detailed project plan

As of June: Secretariat carries out initial analysis of IPSAS adoption for accounting and budget requirements

Second half of year: Audit Committee reviews progress on implementation of IPSAS

2008

As of January: Secretariat develops detailed information systems requirements, new chart of accounts and associated policies and procedures

June: Sixtieth Executive Council reviews progress report on implementation of IPSAS and provides detailed project approval until end-2011 (appropriate funding on basis of detailed project plan and budget)

During year: Audit Committee reviews progress on implementation of IPSAS

Second half of year: Secretariat finalizes draft revision of Financial Regulations and Rules for submission to Executive Council

Second half of year: Secretariat launches Request for Proposals (RFP) for upgrade of Oracle system

2009

Early of year: Secretariat completes development of detailed information systems requirements, policies and procedures

June: Sixty-first Executive Council reviews the revised Financial Regulations and progress report on implementation of IPSAS

Second half of year: Secretariat develops revised results-based budget format according to IPSAS format

During year: Secretariat implements upgrade of Oracle system

During year: Audit Committee reviews progress on implementation of IPSAS

2010

First half of year: Secretary-General submits results-based budget 2012-2015 according to IPSAS format

June: Sixty-second Executive Council reviews progress report on implementation of IPSAS and results-based budget 2012-2015 according to IPSAS format

Second half of year: Secretariat revises results-based budget 2012-2015 according to IPSAS format
During year: Secretariat finalizes upgrade of Oracle system and test
During year: Audit Committee reviews progress on implementation of IPSAS

2011

May: Sixteenth Congress adopts the revised Financial Regulations, reviews progress report on implementation of IPSAS and approves results-based budget 2012-2015 according to IPSAS format
Second half of year: Secretariat determines opening balances
During year: Secretariat continues training and support, including guidance for end users

2012

As of 1 January: WMO finance and budget management according to IPSAS standards
ANNEX III

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN IPSAS AND UNSAS

A. Description of the basic differences between IPSAS and UNSAS

IPSAS requirements are on an accruals basis, UNSAS requirements modified accruals

1. UNSAS reporting requirements take a “modified accruals” approach that is very close to cash accounting. IPSAS requirements are on a full accruals basis. The effect of this is that IPSAS reports a larger group of items (assets and liabilities) on the balance sheet than does UNSAS. The pattern of expenses associated with these assets and liabilities is different. Under IPSAS, expenses associated with investments in assets are reported later than would be the case under UNSAS, while expenses associated with liabilities are reported earlier than would be the case under UNSAS.

IPSAS: Physical assets are capitalized and the related expense is reported as the asset is used

2. Under IPSAS the value of assets such as vehicles, computers, food and medical supplies is included on the balance sheet (Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Reserves and Fund Balances) when the assets are first acquired. The expenses associated with these assets would be reported in an organization’s Statement of Income and Expenditure as follows:
   • For assets such as cars or computers, their original cost is spread over their useful lives as the assets are used. The expenses are shown as “depreciation”;
   • For inventory such as stamps, food and medical supplies, their cost is expensed when the item is sold, transferred or used up.

3. Under UNSAS, such assets are not shown on the balance sheet. Instead, the cost of purchasing these assets is reported as expenditure in the Statement of Income and Expenditure, when the assets are purchased.

IPSAS: Employee obligations are reported as liabilities when the obligation occurs; the expense is reported at the same time

4. IPSAS requires that liabilities for After-Service Health Insurance (ASHI), repatriation grants and accrued annual leave be reported on an organization’s balance sheet at the point that obligations are incurred. At the same time, the expense of these obligations must be reported. When the obligation is discharged by making payments or providing services to the employee, the reported liability is reduced accordingly.

5. Under UNSAS, organizations have a choice of treatments and most organizations do not report any liabilities for obligations incurred with respect to repatriation grants, ASHI and accrued annual leave on the balance sheet. The expenditures arising from these employee obligations are reported in the Statement of Income and Expenditure some time after the obligation occurs, when the payment to the employee is made or the service provided.

Qualitative differences between IPSAS and UNSAS

6. There are also basic qualitative differences between IPSAS and UNSAS. IPSAS standards are more detailed and prescriptive than UNSAS standards and have more credibility and more depth, because of the more rigorous process through which they are developed. IPSAS are better quality accounting standards than are UNSAS.
B. Advantages and disadvantages of IPSAS

**Advantages**

IPSAS are credible, high-quality, independently produced accounting standards, underpinned by a strong due process.

IPSAS are international accounting standards that represent current best practice for international organizations and meet best practice management requirements with respect to financial reporting. As IPSAS are consistent with accepted accounting practice, they will be more understandable to a wider group of financial statement users.

IPSAS will improve the quality, consistency and comparability of WMO’s financial reporting with consequential improvements in transparency, accountability, governance and financial management. For example, IPSAS requirements will make the present ASHI liability more visible by requiring that it be shown on the balance sheet.

IPSAS adoption would enable the Executive Council to hold the Secretariat to a higher level of accountability for the proper management and tracking of its financial and non-financial assets.

IPSAS requires full accrual accounting, which is necessary for best practice financial management and results in improved internal control and transparency with respect to assets and liabilities.

IPSAS will integrate non-expendable equipment into the accounting system, with resulting improvements in the accuracy and completeness of non-expendable equipment records.

IPSAS provides more comprehensive information about costs that will better support results-based management.

IPSAS will support more efficient use of WMO’s financial and human resources and the efficient and effective conduct of its work.

**Disadvantages**

IPSAS are not specially developed (customized) for WMO’s needs. IPSAS are developed with the information needs of a range of organizations in mind and with the aim of convergence, to the extent possible, with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). This means that it will be necessary to provide some additional guidance when they are applied in the United Nations for Organization-specific issues.

An initial drawback of adopting IPSAS will be that additional resources will be required for investment in: training for accounting and administration staff, communication with and education of managers and users of the financial statements; review and amendment of policies, procedures and financial regulations and rules.

IPSAS may result in initial additional costs related to changes to asset and liability management as a result of the improved information about these items.

The increase in coverage of assets may require an increase in ongoing data entry, but modern information systems have been designed to facilitate this type of data capture.
### B. (cont’d.) Advantages and disadvantages of IPSAS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Advantages</th>
<th>Disadvantages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IPSAS are supported by the Panel of External Auditors of United Nations system organizations, Governments, professional accounting bodies and international organizations, such as the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the World Bank.</td>
<td>Initial costs could arise relating to training, etc., as WMO’s auditors need to familiarize themselves with IPSAS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPSAS are consistent with “off-the-shelf” information systems and should reduce ongoing costs of information system upgrades. Oracle, the provider of WMO’s enterprise resource planning (ERP) software, has an IPSAS-ready version to which WMO would upgrade.</td>
<td>Without an upgrade of the present ERP, IPSAS adoption will not be feasible.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ANNEX IV

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

At the current stage of project planning, preliminary cost estimates for the implementation of IPSAS are available. Refinement of estimates are carried out as work progresses and in cooperation with sister organizations of the United Nations system which have embarked on a similar task.

Current estimates of United Nations system organization differs considerably which reflects various size and complexity of organizations as well as the preliminary stage of project development. Specifically, following estimates for IPSAS implementation are currently available: United Nations – USD 23 million, World Food Programme – USD 3.7 million, FAO – USD 0.4 million, IMO - GBP 0.1 million.

Budget envelope for IPSAS Implementation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amounts in CHF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. IPSAS Implementation Team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop IPSAS compatible accounting system, budget format, revised financial regulation, rules and policies (24 months of expertise)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Upgrade Oracle to IPSAS-ready Business Suite, including purchase and implementation of fixed assets module</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Software, hardware, project manager, implementation, preparation of special reports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Training of staff and roll out of upgraded Oracle system (programme managers, budget, finance, administration)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. United Nations system coordination and consultation, including travel cost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| B. Recurrent resource implication (as of 2012): |
| 1. One Accountant at P3 (per financial period) | 600,000 |
| 2. One Budget Officer at P2 (per financial period) | 400,000 |
| Total B | 1,000,000 |
# ANNEX V

## IPSAS ADOPTION BY OTHER UN SYSTEM ORGANIZATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Month/year that report goes to governing body</th>
<th>Comment(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)</td>
<td>May/September 2006</td>
<td>FAO raised the issue of IPSAS adoption with its Finance Committee in May 2006. Adoption by FAO will require a recommendation by the Finance Committee to the FAO Council and approval by the FAO Conference in 2007. At the May 2006 session, the Finance Committee expressed its agreement in principle with adoption of the new standards, subject to decisions on the matter by the General Assembly. The Finance Committee will consider in September 2006 formal approval of IPSAS adoption.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)</td>
<td>April/May 2006</td>
<td>IAEA has informally (at the Finance and Administrative Workshop, April 2006) and formally (to the Finance and Budget Committee, May 2006) presented the proposed “United Nations system-wide IPSAS adoption by 2010” to the member States. At this stage, IAEA does not have a definite time frame for presentation of the adoption proposal to the member States.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)</td>
<td>February/April 2006</td>
<td>In February 2006, the ICAO Secretary General informed its governing body (ICAO Council) concerning IPSAS adoption. In addition, the impact of the adoption was presented to the Finance Committee of the ICAO Council in April 2006, which approved the detailed changes in process and reporting. At its next session, in June 2006, the Council will consider the impact of IPSAS adoption on ICAO and will be invited to approve the implementation of the action plan for the IPSAS adoption in 2008.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)</td>
<td>See comment</td>
<td>IFAD has already adopted International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). This is consistent with the IPSAS requirement that government business enterprises, including financial institutions such as banks and lending agencies, apply IFRS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Labour Organization (ILO)</td>
<td>June/November 2006</td>
<td>ILO has had an informal discussion on IPSAS adoption at the meeting of the Programme, Finance and Administrative Committee of the Governing Body in June 2006 and will have a formal discussion during the November 2006 session of the Governing Body.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>Month/year that report goes to governing body</td>
<td>Comment(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Maritime Organization (IMO)</td>
<td>96th Council Session, 19-23 June 2006</td>
<td>IMO will be introducing the proposed change from UNSAS to IPSAS to the Council at its forthcoming 96th session which will be held from 19-23 June. Further developments will be presented at the Council’s 97th session scheduled to be held from 6-10 November and regular updates (when appropriate) at subsequent sessions. The Council usually meets in June and November annually.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Telecommunication Union (ITU)</td>
<td>April/June 2006</td>
<td>ITU raised the issue of IPSAS adoption with its Council in April 2006. At the April 2006 session, the ITU Council requested the ITU Financial Working Group to analyse the impact of the cost of IPSAS implementation. The ITU Financial Working Group has scheduled a meeting for 26 June 2006, at which the cost information will be presented.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)</td>
<td>June/September 2006</td>
<td>Information paper to be submitted to the Executive Board in June. If the General Assembly takes a decision prior to the September Executive Board meeting, then a paper for approval of IPSAS adoption will be presented at the September meeting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)</td>
<td>September/October 2006</td>
<td>An Executive Board document is under preparation for the autumn session (September/October 2006).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)</td>
<td>September 2006 or later</td>
<td>UNFPA is tied in with UNDP. Once UNDP formally commits itself to a date, UNFPA will plan on taking the adoption of IPSAS up with the Executive Board.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)</td>
<td>United Nations General Assembly timing</td>
<td>Once the General Assembly has made a decision on IPSAS adoption the UNICEF Board will be informed of the planned change.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)</td>
<td>September 2006</td>
<td>UNIDO is expected to present this issue to its member States during the Programme and Budget Committee (PBC) to be held 2-6 September 2006.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>Month/year that report goes to governing body</td>
<td>Comment(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Nations Office Project Services or later (UNOPS)</td>
<td>September 2006 or later</td>
<td>It is expected that UNOPS will follow the UNDP timetable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)</td>
<td>United Nations General Assembly timing</td>
<td>UNRWA is governed by the General Assembly and, therefore, there is no need for UNRWA to submit separately. The UNRWA management has already agreed to implement IPSAS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Universal Postal Union (UPU)</td>
<td>April 2006, formal approval in 2008</td>
<td>At the April 2006 session of the Postal Operations Council, UPU informally discussed IPSAS implementation. UPU envisages requiring a recommendation from the Finance Committee to the UPU Congress in 2008 for formal approval.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Food Programme (WFP)</td>
<td>12–16 June 2006</td>
<td>During the annual Executive Board session, 12-16 June 2006.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Health Organization (WHO) informally</td>
<td>June 2006</td>
<td>WHO will raise the matter on an informal basis with some key member States during the World Health Assembly in June 2006. Formal documents will be presented to the WHO January 2007 meeting of the Executive Board and will include (to the extent possible) proposed changes to the Financial Regulations as a result of IPSAS adoption.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)</td>
<td>June 2006</td>
<td>The WIPO 2004-2005 Financial Management Report mentions that the Common System organizations have approved the introduction of IPSAS and its application no later than 2010. This report will be sent to member States shortly. It explains the main differences between IPSAS and UNSAS and states that WIPO will do its best to ensure a smooth transition to IPSAS. No decision has been made yet on whether the topic will be raised at the next session of the WIPO General Assembly in September/October 2006.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### ANNEX VI

**TRANSITION TO INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC SECTOR ACCOUNTING STANDARDS**

**Impact on Reporting in WMO**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IPSAS</th>
<th>Change required in WMO</th>
<th>Impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IPSAS 1 - Presentation of Financial Statements</td>
<td>Biennial to annual financial reporting (already implemented) Separate statement on changes in funds and reserves Capitalization of inventories and fixed assets</td>
<td>Requires annual reporting and audit (amendment of the WMO General Regulations and Rules and Financial Regulations) None in respect of statement on funds and reserves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPSAS 2 - Cash flow statements</td>
<td>No change Review use of United Nations exchange rates</td>
<td>None United Nations rates are set in advance and lag behind actual market rates with possible variance to approximate actual rates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPSAS 3 - Net surplus or deficit for the period, fundamental errors and changes in accounting policies</td>
<td>Quantification of prior period impact of changes to accounting policies</td>
<td>Conversion to IPSAS would require extensive analyses of effects of changes Previous period financial information would have to be restated Significant impact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPSAS 4 - Effects of changes in foreign exchange rates</td>
<td>WMO uses United Nations exchange rates, which is in line with standards</td>
<td>Not significant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPSAS 5 - Borrowing costs</td>
<td>No change</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPSAS 6 - Consolidated financial statements and accounting for controlled entities</td>
<td>Review of special accounts</td>
<td>Some significance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPSAS 7 - Accounting for investments in associates</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPSAS 8 - Financial reporting of interests in joint ventures</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>(Cont.)</strong> IPSAS</td>
<td><strong>Change required in WMO</strong></td>
<td><strong>Impact</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPSAS 9 - Revenue from exchange transactions</td>
<td>Contributions in kind and services in kind valuation at fair value</td>
<td>Needs clear interpretation of contributions in kind and services in kind (changes to the WMO General Regulations, Financial Regulations and rules); will include recognition of donations of office space and related services by governments hosting regional and subregional offices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Timing of revenue recognition</td>
<td>Uniform treatment of all income, including trust funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Review of current accrual policies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Moderate impact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPSAS 10 - Financial reporting in hyperinflationary economies</td>
<td>Review assets and liabilities in risk countries</td>
<td>Limited significance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPSAS 11 - Construction contracts</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPSAS 12 - Inventories</td>
<td>Valuation of inventories at financial reporting date</td>
<td>Major area of change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>General rule review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPSAS 13 - Leases</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPSAS 14 - Events after the reporting Date</td>
<td>No change</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPSAS 15 - Financial instruments: disclosure and presentation</td>
<td>Valuation of investments</td>
<td>Valuation at market value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Limited impact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPSAS 16 - Investment property</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPSAS 17 - Capitalization and</td>
<td>Improvement in management of assets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property, plant and equipment</th>
<th>depreciation of fixed assets</th>
<th>Requires maintenance of fixed asset records, setting of economic life of assets and depreciation schedules</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Cont.) IPSAS</td>
<td>Change required in WMO</td>
<td>Impact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPSAS 18 - Segment reporting</td>
<td>WMO’s programme categories may be considered as segments</td>
<td>The segments should be clearly defined and all costs should be allocated accordingly including fixed assets by segment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>No significant impact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPSAS 19 - Provisions, contingent liabilities and contingent assets</td>
<td>Move to delivery principle for expenditure recognition Introduce contingent liabilities, provisions and commitments</td>
<td>Major area of change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPSAS 20 - Related party disclosures</td>
<td>Review process to be developed</td>
<td>Some significance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPSAS 21 - Impairment of non-cash generating assets</td>
<td>Part of capitalization implementation</td>
<td>Some significance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exposure Draft xx – Employee benefits</td>
<td>Include leave, termination and other employee benefits Include field staff benefits Determination and accounting for post-employment benefits Accrual of pension liabilities</td>
<td>Accurate determination of all future staff benefits United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF) Major area of change Recognition of part of UNJSPF actuarial variances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exposure Draft xx – Revenue from exchange transactions</td>
<td>Determination and accounting for revenue from exchange transactions</td>
<td>Accurate determination of exchange transactions Major area of change</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## ANNEX VII

### FINANCIAL REGULATIONS TO BE IMPACTED BY IPSAS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial Regulation number</th>
<th>Financial Regulation details</th>
<th>Reasons for non-compatibility with IPSAS</th>
<th>IPSAS extract</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 13.1, 13.3</td>
<td>Refer to obligations as orders placed, contracts awarded, services received, and any other legal obligation entered into during the biennium. Whilst the reference is not incorrect as it relates here to appropriations rather than expenditure, WMO may wish to amend in light of changes in recognition of obligations under IPSAS.</td>
<td>Expenditure and liabilities have stricter recognition criteria under IPSAS and should be recognised on an accruals basis, ie for goods received or services rendered during the year, rather than contracts awarded for future years. Obligations for future years would require disclosure as capital commitments rather than being accounting for in the financial statements.</td>
<td>Accrual basis means a basis of accounting under which transactions and other events are recognized when they occur (and not only when cash or its equivalent is received or paid). Therefore, the transactions and events are recorded in the accounting records and recognized in the financial statements of the periods to which they relate. Expenses are decreases in economic benefits or service potential during the reporting period in the form of outflows or consumption of assets or incurrences of liabilities that result in decreases in net assets/equity, other than those relating to distributions to owners. Liabilities are present obligations of the entity arising from past events, the settlement of which is expected to result in an outflow from the entity of resources embodying economic benefits or service potential. (IPSAS 1, paragraph 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>Contributions and advances shall be considered as due and payable in full within thirty days of the receipt of the communication of the Secretary-General referred to in Regulation 8.3, or as of the first day of the year to which they relate, whichever is the later. These should be recorded on an accruals basis ie when there is a past event (e.g. the receipt of a service by the debtor)</td>
<td>Accrual basis means a basis of accounting under which transactions and other events are recognized when they occur (and not only when cash or its equivalent is received or paid). Therefore, the transactions and events are recorded in the accounting records and recognized in the financial statements of the periods to which they relate. Assets are resources controlled by an entity as a result of past events and from which future economic benefits or service potential are expected to flow to the entity. (IPSAS 1, paragraph 6)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>The exchange rate applicable …shall be</td>
<td>Exchange rate is the ratio for exchange of two currencies. IPSAS 4, “The Effects of</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Accrual basis means a basis of accounting under which transactions and other events are recognized when they occur (and not only when cash or its equivalent is received or paid). Therefore, the transactions and events are recorded in the accounting records and recognized in the financial statements of the periods to which they relate. Expenses are decreases in economic benefits or service potential during the reporting period in the form of outflows or consumption of assets or incurrences of liabilities that result in decreases in net assets/equity, other than those relating to distributions to owners. Liabilities are present obligations of the entity arising from past events, the settlement of which is expected to result in an outflow from the entity of resources embodying economic benefits or service potential. (IPSAS 1, paragraph 6)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Paragraphs</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>The official United Nations rate of exchange in force on the date of credit to the WMO bank account.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>Changes in Foreign Exchange Rates permits the use of an exchange rate that approximates the actual rate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>Revenue is the gross inflow of economic benefits or service potential during the reporting period when those inflows result in an increase in net assets/equity, other than increases relating to contributions from owners.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>Financial statements should be presented at least annually.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.9, 10.1</td>
<td>This allows some categories of other income to not be recognised in the Statement of I&amp;E.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.1, 14.4</td>
<td>Financial statements should be presented at least annually.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes**

1. Revenue should be recognised when there is an increase in net assets / equity; these cases result in an increase in cash or receivables.  
2. Financial statements should be presented at least annually.
3. In exceptional circumstances an entity may be required to, or decide to, change its reporting date, for example in order to align the reporting cycle more closely with the budgeting cycle.
AGENDA ITEM 10.1(4) – FINANCIAL MATTERS

RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Cg-XV/Rep. 10.1(4)

RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In May 2005, the External Auditor recommended as part of their report on the financial statements for the year 2004 that the Executive Council consider the role of FINAC vis-à-vis the Audit Committee to provide focus and to prevent duplication, as noted in Recommendation 11 contained in document EC-LVII/Rep. 4.1(2), REV., Appendix B.

2. In response to the recommendation of the External Auditor, the issue was considered by the Task Force on Recommendations Emanating from the Audit Committee, the Audit Committee, FINAC and the Executive Council. As outlined in paragraph 4.1.18 of the Abridged Report of EC-LVIII (WMO-No. 1007), the Council asked the Secretary-General to convey the views of members of the Executive Council to Fifteenth Congress for consideration, other information emanating from relevant working groups and task forces and a summary of views expressed by the Council at its fifty-eighth session.

II. BACKGROUND

3. The Financial Advisory Committee (FINAC) was established by Congress in Resolution 29 (Cg-X) in 1987. FINAC was to advise Congress and the Executive Council on budgetary and financial matters and be available to the President of WMO for advice in case of financial emergencies or unexpected events arising between sessions of the Executive Council. The Committee meets early in the Executive Council session, and from its deliberations submits a report to the Council, highlighting its recommendations and observations. The Terms of Reference of FINAC are presented in Annex A.

4. The Audit Committee was established by the Executive Council in Resolution 15 (EC-LVI) in 2004. Revised Terms of Reference and membership of the Audit Committee were approved in Resolution 11 (EC-LVII) and Resolution 10 (EC-LVIII), the latter being presented in Annex B.

5. The External Auditor noted that the Audit Committee has taken on some of the functions of FINAC and that there was some duplication between these two Committees. Members were encouraged to consider clarifying the responsibilities. The External Auditor considered that FINAC’s role could focus on budgetary matters, whereas the role of the Audit Committee could focus on consideration of audit issues, internal controls and the detailed review of the financial statements. This would result in the FINAC taking more of a detailed strategic view of the Organization and the Audit Committee providing the assurance function to Member States.

III. REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE ON RECOMMENDATIONS EMANATING FROM THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

6. On the basis of the recommendations of the External Auditor and the Audit Committee, the Executive Council, at its fifty-seventh session, established in Resolution 12 (EC-LVII), a Task Force on Recommendations Emanating from the Audit Committee to review the role, activities and
outcomes of FINAC vis-à-vis the Audit Committee to ensure that they are complementary and not overlapping.

7. The Task Force met in January 2006 and submitted its report to the Executive Council in document EC-LVIII/Doc. 4.1(5). The Task Force identified overlap between FINAC and the Audit Committee. In order to address this issue it was recommended to amend the terms of reference of FINAC by discontinuing its responsibility:

“To advise Congress on modifications to Financial Regulations and Procedures as required”; and

“To review the reports of the External Auditor and advise Congress and the Executive Council of appropriate actions.”

8. In order to ensure that FINAC was provided with the audit information relevant for discharging its responsibility, the Task Force recommended to amend the terms of reference of the Audit Committee by including the following:

“(k) to inform the Financial Advisory Committee (FINAC of the work of the Audit Committee relating to the mandate of FINAC.”

9. The Task Force further reviewed the function of FINAC, the composition of the Audit Committee and FINAC as well as the schedule of meetings of Audit Committee and FINAC. The list of recommendations by the Task Force is shown in Annex C. The key recommendation of the Task Force was to reconstitute FINAC by replacing Resolution 29 of Cg-X and adopting the draft resolution outlined in Annex D.


10. The report of the Task Force on Recommendations Emanating from the Audit Committee, presented in document EC-LVIII/Doc. 4.1(5), was considered by the Audit Committee during its sixth meeting, by FINAC and by the Executive Council in June 2006.

11. As outlined in paragraphs 8 and 9 of the document EC-LVIII/Doc 4.1(4), the Audit Committee noted that the key requirements for the review by the Task Force was to reduce redundancy and create efficiency in reporting lines to the Executive Council by various bodies and the two bodies (FINAC and Audit Committee) in particular. It agreed with the Task Force recommendation proposing that the Audit Committee focus primarily on matters related to Internal and External Audit functions and financial regulatory issues. The FINAC should focus on the various aspects of WMO’s programme and budget including Members’ contributions. The Audit Committee was of the view that it should inform FINAC of its considerations and recommendations prior to reporting to the Executive Council thus continuing its direct relationship with the Executive Council on its governance and oversight mandate. The recommendations of the Audit Committee on the Report of the Task Force are outlined in Annex E.

12. The Financial Advisory Committee noted the recommendations of the Task Force on Recommendations Emanating from the Audit Committee as outlined under item (ii) of the document EC-LVIII/Rep. 2.4. The Committee recommended that the Executive Council consider the report and recommendations proposed by the Task Force.
As outlined in paragraphs 4.1.15 to 4.1.18 of the Abridged Report of EC-LVIII (WMO-No. 1007), the Executive Council took note of the report of the Task Force on Recommendations Emanating from the Audit Committee and the related recommendations by the Audit Committee and the Financial Advisory Committee (FINAC). The Council considered it appropriate to review and revise the functioning of FINAC in view of the time elapsed since its establishment by Tenth Congress and the advice of the Executive Council Task Force on the Evolution of NMHSs and WMO.

The Council agreed in principle on a number of considerations that should apply to whatever body was created by Fifteenth Congress to fulfil roles that fell within the terms of reference given to FINAC by Tenth Congress:

(a) It should be open with a core membership;

(b) It needed adequate time to complete the work of Programme development, including meeting one day before the Executive Council or Congress, in parallel sessions during the Executive Council and in virtual sessions between sessions of the Executive Council;

(c) The objective of the body needed to be clear; i.e., to advise on the development of a high quality results-based budget that was closely linked to the WMO Strategic Plan and that had the potential of broad acceptance of WMO Members;

(d) The name of the Committee should be changed to reflect its task; that is, it should be known as the Programme and Budget Advisory Committee.

The Council proposed a revision of the mandate of FINAC, or its successor, in order to avoid overlap with the Audit Committee taking into account the recommendation by the Task Force on Recommendations Emanating from the Audit Committee, the Audit Committee and FINAC. The Council emphasized that FINAC should examine, in an integrated manner, financial and programmatic aspects of budgetary proposals and suggested that advice to the Executive Council should be reached preferably by consensus and result in recommendations likely to be approved by the Executive Council. Some members proposed to maintain in the mandate of FINAC or its successor to advise on modifications to Financial Regulations.

As part of the discussion in the Executive Council, a number of options were considered which included a draft resolution on the establishment of a Programme and Budget Advisory Committee (PABAC) to replace FINAC. The draft resolution is attached as Annex F for further reference.

V. SUMMARY

Fifteenth Congress is invited to consider the recommendations concerning the Financial Advisory Committee (FINAC), taking into account the information provided in this report.

Annexes: 6
THE CONGRESS,

NOTING:

(1) General Regulation 31,
(2) Resolution 42 (Cg-VII) – Establishment of a Financial Advisory Committee,

RECOGNIZING the need to advise Congress, the Executive Council and the President on budgetary and financial matters given the increasing complexity of the tasks related thereto,

DECIDES to establish the Financial Advisory Committee with the composition and functions appearing in the annex to this resolution;

FURTHER DECIDES:

(1) To invite the President of WMO to serve as chairman of the Financial Advisory Committee;
(2) To invite the six presidents of the WMO regional associations to serve on the Financial Advisory Committee;
(3) To invite the following Members to serve on the Financial Advisory Committee during the tenth financial period:

Canada
France
Germany, Federal Republic of
Italy
Japan
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United States of America

Annex: 1
ANNEX TO RESOLUTION 29 (Cg-X)

FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

COMPOSITION

1. The composition of the Financial Advisory Committee shall be the President of WMO, the Permanent Representatives of eight Members designated by Congress and the six presidents of WMO Regional Associations.

FUNCTIONS

2. The functions of the Financial Advisory Committee shall be to advise Congress and Executive Council on budgetary and financial matters and be available to the President for advice in case of financial emergencies or unexpected events arising between sessions of the Executive Council. The terms of reference will include the following:

   - To advise Congress and the Executive Council on budgetary matters for the forthcoming financial period (four years);
   - To advise Congress on modifications to Financial Regulations and Procedures as required;
   - To advise Congress and the Executive Council on all other financial and budgetary questions including proportional contributions and matters related to extra-budgetary resources;
   - To advise the Executive Council on annual (or biennial) budgets taking into account desired ceilings, application of flexibility arrangements, effects of changes in exchange rates, inflation, and other factors;
   - To review the reports of the External Auditor and advise Congress and the Executive Council of appropriate actions.

WORK SCHEDULE

3. Congress shall establish the Financial Advisory Committee early in its session to enable it to work during the Congress meeting. Subsequently, the Financial Advisory Committee will meet sufficiently early to enable it to carry out its work and prepare its recommendations in good time to enable sessions of Congress and the Executive Council to take into consideration advice received and recommendations made. The President may, after consultations with members of the Financial Advisory Committee, seek advice from or invite to its meetings, representatives of Members, professional bodies or individual experts, as necessary, subject to the budgetary limits imposed by Congress.

FORMULATION OF PROPOSALS

4. The Financial Advisory Committee shall follow the traditional procedures of such WMO bodies, seeking to formulate its proposals through a consensus of views.
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL RESOLUTION 10 (EC-LVIII)

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL,

NOTING the terms of reference of the Audit Committee as outlined in Resolution 11 (EC-LVII) – Terms of reference and membership of the Audit Committee,

NOTING ALSO Recommendations of the Audit Committee,

NOTING FURTHER the Recommendation of the External Auditor,

DECIDES:

(1) To maintain the Audit Committee, reporting to the Executive Council, with the following terms of reference:

(a) Systematic appraisal of the actions of the Secretary-General to maintain and operate appropriate and effective internal controls;

(b) Encourage the development of an anti-fraud culture through its scrutiny function;

(c) Review the operation and effectiveness of the Financial Regulations;

(d) Review the Secretary-General's assessment and approach to risk;

(e) Take note of the audit plans, arrangements for, and reports of Internal and External Audit;

(f) Encourage liaison between the internal and external audit functions;

(g) Review how the audit and assurance arrangements have been conducted and delivered during the year to provide the necessary levels of assurance required by the Executive Council and Congress;

(h) Make observation on the timeliness, effectiveness and appropriateness of responses from the Secretary-General with regard to audit recommendations;

(i) Monitor the delivery and content of financial statements in accordance with the requirement of financial regulations;

(j) Review the manner in which the audit recommendations have been implemented;

(2) That the frequency of meetings is determined by the Audit Committee workplan and the Committee meets at least twice a year;

(3) To inform the Financial Advisory Committee (FINAC), or its successor, of the work of the Audit Committee;
(4) That the membership of the Audit Committee be comprised of five members of the Executive Council, as follows:

M.L. Bah  
P.-E. Bisch  
J.J. Kelly  
R. Michelini  
Qin Dahe

with the following two alternate members of the Executive Council:

M. Capaldo  
A.M.H. Isa

Four financial experts proposed by the Secretary-General and appointed by the President of WMO, taking into consideration the need to minimize the cost of their participation;

(5) That a quorum be constituted by at least three Executive Council members and two external financial experts;

(6) That the chairperson of the Audit Committee should be a member of the Executive Council and will be selected by the members of the Committee;

(7) That representatives of the WMO Secretariat are present at the meetings of the Audit Committee only at the invitation of the Audit Committee chairperson;

(8) To review the functioning of the Audit Committee at its next session.
LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE TASK FORCE

THE TASK FORCE RECOMMENDS WITH REGARD TO THE FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FINAC):

1. To reconstitute FINAC by replacing Resolution 29 of Cg-X with the proposed draft resolution outlined in Annex D;

2. To request the President to invite representatives of Members in accordance with Resolution 29 (Cg-X), and after consultation with the members of FINAC, in order to reflect the composition of FINAC as outlined in the draft resolution shown in Annex D. This would constitute an interim measure pending approval of the proposed changes by Congress;

3. To encourage FINAC to examine, in an integrated manner, financial and programmatic aspects of budgetary proposals. Advice to the Executive Council should be reached preferably by consensus and result in recommendations likely to be approved by the Executive Council.

4. To convene extraordinary meetings of FINAC prior to the sessions of the Executive Council and Congress in order to facilitate discussion, in particular on the proposed programme and budget of the Secretary-General. The convening of extraordinary sessions, in addition to FINAC meetings during the sessions of the Executive Council and during Congress, may be decided by the President of WMO.

5. To cover the cost of participation in FINAC meetings for core members from Least Developed Countries.

THE TASK FORCE RECOMMENDS WITH REGARD TO THE AUDIT COMMITTEE:

1. To amend the terms of reference of the Audit Committee by including the following:

“(k) to inform the Financial Advisory Committee (FINAC) of the work of the Audit Committee relating to the mandate of FINAC.”

2. To hold a meeting provided that a minimum number of three out of six members of the Executive Council, and at least two financial experts, are present.

3. To ensure that the Audit Committee is chaired by one of the members of the Executive Council.

4. To designate form among the members of the Executive Council and after consultation with the President, a replacement for a member of the Executive Council who is unable to attend.

5. To maintain the current meeting schedule of the Audit Committee of three sessions annually for the time being.
ANNEX D

TASK FORCE ON RECOMMENDATIONS EMANATING FROM THE AUDIT COMMITTEE
DOCUMENT EC-LVIII/Doc. 4.1(5), APPENDIX C

DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR THE RECONSTITUTION OF THE FINANCIAL ADVISORY
COMMITTEE (FINAC)

THE CONGRESS,

NOTING Resolution 29 of the Tenth Congress,

NOTING FURTHER Resolution 12 of EC-LVII,

DECIDES:

(1) To re-establish the Financial Advisory Committee (FINAC) with a core membership that is
established by Congress;

(2) That the Committee should meet as an open group during the sessions of the Executive
Council and during Congress;

(3) That the President of WMO may decide to convene extraordinary meetings of FINAC prior to
the sessions of the Executive Council and Congress;

(4) That the functions, work schedule and method of formulation of proposals should be as given
in the Annex to this Resolution.

_________________________

Annex: 1
ANNEX TO
DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR THE RECONSTITUTION OF THE FINANCIAL ADVISORY
COMMITTEE (FINAC)

COMPOSITION OF CORE MEMBERSHIP:

1. The composition of the core membership of FINAC shall be the President of WMO, Permanent Representatives of eight Members designated by Congress, the six presidents of the WMO Regional Associations and the Permanent Representatives from the three World Meteorological Centres if not otherwise present.

2. The eight Members shall include at least five of the ten largest financial contributors to WMO and up to three other members.

FUNCTIONS:

3. The functions of the Financial Advisory Committee shall be to advise Congress and the Executive Council on resource allocation issues and be available to the President for advice in case of financial emergencies or unexpected events arising between sessions of the Executive Council. The terms of reference will include the following:

   - To advise Congress and the Executive Council on resource allocation issues for the forthcoming financial period (four years);
   - To advise the Congress and the Executive Council on all other financial and budgetary questions, including proportional contributions and matters related to extrabudgetary resources;
   - To advise Congress and the Executive Council on annual (or biennial) budgets, taking into account desired ceilings, applications of flexibility arrangements, effects of changes in exchange rates, inflation, and other factors;
   - To monitor the reports of the External Auditor and Audit Committee, as necessary.

WORK SCHEDULE:

4. Congress shall establish the Financial Advisory Committee early in its session to enable it to work during the Congress meeting. Subsequently, the Financial Advisory Committee will meet sufficiently early to enable it to carry out its work and prepare its recommendations in good time to enable sessions of Congress and the Executive Council to take into consideration advice received and recommendations made. The President may, after consultations with members of the Financial Advisory Committee, seek advice from or invite to its meetings, representatives of Members, professional bodies or individual experts, as necessary, subject to the budgetary limits imposed by Congress.

FORMULATION OF PROPOSALS:

5. The Financial Advisory Committee shall follow the traditional procedures of such WMO bodies, seeking to formulate its proposals through consensus views.
ANNEX E

REPORT OF THE WMO AUDIT COMMITTEE TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
DOCUMENT EC-LVIII/Doc. 4.1(4), APPENDIX A

EXTRACT FROM RECOMMENDATION ON THE REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE WITH REGARD TO THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

That the Executive Council:

(a) Adopt the proposed amendment proposed in draft EC-LVIII/Rep. 4.1(5) Appendix B to inform the Financial Advisory Committee (FINAC) of the work of the Audit Committee excluding the words ‘relating to the mandate of FINAC’;

…

RECOMMENDATION ON THE REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE WITH REGARD TO THE FINAC

That the Executive Council:

(a) Delete the words ‘all other financial’ in bullet three to minimize duplication;

(b) Replace the word ‘Monitor’ with ‘take note of’ of the reports of the External Auditor and the Audit Committee as necessary.

…
THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL,

RECALLING Resolution 29 (Cg-X),

CONSIDERING the report of the Task Force on Recommendations Emanating from the Audit Committee, the report of the sixth meeting of the Audit Committee and the report of the Financial Advisory Committee (FINAC),

PROPOSES to the Fifteenth Congress to establish a Programme and Budget Advisory Committee early in its session to replace FINAC and to enable it to work during the Congress meeting as follows:

(1) COMPOSITION

(a) To be composed of core members of the former Financial Advisory Committee (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States);

(b) Executive Council members;

(c) Representatives of Member countries accompanying a member of the Executive Council.

(2) FUNCTIONS

(a) To advise Congress and the Executive Council on a Results-Based Budget that is closely linked to the WMO’s Strategic Plan, thereby addressing resource allocation issues for the forthcoming financial period;

(b) To advise Congress and the Executive Council on budgetary questions, including proportional contributions and matters related to extrabudgetary resources;

(c) To advise Congress and the Executive Council on annual (or biennial) budgets, taking into account desired ceilings, applications of flexibility arrangements, effects of changes in exchange rates, inflation, and other factors;

(d) To take note of the reports of the External Auditor and the Audit Committee as necessary.

(3) WORKING ARRANGEMENT

(a) The Committee to select its own chair;

(b) To meet on the day prior to, and during the sessions of the Executive Council and Congress, and by correspondence as necessary to undertake its work and prepare its recommendations in good time;

(c) To seek to formulate its proposals through consensus views;
(d) To determine that the President of WMO may decide, on the recommendation of the Committee, to convene, on an exceptional basis, a virtual intersessional meeting of a sub-group of the Committee in order to deal with issues that cannot be dealt with in the ordinary course of its business.

**DECIDES** to review the effectiveness of the proposed PABAC and report to the 16th session of Congress.

**AGENDA ITEM 10.1(5) – FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

*Cg-XV/Rep. 10.1(5)*

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1. The Audit Committee (AC) was established by the fifty-sixth session of the Executive Council (EC) in 2004 following the recommendation of the External Auditor on the accounts for the biennium 2002-2003. The EC was convinced of the urgent need for a review and follow-up mechanism to improve the administrative functioning of the WMO Secretariat (Resolution 15 (EC-LVI)). The Audit Committee has held eight meetings since it was established.

2. The AC has focused its review and advisory efforts in the following areas: review of the Fraud Investigation; oversight of the Secretary-General’s Action Plan to re-establish confidence in the management of the WMO; review of the Financial Statements and the work of the External Auditor; development of a functioning Internal Audit capacity and review of its reports; and as required other financial and management matters.

   (a) The Committee provided oversight of the internal investigation of the fraud during its first three meetings. It provided advice to the Secretary-General as to the comprehensiveness of the work by the C/AIS and encouraged the timely completion of that effort. At the third meeting the Committee recommended that based upon the evidence available to date, the internal investigation be closed. Should additional information be found, it can be reopened. At the eighth meeting, the AC met with the judge responsible for the case. The Swiss judge confirmed that the Swiss investigation was ongoing and, according to the Swiss statute, could remain open for ten years. The judge’s presentation of the facts of the case was consistent with information provided by the Secretary-General. He confirmed that WMO had been cooperative with his investigations and that the Secretary-General waived the immunity of WMO staff whenever requested to do so. Due to the cooperation of the Swiss authorities, US$ 300,000 has been returned to the WMO.

   (b) The Secretary-General’s Action Plan to improve the internal control environment has received considerable review and oversight by the AC throughout its eight meetings. The Secretary-General addressed the Committee by outlining the three phases of the Action Plan: integrity (the establishment of a new internal control system); transparency (the provision of key information for decision-making); and efficiency (the introduction of cost effective operations). The Committee provided significant oversight and advice to the Secretary-General on key components of the Action Plan, such as the establishment of a new internal control system. Specifically, the Committee noted the promulgation of new Financial Rules of WMO, which describe a new system of internal control, the establishment of a direct communication line for staff to report on issues of fraud and misuse of authority, the new procedure for the award of fellowships, the consolidation and
revision of the procurement arrangements, the establishment of a Property Survey Board and the restructuring of the Resource Management Department, and the development and adoption of a new WMO Code of Ethics. The AC also advised the Secretary-General that it was important to track the findings of various internal and external audits of the Organization, prioritize management’s efforts on those that most improved the efficiency and effectiveness of the Organization and reduced its risk, and track them to ensure that they were appropriately implemented.

(c) During the work of the Committee, it provided advice on the restructuring of the accounts of the WMO and the timing and production of the Financial Statements. It provided oversight to the work of the National Audit Organization of the United Kingdom, the External Auditor of the financial statements as of 2004. It was very supportive of the excellent work of the EA, especially in the areas of the format of the accounts, budget monitoring, risk management, accounts closure timetable, relationships with executing partners and project accounting, and financial control deficiencies in two sub-regional offices. The Committee noted with appreciation that the External Auditor had provided an unqualified opinion on the accounts for 2004-2006 and recommended to the Executive Council the approval of the audited accounts for those years.

(d) The Committee was concerned that the External Auditor highlighted management control deficiencies in the fellowship areas, in light of the findings of a previous external audit. The Secretary-General indicated that he took responsibility to address these shortcomings and that some new management and control actions were implemented in early February 2005. The Committee supported additional internal controls in this area. The External Auditor provided the Committee with exceptionally professional advice on best practices for a broad range of financial management issues before the WMO.

(e) During the work of the Committee, it saw substantial changes in the quality and quantity of work generated by the Chief, Internal Audit Service. For its first three meetings, it received only information on the fraud case, without any additional audit work in support of the Secretary-General’s Action Plan. The Committee requested the Internal Auditor to provide, as a matter of routine, the Executive Council with a written report covering the following: (i) a summary of audits and investigations undertaken; (ii) conclusions and recommendations resulting from the audits and investigations; (iii) assessment of adequacy of existing internal controls; (iv) work envisioned for the following year; and (v) the Auditor’s view on areas of potential concern or risk that warrant management review. After efforts over several additional meetings, the Committee finally saw the benefits of its advice on the strengthening of the function, work planning, and audit completion. At the eighth meeting, the Committee received the comprehensive report of the work conducted in 2006 by the current Director, Internal Oversight Office. At the recommendation of the AC, the D/OO also maintains a database of all findings and recommendations of external audits and reviews, and tracks the status of those chosen by the Secretary-General for adoption. Progress has been made on those considered high priority, and many others have been partially implemented.

(f) The Audit Committee also reviewed and provided advice to the Executive Council and the Secretary-General on other financial matters, including how its should be structured to provide appropriate benefit to the WMO.

(i) In its deliberations on the report the AC placed specific emphasis/focus on the IPSAS, the Result-based Budgeting (RBB), and Annual Budgeting. The AC emphasized that the proposed shift/change to the IPSAS accounting standards and methods should be done progressively taking into account the general movement in
this direction by the entire UN system and the inherent benefits in the system in allowing for a better link between plans, expenditure and results. In particular the AC noted past expenditure patterns of the Secretariat and expressed its wishes to see further improvement in this regard. On the RBB the AC noted that to-date the link between the Long-term Plan, the budget and the indicators was not satisfactory and should be further improved;

(ii) The AC recommended additional thought be given to the proposed implementation plan for IPSAS and the sequence of steps to achieve Congress approval for the transition to IPSAS. The AC recommended the SG take up this issue with the WMO President and the Secretariat formulate a resolution that would allow Fifteenth Congress to accept IPSAS provisionally. The AC also recommended the Secretariat revise planning to allow for changes to the finance regulations and costs be discussed at Fifteenth Congress. Given the decision of the UN to move to IPSAS, and the negative implications of not migrating with other UN bodies, the AC recommended the adoption of IPSAS;

(iii) There was consensus among AC members that Oracle implementation is a key issue for controls for WMO. While the AC noted its appreciation for the consultative manner in which the WMO Administration is working, the Committee noted it would not want that to be to the detriment of maintaining a sound framework. The AC asked the Secretariat to ensure there is a clear manner in which changes to the system are agreed upon and implemented, in order to verify that there is indeed a balance between user-friendliness and sound financial control.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

1. The Audit Committee (AC) was established by the fifty-sixth session of the Executive Council in 2004 following the recommendation of the External Auditor on the accounts for the biennium 2002-2003 and the terms of reference for the Financial Advisory Committee as outlined in Resolution 29 (Cg-X) – Financial Audit Committee. Further, the EC was convinced of the urgent need for a review and follow-up mechanism to improve the administrative functioning of the WMO Secretariat (Resolution 15 (EC-LVI)). The Audit Committee has held eight meetings since it was established (18-19 October 2004; 21-22 February 2005; 17 June 2005; 24-25 October 2005; 27-28 February 2006, 15-16 June 2006; 13-14 November 2006 and 26-27 March 2007). Reports on the work of the Audit Committee were presented to the fifty-seventh and fifty-eighth sessions of the Executive Council, both reports of which are reproduced below.

REPORT TO THE FIFTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Appointment of Chairperson and organizational matters

2. The Committee appointed Mr U. Gärtner as Chairperson of the Audit Committee during its first meeting. The Committee reviewed and endorsed its Terms of Reference. The Secretary-General addressed the meetings of the Audit Committee and representatives of the External Auditor participated as observers.

Action Plan of the Secretary-General

3. During the first meeting, the Committee reviewed the Action Plan. The Secretary-General addressed the Committee by outlining the three phases of the Action Plan: integrity (the establishment of a new internal control system); transparency (the provision of key information for decision-making); and efficiency (the introduction of cost effective operations). Also presented
were the detailed follow-up to recommendations by External Auditors relating of the biennia 2000-2001 and 2002-2003, the Joint Inspection Unit and the United Nations Controller.

4. The Committee noted that the Action Plan provided a comprehensive presentation and expressed appreciation for the efforts implemented and planned since the fifty-sixth session of the Executive Council. The Committee appreciated in particular the forward-looking approach and the effort to improve the management culture of the Organization. The Committee noted with satisfaction that major progress had been achieved in 2004, in particular through the establishment of a new internal control system. Specifically, the Committee noted the promulgation of new Financial Rules of WMO, which describe a new system of internal control, the establishment of a direct communication line for staff to report on issues of fraud and misuse of authority, the new procedure for the award of fellowships, the consolidation and revision of the procurement arrangements, the establishment of a Property Survey Board and the restructuring of the Resource Management Department. The Committee noted the recommendations by the External Auditor to improve the consistency in the financial statements, to remedy weaknesses in the internal control system, to improve the documentation on procedure and terminology and to introduce risk management. The Committee cautioned the Secretary-General with respect to milestones and encouraged use of external support in implementing some of the initiatives.

5. During the second meeting, the Committee reviewed the Action Plan Update and Follow-up to the First Meeting of the Audit Committee. The Committee noted the progress reports on the recruitment of the treasury position, additional staffing of the Internal Audit and Investigation Service, training in the area of integrity and steps to introduce risk management. The Committee also welcomed the new format of the Action Plan by indicating information on initiatives, timelines, milestones and implementing office.

6. The Committee examined an example of the new reporting format for internal management on the programme and budget. The Committee noted that the report provided comprehensive information to the Secretary-General on a quarterly basis and suggested to expand the part relating to the programme analysis. The Committee noted that such analysis would be required in particular for the annual programme performance report to be submitted by the Secretary-General to the Executive Council according to the result-based budgeting format.

7. The Committee reviewed the New Structure of Financial Statements. The Committee took note that the format had been developed in close cooperation with the External Auditors. The Committee also noted that the financial statements complied with the United Nations System Accounting Standards and questioned the usefulness and weaknesses of those standards. In particular, it was noted that financial statements as well as budget presentations do not adequately depict areas of financial risks and liabilities, such as the potential liability resulting from engaging long-term temporary staff. The Committee recommended that those risks and liabilities are clearly identified and suggested to review the application of different accounting standards, such as the International Public Accounting Standards, and report to the Committee accordingly. The Committee also suggested to further improving the format by including, in particular, a glossary and an introduction by the Secretary-General.

8. During the third meeting, the Committee considered the document Update of the Action Plan on Management Reform as of June 2005. The Committee reviewed the status of implementation of the Action Plan, noting progress achieved and the delay of some activities. The Committee recommended that the Secretary-General assign specific personal accountability for the Action Plan items to both functional and programme managers in order to promote changes in the organizational culture that would strengthen internal controls. Further, the Committee requested that the Secretary-General provide specific examples of monitoring activities and their frequency at the next Audit Committee meeting. The Committee strongly supported immediate
The Secretary-General's communication strategy has been internally focused and considered the importance to communicate management improvements to external audiences. The Committee emphasized the need to introduce staff training on internal control and to proceed with the fraud prevention training without further delay. The Committee took note of the intention of the Secretary-General to implement the ICSC Standards of Conduct for the International Civil Service as an interim measure, while continuing his current efforts to develop a WMO-specific code of ethics.

Fraud case

The Committee considered the fraud case during its first, second and third meetings. The Audit Committee met in closed session with restricted participation to discuss the investigation of the fraud case. The Secretary-General addressed the Committee on the investigation and follow-up to the fraud case. The meeting was briefed by the Senior Legal Advisor on the liaison with Swiss judicial authorities and by the Chief of Internal Audit and Investigation Service on the internal investigation. During the second meeting, the Deputy Secretary-General provided a status report on the work of the Joint Disciplinary Committee.

During the first meeting, the Committee requested the Secretary-General to rapidly conclude the internal investigation on the fraud case. During the second meeting, the Audit Committee expressed disappointment about the long time required for investigation and follow-up. Several members strongly stated that the investigation needed to cover all individuals inside and outside the Secretariat who may have held responsibilities in the fraud case. They were of the opinion that outside observers may regard lack of action as an attempt to obscure the investigation. The Committee urged the Secretary-General to vigorously pursue the investigation and to ensure the availability of sufficient resources and competence for the finalization of the investigation. The Committee took note of the assurance provided by the Secretary-General that he had requested the Chief, Internal Audit and Investigation Service (C/IAIS), to provide the final report by 31 March 2005 and that the result would be reported to the third meeting of the Audit Committee and to the Member States accordingly.

During the third meeting, the Secretary-General presented the Committee with a comprehensive overview of the internal fraud investigation, including the final report. He also shared the extent of the information that the Swiss authorities could make available to the Secretariat regarding their investigation.

The Committee expressed satisfaction with the Secretary-General’s determination and sustained focus on investigating the fraud and attempting to recoup the losses. Likewise, the Committee valued its frank exchanges of views with the Secretariat and the Secretariat’s responsiveness to the Committee’s questions and recommendations about the investigation.

The Committee expressed regrets about the organization and execution of the investigation. In particular, in spite of the Secretary-General's genuine efforts, the Committee was of the opinion that the level of resources dedicated to the investigation had been inadequate and that the process was too lengthy. Some Committee members expressed concerns about whether the scope of investigation had been sufficiently broad. In addition, the Committee regretted that no provision was made by the Secretary-General to carry out routine internal work while C/IAIS was investigating the fraud. Concerns were also expressed on the slow pace of implementation of some of the aspects of the Action Plan.
15. The Committee found the nine reports on the fraud by C/IAIS to be voluminous. They included worthy analyses of how the fraud was committed and offered a multitude of useful recommendations for shoring up internal controls. The Committee recognized that the internal investigation was principally focused on individuals still employed in the Secretariat and based on documents and electronic files available to C/IAIS. Within these constraints, the Committee took note that, based on the C/IAIS report of 21 October 2003, the Secretary-General had found strong evidence that one individual was directly involved in perpetrating the fraud over the period investigated. During the course of the investigation and disciplinary process it became apparent that other staff members had exhibited professional shortcomings. The Committee took note of the Secretary-General’s report about the possible involvement of others outside of WMO. On the basis of the fraud investigation, it appears that the mechanism of the fraud was based principally on training courses and fellowships, including the actions of payment.

16. The Committee noted with appreciation the Secretary-General’s prompt response to the 21 October 2003 report by C/IAIS. The identified individual was dismissed, and the case was handed to the Swiss authorities. The Committee noted the disciplinary actions taken by the Secretary-General against staff members. It regrets the remote chance of taking any action against former employees, who also may have been involved. The Committee supports the Secretariat’s further actions against those outside the WMO that may have played a role in the fraud, including thorough cooperation with national investigative authorities.

17. The Committee considered whether the investigation should be further pursued. Given the unlikelihood of finding additional significant knowledge about the fraud and the human and financial resource costs involved, the Committee recommended closing the internal investigation of the fraud, recognizing that it should be re-opened later if additional, substantial information were uncovered. At the same time, the Committee asked the Secretary-General to complete ongoing actions related to the external investigation by the Swiss authorities and information about individuals outside WMO who may have been involved and to keep the Committee informed.

Recommendation 1:

That the Executive Council request the Secretary-General to close the internal investigation of the fraud, recognizing that it should be re-opened later if additional, substantial information were uncovered.

External Auditor

18. During the first meeting, the Committee took note of the External Auditor’s plan to audit the interim accounts covering the year 2004. During the second meeting, the Committee reviewed four documents, including the Letter of Understanding between the National Audit Office of the United Kingdom and WMO, National Audit Office of the United Kingdom: Audit Strategy 2004 for WMO, National Audit Office of the United Kingdom: Interim External Audit Report to Management for 2004 and WMO Follow-up Action to Interim External Audit Report to Management for 2004. The Committee expressed appreciation for the excellent documentation and for the good work provided by the External Auditor. The Committee took note, in particular, of the observations and recommendations contained in the Interim External Audit Report for 2004, covering the format of the accounts, budget monitoring, risk management, accounts closure timetable, relationships with executing partners and project accounting. Several members expressed concern about the findings by the External Auditors of financial management deficiencies in two audited Sub-regional Offices. The Secretariat elaborated on the implications of those findings for other WMO Offices outside Headquarters and on the course of action to address the identified shortcomings. The Committee appreciated the timely and in-depth response by the Secretariat to the new audit recommendations.
19. During the third meeting, the Committee reviewed three documents, namely National Audit Office of the United Kingdom: Regional Office for the Americas External Audit Report to Management, Financial Statement for the Year 2004 Certified by the External Auditor including its Report and Follow-up to the Recommendations by the External Auditor Contained in the Report to Management on Regional Office for the Americas. The Committee expressed its gratitude to the External Auditor for the work done. The Committee noted with appreciation that the External Auditor had provided an unqualified opinion on the accounts for 2004 and recommended to the Executive Council the approval of the audited accounts for the year 2004. The Committee was concerned that the External Auditor highlighted management control deficiencies in the fellowship areas, in light of the findings of a previous external audit. The Secretary-General indicated that he took responsibility to address these shortcomings and that some new management and control actions were implemented in early February 2005. The Committee supported additional internal controls in this area.

20. The Committee supported the recommendations of the External Auditor and the response of the Secretary-General. With regard to Recommendation 9 of the External Auditor, the Committee took note of the intention of the Secretary-General to implement the ICSC Standards of Conduct for the International Civil Service as an interim measure, while continuing his current efforts to develop a WMO specific code of ethics. The Committee also noted the support of the Secretary-General for the Recommendation 12 of the External Auditor on internal audit arrangements. The Committee made the following specific recommendations to the Executive Council.

**Recommendation 2:**

That the Executive Council:

2.1 Approve the financial statement for the year 2004 certified by the External Auditor including its report.

2.2 Approve that the financial statements are audited on an annual basis starting 2005 in accordance with Recommendation 1 of the External Auditor.

2.3 Approve the continuation of the Audit Committee and a clarification of its mandate by including its governance function.

2.4 Approve a change in the membership of the Audit Committee by including an additional third financial expert to be proposed by the Secretary-General and appointed by the President of WMO on the basis of Recommendation 6 of the External Auditor.

2.5 Consider the establishment of a task force to review the operation and mandate of the Bureau and the role of FINAC vis-à-vis the Audit Committee on the basis of Recommendations 10 and 11 of the External Auditor.

2.6 Approve the simplification of the financial arrangement for support costs by transferring support funds to the General Fund and proposing the necessary budget adjustment in the context of the proposed programme and budget for the biennium 2008-2009 on the basis of Recommendation 5 of the External Auditor.

**Internal Audit**

21. During the first meeting, the Committee requested the Secretary-General to strengthen the internal audit operation on an urgent basis and to provide adequate resources. During the
second meeting, the Committee noted the progress report on the strengthening of staffing of the Internal Audit and Investigation Service. In addition, the Secretary-General announced his intention to propose a substantial upgrade of the staffing of the Internal Audit and Investigation Service supplementary to the additional staff already available.

22. During the first meeting, the Committee took note of the internal audit plan for 2004 and requested comments thereon by one of the external experts. During the second meeting, the Committee took note of a presentation by the Chief, Internal Audit and Investigation Service, on the Audit Plan 2005 and reviewed the Comments of the External Expert on the Interim Audit Plan for 2005. The Committee noted that the audit plan presented a statement of intention, rather than a detailed audit plan and requested that such a substantiated and detailed plan be prepared. The Committee expressed concern that a robust plan of routine internal audit had not been initiated, at a time when the WMO was engaged in a multitude of management reforms and responding to previous audit opinion. The Committee requested the Internal Auditor to provide, as a matter of routine, the Executive Council with a written report covering the following: (i) a summary of audits and investigations undertaken; (ii) conclusions and recommendations resulting from the audits and investigations; (iii) assessment of adequacy of existing internal controls; (iv) work envisioned for the following year; and (v) the Auditor’s view on areas of potential concern or risk that warrant management review. The Committee requested the Secretary-General to ensure that the adequate closure of the fraud case was of highest priority and that the new internal control procedures and the work of the field operation be audited on a priority basis.

23. During the third meeting, the Committee reviewed two documents, namely Progress/Activity Report: Review of Internal Control of Critical Areas and Internal Audit Plan 1 August 2005–30 June 2006. The Committee was disappointed in the lateness of the documents, which were presented at the day of the meeting. The Committee noted that the Audit Plan did not cover all the areas of interest specified at the Committee’s second meeting and did not clearly designate verification of measures under the Action Plan to improve internal controls as its top priority. The Committee noted that there was some confusion concerning the difference between the assessment of business risk and the assessment of risk for the purposes of developing the audit plan and wished to see greater clarity in this area in future. The Committee expected a well-developed internal audit plan for the calendar year 2006 to be reviewed at its next meeting. The plan should address the issues raised above.

24. During the third meeting, the Committee also reviewed the document Strengthening of Internal Oversight. The Committee noted that the fraud case discovered in July 2003 brought to light serious deficiencies in the internal audit service which had been put in place based on the decisions of the forty-eighth, fiftieth and fifty-first sessions of the Executive Council and the new Financial Regulations adopted by Thirteenth Congress. In addition, the slowness of the investigation on a case of fraud confirmed that it was essential to reinforce the internal audit service by providing the necessary resources, qualifications, expertise and independence indispensable for fulfilling its tasks. In accordance with this understanding, the Audit Committee recommended that the Executive Council authorizes the Secretary-General to make the necessary staff adjustments to attain these objectives within the budgetary envelope for 2006-2007 of CHF 1,756,100 as proposed in the context of the Programme and Budget for the Biennium 2006-2007 (EC-LVII.Doc. 5(1)) and High Priority Activities for the Biennium 2006-2007 (EC-LVII/Doc. 5(2)).

25. Furthermore, the Audit Committee recommended that the Secretary-General conduct a needs assessment of the audit services, by obtaining external advice from amongst others, the External Auditor. On the basis of this assessment, the Secretary-General is further requested to examine the appropriateness of outsourcing part or all of the internal audit services. The Committee recognized that outsourcing should be considered for specialized areas, such as
internal audit of information technology, or where third party providers might be a more cost effective option such as the audit of Regional Offices.

**Recommendation 3:**

That the Executive Council:

3.1 Request the Secretary-General to strengthen the internal audit services on an urgent basis within the budget envelope proposed for the biennium 2006-2007.

3.2 Request the Secretary-General to conduct a needs assessment of the audit services and to examine the options of outsourcing some or all of the internal audit services and report this to the fifty-eighth session of the Executive Council.

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**REPORT TO THE FIFTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

**The Audit Committee mandate and terms of reference**

26. Various deliberations were held based on the fifty-seventh session of the Executive Council’s decision to re-establish the AC (Resolution 11 (EC-LVII)) and report to the EC on the Secretary-General’s actions to: (a) maintain and operate appropriate and effective internal controls; (b) encourage the development of an anti-fraud culture; (c) review the operation and effectiveness of the Financial Regulations; (d) review the Secretary-General’s approach to risk management; (e) review the arrangements, liaison and reports of the Internal and External Auditors; (f) confirm appropriate audit and assurance arrangements have been conducted; (g) ensure the Secretary-General responds to various audit recommendations; and (h) monitor the delivery and content of financial statements.

**Meetings and attendance**

27. The AC noted with regret the lack of attendance by Permanent Representatives who are designated members of the AC. In some cases the PR’s did not send an alternate or a substance matter expert. The AC felt that a quorum of designated members should be in attendance at each session of the AC in order to provide effective governance.

28. It was noted that most Permanent Representatives sitting on the AC did not have technical expertise in the substance of the issues under the responsibility of the AC’s mandate. The AC agreed that, should PRs be unable to attend personally, they should have the flexibility to designate a subject-matter expert to attend the meeting of the AC in their place. The AC felt strongly that due to the importance of the report to the Executive Council issued by the AC prior to the meeting of the Council, the designated Permanent Representatives should attend this meeting of the AC. Finally, it was noted that the Chairman of the AC should be a Permanent Representative rather than an external Financial Expert in order to provide the necessary credibility and weight to the delivery of the AC report to Council.

29. The AC suggested that the Executive Council review the composition of the AC in an effort to designate Permanent Representatives who can participate in the meetings of the AC and that the designated PRs have appropriate expertise in financial management, accountability and oversight matters. In this regard the Executive Council may wish to define specific criteria that nominees should satisfy. It was noted that the work of the AC over the past year is evolving from advising the Secretariat on management reforms to also monitoring the quality and effectiveness of the internal audit functions, the reviewing work of the External Auditor and the quality and effectiveness of the Secretariat’s responses thereto, risk assessment evaluation and reforms to the WMO’s programme and budget. In this regard the AC recognized and valued the continued need and role for qualified external experts on the AC and felt that these may be drawn from experts
wider than the UN system and that in future an alternative way of appointing them may be explored from the current practice of the Secretary-General having a role in their appointment.

Work schedule
30. The AC considered the need for periodic meetings and concluded that the AC consider, that the frequency and timing should be related to the scheduled cycle of Secretariat actions, Internal Audit and External Audit deliverables through the course of the financial period. Thus, the AC could be accorded the responsibility to determine the frequency and timing of its meetings with a suggested limit of not more than three per intersessional period. The calendar of deliverable events would lend to the “standardization” of the AC’s agenda and eventual regularization of its meetings through the course of the year. There was agreement that the Executive Council should review the work of the AC and discuss ways for its improvement. The meeting reiterated the value of the AC’s contribution to the governance and effective management of WMO.

31. The AC discussed its functioning, importance, and the need to ensure its continued improvement and effectiveness. Some members expressed the opinion that it would be valuable to have an AC composed entirely or largely of audit and financial management experts, in line with the recommendations of the External Auditor, while others noted that the role of Permanent Representatives in the AC is essential. The AC noted that its work has a specific technical focus, atypical of other WMO Committees. It was felt therefore that continuity of AC member participation is important. The AC felt that it might be prudent for EC to designate alternate members at the time of appointment of members to ensure a representative presence of PRs at all meetings.

EC Task Force recommendations
32. In addition, the AC considered the recommendations of the EC Task Force on Recommendations Emanating from the AC (Resolution 12 (EC-LVII) on the role, activities and outcomes for the Financial Advisory Committee versus the AC to ensure the two Committees complement each other without overlap. The AC noted that the key requirement for the review by the Task Force was to reduce redundancy and create efficiency in reporting lines to EC by various bodies and the two bodies (FINAC and AC) in particular. It agreed with the Task Force recommendation proposing the AC focus primarily on matters related to Internal and External Audit functions and financial regulatory issues. The FINAC should focus on the various aspects of WMO’s programme and budget including Members’ contributions. The AC was of the view that it should inform FINAC of its considerations and recommendations prior to reporting to EC thus continuing its direct relationship with EC on its governance and oversight mandate.

33. The AC therefore decided to recommend to the Executive Council the following:

Recommendation on the Report of the Task Force with regard to the Audit Committee:

That the Executive Council:

(a) Adopt the proposed amendment proposed in draft EC-LVIII/Rep. 4.1(5) Appendix B to inform the Financial Advisory Committee (FINAC) of the work of the AC excluding the words relating to the mandate of FINAC;

(b) That the AC be composed of nine (9) members – five (5) PRs and four (4) financial experts;

(c) That a quorum be constituted by at least three (3) PRs and two (2) external experts;

(d) That the Chairperson should be a member of EC;
(e) Consider a system of alternates in which in addition to the appointed PR’s, two (2) alternates from EC are appointed;
(f) Allow the AC to determine the number of meetings to be held given the work-plans and results to be achieved.

Recommendation on the Report of the Task Force with regard to the FINAC:

That the Executive Council:

(a) Delete the words ‘all other financial’ in bullet three to minimize duplication;
(b) Replace the word ‘Monitor’ with “take note of” of the reports of the External Auditor and AC as necessary.

Recommendation on Revision of the Terms of Reference of the Audit Committee:

That the Executive Council:

(a) Approve the revised TOR attached as Annex/Appendix noting changes to:

(i) Paragraph 1 (e) replace ‘review, agree and approve’ with ‘take note of’;
(ii) Paragraph 1 (g) replace ‘confirm that’ with ‘review how’;
(iii) Paragraph 1 (h) replace ‘ensure the timely, effective and appropriate’ with ‘make observation on the timeliness, effectiveness and appropriateness of’;
(iv) Paragraph 1 (j) replace ‘confirm that’ with ‘review the manner in which’;
(b) Delete paragraph 1 (k) as it is already covered by the new paragraph 1 (e);
(c) Insert proposal of task force on AC to inform FINAC as recommended in Recommendation 1 above;
(d) The EC consider establishing criteria for the nomination of members of the AC;
(e) Paragraph 3, delete ‘from the United Nations System’ noting the value that may be derived from experts outside of this system;
(f) Review the functioning of the AC at its fifty-ninth (59th) session.

Work of the External Auditor

34. The External Auditors briefed the AC about its audit plan, including the audit of the financial statement for the financial year 2005 and the planned audit of the WMO Nigeria office. The External Auditor further briefed the AC on their Audit Findings as well as their comments on internal controls and reasons for presenting an unqualified Audit.

35. The External Auditor introduced the External Audit strategy for 2005. The document was welcomed by the AC as an excellent document. The External Auditor further indicated that a preliminary audit work had been conducted in the Secretariat. This preliminary audit indicates no issues of irregular expenditure were identified. Some other issues were, however, noted and will be followed up amongst others:

(a) Purchase orders were not always raised in advance;
(b) Bank reconciliations were performed but further improvements were required to provide assurance of their review;

(c) Preparations for the Integrated Management Resource project and for the reimplementation of the Oracle system;

(d) Problems were identified elsewhere and IOO may wish to follow-up on these;

(e) On projects the opening of bank accounts and reconciliation of accounts (challenges similar to ones identified in the Brazil project) were identified.

36. The External Auditor further reported that the Nigeria office was visited in November 2005 and no risk control measures were identified, but noted some duplications and inefficiencies. Communication between the WMO Secretariat in Geneva and the field offices is being improved.

37. Whilst improvements need to be made in the area of fellowships, the External Auditor found no irregularities during recent work in the area, and considers this an encouraging sign in view of previous and on-going concerns of the AC.

38. At its third meeting the AC was presented with the Audited Financial Statements of the WMO and the External Auditors report for the year 2005. AC welcomed the report of the External Auditor on the Accounts for 2005, and the opinion expressed by the External Auditor on these accounts. Following discussion of the External Auditors Report and the Audited Financial Statements the AC commended the efforts of the Secretary-General and the Secretariat in improving the internal control measures and overall governance and congratulated the Secretariat on the achievement of an unqualified audit. The AC also expressed its appreciation for the efforts made by the Secretariat in implementation of the previous years recommendations from the External Auditors. The AC further noted that the External Auditor’s report includes 17 recommendations in four areas: (1) the results-based budgeting process; (2) IT issues; (3) financial reporting issues and enhancements to internal controls; and (4) a progress on the implementation of prior recommendations. In its deliberations on the report the AC placed specific emphasis/focus on the IPSAS, the Result-based Budgeting (RBB), and Annual Budgeting. The AC emphasised that the proposed shift/change to the IPSAS accounting standards and methods should be done progressively taking into account the general movement in this direction by the entire UN system and the inherent benefits in the system in allowing for a better link between plans, expenditure and results. In particular the AC noted past expenditure patterns of the Secretariat and expressed its wishes to see further improvement in this regard. On the RBB the AC noted that to-date the link between the Long-term Plan, the budget and the indicators was not satisfactory and should be further improved. The AC encouraged the Secretariat to implement the recommendations made and welcomed the strengthening of internal oversight as well as the focus on IT.

39. The AC therefore decides to recommend to the Executive Council, the following:

**Recommendation on the Financial Statements:**

That the Executive Council:

(a) Approve the Audited Financial Statements as presented;

(b) Commend the Secretary-General and the Secretariat on the unqualified audit opinion;
Consider a separate agenda item for the Financial Statements and the Report of the External Auditor at its future meetings.

**Recommendation on the Report of the External Auditor:**

That the Executive Council supports the External Auditor’s recommendations included in his report for 2005, noting among others.

**Adoption of IPSAS Accounting Standards**

(a) Requests that the Secretary-General prepare a report to the AC, by its next meeting on:

(i) The expected benefits of adopting IPSAS accounting standards;
(ii) The expected additional resource requirements for adopting IPSAS accounting standards;
(iii) The experience of other UN bodies in adopting IPSAS accounting standards;
(iv) His proposed plan for adopting IPSAS accounting standards.

**Results-based Budgeting**

(a) Request that the Secretary-General strengthen the link between the Long-term Plan and the measures set out in the 2008-2011 Programme and Budget, improve metrics used, and train staff to use the RBB.

**Annual Budget Appropriation**

(a) Endorse the adoption of an annual budget appropriation, starting with the fifteenth financial period (2008-2011);
(b) Requests the Secretary-General to prepare his budget proposals to Congress on the basis of annual budget appropriations within the financial period.

**Work of the Internal Auditor/Internal Oversight Office**

**INTERNAL OVERSIGHT PLANNING**

40. The AC welcomed the strengthening and restructuring of the internal oversight function, including the appointment of Mr Jorge Cortes as Director of the newly formed Internal Oversight Office (IOO). Members indicated their encouragement by the D/IOO’s input on the future approach and direction of internal oversight. The AC further noted that the Director/IOO had no input into the document prepared by the Chief/Internal Audit Service (Chief/IAIS) for the AC’s fifth meeting, and regretted the absence of the Chief/IAIS at its fifth meeting considering the AC had given guidance in its two previous meetings and the Internal Auditor had more than three months since the last AC meeting to revise the previously submitted Plan. The AC requested for the third time that the Secretariat prepare for the sixth AC meeting a well-developed internal audit plan for the calendar year 2006.

41. Certain allegations were brought to the attention of the AC on this restructuring of the IAIS to the IOO, as well as the fraud investigation. The AC considered the allegations in a serious light and commissioned an independent assessment by the external auditors to assist in its deliberations. The AC was satisfied, after reviewing the expert opinion, that there was no new information in the allegations. The AC is satisfied with the process of the appointment of D/IOO.
42. The AC was pleased at its sixth meeting to note the marked improvement in the quality of the documents presented and welcomed the comments of the Secretary-General on the work produced by IOO. It did note, however, that the revised plan for 2006 was ambitious and that adequate resources would be needed to ensure its delivery. The AC further observed that prioritization in implementation of the work plan would be inevitable. It urged the Secretary-General to ensure the speedy filling of vacant positions in order to allow for the work on internal controls to be performed. It furthermore encouraged linkages between the work of the External Auditor and Internal Oversight Office.

Work Performance

43. The AC expressed concern that continuing problems with the management of the internal audit function are hindering the Secretary-General’s and AC’s ability to fulfil their mandates, and that ultimate responsibility for the resolution of these problems lies with the Secretary-General. The AC noted the need to identify the key management barriers that are causing continuing problems with the performance of internal audit work. The AC expressed its continuing dissatisfaction and concern that, in spite of all attempts at all of its previous meetings, the Secretary-General has not obtained sufficient assurance through the work of internal audit in 2005 to enable him to assess effectiveness or adequacy of internal controls.

44. The AC reviewed the status of the implementation of the Action Plan to institute integrity, transparency and efficiency within the Secretariat and its regional offices. The AC noted over 163 recommendations emanating from a variety of reports including the UN Controller, Joint Inspection Unit, External Auditor, and Deloitte & Touche all compiled into a database with common format.

45. The AC noted the Secretary-General’s implementation of a new monitoring system that helps track and prioritize follow-up actions to individual audit reports and recommendations in accordance with a decision by the AC. Interim reports are prepared to track the: (i) recommendation source; (ii) priority attached to the recommendation; (iii) description of the recommendation; (iv) results expected from implementing the recommendation; (v) Secretariat officer responsible for the implementation of the recommendation; (vi) implemented action and achieved milestones prior to the reporting period; (vii) achievement during the reporting period; (viii) actions planned for the period following the reporting period; and (ix) overall assessment of the follow-up to the recommendation. The report included an introduction and a qualitative assessment of the progress achieved during the reporting period.

46. The AC monitored and provided guidance during the intersession period on several management risk areas including: (i) fellowship administration; (ii) Code of Ethics; (iii) risk management and training; (iv) strengthening of internal oversight arrangements; (v) introduction of financial disclosure and declaration of interest statements; and (vi) progress in the re-implementation of the Oracle system. Overdue actions include implementation of reforms in budgetary controls, ethics training and fellowships. The AC noted with concern the relatively slow implementation of reforms in the high-risk areas of budgetary controls, ethics training and fellowships.

47. The AC noted that several activities had been undertaken with the assistance of external companies including Deloitte & Touche. The AC appreciated the progress made in addressing problems in the fellowship area, while noting that detective controls remain inadequate, as reported by D&T. While noting recent improvements in post-fellowship reporting by fellows, there remains significant room for improvement. Additionally, though much improved, the current level of reporting from Permanent Representatives (PRs) in respect of fellowships is still inadequate. The AC also noted the continuing need for PRs to submit signatures to the Secretariat and encouraged the Secretary-General to take appropriate measures to secure these signatures.
48. The AC welcomed the new developments in the IOO and appreciated the visible improvement in the quality of the work produced since its fifth meeting. The AC noted the Needs Assessment report of the D/IOO and agreed that some of the work that is highly specialized be outsourced in order to ensure timely delivery of the work. The AC also took note that the IOO now consist of two P5 positions one of which is filled by the former Chief/IAIS. The AC looks forward to receiving results that would provide assurance of adequate internal controls in critical areas and in particular the development of a statement on internal controls that would cover all areas of management as expeditiously as possible.

49. The AC thus decided to recommend the following to the Executive Council:

**Recommendation on the work of Internal Oversight Office and Internal Audit**

That the Executive Council:

(a) Requests the Secretary-General to ensure adequate internal controls are in place to provide assurance to EC, on the efficient and effective use of resources;

(b) Ensures adequate levels of resources are available to fully carry out the Internal Audit and oversight work;

(c) Endorse the Secretary-General’s development of a Statement of Internal Control to be reviewed by the AC, before it is submitted to the WMO Congress.

**Draft WMO Code of Ethics**

50. In keeping with its mandate to ensure the development of an anti-fraud culture in the Secretariat the AC appreciated WMO’s efforts to develop a Code of Ethics/Conduct, noting however the tight timeline for this project, given the Executive Council decision that a draft be finalized by 1 June 2006. The AC expressed its desire to review the draft Code prior to the next session of EC. The AC noted that in order to be endorsed at the next WMO Congress, the proposed Code of Ethics/Conduct must be first be endorsed by EC-LVIII and the resultant proposed changes to the Regulations to accommodate this new code first approved by EC-LVIII prior to submission to the WMO Congress. The AC noted that it is important for the Code, or portions thereof, to be incorporated into the Staff Regulations in order to have legal force.

51. The AC was presented the WMO Code of Ethics at its sixth meeting. The AC reviewed the Code of Ethics and applauded the efforts of the Secretary-General on the development of the Code. The AC noted that the new code was values driven, specific to the WMO and the positive style in which the document was written and noted the document as a positive sign of the desired organizational culture. The AC further noted that staff had been consulted and involved in its development and welcomed this development. The AC made some suggestions that it considered might improve the text. The AC strongly supported the importance of Members endorsing the code and providing their active support for its implementation. The Secretary-General was further encouraged to ensure continuous training of staff on the new code and to extend its application to all suppliers of services and products to the Secretariat.

52. The AC further congratulated the Secretariat on implementation of the financial disclosure system as part of the ethics reform process within the WMO. AC asked how the data will be managed and what will happen if any conflicts are detected. The Secretary-General reported that he has not noted any conflicts yet and that at present, this data is provided directly to his office and would be used only during the course of an investigation and would be annually monitored for
completeness. The AC welcomed the fact that the financial disclosure policy not only covered Executive Management but all Directors and all staff handling financial transactions.

53. The AC decides to recommend to EC the following:

**Recommendation on the WMO Code of Ethics/Other Steps to Strengthen Integrity:**

That the Executive Council:

(a) Endorse the WMO Code of Ethics and welcome the implementation of the new policy on financial disclosure by staff;

(b) Request the Secretary-General to implement the WMO Code of Ethics by informing and providing relevant training to staff on a regular basis;

(c) Recommend that the Congress approve incorporation of the WMO Code of Ethics into the staff rules;

(d) Explore the possibility of Congress adopting a resolution or other appropriate measures to ensure that Members support the Secretariat in its efforts to implement the Code including reference in WMO Staff Regulations.

**Other business**

54. The AC considered a Self-Assessment of Effectiveness of Audit Committees for possible adoption by the AC. The External Auditor briefly explained the purpose of the document viz. to assist the AC to benchmark itself against best practices. The AC used the document in reviewing its proposed future terms of reference and scope of work. The AC however deferred a decision on the tool for a future date.

**Relevant Information from AC-VII and AC-VIII**

55. The Audit Committee (AC-VII) selected Gen. Kelly (Permanent Representative (PR) of the United States with WMO) as the chairperson of the AC in line with Resolution 10 (EC-LVIII) and also decided that General Kelly would chair the 8th meeting.

56. The AC underscored its need for sufficient WMO staff support and discussed with the SG what level of support would be most appropriate. There was consensus that two levels of support were needed: administrative and executive. At the administrative level, there should be a dedicated member of the Secretariat when needed who would be responsible for the practical issues of drafting the AC report, coordinating the meeting schedule, distributing documents to committee members, making meeting space arrangements and the like. The SG said the Secretariat shall review internal arrangements to provide this administrative support. At the executive level, the SG stated the Assistant Secretary-General currently provided high-level support to ensure the timeliness and quality of report material.

**Audit Committee Work Plans for 2006/07**

57. Noting the recent changes to the AC Terms of Reference (ToR) and in particular the requirement to develop a work plan [Res. 10 (EC-LVIII), paragraph 2.], the AC discussed its mandate and priorities. The AC, guided by the ToRs and factors such as external audit milestones, agreed upon a work plan that would focus on review of the external and internal audit control plans during AC-VII and on review of the execution of those plans during AC-VIII. The AC noted that a
final report for Cg-XV is a key deliverable, and it should not submit a draft report as was done for EC-LVIII.

Financial Statements and Arrangements for External Audit

58. At the AC-VII, the Secretary-General and the Audit Committee discussed plans to conduct a hard close of the 2006 accounts in November 2006, to support delivery of Financial Statements and the Draft Audit Report at AC-VIII. At the eighth meeting, the Secretariat introduced the draft WMO financial statements for the year 2006 by highlighting key financial figures and elaborating on the main notes to the accounts. The representative of the EA presented the statements and distributed a report entitled "Communication of Audit Matters to those Charged with Governance, World Meteorological Organization, Financial Statement 2006".

59. A representative of the EA distributed a report entitled "Communication of Audit Matters to those Charged with Governance, World Meteorological Organization, Financial Statement 2006" and assured the AC an unqualified audit opinion will be issued on the WMO accounts for 2006, subject to satisfactory final completion and internal NAO review of the audit. The AC acknowledged this significant achievement and commended the hard work done to close the books early in order to complete the audit.

60. The EA indicated that while a final opinion would not be available until April 2007, some issues bear consideration that would likely be reflected in its 2006 report:

- A weakening of internal controls was noted in some areas because of system start-up problems (e.g., weakness in bank reconciliations) which presented a potential risk to the audit opinion;

- Monitoring of Financial Information is not always based on complete information, e.g., fellowships, UNDP disbursements and lacks consistency in allocating user access.

61. The EA noted that Oracle implementation, IPSAS and corporate governance would be included in the report, as will the role of field offices in project management. In addition to the Plans for the 2006 audit, the EA presented at the seventh meeting the final (30 October 2006) management letter and report for the 2005 Audit. The SG discussed proposed actions to be taken on the recommendations. The AC discussed the importance of the implementation of recommendations and the ramifications of the SG accepting and treating all EA recommendations with equal priority. The AC remained concerned that efforts to simultaneously implement corrective actions for all recommendations would likely require more resources than could reasonably be made available and urged the SG to prioritize efforts.

62. Following the report of SG, AC-VII suggested that careful thought be applied by the SG on implications and impacts of an internal control assurance statement. The AC applauded the actions and intent to implement this important step, but cautioned that the evidence provided must match the words in the statement. The SG reported at AC-VIII he intends to implement internal control assurance statements starting in 2007 to allow the appropriate preparation recommended by the AC.

63. The AC took note of the ongoing cooperation and efforts to avoid duplication between the External Audit and the Internal Audit functions. The AC plans to review how the planned audit and assurance arrangements have been conducted at the next meeting.
Internal Oversight Plans and Progress Report

64. AC-VII congratulated IOO on progress achieved since AC-V in February 2006 and appreciated the efforts made to prioritise activities. The AC expressed its concerns, about risks in the area of information technology (IT) and the adequacy of personnel to conduct necessary audits. The AC suggested use of alternative methodologies for following up on recommendations (e.g., spot checks as opposed to comprehensive reviews) could achieve the desired end at reduced staff costs.

65. D/IOO noted that the fellowship process was high on his agenda, and that he expected this audit to begin in 2007.

Report on WMO Risk Management Project

66. The seventh meeting of AC noted the progress made in risk management; however, given the complexity of the proposed process, the number of other initiatives currently underway, and the need for additional resources, the Secretariat should consider delaying the project. The AC advised the SG to take the work already done, prioritize the WMO’s risks, and focus efforts on the highest risks. At the eighth meeting, the SG presented information on previous risk assessment work used to develop its Plan of Work for 2007.

Financial Matters: Possible introduction of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS)

67. The AC recommended additional thought be given to the proposed implementation plan for IPSAS and the sequence of steps to achieve Congress approval for the transition to IPSAS. The AC recommended the SG take up this issue with the WMO President and the Secretariat formulate a resolution that would allow Fifteenth Congress to accept IPSAS provisionally. The AC also recommended the Secretariat revise planning to allow for changes to the Financial Regulations and costs to be discussed at Fifteenth Congress. The AC believed the costs may be underestimated and suggested more realistic cost-estimates be developed and presented, noting amongst other issues, that IPSAS will require an upgraded Oracle system and could have implications for staff training and change to management practices.

68. Additional information on the experience of early implementers, implications, e.g., of governance structures, and a more realistic cost estimate of implementation should be sought. The AC noted that 2010 is the IPSAS implementation date throughout the UN system (per UN General Assembly Resolution). It further noted that WMO financial reports based on existing United Nations System Accounting Standards (UNSAS) might lose credibility when IPSAS becomes used within the UN system.

Oracle Implementation

69. A presentation was given on the Oracle implementation with an emphasis on the delegation of authority (budget certification) to program managers. The AC made a number of observations and comments focused on processes, systems and people. In particular, the Secretariat was encouraged to ensure that all staff used the system and was supported in doing so. The AC noted that the guiding principle for Oracle implementation was to use the software “as is” and, as necessary, tailor existing business processes. The AC recommended the SG ensure the WMO Secretariat was aware of this.

70. In addressing the manner in which audit and AC recommendations have been implemented the AC emphasized the importance of quality over quantity as the criteria for creating lasting
impact within the WMO Secretariat culture. The AC urged the SG to carefully prioritize implementation of audit recommendations and related initiatives to ensure that sufficient resources are available for both management and mission requirements.

Other Business

71. The AC was concerned with the number of new management and control initiatives under way, in addition to the Oracle implementation, and underscored the need to successfully implement these before further changes are introduced.

72. The AC noted that increasingly comments were being received by PR members of the AC on expenditure for ‘overhead’ and on Programmes, and therefore underlined that the importance of putting into place new administrative systems should be clearly articulated in a way that demonstrates the benefits to Members. The AC and EA agreed that over time full implementation of Oracle Financials would improve Budget Development and Execution.

Audited Financial Statements

73. At the AC-VIII the Secretariat introduced the draft WMO financial statements for the year 2006. The representative of the EA presented the statements and distributed a report entitled "Communication of Audit Matters to those Charged with Governance, World Meteorological Organization, Financial Statement 2006".

74. In response to questions on the 2006 accounts, the Secretariat noted that the decline in extrabudgetary income from CHF 30.0 million to CHF 23.5 million was mainly due to the closing of some very large multi-year projects. The Secretariat noted that all off-budget income would be integrated with the regular budget process as of 2008 with the consolidation of 11 off-budget funds. An increase in arrears of CHF 3 million reflected a delay in payment of one major contribution. It was stated that return on investments had increased considerably during 2006 due to the previous recruitment of a treasurer.

75. A representative of the EA distributed a report entitled "Communication of Audit Matters to those Charged with Governance, World Meteorological Organization, Financial Statement 2006". He assured the AC that an unqualified audit opinion would be issued on the WMO accounts for 2006, subject to satisfactory final completion and internal NAO review of the audit. The AC acknowledged this significant achievement and commended the hard work done to close the books early in order to complete the audit.

Work of the Internal Auditor/ Internal Oversight Office

76. The chairman invited D/IOO, Mr J. Cortes, to present his report on the proposed Charter of IOO, the Annual Activity Report for 2006, and the Plan of Work for 2007, for the AC to consider and discuss. A report on the results of a comprehensive needs assessment, as commissioned by the Executive Council (EC), was also submitted for the attention of the Committee.

77. Discussions of the Internal Oversight Charter focused on the IOO’s independence as it relates to the WMO reporting structure and the requirement of an annual report from IOO to WMO governing bodies, which the AC stressed was essential. The AC observed the functions of the Internal Oversight Office should not normally be outsourced; however, the AC admitted there could be circumstances where some activities might be outsourced.

78. The Audit Committee confirmed that the D/IOO reported directly to the SG. The AC confirmed that the D/IOO had independence to decide whatever areas he would audit, taking
specially into account any sensitive areas to be suggested by the SG, but without undue restrictions being placed on his auditing task, particularly in the annually approval of the IOO plan of work. The AC confirmed that, should the D/IOO find inappropriate actions being undertaken by the SG, the D/IOO had direct access to the WMO President. The AC therefore concluded that it would need not approve or sign the charter and that dual reporting of the D/IOO to the AC and the SG would not be necessary. Thereby, the AC confirmed that D/IOO should have direct access to the Secretary-General, who acts as his immediate supervisor.

79. It was the consensus of the AC that an annual accountability report be provided by the D/IOO to the SG summarizing significant oversight findings, recommendations and actions taken in response; and including a status report on the internal control environment of the Organization. This annual accountability report should be made available unchanged by the SG, and with the SG’s comments, to the EC and to the Congress in years when it is in session.

80. The AC further stated that D/IOO general reports could be submitted either through the SG or to the SG and the AC simultaneously, though the AC agreed that it would not consider reports by IOO until the SG has submitted his own comments. The AC noted it should have access to IOO work and its reports, as well as access for discussions with IOO.

81. The AC underscored its need for sufficient WMO staff support and discussed with the SG what level of support would be most appropriate. There was consensus that two levels of support were needed: administrative and executive. At the administrative level, there should be a dedicated member of the Secretariat when needed who would be responsible for the practical issues of drafting the AC report, coordinating the meeting schedule, distributing documents to committee members, making meeting space arrangements and the like. The SG said the Secretariat shall review internal arrangements to provide this administrative support. At the executive level, the SG stated the Assistant Secretary-General currently provided high-level support to ensure the timeliness and quality of report material.

**IOO Annual Activity Report for 2006**

82. During 2006, IOO completed the following assurance work:

- Internal Audit – Treasury Functions & Controls
- Internal Audit – Procurement Services & Controls
- Internal Audit – Results-based Budgeting
- Internal Audit – Payroll Operations & Controls
- Performance Audit – Publications & Printing
- IT Audit – Implementation of Phase I of IRM/Oracle project
- Inspection – Management of Income-generating Facility
- Substantive Follow-up of Oversight Recommendations

83. On the basis of the substantive work completed during 2006, D/IOO has provided an assurance document to the SG for the year ending December 2006. That document was intended to inform the SG as to the appropriate level of internal control assurance the SG should cite in his required assurance statement. The SG intends to issue his initial assurance statement for 2007, in relation to the 2007 financial statements. D/IOO stated that the full and effective implementation of the IRM/Oracle system, coupled with other management initiatives in the area of governance and risk management, should provide WMO with greater transparency and accountability in the future.

84. IOO generally concluded that in most areas examined during 2006, the internal control processes needed improvement in order to provide reasonable assurance that, if effectively managed and complied with, such processes would ensure that significant irregularities would be
prevented or detected. Some compliance deficiencies were noted and internal control weaknesses were detected in a number of activities. The SG provided assurance that he was taking appropriate action.

85. Through substantive IT audit work, IOO has also concluded that a number of controls expected in the IRM/Oracle system were not in place or properly working. He said that financial vetting over IT investments required more oversight by senior management and this would continue to be a challenge in future, given plans for expansion of the system.

86. D/IOO stressed that to continue to provide effective assurance to the oversight stakeholders, IOO required adequate resources and the appropriate and continuing support of the SG and the Committee.

87. The SG said all D/IOO recommendations were accepted because all were deemed useful and the real challenge was to prioritize and implement these recommendations. The SG noted a significant improvement in the implementation rate of recommendations over the past three years. The AC noted the progress and acknowledged especially the progress made in late 2006. The AC also suggested that some recommendations that had been partially implemented, may have received adequate attention and therefore closed. While these items could be reopened at a later date, the AC recommended more attention be given to any high priority areas that were as yet not addressed.

**IOO’s 2007 Plan of Work**

88. D/IOO submitted extensive documentation outlining the IOO 2007 plan of work. There were 101 audit targets listed and 261 potential targets, the majority of these were considered high priority.

89. D/IOO stated that an important vacancy currently exists in IOO, the Chief of Evaluations and Performance Audit Service, and this would put on hold temporarily activities in that service. The AC recommended the SG expedite the hiring process as much as possible to fill this vacancy by the end of September.

90. The AC reiterated its concern about the size of the Audit risk universe both in terms of the extensive number of items considered high priority and the increasing trend of medium priority items being redesignated high priority items. The AC suggested that the D/IOO and SG might usefully begin to set their critical risks by identifying the risks that both have the highest likelihood of occurring and would have the highest impact on the Organization.

91. Noting the D/IOO’s intentions for the 2007 Plan of Work, the sense of the Committee was that the plan was not achievable at the set activity level. The AC invited the SG and D/IOO to consider together which of the high priority items would be chosen for implementation and suggested there might be a new category, such as “critical,” for those top priority items. The AC suggested that the D/IOO establish a benchmark cycle of approximately four years during which major systems can be evaluated. In addition, the AC recommended the SG and D/IOO together establish a short list of items to be evaluated annually, which is common practice in most organizations. The AC requested that the SG report the actions taken to further prioritize at the next meeting of the Audit Committee.

**Luncheon with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Audit Committee Chair**

92. The AC met with Ambassador Khalil Othman, Chairman of the WIPO Audit Committee. The aim of the event was to share experiences, to discuss issues of common interest and concern,
and to enable both audit committees to provide the best possible oversight for the Members of their respective Organizations. The discussion revealed numerous similarities in how the two Audit Committees functioned and the challenges they faced in fulfilling their mandates. Notably, both Committees serve as advisory bodies to the governing bodies of their respective Organizations, both monitor how the Secretariats implement their recommendations, and both are grappling with the need for dedicated staff support. They also identified issues common to WIPO and WMO, such as the transition to IPSAS and establishing the appropriate relationship between the head of the Organization, the Internal Auditor, the Audit Committee, and the governing body. The WIPO Audit Committee organized a similar event on March 26 with the participation of Gen. Kelly, Chairman of the WMO Audit Committee.

Investigation Update on the Fraud Case

93. Per the Chairman's request for a briefing from the Swiss authorities regarding their investigation of the fraud by a former WMO employee, the Committee met with the judge (the Juge d'instruction) responsible for the case. The Committee was pleased to hear that the Swiss judge's presentation of the facts of the case was consistent with information provided by the Secretary-General. The judge confirmed the investigation was ongoing and could remain open for 10 years from the date it was reported in 2003, with the possibility of a further 5-year extension under certain circumstances. He confirmed the WMO has been cooperative with his investigations and that the Secretary-General waived the immunity of WMO staff whenever requested to do so. The Committee expressed deep appreciation on behalf of the 188 Members of WMO to the Swiss judicial authorities for the recovery of US$ 300,000 from the liquidated assets of the prime suspect and for their efforts overall.

Other Business

Oracle Implementation

94. The Secretariat presented an update on the status of Oracle implementation and demonstrated how the WMO portal worked. The AC expressed its appreciation to the Secretariat for the informative information.

95. There was consensus among AC members that Oracle implementation is a key issue for controls for WMO. While the AC noted its appreciation for the consultative manner in which the WMO Administration is working, the Committee noted it would not want that to be to the detriment of maintaining a sound framework. The AC asked the Secretariat to ensure there is a clear manner in which changes to the system are agreed upon and implemented, in order to verify that there is indeed a balance between user-friendliness and sound financial control.

96. The AC agreed with the Secretariat that providing users with some flexibility as they learn how to use the Oracle system allowed users to adapt to the learning curve on an individual basis; however, the sense of the Committee was that the Secretariat needed to set a deadline for everyone to use the system. The AC noted it was not in the best interest of WMO to have a bifurcated system in which only 2/3 of Directors used the system.

97. The AC noted that, since AC-VII, the Secretariat has increased both the availability and amount of training available to users through such measures as the monthly directors meeting, weekly workshops available to all staff, and help line for individual technical assistance.
Possible introduction of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS)

98. Given the decision of the UN to move to IPSAS, and the negative implications of not migrating with other UN bodies, the AC recommended the adoption of IPSAS. The AC also suggested that a mechanism be recommended to Fifteenth Congress to allow adoption of IPSAS required changes to the Financial Regulations since these changes may be required prior to Sixteenth Congress.

99. The Committee further recommended the Secretariat continue its research on the cost of transition given the potential impact on the WMO budget and the lack of clearly identified sources of additional funds.

AGENDA ITEM 10.2 (1) – PROPORTIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF MEMBERS

SCALE OF ASSESSMENT
Cg-XV/Rep. 10.2 (1)

REPORT ON SCALE OF ASSESSMENT

1. Article 24 of the WMO Convention determines that the expenditures of the Organization shall be apportioned among the Members of the Organization in the proportions determined by Congress. Congress decided by Resolution 32 (Cg-XIII) that the latest United Nations scale of assessment approved by the United Nations General Assembly should be adopted as the basis for the calculation of the WMO scale of assessment. The WMO scale is duly adjusted for difference in memberships, provided that the minimum rate shall remain at 0.02 per cent. This was applied for the assessment of proportional contributions of members for the thirteenth financial period (2000-2003) and by Congress Resolution 36 (Cg-XIV) for the fourteenth financial period (2004-2007).

2. The United Nations General Assembly approves the United Nations scale of assessment for a three-year period, whereas the WMO financial period covers four years. As a result, both periods do not match. In order to bridge the resulting gap, Congress decided on the WMO scale of assessment for the years for which a United Nations scale of assessment was available and to authorize the Executive Council to adjust the scales of assessments for the remaining year(s) of the financial period, provided that no Member’s rate of assessment would increase to a level which would exceed 200 per cent of the previous WMO scale. In addition, the Congress authorized the Secretary-General to accept and implement any proposal for the adjustment of individual percentage assessments submitted jointly by two or more Members, provided that the aggregate percentage assessments of any Members submitting such a proposal remained after adjustment equal to their aggregate assessments and to inform the Executive Council of any such arrangements. Finally, Congress determined a provisional assessment in respect of non-Members in the event of any such non-Members becoming Members, the method of assessment being based on principles similar to those governing the assessments laid down in Resolution 32 (Cg-XIII).

3. The United Nations General Assembly determined the United Nations scale of assessment for 2007, 2008 and 2009 by resolution A/RES/61/237 dated 22 December 2006. The Assembly left in place the main elements of the previous scale, basing individual countries’ assessments on their gross national income, with adjustments for external debt and low per capita income. With maximum and minimum set for rates, called “ceiling” and “floor”, it also kept the maximum rate, or the “ceiling”, at 22 per cent and the “floor” at 0.001 per cent with a “ceiling” for least developed countries’ ceiling at 0.01 per cent.
4. Issues with regard to the WMO scale of assessment have also been discussed during the fifty-eighth session of the Executive Council when considering options for the settlement of long-outstanding contributions (reference paragraphs 4.1.10 and 4.1.11 of the Final Report). One of the proposed options was the lowering of the WMO minimum scale of assessment from 0.02 per cent to 0.01 per cent. The proposal was not taken up by the Council.

5. In order to determine the scale of assessment for the fifteenth financial period (2008–2011), it is proposed to distinguish between three periods, namely the years 2008 and 2009 (period 1), the year 2010 (period 2) and the year 2011 (period 3). The proposed scale of assessment for 2008 and 2009 (period 1) has been calculated, and adjusted for differences in memberships, on the basis of the United Nations scale of assessment for 2007, 2008 and 2009 as approved by United Nations General Assembly in resolution A/RES/61/237 dated 22 December 2006. It is anticipated that the United Nations General Assembly will determine the United Nations scale of assessment for 2010, 2011 and 2012 in December 2009, too late for consideration by the Executive Council in 2009. Subsequent adjustment would allow an inadequate period of time for planning the budget by some Members as recognized by Congress (Abridged Final Report with Resolutions of the Thirteenth World Meteorological Congress (WMO-No. 902) general summary, paragraph 10.2.2). Congress might therefore wish to extend the scale assessment approved for 2008 and 2009 also to the year 2010 (period 2). Finally, Congress may wish to authorize the Executive Council to adjust the scale of assessments for the year 2011 (period 3) on the basis of the United Nations scale of assessment for 2010, 2011 and 2012 anticipated to be approved by United Nations General Assembly in December 2009. Table 1 of the Annex indicates for the current Members the approved WMO scale for 2007, the approved United Nations scale 2007, 2008 and 2009 as well as the proposed WMO scale for 2008, 2009 and 2010.

6. In accordance with previous practice, Table 2 of the Annex also indicates the provisional assessment in respect of non-Members for the years 2008, 2009 and 2010 in the event of any such non-Members becoming Members.

Annex: 1
ANNEX

Table 1

Proposed WMO scale of assessment 2008, 2009 and 2010

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**Total**  100.00  99.968  100.00
* Following the decision of the United Nations General Assembly on 8 April 1993, the state is being provisionally referred to for all purposes within the Organization as the "Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" pending settlement of differences that have arisen over its name.
Table 2

Provisional assessment in respect of non-Members for the years 2008, 2009 and 2010 in the event of any such non-Members becoming Members

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REPORT ON SETTLEMENT OF LONG OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS

I. INTRODUCTION

1. During the fifty-sixth session, the Executive Council noted that some Members, due to the extremely difficult financial situation which their countries were facing, had requested the exemption of the payment of their long outstanding contributions to the Organization. The Council recalled that similar requests had been considered in the past by Congress and the decision of Congress was not to write off arrears and advised the countries concerned to conclude an agreement with the Organization for the settlement of the arrears of contributions over a period not exceeding ten years, in accordance with Resolution 35 (Cg-XII) and WMO Financial Regulation 8.8.

2. The fifty-sixth session of the Council also noted from the analysis made by the Secretary-General in 2004 of the Organization’s experience with repayment agreements that the number of Members in arrears had not evolved significantly over the recent years. EC-LVI requested the Secretary-General to review the issues and make proposals for consideration by the Executive Council at its fifty-seventh session.

3. The Executive Council at its fifty-seventh session noted the information provided by the Secretary-General and reviewed the recommendations for addressing the problem of long outstanding contributions, including extension of the repayment period under payment agreements, options following non-compliance under payment agreements, minimum period for receipt of contributions and trust fund arrangements. EC-LVII requested the Secretary-General to further analyse possible mechanisms to facilitate the settlement of long outstanding contributions and to report to the fifty-eighth session of the Executive Council.

4. The Executive Council, at its fifty-seventh session, requested the Secretary-General to further analyse possible mechanisms to facilitate the settlement of long outstanding contributions and to report to the fifty-eighth session of the Executive Council.

II. CONSIDERATION BY THE FIFTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

5. The Executive Council, at its fifty-eighth session, considered the report of the Secretary-General on the settlement of long outstanding contributions. The Annex presents the analysis and proposals of the Secretary-General as contained in his report EC-LVIII/Doc. 4.1(2). The Secretary-General proposed the following seven options to address the issue of long outstanding contributions:

   Option (1): Extending fixed period under payment plan
   Option (2): Introducing capacity-to-pay concept in payment plan
   Option (3): Lowering minimum scale of assessment
   Option (4): Re-entering payment agreement following non-compliance
   Option (5): Entering in new payment agreement following non-compliance
   Option (6): Introduction of minimum period for receipt of contribution
   Option (7): Combining Option (2) on capacity-to-pay concept and Option (3) on lower minimum scale

6. The Council adopted the following resolution:
RESOLUTION 12 (EC-LVIII) - SETTLEMENT OF LONG-OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL,

Recalling Resolutions 37 (Cg-XI) and 35 (Cg-XII),

Noting Article 8.8 of the Financial Regulations,

Considering the report of the Secretary-General on the settlement of long outstanding contributions,

Proposes to the Fifteenth Congress to approve:

(1) That the settlement of arrears to recover voting rights should be received by WMO at least one week prior to the beginning of the sessions of constituent bodies;

(2) That Members that did not comply with the terms set out in a payment agreement for the settlement of arrears may re-enter the agreement provided that all past required payments have been made;

(3) That Members that did not comply with the terms set out in a payment agreement for the settlement of arrears may enter into a new payment agreement, but only after the approval of the Executive Council has been obtained.

Annex: 1
ANNEX

ANALYSIS AND PROPOSALS TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES OF LONG OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS AS PRESENTED TO THE FIFTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN DOCUMENT EC-LVIII/Doc. 4.1(2)

I. ANALYSIS OF ISSUES RELATING TO LONG OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS

1. The analysis captures the situation of long outstanding contributions at WMO. This is compared to the situation in other United Nations organizations. Specific analysis is provided on the relationship between level of assessment and level of arrears, the WMO experience with payment agreements and the WMO experience with timing of arrear payments.

   A. WMO situation and issues involved

2. At 31 December 2005, total arrears amounted to CHF 11.3 million as compared to CHF 62.5 million of total 2005 assessment. Out of the total Membership of 187, 31 Members were in arrears for over two years and deprived of their voting rights in accordance with Resolution 37 (Cg-XI).

3. Total level of arrears has decreased from CHF 12.6 million by 31 December 2004 to CHF 11.3 million by 31 December 2005. Despite the decrease in arrears, the number of Members which were in arrears for over two years has increased from 27 in 2004 to 31 in 2005. Whereas the overall financial situation improved, a number of contributors appear that have more difficulties in meeting their financial obligation.

4. By Region, 17 Members in Region I out of 52 Members were in arrears, in Region II a total of 4 Members out of 34, in Region III a total of 4 Members out of 12, in Region IV a total of 2 Members out of 22, in Region V a total of 1 Member out of 19 and in Region VI a total of 3 Members out of 48 Members. In addition, 16 out of 44 Least Developed Countries were in arrears for over two years. Whereas those 16 countries account for 0.88 percent of the total assessment, the share of the total arrears amounts to 26 percent. The contribution of 47 Members is provided directly from the NMHS and for 125 Members from other national funding sources, including the Ministry of Finance or the Treasury. Of the 31 Members in arrears for more than two years, contributions have previously been received from 5 NMHS and 15 from other funding sources. For a total of 11 Members, no payment information is available.

5. The situation in WMO is not unique. Members in other United Nations organizations are experiencing similar difficulties in meeting financial obligations and maintaining voting rights. The problem appears more pronounced in UNESCO, UNIDO and WIPO; it is less so in UPU, IAEA ICAO and ILO.

   B. WMO experience with payment agreements

6. WMO introduced repayment agreements in 1984 in order to facilitate Members to pay arrears while meeting annual assessments. Most United Nations organizations have done so. An important feature of such payment plans is the lengths of the payment schedule. The payment schedule approved in various United Nations organizations range from five to twenty years. Most organizations, including WMO, apply a 10-year schedule.

7. A total of twenty payment agreements have been concluded since 1999 as compared to 22 payment agreements being defaulted during the same period. Indeed, a certain pattern appears to develop with voting rights being restored prior to the session of Congress on the basis
of the conclusion of a payment agreement and a single payment. Failure to make further payments results in re-losing the voting rights. Under the current agreement, once a Member does not comply with the payment terms, it results in the application of the provisions of Resolution 37 (Cg-XI). A number of those Members subsequently re-apply for a new payment agreement and recover voting rights prior to the following session of Congress. This has been the case of three Members since 1999.

8. A number of Members experience difficulties in meeting financial obligations under the payment agreements. Difficulties appear to be most pronounced in the case when the yearly instalment under a payment plan exceeds considerably the regular payment of assessed contributions. Indeed, the large size of payments may well provide a disincentive for many Members and in some cases an impossible hurdle to even enter into a payment agreement. Under the current system, yearly instalments as a percentage of assessed contribution could reach 863 percent of the annual assessment.

C. Level of assessment and level of arrears

9. WMO applies the United Nations scales of assessment as is the case of other United Nations Specialized Agencies. This is done, however, with one exception. Whereas the United Nations and the Specialized Agencies apply a minimum assessment of 0.001 percent since 1998, WMO uses a minimum scale of 0.02 percent. As a result, for 109 WMO Members the assessment of 0.02 percent is higher as compared to the scale applied for the United Nations and the United Nations Specialized Agencies. For 49 WMO Members, the assessment is 20 times higher. As a result, for example, the absolute amount to be paid to WMO by those 49 members is more than twice as high as compared to their contribution to WHO.

10. Of the 31 WMO Members in arrears for over two years at 31 December 2005, a total number of 29 Members are assessed at the minimum scale of 0.02 percent or CHF 12,490 for 2005. The high minimum rate applied by WMO is seen as one of the contributing factors to the difficulties in meeting the financial obligations, in particular for Least Developed Countries. If the United Nations minimum rates of 0.01 percent (until 1997) and 0.001 percent (as of 1998) had been applied in WMO, assessment for Least Developed Countries would have amounted to approximately CHF 0.9 million during the last 10 years. Actual payment based on the high minimum rate applied by WMO amounted to CHF 4.4 million. It may therefore be recognized that the rates applied by the United Nations are well within the financial means of the Least Developed Countries.

D. WMO experience with timing of arrear payments

11. The receipt of contributions under the payment agreement has been the subject of further difficulties to monitor the observation of such agreements. Payments are sometimes received at the beginning or during the sessions of constituent bodies so that the Member may be eligible to vote during the session. This can put into jeopardy the timely recording of payments to ensure the recognition of observance of the payment agreement.

II. PROPOSALS TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES RELATING TO LONG OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS

A. Options for consideration

12. On the basis of the analysis outlined above, six options are advanced for consideration to address the issues relating to long outstanding contributions. Options (1), (4), (5) and (6) have
already been put forward to the previous session of the Executive Council in document EC-LVII/Doc. 4.1(3). Options (2) and (3) are presented for the first time.

Option (1): Extending fixed period under payment plan

13. As indicated, a number of Members experience difficulties in observing payment plans in particular in the case when yearly instalments exceed considerably the regular payment of assessed contributions. In order to facilitate compliance with the payment plan, it is considered advisable to extend the period for payment from currently ten years to a maximum of fifteen years. Extension of the payment period would only apply to those Members for which the yearly instalment under a payment agreement exceeds 200 percent of the Member's assessed contribution at the time of conclusion of such agreement.

14. As a result of extending the payment period, the maximum annual payment would be reduced from CHF 107,848 or 863 percent of the annual assessment to CHF 76,062 or 609 percent of the annual assessment for the most highly indebted Member. Out of the 31 Members in arrears for over two years, 19 Members could benefit as compared to the current arrangement.

Option (2): Introducing capacity-to-pay concept in payment plan

15. Extending the fixed payment period to 15 years will provide some relief to a number of Members who experienced difficulties in observing payment plans. In many cases, in particular for Least Developed Countries, this might not be considered sufficient with annual payments still providing a considerable barrier to address the arrears problem. In order to facilitate compliance with the payment plan for those countries, it is proposed to introduce an arrangement to take into account the capacity-to-pay as imbedded in the rate of assessment. Specifically, for Members assessed at the minimum scale one may decide to limit yearly instalments under a payment plan to a maximum of 200 percent of assessed contribution, without imposing a predefined payment period. Moreover, a minimum payment period of 15 years would be observed.

16. As in the case of Option A, out of the 31 Members in arrears for over two years, 19 Members could benefit compared to the previous arrangement. In addition, the 11 most highly indebted Members would be afforded an opportunity to enter into payment agreements for which the financial burden is easier to be carried.

Option (3): Lowering minimum scale of assessment

17. In addition to the payment period, the level of the minimum assessment has been considered an important issue in addressing to reduce and preventing the build-up of arrears. The high level of minimum assessment for WMO (0.02 percent) as compared to the scale applied by the United Nations and many United Nations specialized agencies (0.001 percent) is seen as a major problem for a number of Members to meet their financial obligations. In order to enable Members, in particular Least Developed Countries, to meet future financial obligations, it is proposed to reduce the minimum scale of assessment from 0.02 percent to 0.01 percent, the scale applied by the United Nations prior to 1997. In the case of WMO, this would reduce the minimum assessment from CHF 12,490 to CHF 6,245 on the basis of the 2006 assessment. As a result, the assessment of 102 Members previously assessed at the level of 0.02 percent would be reduced. The total assessment to be redistributed would amount to CHF 636,990 or 1.02 percent of the total assessment of CHF 62,450,000. The redistribution is seen to result in a marginal increase for the 69 Members.
18. Of the 31 Members who currently lost their voting rights, 28 Members would benefit from the introduction of the new minimum scale of 0.01 percent. The application of the new minimum scale would facilitate future compliance with such obligations. The application would also adjust the minimum scale closer to other United Nations organizations, such as FAO, IAEA, ILO, UNESCO or WHO. It would also lead to marginal increase in assessment for a number of Members.

Option (4): Re-entering payment agreement following non-compliance

19. Members who did not comply with the payment terms set out in the payment agreement may re-enter the agreement provided that the required payments have been made.

Option (5): Entering in new payment agreement following non-compliance

20. Members who did not comply with the payment terms set out in the payment agreement may enter into a new payment agreement for the settlement of arrears, provided the agreement of the Executive Council has been obtained. The proposal to require, in such a case, approval by the Executive Council would enhance oversight.

Option (6): Introduction minimum period for receipt of contribution

21. Payment by a Member to settle its arrears to recover its voting rights needs to be credited to WMO’s bank account or received by the WMO Secretariat at least one week prior to the beginning of the sessions of constituent bodies so that the Member may be eligible to vote and be elected during the session.

B. Combining Options

22. The Options outlined above can be considered individually and their implementation is not conditioned on each other. Joint implementation, however, is seen to reinforce the impact of the measures proposed, in particular when combing Option (2) on the capacity-to-pay concept and Option (3) on lower minimum scale. Due to its potential to address the issue of long outstanding contributions, this combination is elaborated below as Option (7).

Option (7): Combining Option (2) on capacity-to-pay concept and Option (3) on lower minimum scale

23. As indicated above, the introduction of payment plan based on the capacity-to-pay concept is seen to address, in particular, the problem of highly indebted Members. Moreover, lowering the minimum scale of assessment from 0.02 percent to 0.01 percent is seen to facilitate future compliance with financial obligations by a group of Members, which experienced most difficulties in the past, in particular Members from Least Developed Countries. Combining both proposals will address past arrears problems in a sustainable fashion.

24. As a result of the lower scale of assessment (0.01 percent), the repayment period for arrears under a capacity-to-pay arrangement would be extended as compared to the current scale of assessment. Indeed, the maximum annual contribution under the payment agreement would be equivalent to the annual assessment currently required. Such arrangements provide the required support for Members to enter into payment agreements and to observe payment plans. As a result, arrears would decrease resulting in additional income and Members would be able to fully participate in the work of the Organization.
AGENDA ITEM 10.2 (3) – PROPORTIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF MEMBERS

Cg-XV/Rep. 10.2 (3)

REPORT ON THE WORKING CAPITAL FUND

1. The Fourteenth Congress agreed that the Working Capital Fund had proved to be an important means of coping with temporary cash shortfalls of limited duration and adopted Resolution 37 (Cg-XIV) — Review of the Working Capital Fund. Congress decided that the level of the Working Capital Fund be fixed at CHF 5.0 million for the fourteenth financial period. The shortfall in the capital of the Working Capital Fund should be met by crediting interest earned on the investments of cash resources of the Working Capital Fund to individual Members’ accounts in the Working Capital Fund. Furthermore, Congress decided that notwithstanding the provisions of Financial Regulations 8 and 9, advances made by the existing Members should be frozen at the level fixed for the thirteenth financial period, and that the advances assessed for new Members joining the Organization after 1 January 2004 would be assessed at the rates established for the year 2004.

2. Furthermore, Congress decided to keep in force during the fourteenth financial period the following resolutions in order to overcome cash flow problems arising from non-payment and delayed payment of Members’ assessed contributions:

(a) Resolution 31 (Cg-X) – Incentive scheme for early payment of contributions;
(b) Resolution 37 (Cg-XI) – Suspension of Members for failure to meet financial obligations;
(c) Resolution 35 (Cg-XII) – Settlement of long-outstanding contributions.

3. At the beginning of the fourteenth financial period, the Working Capital Fund stood at CHF 4,977,990. As of 31 December 2005, interest earned amounted to CHF 34,928. Consequently the principal of the Working Capital Fund of CHF 5.0 million is fully funded and in accordance with WMO Financial Regulation 9.6, the balance of interest no longer required to be retained to increase the level of the Working Capital Fund was credited to miscellaneous income of the General Fund. Columns B and C of the Annex to this report provide information on the status of the Working Capital Fund as of 31 December 2006.

4. The level of the Working Capital Fund was considered by the fifty-eighth session of the Executive Council in the context of the proposed consolidation of off-budget funds with the budget process (paragraphs 5.2.4 and 5.2.5). Proposals in this regard were presented by the Secretary-General in document EC-LVIII/Doc. 5.2(3) – Consolidating off-budget funds with the Appropriation Process and the Level of the Working Capital Fund as well as by an independent expert in document EC-LVIII/Doc. 5.2(4) – Report of the Independent Expert Moore Stephens Refidar SA on the WMO Working Capital Fund. It was argued that the consolidation of off-budget funds would justify an increase in the Working Capital Fund from CHF 5.0 million to up to CHF 10.0 million. The increase was to be funded from the fund balance available from the funds and reserves to be discontinued as of 1 January 2008 in the context of the budget consolidation with no implication for the assessment of Members.

5. The Executive Council approved the consolidation of off-budget funds and recommended in principle to increase the level of the WMO Working Capital Fund. The consolidation included the discontinuation of the following funds, accounts and reserves as of 1 January 2008: Technical Cooperation Fund, Trust Fund Administrative Costs Pool Account, Staff Compensation Plan Reserve Fund, Publication Fund, Conference Facilities Fund and Renting of Conference Facilities Reserve, Printing Cost Reserve Account, Rental Income Fund and New Building Maintenance
Reserve and Building Account. The Council decided to request the Joint Inspection Unit to review the proposed arrangement for the Working Capital Fund and that the review is considered by the Fifteenth Congress when determining the appropriate level of the Working Capital Fund.

6. The report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the WMO Working Capital Fund is presented in document Cg-XV/Doc. 10.2(4). The Joint Inspection Unit recommended, among others, to increase the Working Capital Fund from CHF 5.0 million to CHF 7.5 million in view of the mandate of the Fund and the practice in other United Nations organizations. The proposal of the Joint Inspection Unit is supported by the Secretary-General.

7. The proposed increase in the Working Capital Fund requires additional funding of CHF 2.5 million. It is further estimated that a fund balance of CHF 3.5 million will be available from the approved discontinuation of off-budget funds and reserves as of 1 January 2008. In accordance with the previous recommendations by the Secretary-General, it is proposed that the increase of CHF 2.5 million be funded from the fund balance of CHF 3.5 million with no implication for the assessment of Members. It is further proposed that following the funding of the increase in the Working Capital Fund of CHF 2.5 million, the remaining balance of CHF 1.0 million available from the off-budget fund consolidation is credited to the surplus of the Organization.

8. The proposal outlined above would result in an increased and fully funded Working Capital Fund of CHF 7.5 million. In the past, interest earned on the investment of cash resources of the Working Capital Fund were retained to increase the level of the Working Capital Fund. With the Working Capital Fund being fully funded, this will not be required and interest earned will be credited to miscellaneous income of the General Fund in accordance with WMO Financial Regulation 9.6.

9. According to WMO Financial Regulation 9.3, advances by Members shall be calculated by the Executive Council in accordance with the scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the Organization. Notwithstanding Financial Regulation 9.3, Congress decided by Resolution 37 (Cg-XIV) to establish the Working Capital Fund for the fourteenth financial period by freezing the existing advances at the level fixed for the thirteenth financial period. Moreover, it was decided that advances for new Members joining the Organization are assessed at the rate established for the year of entry. In order to determine the advances of Members to the Working Capital Fund of CHF 7.5 million for the fifteenth financial period the following approach is proposed. First, in accordance with Resolution 37 (Cg-XIV), to freeze the existing advances to the Working Capital Fund totalling CHF 5.0 million at the level fixed for the fourteenth financial period. Second, to credit the new principal of CHF 2.5 million funded from the consolidation of off-budget funds to the individual Members’ advance accounts in accordance with the proposed scale for 2008 to 2010 as indicated in document Cg-XV/Doc. 10.2(1). It is further proposed that the advances for new Members joining the Organization after 1 January 2008 shall be assessed at the rate established for the scale of assessment for the year of entry. The Annex provides details on advances of each Member to the Working Capital Fund following its increase to CHF 7.5 million.

Annex: 1
## ANNEX

### Advances to the Working Capital Fund (amounts in Swiss Francs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Assessed Advance in WCF as of 31 December 2006</th>
<th>Share of Assessed Advance to WCF for Fifteenth Financial Period</th>
<th>Amount of Advance funded from consolidation</th>
<th>Proposed Scale of Assessment for 2008 to 2010</th>
<th>Assessed Advance to WCF for Fifteenth Financial Period</th>
<th>Share of Assessed Advance in WCF as of 31 December 2006</th>
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<td>Share of Assessed Advance to WCF for Fifteenth Financial Period (%)</td>
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<td>Share of Assessed Advance to WCF for Fifteenth Financial Period (%)</td>
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AGENDA ITEM 10.3 (1) – PROPORTIONAL STAFF MATTERS
CODE OF ETHICS AND CHANGES TO WMO STAFF REGULATIONS
Cg-XV/Rep. 10.3 (1)

1. Following the initiative outlined in the Audit Committee Action Plan and the suggestions of the External Auditor, in March 2005 the Secretary-General established a Task Force consisting of representatives of the Staff Committee and the management to work on the development of a WMO Code of Ethics. The basis of its development was the UN “Standards of Conduct for the International Civil Service” introduced in 2001 and adopted by the Executive Council in June 2005.

2. The Task Force reviewed the best practices on ethics standards, within and outside the UN system, sought guidance from the Executive Council at its June 2005 session and extensively consulted the WMO staff with a view to engaging them in the process and incorporate their views and ideas. In June 2006 the fifty-eighth session of the Executive Council endorsed the WMO Code of Ethics and encouraged the Secretary-General to continue efforts to strengthening a culture of integrity in the Secretariat through consistent enforcement of the Staff Rules, providing staff with periodic training on issues concerning ethics, as well as a condensed version of the Code of Ethics.

3. The Council decided to recommend the adoption of the changes to the Staff Regulations ensuring the observance by staff at all times of the Standards of Conduct for the International Civil Service and the WMO Code of Ethics.

4. The launching of the training programme for wider embracement of the principles of the Code of Ethics, took place with a session with all staff on 1 February 2007 where a notable Professor of Ethics from a European university and Senior Management addressed all staff. The training began on 2 February 2007 and other training sessions continued through March and April 2007. In addition, the induction training of new staff will now include a training module on the Code of Ethics.

5. Copies of the WMO Code of Ethics are available.

AGENDA ITEM 11.2 (1) – QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE CONVENTION
Cg-XV/Rep. 11.2 (1)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION, INCLUDING A RISK-BENEFIT ANALYSIS

I. Report on work undertaken

1. The idea of putting the Convention in line with the evolving range of roles and activities of the Organization initially stemmed from the will of Thirteenth Congress in 1999 to enhance the visibility of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs). The WMO had at that time been in existence for almost 50 years and the roles and functions of the Organization’s main national constituents, the NMHSs, had significantly developed, and so had the range of activities in which the Organization had become involved. It was therefore unanimously felt that a solemn political statement reflecting the new roles and challenges of NMHSs and the WMO should be adopted and widely disseminated at the national and international levels. The Geneva Declaration was adopted in this spirit on 26 May 1999.

2. The fifty-fifth session of the Executive Council held immediately after Thirteenth Congress set up an Advisory Group on the Role and Operation of NMHS to follow-up on actions taken by
Congress, including the Geneva Declaration. When the Advisory Group reported to the fifty-sixth session of the Executive Council, the Council agreed on the need for an analysis of possible changes to the Convention in line with the discussions concerning the role of NMHSs. This led to the development of some initiatives and, eventually, to the setting up, in January 2001, of a task team exclusively mandated with exploring and assessing possible changes to the WMO Convention.

3. During its work, the Task Team took into consideration the deficiencies arising from the fact that at the time of the establishment of WMO, the Convention could not take explicitly into account issues such as sustainable development, environment, climate, natural disaster prevention, capacity building, etc. It was emphasized that the explicit inclusion of the above issues in the Convention would help to enhance the visibility of NMHSs, the sciences of meteorology/hydrology and of WMO as a whole in the Member countries and at the international level.

4. Fourteenth Congress (2003) considered the matter. While it recognized in Resolution 40 that “the evolution of meteorology and hydrology during the last 50 years and relevant new interdisciplinary scientific, technical and operational activities ... should be reflected in the Convention”, it decided that further work was necessary. It requested the Executive Council to establish a Working Group on Questions Concerning the Convention, which should finalize its work in time for a proposal to be made to Fifteenth Congress in 2007.

5. The fifty-sixth session of the Executive Council (2004) decided to re-establish the EC Task Team to Explore and Assess the Possible Changes to the WMO Convention. The terms of reference of the Task Team referred to the review of the work already undertaken, and the exploration and assessment of possible changes, including the possibility of introduction of protocols. The process was intended to allow for sufficient deliberation and communication with all Members with a view to ensuring that any proposal to Cg-XV be “mature” enough at the time of EC-LVIII.

6. The fifty-seventh session of Executive Council (2005) agreed that the work of the Task Team should continue with an increased membership representing all WMO Regions. While recognizing that there was a need to raise the profile of WMO and interest in “up-dating” the WMO Convention, the Council recognized that appropriate caution should be exercised, in particular in relation to the proposal for adoption of protocols to the Convention, as such protocols could involve new financial commitments. The Council further considered the specific objectives of the adoption of a new Preamble to the Convention and advised about the need of drafting this part in a way that would not give the impression of an attempt to enlarge the mandate of WMO.

7. At the request of the fifty-seventh session of the Executive Council, the Secretary-General sent a letter to all Members of WMO in October 2005, inviting them to provide comments on the proposal of the Task Team, namely an amendment to the Preamble and a new provision on Protocols.

8. Based on the comments received in response to the Secretary-General, as well as the discussions held at Regional Association II (thirteenth session, Hong Kong, China, December 2004), Regional Association IV (its fourteenth session, Costa Rica, April 2005), Regional Association VI (fourteenth session, Germany, September 2005) and Regional Association V (fourteenth session, Australia, May 2006), the Task Team presented a proposal to the fifty-eighth session of the Executive Council in June 2006.

9. The proposal of the Task Team consisted of a draft resolution for transmission to Fifteenth Congress amending the Preamble of the Convention. The text of the draft resolution is

\footnote{Consultations on the Task Team’s proposal will also take place with the members of Regional Association III during its fourteenth session to be held in Lima in September 2006.}
contained in Appendix B of Cg-XV/Doc. 11.2(1). In making the proposal, the Task Team came to the conclusion that the Preamble of the Convention should be modernized along the ideas contained in the Geneva Declaration of 1999 in a manner that would not involve new obligations for WMO Members. The amendment to the Preamble should be made under the procedure provided for in article 28(c) of the Convention. Concerning the idea of protocols, the Task Team agreed with the view of some legal experts that the adoption of such instruments was possible without adding any new provision in the Convention.

10. The Executive Council considered the proposal of the Task Team at its fifty-eighth session in June 2006. The Council recognized the value of raising the profile of the Organization, but some members were of the view that risks involved by the proposal outweighed the possible benefits. While acknowledging the various issues and concerns raised, the Council noted that it had a duty, pursuant to Resolution 40 (Cg-XIV), to present a comprehensive report to Fifteenth Congress with concrete proposals for adoption. The Executive Council therefore agreed that the proposal of the Task Team be referred to Congress for consideration, along with a detailed report covering the various aspects involved, and to recommend to Fifteenth Congress to set up an open-ended working group with a view to achieving the largest possible consensus.

11. The Executive Council further requested the Secretary-General to prepare the necessary report for Fifteenth Congress, including an analysis of the potential risks and benefits of the proposal. It also requested the Secretary-General to distribute the document as soon as possible before Congress together with information concerning procedures for amending the WMO Convention and to invite Members to investigate sufficiently in advance their national legal requirements regarding the proposed amendment contained in the Task Team proposal.

II. Risk and benefit analysis

Possible amendment to the Preamble of the Convention

12. Since the process commenced in 1999, there has been broad consensus on the need to raise the profile of NMHSs and the Organization in some sort of solemn way, by ensuring greater political awareness of their role in areas such as climate variability and change, the protection of the environment, natural disasters, capacity building etc. However, there is no agreement on the best means to pursue this objective.

13. These issues are at present not mentioned in the Convention. The inclusion of an explicit reference in the text of the Convention would be a confirmation by the Members of the activities already undertaken by WMO and would help NMHSs to make clear to national decision makers what WMO’s responsibilities are. The major benefit of an amendment to the Convention would thus be enhancing on the one hand the visibility of NMHSs role at the national level, and, on the other hand, that of the Organization in the international arena.

14. Congress and the Executive Council have discussed the role of NMHSs in parallel to the possible amendments to the Convention, each leading to different proposals, including the holding of the WMO Conference on the social and economic benefits of weather, climate and water services. This might have contributed to diluting one of the primary goals of a possible amendment to the Convention.

15. At the international level, some consider that the formal inclusion in the Preamble of WMO’s present mission statement is necessary to preserve the Organization’s standing in international fora. Others fear that any unilateral assertion by WMO of its role in overlapping areas be perceived by other organizations as a threat to their own activities, thus damaging the relationship with them. There is also a risk that a move by WMO in this direction be seen as
preempting the outcome of the review of the UN system wide coherence in fields such as environment.

16. Reference has also been made to the risk that the inclusion of a mission statement in the Preamble modeled on present challenges be interpreted in future as preventing the Organization from undertaking activities in new areas. The current Preamble has permitted the Organization to adapt to changing contexts, and that flexibility should be preserved.

17. Various concerns have been raised on more technical grounds, including doubts as to whether the proposed text can be said not to set any new obligation, the inclusion in the Preamble of text that can be seen as expanding the mandate of the Organization and the appropriateness in the circumstances of using the amendment procedure set out in article 28 (c) of the Convention.

18. As is explained in greater detail in the information note in Appendix B of Cg-XV/Rep. 11.2(1), whether a given amendment is to be seen as creating new obligations or not is a matter for Congress to determine at the time it considers the amendment. This is consistent with the role of Congress under article 29 of the Convention regarding the authority to interpret the Convention. Yet, in WMO history, the reasons for Congress adopting amendments under article 28 (c) have been less due to the contents of the amendments themselves, than to the will of avoiding the consequences of the alternative procedure under article 28 (b), namely the coexistence of different obligations for Members.

19. In the case of the proposal of the Task Team, there seems to be general agreement that the proposed amendment is not intended to create new obligations for Members or the Organization itself. The very idea of including the proposed language in the Preamble is also intended in this direction. The Preamble in international treaties, and also in some domestic legislations, is generally considered as non-binding in nature, its primary function being to set out the context of the legal instrument it introduces. The preamble is however an important tool for the interpretation of the general purpose and context of an international treaty.

20. The possibility of reflecting in the Convention a new field of activity without considering that it creates in itself new obligations has been confirmed in WMO practice in 1975, when Seventh Congress amended the Convention to include an express reference to hydrology. It is nevertheless to be noted that Members were unanimous at the time on the need for the amendment and the appropriateness of the proposed procedure, and that the amendment was mainly to the operative part of the Convention.

21. The impact of changes that have occurred since the creation of the WMO is in many respects comparable to that of other international organizations whose constitutions were also adopted after the Second World War. While some specialized agencies of the United Nations have embarked on substantial modifications of their constitutional charters, none has undergone a constitutional reform of its preamble alone.

22. The benefits associated with the simplicity of the procedure under article 28 (c) of the Convention have been put in question in that some national legal systems require that any amendment to an international treaty be formally processed at the national level regardless of the requirements of the international treaty concerned. However, the consequences of an amendment to the WMO Convention under article 28 (c) are clear in the letter of the Convention, adhered to by all Members without reservations. Such consequences have been confirmed in the seven instances in which the WMO Convention has been amended, all under article 28 (c) (see Appendix B). Moreover, amendment procedures in place in WMO are not unique.
international organizations of the UN system provide also for a simplified procedure in respect of amendments considered not to impose new obligations\(^2\).

23. Concerns have also been raised about the political momentum of a debate on WMO’s role and activities. This risk should not be underestimated. Even if an amendment was put to a vote and was adopted by Congress, the lack of unanimity on the role of the WMO expressed by abstentions or votes cast against would convey a negative message. Similarly, there is an obvious risk that pressing an amendment on an issue that by nature should not be controversial could damage the credibility of the amendment procedure and the ability of the Organization to continue using it where required.

24. Conversely, the simple abandonment of the work undertaken by Congress, the Executive Council and successive groups and task teams in the past eight years would also send a negative signal about the commitment of WMO Members with the evolving role of the Organization.

The adoption of Protocols

25. The possibility of WMO adopting protocols was brought into the discussion of possible changes to the Convention as a response to the concerns of those who feared that the inclusion in the Convention of references to some fields, such as seismology, warning systems or international observing networks, would create new obligations for Members and for the Organization. These fields could be covered by optional protocols open for acceptance by those Members ready and willing to accept such obligations without nevertheless modifying the general mandate of the WMO.

26. While there has been no express voice against the possibility of WMO adopting protocols as such, some have expressed reservations as to the manner in which the recognition of that possibility should be effected, as well as to the actual need, urgency and purpose of such recognition unrelated to the adoption of a protocol on a given subject.

27. The main benefit of such possibility would lie on the flexibility of having WMO encompass under its auspices certain activities clearly within its scope but which are not necessarily considered as a priority for all member States or in which not all Members are interested in or capable of participating at a given juncture.

28. The initial proposal to amend the final provisions of the Convention by including a reference to protocols has been abandoned as it gave rise to various concerns that could only be addressed on the occasion of the discussion of a specific protocol proposal. To the extent that there is now general agreement that Congress already has the power to adopt such instruments, if deemed necessary, this could be reflected in the general summary or a resolution of Congress.

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\(^2\) For instance, article XIII of the Constitution of UNESCO provides: “Proposals for amendments to this Constitution shall become effective upon receiving the approval of the General Conference by a two-thirds majority; provided, however, that those amendments which involve fundamental alterations in the aims of the Organization or new obligations for the Member States shall require subsequent acceptance on the part of two thirds of the Member States before they come into force.” Article XX of FAO Constitution similarly provides: “An amendment not involving new obligations for Member Nations or Associate Members shall take effect forthwith, unless the resolution by which it is adopted provides otherwise. Amendments involving new obligations shall take effect for each Member Nation and Associate Member accepting the amendment on acceptance by two thirds of the Member Nations of the Organization and thereafter for each remaining Member Nation or Associate Member on acceptance by it.”
INFORMATION NOTE ON THE PROCEDURES FOR AMENDING THE WMO CONVENTION

Regulatory framework

1. Article 28 in part XV of the Convention reads as follows:

   (a) The text of any proposed amendment to the present Convention shall be
       communicated by the Secretary-General to Members of the Organization at least six
       months in advance of its consideration by Congress;

   (b) Amendments to the present Convention involving new obligations for Members shall
       require approval by Congress, in accordance with the provisions of Article 11 of the
       present Convention, by a two-thirds majority vote, and shall come into force on
       acceptance by two thirds of the Members which are States for each such Member
       accepting the amendment, and thereafter for each remaining such Member on
       acceptance by it. Such amendments shall come into force for any Member not
       responsible for its own international relations upon the acceptance on behalf of such a
       Member by the Member responsible for the conduct of its international relations;

   (c) Other amendments shall come into force upon approval by two-thirds of the Members
       which are States.

2. This article corresponds to the original text adopted by the Washington Conference in
   1947. However, its meaning and operation has been refined and elaborated upon in the almost 60
   years of history of the Organization by a number of interpretative agreements reached by
   Congress or through constitutional practice. Table I at the end of this Appendix contains, in
   summary form, the list of amendments to the Convention adopted to date. Table II enumerates the
   decisions and resolutions relating to the procedure for amending the Convention adopted by
   Congress.

Types of amendments

3. Article 28 of the Convention distinguishes two types of amendments by their impact on
   the contracting parties:

   - Those creating new obligations for Members, and
   - Those considered not to create any such obligation,

   and accordingly provides for two different procedures for their adoption. Likewise, the
   consequences of each type of amendment differ. However, the power to propose both types of
   amendments and the procedure for referring them to Congress is the same.

4. In the absence of a definition or clear criteria as to whether a proposed amendment
   creates new obligations, practice has it that the determination rests with Congress at the time it
   adopts the amendment.

5. However, on one occasion, at the time of the adoption of the first amendments to the
   Convention in 1959, namely an amendment to article 10 (2) (a), Congress could not agree on
   whether the amendment was being approved under paragraph (b) or (c) of article 28 of the
   Convention. Congress accordingly requested the Secretary-General to transmit to Member States
the text of the amendment asking them to indicate under what provision of article 28 they wished to accept the amendment.¹

6. At the same session, Congress approved another amendment to the Convention, concerning an increase in the membership of the Executive Council, which it considered to fall under article 28 (c). It fixed accordingly a date for its entry into force.

7. Due to the apparent contradiction between these two courses of action, an in-depth study of article 28 was requested for the next session of Congress. It was also put on record that neither of the procedures followed with respect to the adoption of the amendments to article 10 (2) (a) and to article 13 (c) should be considered as setting a precedent pending a determination on the interpretation of article 28.²

8. Since then, all amendments subsequently proposed to the Convention have been expressly considered prior to their adoption as not creating any new obligations for Members and have been adopted under article 28 (c).

Power to propose amendments and procedure for their referral to Congress

9. Paragraph (a) of article 28 of the Convention is silent on who has authority to propose an amendment to the Convention. When the matter was first raised, Third Congress agreed by its Resolution 4 (Cg-III) that only Member States, as the contracting parties, had the right to propose amendments to the Convention. By the same Resolution, Congress instructed the Executive Council to keep under continuous review the Convention between sessions of Congress and to submit to Congress any proposed amendment to the Convention, for its consideration, thereby recognizing that the Executive Council too enjoyed the power to propose amendments to the Convention.³

10. Article 28 (a) provides for a six-month time limit ahead of Congress for proposed amendments to be considered receivable. In practice, this means that any amendment proposed by a Member has to reach the Secretariat more than six months before Congress in order to allow for the processing, translation and dispatch of the proposed amendment within the statutory time limit.

11. Regarding the amendments submitted by the Executive Council, Third Congress called on the Secretariat to make sure that any proposal made to Fourth Congress by the Executive Council be communicated to Members at least nine months ahead of Congress so that Member States would have sufficient time to submit counter-proposals to the amendment within the six-month time limit provided for in article 28 (a) of the Convention.⁴ This time limit, set specifically for Fourth Congress, has not been extended to amendments proposed by the Executive Council to subsequent meetings of Congress, nor has it been expressly abandoned.

12. In practice, amendments proposed by the Executive Council have been communicated to Member States before the six-month time limit provided for in article 28 (a) of the Convention, but not necessarily nine months ahead of Congress.

13. Subsequently, in the interpretation of article 28 of the Convention agreed upon by Sixth Congress in 1971, it was considered that counter-proposals to a proposed amendment, or

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¹ Cg-III, Abridged Report with Resolutions, General Summary, paragraph 3.1.3 (WMO. No. 88 RC. 17).

² Ibid.

³ Ibid., General Summary, paragraphs 3.1.1. to 3.1.3.

⁴ Cg-III, Proceedings, paragraph 21.1 (WMO, No. 89, RC.18)
modifications to it, would be receivable even if they were made after the six-month time limit, provided that the proposed modification would not result in a change in the basic intent of the draft amendment or in the introduction of a subject not covered by the proposed amendment. Any proposal that would not meet these two requirements would need to be presented as a separate amendment in accordance with the provisions of article 28 (a) six months ahead of the ensuing Congress.5

Amendments creating new obligations

14. Under the provisions of article 28 (b), an amendment creating new obligations for Members needs to be approved by a two-third majority vote, and be accepted by two thirds of the Members.

15. As with other decisions made by Congress, the quorum of presence required under article 12 of the Convention (the majority of Members which are States) needs to be attained for the amendment to be put to a vote.

16. In accordance with the interpretation given to article 28 by Third Congress, the two-third majority should be of Members which are States present at Congress. For the calculation of the two thirds, only votes cast for and against (i.e. excluding abstentions) are counted, as confirmed by Sixth Congress in 1971.6

17. Upon approval of an amendment by Congress under the above conditions, it shall be open for acceptance by Member States. Such acceptance is to be notified, by analogy with the provisions governing ratification or acceptance of the Convention, to the Depositary, i.e. the Government of the United States of America, in accordance with the provisions in Part XIX of the Convention.

18. According to the letter of article 28 (b) of the Convention, the amendment will come into force in respect of Members having accepted it on receipt by the Depositary of the acceptance by the Member State bringing the total number of acceptances to two-thirds of the Members which are States (or 121 out of a total of 181 as at 31 August 2005). Thereafter, the amendment comes into force for each Member accepting it on receipt of its acceptance by the Depositary.

19. This procedure has never been resorted to in practice, as it was feared that it would lead to a situation where two texts of the Convention would co-exist. For instance, if amendments to the composition of the Executive Council were to be adopted under article 28 (b), a situation could arise where the Executive Council would have a different composition vis-à-vis different Members, depending on whether and when they accepted the amendment. This explains some proposals aimed at making amendments under article 28 (b) binding on all Members after their entry into force or at merging the amendment procedures set out in article 28 (b) and in article 28 (c) into a single procedure. However, such proposals were in the end not deemed advisable as it was considered that an amendment creating obligations should not be imposed on Members which have not accepted it formally.7

Amendments not creating obligations

5 Cg-VI, Abridged Report with Resolutions, General Summary, paragraph 5.1.2 (WMO. No. 292).

6 Ibid., General Summary, paragraph 5.1.2(b).

7 Ibid., General Summary, paragraph 5.1.4.
20. Under article 28 (c) of the Convention, a proposed amendment that does not create new obligations requires a simple approval procedure by a majority of two thirds of the Members.

21. In accordance with the interpretation agreed upon at Third Congress, such majority is of Members which are States. This interpretation, together with the provisions of articles 11 (b) – voting – and 12 – quorum – of the Convention are to the effect that three conditions are to be met for an amendment to be formally adopted:

- First, that at least a majority of the Members which are States are present at the meeting of Congress at which the amendment is to be decided upon;
- Second, that the amendment is supported by at least two-thirds of the total of votes cast for and against (excluding abstentions) of the Member States present at Congress; and
- Third, that the Members voting for the amendment represent at least two-thirds of WMO Members which are States.

22. In practice, these three stages tend to be ascertained at the same time, i.e. that no amendment is put for decision unless two-thirds of Member States are present. In fact, a number of amendments have been approved even without an actual vote where the presiding officer was satisfied that all three conditions were clearly met and no objection was raised.

23. In the event that an amendment under article 28 (c) is approved by a two-thirds majority vote of the Members present, but fails to receive the approval of two-thirds of all the Members which are States, Sixth Congress decided that the amendment could be referred to next Congress for a new vote if Congress so decided. This interpretation was agreed in order to overcome the difficulties faced during Third Congress referred to in paragraph 5 above. Indeed, the amendment to article 10 (2) (a) was then approved by two-thirds of the Members present at Congress, but fell short of the number of Member States required. This gave rise to a dispute as to whether the amendment involved new obligations. When Congress decided to ask all Member States to notify the Depositary of their approval, indicating whether it was under article paragraph (b) or (c) of article 28, it was understood that the amendment would be considered adopted as soon as the Depositary would have received confirmation by two-thirds of Member States that they had approved it under article 28 (c).

24. The interpretation agreed by Sixth Congress was put in practice during Seventh Congress in 1975 when a proposal to increase the membership of the Executive Council was approved by a two-thirds majority vote, but the votes cast for did not account for two-thirds of all WMO Member States. The proposal to increase the number of members of the Executive Council was eventually adopted by Eighth Congress in 1979.

25. Concerning the voting procedure, Third Congress agreed that the adoption by a postal vote of amendments to the Convention even when they do not involve new obligations was not permissible or desirable, an interpretation that was confirmed by Sixth Congress. It was, however, exceptionally set aside by Ninth Congress in 1983. Congress then requested the Executive Council to organize the approval of proposed amendments to article 3 and 34 of the Convention by a postal ballot (so as to enable the United Nations Council for Namibia to become a
member of the Organization). Unlike the procedure concerning elections by correspondence, where there is a time limit under the General Regulations for the receipt of ballot papers, no time limit is foreseen or was fixed for this approval of the amendments by correspondence. Eventually, these amendments did not receive the majority required for their adoption, but Namibia became a Member of WMO as an independent State in 1991.

26. As regards the date of entry into force of an amendment adopted under article 28 (c), Third Congress considered that upon receipt of the necessary approval, an amendment entailing no new obligations enters into force immediately, unless Congress fixes upon approval of the amendment a different date for its entry into force. Congress has fixed in the relevant resolution a date for the entry into force of amendments in all but three cases, two relating to purely linguistic or terminological amendments and one because of the circumstances referred to in paragraphs 5 and 23 above.

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15 Cg-IX, Abridged Report with Resolutions, General Summary, paragraphs 10.1.9 to 10.1.11 (WMO-No. 615).
16 Ibid. 1, General Summary, paragraph 3.1.1.3 and Resolution 3 (Cg-III).
17 Cg-V, Abridged Report with Resolutions, Resolution 2 (Cg-V) (WMO-No. 213 RC. 28); Cg-XIV, Abridged Final Report with Resolutions, Resolution 41 (Cg-XIV) (WMO-No. 960).
18 Ibid. 1, Resolution 1 (Cg-III).
### TABLE I

**AMENDMENTS ADOPTED TO WMO CONVENTION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Congress (year)</th>
<th>Resolution General Summary</th>
<th>Articles of the Convention</th>
<th>Subject matter</th>
<th>Means of adoption</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cg–II (1959)</td>
<td>Resolution 1 (Cg-III) 3.1.3</td>
<td>10 (a) (2)</td>
<td>Consistency of linguistic versions (addition of the expression &quot;request for&quot; membership in the English version)</td>
<td>Approval by correspondence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Resolution 2 (Cg-III) 3.1.5</td>
<td>13 (c)</td>
<td>Increase in the number of elected members of EC (from 6 to 9)</td>
<td>Vote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cg-IV (1963)</td>
<td>Resolution 1 (Cg-IV) 3.1.1, 3.1.2</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Increase in the number of elected members of EC (from 9 to 12) and regional distribution</td>
<td>Vote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Resolution 2 (Cg-IV) 3.1.3, 3.1.4</td>
<td>2, 5, 6, 7, 10 and 11 deletion of 12 current 13, 14, 16, 22, 24, 25, 26</td>
<td>Various (purposes of WMO; eligibility of officers and members of EC; composition, functions, voting and quorum in Congress; functions, sessions and quorum of the EC; finances; relations with the UN and other organizations; status of the Organization)</td>
<td>Vote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cg-V (1967)</td>
<td>Resolution 1 (Cg-V) 3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.1.3</td>
<td>4 and current 13</td>
<td>Increase of number of Vice-Presidents (from 2 to 3)</td>
<td>Vote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Increase in the number of elected members of EC (from 12 to 14)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Resolution 2 (Cg-V) 3.1.6</td>
<td>Current 14</td>
<td>Consistency of linguistic versions (functions of the EC in French only)</td>
<td>Vote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Resolution 3 (Cg-V) 3.1.4, 3.1.8, 3.1.9</td>
<td>2, new article 5, current 10, 14, 16 and 33</td>
<td>Inclusion of reference to water problems among the purposes of WMO; role of Members; sessions of Congress; functions of the EC; voting by EC and deposit of instruments of accession</td>
<td>Vote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cg-VII (1975)</td>
<td>Resolution 48 (Cg-VII) 10.1.1-5</td>
<td>Preamble, 2, 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 18</td>
<td>Clarification of the purposes and activities of WMO in the field of Hydrology</td>
<td>Unanimously</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cg-VIII (1979)</td>
<td>Resolution 50 (Cg-VIII) 11.1.1</td>
<td>13 (c)</td>
<td>Increase in the number of elected members of EC (from 14 to 19) and regional distribution</td>
<td>Vote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cg-IX (1983)</td>
<td>Resolution 41 (Cg-IX) 10.1.1-4</td>
<td>13 (c)</td>
<td>Increase in the number of members or EC (from 19 to 26) and regional distribution</td>
<td>Unanimously</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Resolution 42 (Cg-IX) 10.1.8</td>
<td>4, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 23, 26 and 27</td>
<td>Replacement of the expression “Executive Committee” by “Executive Council”</td>
<td>Unanimously</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Resolution 43 (Cg-IX) 10.1.8</td>
<td>14 (f)</td>
<td>Consistency of the linguistic versions (replacement in English of the term “agenda” by “work programme”)</td>
<td>Unanimously</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cg-XIV (2003)</td>
<td>Resolution 39 (Cg-XIV) 11.2.1-4</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Increase in the number of members or EC (from 26 to 27)</td>
<td>Unanimously</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Resolution 41 (Cg-XIV) 11.2.8-11</td>
<td>4, 6, 8, 11, 13, 14 and 18</td>
<td>Replacement of the expression “Regional Association” by “Conseil régional” in French only</td>
<td>Unanimously</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congress (year)</td>
<td>Resolution Decision (General Summary)</td>
<td>Subject matter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cg–III (1959)</td>
<td>Resolution 3 (Cg-III) (3.1.1.3)</td>
<td>Approval by two-thirds of Members which are States</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Resolution 4 (Cg-III) (3.1.1.1, 3.1.1.2)</td>
<td>Conditions and date for entry into force of amendments to the Convention</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(3.1.1.4)</td>
<td>Authority to submit proposed amendments to the Convention, (recognition of the power of the Executive Council to do so)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Non- adoption of amendments to the Convention by correspondence</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cg-VI (1971)</td>
<td>5.1.1-5.1.4</td>
<td>Admissibility of counterproposals to amendments during session of Congress; however, if contrary to the basic intent, the counterproposal should be dealt with in accordance with 28 (a). Confirmation that the two-thirds majority is of Member States</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Possibility for Congress to refer to future session an amendment that has been approved by 2/3 vote but that has not been endorsed by 2/3 of Member States</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Non acceptability of vote by correspondence for amendments under article 28 (c)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cg-X (1987)</td>
<td>10.2.1-10.2.-2</td>
<td>Compilation by Secretariat of interpretation and application of article 28 of the Convention</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Regional Association II (Asia)
Thirteenth Session, Hong Kong, China, 7-15 December 2004

15. WMO structure

15.1.1 The Association noted that the fifty-sixth session of the Executive Council, following consideration by Fourteenth Congress, had discussed the evolving role of WMO and had underscored the following areas of concern:

(a) WMO and its environment;
(b) WMO responsibilities;
(c) Mode of operation;
(d) WMO structure;
(e) WMO Convention.

15.1.2 The Association recalled that the Council had recognized the importance and urgency of developing a strategy for action to address the various issues of concern raised, particularly relating to WMO’s leadership role and rendering it more responsive, proactive and relevant. There was also a need to ensure greater political awareness of its role and contribution in issues of concern to the nations it served, such as natural disasters, climate change and water resources. Parallel consideration at national level with respect to NMHSs should also be undertaken. In that regard, the Association agreed that WMO should continue to be more responsive, proactive and relevant.

15.1.3 In that connection, there was a need for a clear and proactive WMO response to global concerns as expressed in the MDG adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2000 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation adopted by the WWSD in 2002; those included poverty alleviation, natural disaster mitigation, climate change, and water resources needs. Account should also be taken of recent developments and initiatives such as those on the global Earth observation initiative (under preparation by the Earth Observation Summit (EOS) and its ad hoc GEO) leading to the GEOSS.

15.1.4 The Association recognized with the Council that WMO needed to evolve with urgency, but carefully and sensitively, to respond to Members’ changing needs and expectations, including their expectations for an agreed WMO strategy and strong leadership across a wide range of Earth system science and service issues in the present rapidly changing world.

15.1.5 The Association noted that the Council had decided to re-establish an Executive Council Task Team to Explore and Assess the Possible Changes to the WMO Convention and to establish an Executive Council Action Group for an Enhanced WMO (Resolution 6 (EC-LVI) and Resolution 7 (ECLVI), respectively). In connection with the work of those two bodies, the Association suggested that the relevant views of the Association as reflected at the thirteenth session be taken into account.
15.1.6 Concerning the review of the WMO Convention, the Association recalled that the Council had felt that adequate preparatory work had already been carried out, but further progress needed to be made to ensure appropriate consideration by the time of Fifteenth Congress. That would require that specific recommendations and options should be ready by the fifty-seventh session of the Executive Council in 2005 to allow for sufficient deliberation and communication for Members (who should be able to participate in the process, for example during sessions of regional associations) and so that those proposals that would need a decision by Fifteenth Congress were sufficiently “mature” by the time of the fifty-eighth session of the Executive Council in 2006, i.e. the Executive Council session before Fifteenth Congress.

15.1.7 As requested by the Executive Council, the Association was provided with information and documentation on the work of the Executive Council Task Team to Explore andAssess the Possible Changes to the WMO Convention. The Association expressed its appreciation to the chairperson of the Task Team for the proposals made and expressed its views on that issue.

15.1.8 The Association recognized the need to change the WMO Convention in order to incorporate the new developments of the past 50 years, such as climate issues, natural disaster prevention and mitigation, contributions to sustainable development and others.

15.1.9 The Association thought that, since the process of ratification by Members which were States in amending the Convention might require comprehensive procedures in many Members which were States, the change to the Convention should not contain new commitments. It suggested that Fifteenth Congress should adopt the changes according to Article 28(c).

15.1.10 The Association agreed on the need to introduce a new preamble to the Convention in order to clearly indicate the scope of the Organization. It also agreed to consider the Geneva Declaration to be the best starting point for drafting a new preamble, since the Declaration had been adopted unanimously by Thirteenth Congress in 1999. The Association was of the opinion that the new preamble should be the appropriate means to introduce the relevant terminology and thought into the Convention.

15.1.11 The Association felt that the new preamble proposed by the Task Team was generally appropriate and some Members suggested making it more concise.

15.1.12 The Association noted that the option of the adoption of protocols should not constitute a commitment for WMO Members to become parties of the protocols. The Association also noted that Members would later have to decide whether each protocol involved new obligations and thus would have to be ratified or only adopted by Congress. It recognized the need for further reference materials such as protocols in other similar organizations and typical draft texts of protocols on subjects of interest to WMO for in-depth consideration in order to assess any future implication of such specific protocols.

15.1.13 The Association further requested that a careful study be conducted of the criteria to be applied to the protocol scheme for the introduction of new subjects before the Congress decision on that matter. It requested that the draft resolution to be submitted to Fifteenth Congress by the Executive Council reflect the outcome of such a study and other refinements to the proposals of the Task Team to Explore and Assess the Possible Changes to the WMO Convention.

15.1.14 With regard to the mode of operation, the Association felt that significant progress could be made, particularly through improved ways of addressing cross-cutting issues, including the use of matrix management, and various measures that had been proposed for achieving more effective and efficient operation of the constituent bodies. The Association examined the priority given to issues of concern listed by the Executive Council Action Group for an Enhanced WMO and felt that
its own mode of operation relating to its sessions and intersessional activities should be reviewed and improved. It called upon its Members to contribute to that process. It also felt that special consideration should be given to issues such as the establishment of RCCs and the re-organization of technical commissions to underpin the importance of PWS or applications.

15.1.15 Consideration should also be given to how Members, constituent bodies and the Secretariat could coordinate better in relation to the provision of relevant information, including to the general public and the media, relating to issues of interest such as natural disaster prevention and mitigation, climate change and water resources.

15.1.16 In view of the above, the Association urged its Members to contribute to the relevant discussions when participating in the various WMO programme activities. It requested its president to ensure that appropriate views from the Region were taken into account in the pertinent processes.

Regional Association IV (North America, Central America and the Caribbean)
Fourteenth Session, San José, Costa Rica, 5-15 April 2005

15  Emerging issues and specific challenges

15.1  Evolving role of WMO

[...]

15.1.7 As requested by the Executive Council, the Association was provided with information and documentation on the work of the Executive Council Task Team to Explore and Assess the Possible Changes to the WMO Convention. The Association expressed its appreciation to the chairperson of the task team for the proposals made and expressed its views on that issue.

15.1.8 The Association considered the task team's recommendation to introduce a new preamble to the Convention to clarify the scope of the Organization and to reflect developments over the past 50 years, such as climate issues, natural disaster prevention and mitigation, contribution to sustainable development, and others. In that regard, it noted that the Geneva Declaration might be a good starting point for drafting a new preamble because the Declaration had been adopted unanimously by the Thirteenth Congress in 1999. The Association noted that, if agreed, a new preamble could be a means of introducing the relevant developments, terms and key ideas into the Convention.

15.1.9 The Association noted that the adoption of protocols was an option and Members would have to decide on the scope and implications of each protocol. It recognized the need for further reference materials such as protocols from other similar organizations and typical draft texts of protocols on subjects of interest to WMO for in-depth consideration, in order to assess any future implications of such specific protocols.

15.1.10 The Association further requested careful study of the criteria to be applied for the introduction of new subjects through the use of protocol and of the pertinent implications.
Regional Association VI (Europe)
Fourteenth Session, Heidelberg, Germany, 7-15 September 2005

15  Emerging issues and specific challenges

15.1  Evolving role of WMO

15.1.1  The Association noted that the fifty-sixth session of the Executive Council, following consideration by Fourteenth Congress, had discussed that item and touched on the following areas of concern:

(a)  WMO and its environment;
(b)  WMO responsibilities;
(c)  Mode of operation;
(d)  WMO structure.

[...]

15.1.10  The Association noted that the Executive Council had decided to re-establish an EC Task Team to Explore and Assess the Possible Changes to the WMO Convention (Resolution 19 (EC-LVII)) and to establish an EC Working Group on the Evolution of NMHSs and WMO (Resolution 21 (EC-LVII)). In connection with the work of those two bodies, it was suggested that the relevant views of the Association as reflected in the present session be taken into account.

15.1.11  The Association expressed its appreciation to the chairperson of the EC Task Team for having explored and assessed the possible changes to the WMO Convention. The Association supported the task team’s recommendation to introduce a new preamble to the Convention to clarify the scope of the Organization and to reflect developments over the past 50 years, such as climate issues, natural disaster prevention and mitigation, contribution to sustainable development, and others. In that regard, it noted that the Geneva Declaration might be a good starting point for drafting a new preamble because the Declaration had been adopted unanimously by Thirteenth Congress in 1999. The Association noted that, if agreed, a new preamble could be a means of focusing the Organization while introducing the relevant developments, terms and key ideas into the Convention.

15.1.12  The Association considered that the adoption of protocols was an option and Members would have to decide on the scope and implications of each protocol. It underscored the importance of ensuring that the protocols eventually benefited all Members. The Association suggested that consideration be given to the development of a protocol on global observing systems for possible adoption at Fifteenth Congress. Such a protocol would facilitate the provision of support - political, financial and others - to the work of WMO and NMHSs.

15.1.13  The Association affirmed that in the related discussions, due account should be taken of the different levels of development of various Members and their NMHSs.

15.1.14  In view of the above, the Association urged its Members to contribute to the relevant discussions as they participated in the various programme activities. It requested its president to ensure that appropriate views from Region were taken into account in the pertinent processes.
Regional Association V (South-West Pacific)
Fourteenth Session, Adelaide, Australia, 9-16 May 2006

15.4 Evolution of WMO and NMHSS: Regional aspect

Possible changes to the WMO Convention

15.4.9 The Association expressed its appreciation to the chairman of the EC Task Team to Explore and Assess the Possible Changes to the WMO Convention for his work and took note of its report. The Association looked forward to a full discussion of this matter at the EC-LVIII session in June 2006.

Regional Association III (South America)
Fourteenth Session, Lima, Peru, 7-13 September 2006

15. Emerging issues and specific challenges

Other considerations

[...]

15.1.12 The Association expressed its appreciation that the chairman of the EC Task Team to Explore and Assess the Possible Changes to the WMO Convention had made available a presentation on the subject in Spanish language, which had been given at sessions of the other Regional Associations held since Fourteenth Congress. It was noted that the Secretary-General would distribute in the very near future a comprehensive report including a proposal by the EC Task Team for amending the Convention, intended for submission to Fifteenth Congress, to all Members, as he was requested to do by the Executive Council. The Association urged its Members to investigate sufficiently in advance their national position related to a possible change to the WMO Convention and in particular their national legal requirements regarding the proposed amendment.

Regional Association I (Africa)
Fourteenth Session, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 14-23 February 2007

16.6 Evolution of WMO and NMHSs – Regional Aspects

[...]

16.6.xx The Association received with appreciation the report and recommendations concerning amendment of the preamble of the WMO Convention submitted by the chairman of the EC Task Team to Explore and Assess the Possible Changes to the WMO Convention. It noted that on request of the EC the Task Team’s proposal was referred to Fifteenth Congress in Secretary-General’ report submitted as Cg-XV/Doc. 11.2(1), which covers various aspects involved including an analysis of potential risks and benefits and information on procedures for amending the WMO Convention. The Association also noted that Germany submitted the proposal to change the preamble of the WMO Convention in Cg-XV/Doc. 11.2(3). The Association further noted the concern expressed by the USA that the amendment offered no substantive benefit and that the best way to demonstrate the role and position of the WMO is to provide tangible programmatic benefits to its Members.

16.6.xx The Association supported the view that the proposed changes to the Convention preamble succeeds in large part to reflect the developing role of the WMO over the last 50 years
and suggested that the list of activities under “Reaffirming” needs the addition of “poverty reduction”. The Association urged its Members to consult prior the Fifteenth Congress with Governments concerning their national position related to a possible change to the WMO Convention and in particular their national legal requirements regarding the proposed amendment.

AGENDA ITEM 11.2(2) – QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE CONVENTION

Cg-XV/Rep. 11.2(2)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE WMO EMBLEM AND FLAG

1. The emblem of the WMO was adopted by a vote by correspondence in 1955. Save for the suppression by Fifth Congress in 1967 of the abbreviation of the name of the Organization in English and French, the emblem has remained unchanged since then. The emblem was incorporated into the flag adopted by Fifth Congress in 1967.

2. The initiative of a possible revision of the WMO emblem arose from the discussion by Fourteenth Congress of the WMO Global Communication Strategy, at which time a subtitle was adopted for use in all WMO documentation, correspondence and publications. Since then, the subtitle is reproduced underneath the present emblem of the Organization in the language of the publication concerned. The fifty-sixth session of the Executive Council requested the Secretary-General to consult all Members by correspondence on possible changes aimed at increasing the visibility of the Organization’s emblem, including the use of gold for the wind rose and the inclusion of the abbreviation of the name of the Organization as part of the emblem.

3. Based on the results of the consultation (85 percent of the responses were in favour of a revamp of the emblem, and around 75 percent in favour of the proposed change in colour and the addition of the acronym of the Organization in the official language concerned) and taking into consideration the practice of other UN specialized agencies, the fifty-seventh session of the Executive Council adopted Resolution 20 in which it recommended to Fifteenth Congress the adoption of a revised emblem and its use in the WMO flag.

4. In considering these proposals, the Executive Council noted the increasing demand for use of the WMO emblem and recommended the adoption of precise guidelines concerning the use of the emblem that would supplement the legal protection of the name and emblem recommended by the Tenth Executive Council in Resolution 2 (EC-X). Concerning the flag, the Executive Council also recommended that the Flag Code and regulations, adopted by the Secretary-General in 1968 on the basis of the UN Flag Code, be maintained.

5. The proposed design for the emblem is reproduced in Appendix B to the present document.
AGENDA ITEM 11.2(3) – QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE CONVENTION

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE PREAMBLE

Cg-XV/Rep. 11.2(3)

PROGRESS/ACTIVITY REPORT
SUBMITTED TO THE FIFTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
BY ITS TASK TEAM TO EXPLORE AND ASSESS THE POSSIBLE CHANGES TO THE WMO CONVENTION

(taken from EC-LVIII/Doc. 10.2(1))

Report on the work already undertaken

1. Following the discussions at the Thirteenth Congress (1999), the fifty-third session of the Executive Council (2001) established a Task Team to Explore and Assess the Possible Changes to the WMO Convention.

2. During its work, the Task Team took into consideration the deficiencies of the present situation, namely: at the time of the establishment of WMO the Convention could not take explicitly into account issues such as: sustainable development; environment; climate; national disaster prevention; capacity building; the possibility to provide meteorological and hydrological services also via private entities. It was emphasized that the explicit inclusion of the above in the Convention would help to enhance the visibility of National Meteorological Services (NMSs), the sciences of meteorology/hydrology and of WMO as a whole in the Member countries and at the international level. The explicit inclusion of these issues would be a confirmation by the Members of the activities already undertaken by WMO and would help NMHs to make clear to national decision makers that WMO is the responsible international organization.

3. The Fourteenth Congress (2003) considered the matter on the basis of a proposal presented to it and decided that there was a need for further work on this issue and requested the Executive Council to establish a Working Group on Questions Concerning the WMO Convention, which should finalize its work in time for the consideration of this subject by Fifteenth Congress. Accordingly, the Fourteenth Congress adopted Resolution 40 (Cg-XIV) - Questions concerning the WMO Convention.

4. The fifty-sixth session of the EC (2004) decided to re-establish the EC Task Team to Explore and Assess the Possible Changes to the WMO Convention to review work already undertaken relating to the possible changes to the Convention and Regulations, explore and assess possible changes, including possibility of introduction of protocols. The process should allow for sufficient deliberation and communication to Members including the sessions of regional associations with a view of assuring that the proposals that will need a Cg-XV decision be “mature” by the time of EC-LVIII. Regional Association II (Asia) at its thirteenth session in Hong Kong, China in December 2004, Regional Association IV at its fourteenth session in Costa Rica in April 2005, Regional Association VI (Europe) at its fourteenth session in Germany in September 2005 and Regional Association V at its fourteenth session in Australia in May 2006 considered the matter.

5. The fifty-seventh session of EC (2005) agreed that the work of the Task Team should continue with enlarged number of its members, with a view to ensuring representation of Members from other WMO Regions. While recognizing that there was a need to raise the profile of WMO
and interest in "up-dating" of the WMO Convention, the Council recognized that appropriate
cautions should be exercised, in particular in relation to proposals for adoption of protocols to the
Convention, as such protocols could involve new financial commitments. The Council further
considered the specific objectives for adoption of a new Preamble to the Convention and advised
about the need of drafting this part in such a way, which would not give an impression of an
attempt to enlarge the mandate of WMO through this exercise.

6. On 27 October 2005 the Secretary-General sent a letter to all Members of WMO
inviting them to provide comments on the proposals by the Task Team, namely to change the
Preamble and to add an article on Protocols. The comments have been evaluated by the Task
Team in addition to the comments made in the discussions at the sessions of the Regional
Associations.

Assessment of the Task Team

Protocols

7. Some legal experts put forward to the Task Team the opinion that the adoption of
protocols or similar additional legal instruments is possible under the present Convention and does
not require explicit mentioning in an Article of the Convention.

Preamble

8. The Preamble should be modernized, but it should be significantly shorter than the
Geneva Declaration of 1999. And, the new preamble should clearly not involve new obligations for
the Members of WMO.

9. For the proposed change, Article 28(c) would be relevant and the amendment would
come into force upon approval in Congress by two-thirds of the Members which are States.

10. The Task Teams took note that – even though the amendment may come into force
upon the Congress decision – some Members may have additional national requirements, even
such instruments as ratification of the amendment.

11. A further option would be to maintain the Convention as it is now without any changes
and adopt a revised text of the Geneva Declaration of 1999.

Proposal of the Task Team

12. After consideration of the above listed scenarios the chairman of the Task Team
submits the proposal of amending the Preamble of the WMO Convention.
AGENDA ITEM 11.2(4) – QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE CONVENTION

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE PREAMBLE

Cg-XV/Rep. 11.2(4)

EXCERPTS FROM A LETTER OF THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF LITHUANIA WITH WMO DATED 15 MARCH 2007

We highly appreciate the proposed replacement of the original preamble by its new and expanded version reflecting successes and achievements of the WMO since its establishment in 1950. However, in pursuing this laudable goal, we would like to express caution about declaring the scope of the WMO to be outreaching its natural limitations expressed in the motto “Weather Climate Water”. The proposed first paragraph of the Considerata [in the proposed new Preamble] refers inter alia to “the need for the reduction of loss of life and property caused by natural disasters and other catastrophic events”. This statement may lead to the conclusion that WMO is either dealing or is expected to deal with disasters not only natural by their origin. Meanwhile there are areas of natural phenomena clearly beyond the scope of the WMO, e.g. seismology and volcanology, not to mention human-made disasters like wars and other conflicts. Therefore, we propose to replace the wording “other catastrophic events” with the wording “related to weather, climate and water”. Consequently, the paragraph in question should read as follows [new text appears underlined, text to be deleted is strike through]:

"Considering the global, regional and national need for sustainable development, support of national economies and social progress, the need for the reduction of loss of life and property caused by natural disasters and other catastrophic events related to weather, climate and water, as well as the need to safeguard the environment and the global climate for present and future generations of humankind; “

AGENDA ITEM 11.3(1) – REVISION OF THE GENERAL REGULATIONS

Cg-XV/Rep. 11.3(1)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Revision of the General Regulations

1. In 1991, Eleventh Congress approved Resolution 37—Suspension of Members for Failure to Meet Financial Obligations, which resulted, inter alia, in the ineligibility of nationals or representatives from Members in arrears to stand for elected offices of constituent bodies or as members of Executive Council. In 1995, Twelfth Congress requested the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements to inform Members in arrears sufficiently in advance of anticipated elections by correspondence so that they could have time to meet the conditions for their nationals or representatives to become eligible to fill the vacant office. That period was set as at least at 45 days before dispatching the letter requesting nominations. Consequently, the minimum period for the conduction of elections by correspondence in General Regulations 15 and 16 was extended from 180 to 225 days. Thus for an election to be conducted by correspondence, the vacancy has to be notified to the Secretary-General at least 225 days before the next ordinary session of the constituent body concerned. Otherwise the election is conducted in the course of the meeting of the constituent body.
2. Since then, the timelines and steps for the election by correspondence of the Third Vice-President of the Organization and of the president or vice-president of an Association or Commission are as follows.

3. Upon occurrence of a vacancy of the Third Vice-President of the Organization or of a vice-president of an Association or a Commission, a letter is to be sent to the president of the constituent body concerned, whose approval of the election by correspondence is required by General Regulation 15. In the case of the office of president of an Association or Commission becoming vacant, it is for the WMO President to approve the election by correspondence in accordance with General Regulation 16. At least 10 days should be allowed for this step. Once the president concerned approves the election by correspondence, a letter is sent to Members in arrears requesting them to pay their contributions if they wish to present one of their nationals or representatives to stand for the election. A period of 45 days is required after the dispatch of this notification. After the expiration of the 45-day period, a letter is sent to all Members of the constituent body concerned, asking them to nominate candidates within a 45-day time limit (Regulation 91). On receipt of nominations, the nominees are requested to confirm their willingness to stand for the election within a period of 30 days (Regulation 92). Finally, a letter is sent to the Members for voting. The period allowed for the submission of ballot papers is 90 days (Regulation 71). The overall period for the process is therefore of about 225 days.

4. Since 1995, there has been no case where a Member has paid its arrears so that its nationals could stand for an election within the 45-day period introduced by Twelfth Congress. It is therefore proposed to reduce the period of election by correspondence by 45 days by suppressing this step in the electoral process.

5. In addition, the subsequent periods of the electoral process could be shortened by taking advantage of modern communication facilities. In this context, it is proposed that the period for the nomination of candidates, determining eligibility and willingness, and voting be reduced from 45, 30 and 90 days to 30, 20 and 60 days in General Regulations 91, 92 and 71 respectively.

6. As a result of these reductions, the minimum period of election by correspondence could be reduced from 225 to 130 days, including the provision of 10 additional days for the Secretariat to handle the process. General Regulations 15 and 16 should be amended accordingly.

7. The following table contains a comparison between the current and the proposed steps of the procedure of election by correspondence of the Third Vice-President of the Organization and of the president or vice-president of an Association or Commission.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relevant provision</th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>Proposed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approval by the president of the constituent body concerned</td>
<td>Reg. 15 or 16</td>
<td>10 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letter to Members in arrears</td>
<td>Para. 11.3.4 of Cg-XII</td>
<td>45 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letter to Members for nomination of candidates</td>
<td>Reg. 91</td>
<td>45 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letter to candidates to confirm their willingness to be a candidate</td>
<td>Reg. 92</td>
<td>30 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letter to Members for voting</td>
<td>Reg. 71</td>
<td>90 days (if only one candidate, declared elected)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Processing by the Secretariat</td>
<td>0 days</td>
<td>10 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Regs. 15 &amp; 16</td>
<td>225 days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AGENDA ITEM 11.4 – REVIEW OF PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS OF CONGRESS

Cg-XV/Rep. 11.4

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Review of previous resolutions of Congress

1. Regulation 135(17) of the General Regulations provides that the agenda of a Congress shall normally include an item on "Review of previous Congress resolutions". The last review of the previous resolutions was made by Congress at its fourteenth session in May 2003.

2. Congress has continually supported the idea that past resolutions which should be kept in force be reduced to a minimum to avoid accumulation of resolutions from previous Congresses, some of which would have become redundant and others which have been replaced by new decisions.

3. As regards the procedure employed by Congress to formulate its decisions on individual resolutions, it is customary to request each of the working committees to examine those resolutions referring to the subjects of the agenda items allocated to that committee. In its report to plenary on each agenda item, that committee will present its proposals regarding past resolutions on the subject in question.

4. Some resolutions, which refer to questions not covered by any other agenda item, should be examined under the present agenda item 11.4 by the working committee to which this item is allocated. This committee should prepare a report on the agenda item as a whole.

5. Certain standard resolutions adopted by each session of Congress apply only to the ensuing financial period. With the adoption of new resolutions on the same subjects by the Fourteenth Congress, the former resolutions need to be kept in force only until the close of the financial period to which they relate. The resolutions of Fourteenth Congress fall under this category and should be kept in force only until 31 December 2007.

6. To facilitate the review of the previous resolutions of Congress, a list of Congress resolutions which are presently in force has been prepared by the Secretariat, together with a recommendation concerning the future status of each; this list is given in Appendix B.

7. Following the established practice, Congress may wish to appoint a rapporteur to carry out a preliminary examination of those previous resolutions which are kept in force, and to collate the decisions taken by Congress working either in Plenary or in its Working Committees. The outcome will be considered as a draft resolution on the subject.
**LIST OF PREVIOUS RESOLUTIONS OF CONGRESS STILL IN FORCE (Cg-XV)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agenda item</th>
<th>Resolution No.</th>
<th>Title of Resolution</th>
<th>Suggested action</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 (Cg-XIV)</td>
<td>Radio frequencies for meteorological and related environmental activities</td>
<td>X X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4 (Cg-XIV)</td>
<td>Instruments and Method of Observation Programme</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7 (Cg-XIV)</td>
<td>Tropical Cyclone Programme</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.2 9 (Cg-X)</td>
<td>Global climate change</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8 (Cg-XI)</td>
<td>Establishment of a WMO Special Fund for climate and atmospheric activities</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7 (Cg-XII)</td>
<td>World Climate Programme and its coordination</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8 (Cg-XIV)</td>
<td>Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9 (Cg-XIV)</td>
<td>GCOS Climate Monitoring Principles</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 (Cg-XIV)</td>
<td>Global Climate Observing System</td>
<td>X X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11 (Cg-XIV)</td>
<td>Services of the World Climate Programme (covering the World Climate Data and Monitoring Programme and the World Climate Applications and Services Programme)</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8 (Cg-XIII)</td>
<td>Climate Information and Prediction Services Project</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9 (Cg-XIII)</td>
<td>World Climate Research Programme</td>
<td>X X</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.3 29 (Cg-III)</td>
<td>Responsibility of the World Meteorological Organization in international ozone work</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12 (Cg-XIV)</td>
<td>THORPEX: A Global Atmospheric Research Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.4 13 (Cg-XIV)</td>
<td>Public Weather Services Programme</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>14 (Cg-XIV)</td>
<td>Agricultural Meteorology Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15 (Cg-XIV)</td>
<td>Aeronautical Meteorology Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>30(Cg-V)</td>
<td>Units of wind speed in meteorological messages for international exchanges</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19 (Cg-XI)</td>
<td>The collection and dissemination of marine meteorological and oceanographic information</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16(Cg-XIV)</td>
<td>Marine Meteorology and Oceanography Activities Programme</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.5 19 (Cg-XII)</td>
<td>Strategy and action plan for monitoring and assessing water resources of Africa</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>20 (Cg-XII)</td>
<td>World Hydrological Cycle Observing System (WHYCOS)</td>
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<td>Code</td>
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<td>21 (Cg-XII)</td>
<td>Global Runoff Data Centre (GRDC)</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 (Cg-XIV)</td>
<td>Hydrology and Water Resources Programme</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 (Cg-XIV)</td>
<td>Panel of Experts on Fresh Water</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3.6 19 (Cg-XIV)</td>
<td>Education and Training Programme</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3.7 15 (Cg-V)</td>
<td>Administration of technical assistance projects</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32 (Cg-VII)</td>
<td>Participation of Members of the World Meteorological Organization in the United Nations Development Programme</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>33 (Cg-VIII)</td>
<td>Coordination of technical cooperation at the national and regional levels</td>
<td>X</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>36 (Cg-VIII)</td>
<td>Technical cooperation among developing countries in the field of meteorology and operational hydrology</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 (Cg-IX)</td>
<td>Recruitment of field project professional staff</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 (Cg-XIV)</td>
<td>WMO Programme for the Least Developed Countries</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 (Cg-XI)</td>
<td>Participation of the World Meteorological Organization in United Nations Development Programme</td>
<td>X</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 (Cg-XII)</td>
<td>Organization and funding of the Technical Cooperation Programme</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 (Cg-XIV)</td>
<td>The WMO Voluntary Cooperation Programme</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.9 29 (Cg-XIV)</td>
<td>Natural Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Programme</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.10 5 (Cg-XIV)</td>
<td>WMO Space Programme</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 (Cg-XIV)</td>
<td>WMO Consultative Meetings on High-level Policy on Satellite Matters</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 18 (Cg-II)</td>
<td>Definition of the guides of the World Meteorological Organization</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 (Cg-XII)</td>
<td>Use of official and working languages with special regard to Arabic, Chinese and Spanish</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46 (Cg-XIV)</td>
<td>Use of Portuguese</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 (Cg-XIII)</td>
<td>Use of official and working languages with special regard to Arabic and Chinese</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>1 (Cg-XIV)</td>
<td>Technical Regulations of the World Meteorological Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 (Cg-XIV)</td>
<td>Publications Programme for the fourteenth financial period</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 23 (Cg-XIV)</td>
<td>Information and Public Affairs Programme</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 30 (Cg-XI)</td>
<td>Development of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services</td>
<td>X</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 (Cg-XIV)</td>
<td>Sixth WMO Long-term Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>Code</td>
<td>Description</td>
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<td>26 (Cg-XIV)</td>
<td>Preparation of the Seventh WMO Long-term Plan</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>40 (Cg-XII)</td>
<td>WMO policy and practice for the exchange of meteorological and related data and products including guidelines on relationships in commercial meteorological activities</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>25 (Cg-XIII)</td>
<td>Exchange of hydrological data and products</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 (Cg-XIII)</td>
<td>Role and operation of National Meteorological Services</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 (Cg-XIV)</td>
<td>Role and operation of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 (Cg-XIV)</td>
<td>Quality Management</td>
<td>X X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>6 (Cg-V)</td>
<td>Relations with the United Nations and other international organizations</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39 (Cg-VII)</td>
<td>Invitation of the United Nations Council for Namibia and the national Liberation movements to WMO meetings</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32 (Cg-XIV)</td>
<td>Agreement between the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Organization and the World Meteorological Organization</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33 (Cg-XIV)</td>
<td>Equal Opportunities for participation of women in meteorology and hydrology</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34 (Cg-XIV)</td>
<td>Holding of a third International Polar Year in 2007-2008</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>29 (Cg-X)</td>
<td>Financial Advisory Committee</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 (Cg-X)</td>
<td>Incentive scheme for early payment of contributions</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 (Cg-XII)</td>
<td>Settlement of long-outstanding contributions</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>28 (Cg-XIII)</td>
<td>Maximum expenditures for the thirteenth financial period</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35 (Cg-XIV)</td>
<td>Establishment of the Financial Regulations of the World Meteorological Organization</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 (Cg-XIII)</td>
<td>Short-term borrowing authority</td>
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<td>36 (Cg-XIV)</td>
<td>Assessment of proportional contributions of Members for the fourteenth financial period</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>37 (Cg-XIV)</td>
<td>Review of the Working Capital Fund</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>30 (Cg-XIV)</td>
<td>Maximum expenditures for the fourteenth financial period</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 (Cg-XIV)</td>
<td>Results-based budgeting</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>38 (Cg-XIV)</td>
<td>Secretary-General’s contract</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>48 (Cg-XIV)</td>
<td>Tribute to the Secretary-General</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>48 (Cg-VIII)</td>
<td>IMO Fund</td>
<td>X</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 (Cg-III)</td>
<td>Implementation of amendments to the</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>4 (Cg-III) Submission of proposals for amending the Convention by the Executive Council</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>37 (Cg-XI) Suspension of Members for failure to meet financial obligations</td>
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<td>45 (Cg-XIV) Amendment to the General Regulations—Translation of the term &quot;Regional Association&quot;</td>
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<td>36 (Cg-XIII) Amendments to the General Regulations - Limitation of the number of terms of office of the Secretary-General</td>
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<td>37 (Cg-XIII) Terms of reference to the technical commissions</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>24 (Cg-XIV) A subtitle for WMO</td>
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<td>39 (Cg-XIV) Amendments to Article 13(c) of the Convention</td>
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<td>40 (Cg-XIV) Questions concerning the WMO Convention</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>41 (Cg-XIV) Amendments to the Convention – Translation of the term &quot;Regional Association&quot;</td>
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<td>42 (Cg-XIV) Amendments to Annex II of the WMO General Regulations</td>
<td>X</td>
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<td>43 (Cg-XIV) Amendment to General Regulation 85(a)</td>
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<td>44 (Cg-XIV) Application of General Regulations 177 and 194</td>
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<td>47 (Cg-XIV) Review of previous Congress resolutions</td>
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**AGENDA ITEM 11.5 – REQUESTS FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE ORGANIZATION**

*Cg-XV/Rep. 11.5*

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Requests for Membership of the Organization

1. Following Montenegro’s declaration of independence on 3 June 2006, the President of the Republic of Serbia notified the Secretary-General of the United Nations that the membership of Serbia and Montenegro in the United Nations, including all organs and organizations of the United Nations system, was being continued by the Republic of Serbia. The United Nations confirmed membership on 6 June 2006. Since then, the Republic of Serbia has continued the membership of the former Republic of Serbia and Montenegro in the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, including WMO.

On 26 January 2007, the Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva informed the WMO Secretary-General that the Republic of Montenegro deposited an Instrument of Accession to the Convention of the World Meteorological Organization on 6 December 2006 in accordance with Articles 3 (b) and 33 of the Convention. Accordingly, the Republic of Montenegro became a new Member of the Organization on 5 January 2007, in accordance with Article 35 of the Convention.

3. At 31 January 2007, the Membership of the Organization is 188 comprising 182 Member States and 6 Member Territories.