



WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANISATION

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WORKING GROUP ON WMO STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL PLANNING

Second Session
(GENEVA, 21-23 January 2013)

REPORT

1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

1.1 The meeting was chaired by the President of WMO, Mr David Grimes, who is the chair of the WG/SOP. The morning session of 21 January 2013 was held jointly with the EC WG/CD. The Chair opened the joint session on 21 January 2012 at 9:30 a.m. He welcomed the participants. The list of participants of EC WG/SOP is provided in [Appendix I](#).

1.2 The Secretary-General (SG) welcomed the participants and requested them to take into consideration the target dates for the implementation of UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA), both of which should be accomplished by the year 2015. He indicated that discussions were going on regarding sustainable development goals as the potential drivers of development beyond 2015. SG also indicated the need to take into consideration issues related to climate change given that the IPCC would finalize the fifth assessment report in 2014. He emphasized the need to have a linkage between capacity development and the related decisions of the extra-ordinary World Meteorological Congress on the GFCS (2012).

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

2.0 The meeting adopted the provisional agenda of the joint session provided in [Appendix II](#). The WG/SOP adopted the provisional agenda of its second session as provided in [Appendix III](#). The WG/SOP further agreed on the work plan for the session and on the format of the session report similar to the previous session report, presenting summary of discussions and the resulting recommendations.

2.1 Review of actions from the Fourth Session of the EC WG/SOP

2.1 The meeting reviewed the follow-up actions emanating from the key recommendations of the previous session of the Group and noted that all items had been addressed as recommended.

3. WMO STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

3.1 WMO Strategic Plan and Operating Plan 2016 – 2019

3.1.1. The Assistant Secretary-General, Dr Elena Manaenkova, introduced the draft WMO Strategic Plan (SP) 2016-2019 and the approach for the development of the Operating Plan (OP) 2016-2019. She informed the session of the evolving societal needs factored in defining the next SP, the feedback from RAs and TCs including discussions at recent PTC-2013 and PRA-2013 (Geneva, January 2013) that were integrated in the drafting of the strategic plan and the scenario factored in the preparation of WMO Strategic Plan 2016-

2019. She also reminded the group of the challenges of realising a single operating plan if the performance metrics are not kept uniform across the Organization.

Strategic Plan 2016-2019

3.1.2 The group made the following observations:

- The regional associations and technical commissions that have held their meetings discussed what they would focus on during the period 2016-2019;
- Management groups are increasingly involved in strategic and operational planning;
- Strategic priorities should be able to attract voluntary contributions and address the Global Societal Needs as a contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;
- The strategic thrusts represent processes that would facilitate the achievement of expected results;
- The need for the WMO SP to have synergies with SPs of partner organizations, particularly as relates to areas of shared interests;
- WMO has the potential to play a critical role in disaster risk reduction as relates to weather, water and climate prediction, and climate watch that are essential elements of an early warning system for weather, water and climate related hazards;
- Motivation for funding NMHSs activities is driven by their contributions to efforts to address challenges related to climate change and disaster risk reduction;
- Achievements at country level are good demonstrations of the progress of the Organization to achieve expected results.

3.1.3 The group made the following recommendations:

- The strategic plan should have a short section up-front to justify why the proposed strategic priorities are selected;
- The effects of limitations of human resources and funding on the achievement of the strategic direction should be reflected in the strategic plan;
- The draft strategic plan should be shared with regional associations and technical commissions for input particularly as relates to strategic priorities;
- The selection of strategic priorities should take into consideration how WMO could benefit from the initiatives by partners such as the future earth initiative;
- Strategic priorities should be relevant and stated in a concrete manner;
- Strategic priority on research should be broad to address the varying regional and global needs including the challenges related to improving our understanding and prediction of polar climate, monsoons, droughts, desertification, sand- and dust-storms and tropical cyclones, among others;
- More clarity should be provided on the contribution of WMO programmes to the GFCS;
- The strategic plan should promote benefit for all countries that have some limitations, including developing and least developed countries;
- The leading role of WMO in addressing climate variability and change should be made more visible to enhance the visibility of the Organization in these matters;
- *The results should be universal (to cover a range of activities of WMO), simple and linked to KOs and indicators;
- The fundamental reason for the existence of WMO should be maintained in SP;
- The integration of hydrology in the work of WMO should be improved to bring out the role of WMO in water resources management.

* Revised on 26 April by a member of EC WG/SOP

3.1.4 The group recommended the following to be considered for strategic priorities for the period 2016-2019:

- **Global Framework for climate services (GFCS)** with the focus on operational implementation in the four priority areas (agriculture and food security, water, health and disaster risk reduction (including climate risk management)); capacity development with emphasis on infrastructure and human resources for WIGOS, WIS, RCCs (regional, sub-regional and national levels) and service delivery especially for those least developed in these areas; research in seamless prediction of weather, climate, water cycle and provision of environmental services with particular emphasis on (a) seasonal to inter-annual predictions, (b) improved prediction in polar regions and high latitudes, (c) improved air quality advisory for megacities and urban complexes and (d) desertification (foster research at all levels). Research shall also focus on seamless provision of weather, climate and water services, including the development of forecasts of a broader range of environmental parameters, such as air quality, sand- and dust storms, changes in vegetation and advancing the GFCS in energy and other climate sensitive sectors.
- **WMO Integrated Observing System (WIGOS)** with the focus on operational implementation in all regions coupled with operational WIS; capacity development; and improvements in observational capabilities especially for climate (networks).
- **Disaster risk reduction (DRR)** with the focus on the establishment of regional and sub-regional multi-hazard early warning systems in all regions.
- **Capacity Development**, besides focusing on the above areas, will specifically focus on capacity development for basic quality services for aviation, marine and land transportation, agriculture and fisheries, and hydrological forecasting and other services especially in the countries in LDCs and SIDs to ensure compliance with meteorological standards and recommended practices.
- **Aviation Meteorological Services** remains focused remains on guiding and assisting Members in ensuring and maintaining the competence of Aeronautical Meteorological Personnel, by having them complete relevant Basic Instruction Package for Meteorologists as underpinning knowledge by 1 December 2016; implementing and maintaining properly organized QMS and ensuring the optimal provision of SIGMET where required, and development of services to air traffic management including the transition to net-centric Weather Exchange Models based on XML/GML data representation.
- **Research** focusing on building resilience to socio-economic and environmental change through seamless prediction of the Earth system for a day to months, seasons and decades at the national, regional and global level; research on economic feasibility and social acceptance of new services through partnerships and social sciences disciplines to enable their timely acceptance and implementation; improving weather, climate and environmental prediction services with special emphasis on polar regions (WMO Global Integrated Polar Prediction System (GIPPS)); and sustainable livelihoods in megacities and urban complexes.

WMO Operating Plan 2016-2019

3.1.5 The Group observed that a single operating plan with all activities reflected under respective ERs and KOs can only be realized if all the performance metrics are kept uniform across the Organization.

3.1.6 The Group made the following recommendations regarding the preparation of WMO Operating Plan 2016-2019:

- The move to a single operating plan should be flexible and the Organization should avoid frequent changes in the strategic planning process noting that a single strategic plan for the Organization was adopted for the period 2012-2015;
- More clarity should be provided on the process to achieve a single operating plan given that there are variations in the planning cycles of RAs and TCs;
- RAs and TCs should provide activities to be included in the operating plan;
- The draft operating plan 2016-2019 should be presented to EC-66 for considerations.

3.2 Update on the Five Strategic Priorities

3.2.1 Global Framework for Climate Services

3.2.1.1 The progress in the implementation of the Global Framework for Climate Services was presented by the Deputy Secretary-General, Mr Jerry Lengoasa. He informed the group of the decisions of the World Meteorological Extra-ordinary Congress on the Global Framework for Climate Services (Ext-Cg, Oct 2012) which included:

- Adoption of the draft Implementation Plan of the GFCS;
- Establishment of the Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services as an additional body accountable to Congress under Article 8 (h) of the Convention of the WMO and the approval of its Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure;
- The request to the Secretary-General to consider the GFCS in the budget proposals for the biennium 2014-2015 and the seventeenth financial period.

3.2.1.2 The group was also informed that the Secretary-General had established an advisory board composed of United Nations Agencies and had requested Members, through letters to ministries of foreign affairs, to designate focal points for the GFCS.

3.2.1.3 The group noted the report and agreed to discuss the implications of the decisions of Ext-Cg under items 8 on the GFCS.

3.2.2 Aviation meteorological services

3.2.2.1 The progress in the implementation of Aviation Meteorological Services was presented by Mr H. Puempel. He informed the group of the progress and risks in the implementation of 5 priority areas: Meteorological Services to Air Traffic Management (MSTA) and Meteorological Information Exchange (MIE) (M&M); Competency Assessment of Aeronautical Meteorological Personnel (AMP); Quality Management System (QMS) of Aeronautical Meteorological Service; SIGMET deficiencies and Volcanic ash, space weather and nuclear events monitoring. He also informed the group of activities identified by the CAeM Management Group to realize the above priorities.

3.2.2.2 The group noted the report and made the following observations:

- Implementation of quality standards for aviation meteorological services should be viewed as the beginning of a process that may extend to other services;
- Only five countries in RA-I had been certified according to ISO 9001:2008 by the time of the meeting, but the majority had initiated the process to implement QMS for aviation services;

3.2.2.3 The group made the following recommendations:

- Support for implementation of QMS should take into consideration sustainability with the priority focus on NMHSs that have shown interest and initiative;
- NMHSs that have not fulfilled ICAO requirements for the implementation of QMS should be advised to file a difference with ICAO indicating what has been implemented to avoid penalties;
- Capacity development strategy should include support to the implementation of QMS;
- The risks for not complying with the ICAO standards should be clarified to NMHSs;
- WMO should be proactive as relates to implementation of its standards;

3.2.3. Capacity-building for the developing and least developed countries

3.2.3.1 The progress on Capacity development was presented by Mr Robert Masters. He informed the group of the progress in the development of an implementation plan for the WMO Capacity Development Strategy.

3.2.3.2 The group noted the report and made the following recommendations:

- Capacity development should emphasize sustainable improvements to NMHS capabilities;
- WMO technical standards and requirements should be updated and clarified to facilitate a 'culture of compliance', a key element of NMHS sustainable capacity development;
- More information should be gathered to establish baselines on the current ability of NMHSs to meet national and WMO requirements;
- Baseline information should be used to establish priorities and guide investments in capacity development including training, institutional, procedural and infrastructure;
- Measuring changes against these baselines should improve WMO's ability to monitor and evaluate progress;
- National government investments were recognized as essential to sustained NMHS development, therefore Secretariat staff should make more outreach to national governments to encourage support to NMHSs;
- WMO should further develop the classification of NMHSs based on their respective capabilities and service requirements as it could be useful to improving the visibility of investments needed strengthen NMHSs.
- In this regard, a flexible criteria should be established for each level of service to guide NMHSs in their self-assessment;
- Also the level of service of NMHSs should include the required competencies of staff and take into consideration situations where NMSs and NMHSs are separate entities in a country
- WMO support to NMHSs should be made more visible to governments;
- Capacity development of NMHSs should include support to Regional Climate Centres.

3.2.4 Implementation of the WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS) and WMO Information System (WIS);

3.2.4.1 The progress on the implementation of the WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS) and WMO Information System (WIS) was presented by Mr Wenjian Zhang.

3.2.4.2 The progress on the implementation of WIGOS included the WIGOS framework Implementation Plan (WIP) that was submitted to EC-64 for consideration; a proposal to include an outline of the WIGOS Regulatory Material in the WMO Technical Regulations (WMO-No. 49), Vol. I., Part I. WIGOS; the agreement on the Action Plan for the development of the WIGOS regulatory material; and the standardization of WIGOS component observing

system metadata. The group was also informed that the WIP would be reviewed and updated to match it with the available resources and based on the results of the review, the proposal would be submitted to EC-65 to extend the implementation period for WIP until Cg-XVIII (2019). The group was further informed of significant progress in the development of Regional WIGOS Implementation Plans.

3.2.4.3 Regarding the progress in the implementation of WIS, the group was informed that, by the end of 2012, seven out of the 15 planned Global Information System Centres (GISCs) had passed the WIS compliance audit by CBS, five of which were operational. 120 Data Collection or Production Centres (DCPCs) had been identified, of which 53 were operational. A total of 223 National Centres (NCs) were identified. RA-VI and RA-II took the lead in developing their regional implementation plans for WIS. The group was also informed of the challenges as relates to full implementation of WIS.

3.2.4.4 The group noted the reports and made the following recommendations regarding the implementation of WIGOS and WIS:

- Information on how many countries have fully implemented WIGOS and WIS should be provided in the progress reports;
- The contribution of WIGOS to the GFCS, particularly in the component on observation and monitoring, should be clearly presented given that WIGOS is one of the major sources of observation and data to support GFCS functions;
- The contribution of WIS to the GFCS should be clearly presented;
- WIGOS regional implementation plans should be part of regional operating plans;
- The risks involved in the failure to implement WIGOS and WIS by 2015 should be identified.

3.2.5 Disaster risk reduction

3.2.5.1 The progress on disaster risk reduction was presented by the Deputy Secretary-General, Mr Jerry Lengoasa. He informed the meeting of what had been accomplished with regard to DRR thematic guidelines, standards and related training modules as relates to multi-hazard early warning systems; climate services for disaster risk financing; and hazard/risk analysis. The group was also informed of the progress of national/ regional capacity development projects being implemented or being developed.

3.2.5.2 The group noted the report and made the following recommendations:

- More clarity is needed with regard to the role of WMO and its Members' NMHSs in disaster risk reduction;
- The DRR linkage with other WMO programmes should be defined;
- The DRR activities of interest to specific regions should be identified;
- Guidance should be provided on how WMO should work with partners on DRR;
- There should be clarity on linkage between the DRR strategy and activities initiated;
- Progress reports should be presented in a uniform and clear format.

3.3 Recommendations of the presidents of regional associations and technical commissions on WMO Strategic and Operational Planning

3.3.1 The group considered the relevant outcomes of the joint meeting of presidents of regional associations and technical commissions held on 16 January 2013 after their separate meetings held on 14-15 January 2013. The group also took into consideration the outcome of the joint meeting of presidents of regional associations and technical commissions held on 28 October 2012. The group made the following observations:

- Meteorological societies are interested to contribute to the work of WMO and have inventories of experts not necessarily known by the permanent representatives of their respective countries that may be of assistance to the work of WMO;

- Permanent Representatives and presidents of regional associations may not be aware of ongoing interactions among TCs and their respective experts within the countries and regions;
- Interactions among TCs and RAs are high for some activities e.g. the Severe Weather Forecasting Demonstration project;
- RAs are at times not aware of activities implemented by TCs in the regions,
- Limited resources have increased the need for reviewing our working processes so as to ensure that we get maximum benefit from investments.

3.3.2 The group made the following recommendations:

- RAs and TCs should conduct some activities online ;
- RAs should set priorities and TCs should strive to provide solutions to the set priorities in addition to addressing their respective interests as relates to advancing science and technology and its application;
- Secretariat should focus support to RAs and TCs with a view to enhance their interactions;
- Future meetings should discuss some show-case examples and identified problems in the interactions of RAs and TCs;
- The TCs should address the different levels of RAs as relates to emerging technologies;
- RAs and TCs should share information on their experts to assist in identifying existing expertise that can be used by RAs and TCs in various areas of interactions;
- WMO should consider the support they may need from Meteorological Societies including the possibility of involving them in resource mobilization;
- The monitoring of jointly implemented activities needs to be improved and the responsibilities for monitoring clearly established;
- The sharing of reports of sessions of experts and managed groups should be promoted as one of the means for enhancing communication and interactions among the RAs and TCs;
- Experiences gained through the GFCS should be used for developing mechanisms for enhancing interactions between RAs and TCs;
- The RAs should consider the best way to use the resources they have;
- The Secretariat should establish a web-portal to facilitate enhanced interactions between RAs and TCs.

4. CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT OF WMO PROCESSES AND PRACTICES

4.0.1 The Chair of the Task Group on Continuous Improvement of WMO Processes and Practices (TG-CIP), Mr John Hirst, informed the group that the TG-CIP had not met and appreciated the initiatives presented to the group for consideration. He assured the group of the availability of the TG-CIP to further the development of the initiatives as will be requested by the group.

4.1 Non-Controversial Documents

4.1.1 The proposals on conditions and procedures under which session documents can be considered and processed as 'non controversial' were presented by the Assistant Secretary-General, Ms Elena Manaenkova. The group considered the proposals and made the following recommendations:

- The approach should be introduced and used at EC-65;
- *The non-controversial documents should not have any decisions that may have financial or institutional or political implications for the Organization;
- The chair of a session should seek the consensus of the session on treating a document as non-controversial.

* Revised on 26 April by a member of EC WG/SOP

4.2 Terms of Reference of regional associations and Mechanisms for better coordination between the regional associations and technical commissions in the WMO Integrated Planning and Implementation Process

4.2.1 As a follow up of Resolution 1 (EC-64), Review of the role and responsibilities of regional associations, the group reviewed proposals on the definition of role and responsibilities of regional associations and mechanisms for better coordination between the regional associations and technical commissions in the WMO integrated planning and implementation process. Noting the current provisions of the WMO Convention and the General Regulations, as well as further tasks and responsibilities assigned to regional associations by Congress decisions (including responsibilities outlined in the WMO Technical Regulations), a draft description of the roles and responsibilities of the associations was proposed, structured into the following categories:

- Organizing and coordinating regional activities;
- Identifying and addressing needs of Members;
- Establishing regional networks and facilities;
- Regional planning and monitoring as part of the WMO integrated planning process;
- Establishing adequate regional subsidiary bodies structure; and
- Building and promoting regional partnership.

4.2.2 The group considered the proposals that could serve as the basis of defining the roles and responsibilities of the regional associations with further refinements and made the following observations:

- The discussion should be extended to the whole area of how the Organization is conducting regional business;
- The text should outline better the “regional level” and “national level” of cooperation and activities;
- The convention does not give RAs an executing role unless called upon by Congress;
- Take into consideration that working structures vary across RAs.

4.2.3 The meeting discussed further proposals for enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of the regional associations work. Among them was a proposal for having more frequent but shorter and more focused sessions of RAs, e.g., every two years. The advantages were seen in better engagement of Members into the regional coordination and implementation activities, aligning the planning and monitoring processes within the Organization. The group noted, however, that there was a need for comprehensive evaluation of all the implications, including the cost and workload for both the Secretariat and the Members.

4.2.4 The group supported the proposal for developing a set of Guidelines on the WMO integrated planning and implementation process. Such Guidelines would ensure a consistent approach followed by all constituent bodies with regard to the principles, procedures and formats in setting their tasks, key outcomes and KPIs.

4.2.5 The group made the following recommendations:

- The terms of reference for RA's should be broad, flexible, and reduce the burden of reporting;
- The proposal should be taken to EC-65 with improvement for guidance on further development and be reviewed by the next meeting of the group in 2014 with a possibility of consideration by Cg-18;
- Implementation using regional work structure that involve regional experts and other bodies should be highlighted;
- Examples on working structures involving RAs and TCs should be provided to enhance clarity on their respective roles;

- The proposal for RAs and TCs to hold a short meeting every two years should include the implications as relates to the cost to governments and Secretariat;
- RAs should consider holding the first session at the Congress.

4.3 Improved practices for Planning, Scheduling and Coordination of Constituent Body Meetings, including shortening Sessions of EC and Congress

4.3.1 The Chair requested the group to consider the working processes of constituent body sessions, the structures that support the EC, the necessary changes that do not compromise the debates on essential matters; and the possibility of implementing changes that would release resources for implementing programme activities. The group observed that the duration of EC has continued to reduce despite the increase in the agenda to include new initiatives such as the GFCS, WIGOS, WIS and other emerging needs.

4.3.2 The group made the following recommendations:

- The length of EC sessions should be based on the agenda;
- The Organization should aim at getting the highest value from sessions of constituent bodies;
- Continual improvement in the preparation of EC documents, including enhancing the visibility of issues of significance in a document, would help reduce the duration of sessions;
- The issues presented to the EC should be clear to inform decision;
- Consideration should be made on reducing the time taken at EC to receive reports on sessions of RAs and TCs by introducing other methods for receiving inputs from RAs and TCs that may include early submission of the reports and a process for the Secretariat to synthesize information that is needed to inform a decisions by the EC;
- The sessions should reduce the time taken to look back and use more time to consider the future by reporting only on what would influence the decisions on the future;
- The changes should be well managed to avoid over stretching the capacity of the Secretariat.

4.3.3 The group agreed to look at EC substructures and revisit the issue at their next meeting in 2014. It requested its Task Group on Continuous improvement to continue with the process.

4.4 Vision for the Future Structure of WMO

4.4.1 The topic was introduced by the Chair. The group made the following observations:

- The need for more transparency in programme activities

4.4.2 The group made the following recommendations:

- The changes should be guided by the opportunities that could benefit the Organization;
- Communication among RAs, TCs and Secretariat should be improved;
- The Organization should be proactive as relates to compliance to its Standards;
- Utilization of new systems such as WIGOS and WIS should be enhanced.

5. WMO MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M&E) SYSTEM

5.1.1 The progress on the implementation of WMO Monitoring and Evaluation System was presented by Mr William Nyakwada, who informed the group of the results of the survey on the impacts of achieved results on Members; progress on deliverables based on self-assessment, staffing and capacity building; and the review of Key Outcomes (KOs), Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and the questionnaire on impacts of achieved results on Members. The group noted the report and made the following observations:

- The process is maturing and moving in the right direction;
- The need to include the user perspective in the assessment of impacts of achieved results;
- The survey provides useful information to the Organization and should motivate Members.

5.1.2 The group made the following recommendations:

- The benefits from the ability of the Organization to organize Members' NMHSs to bring their collective knowledge and resources to meet their respective mandates at national, regional and global levels should be taken into consideration in the implementation of monitoring and evaluation system;
- The M&E System should be kept simple with a focus on programme outputs;
- The coordination with RAs should be enhanced to improve the level of response to questionnaires;
- The indicators should have baselines and targets;
- The tool on Country Profile Database should be used to enable Members provide information on progress and priorities;
- The information gathered through the survey should inform decisions on follow-up actions;
- The number of indicators should be reduced.

6. THE ROLE AND OPERATION OF NMHSs

6.1 The Co-chair of the WG/CWE, Mr Mieczyslaw S. Ostojki, Second Vice-President, informed the group that WG/CWE had not held a meeting that would have enabled them to provide input to the revision of WMO Statement as requested by EC-64. He indicated that the review of WMO Statement was amongst the issues that the group would consider in an e-forum to be held in February 2013.

6.2 The group noted the report and recommended that the review of the WMO Statement on the role and operation of NMHSs for Directors to address the roles of the NMHSs in climate services, as relates to all components of the GFCS, should be concluded urgently and the draft Statement presented to EC-65 for consideration.

7. PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MADRID ACTION PLAN

7.1 Ms Haleh Kootval presented progress in the implementation of the Madrid Action Plan over the five years since 2007. She informed the group that in response to request by EC-64, work is underway for the preparation of an authoritative joint WMO-World Bank publication on the methodologies for the assessment of social and economic benefits of meteorological and hydrological services provided by Members. Pilot projects may then be designed to test the methodologies in a few countries and the lessons learnt would be shared among Members. The group noted the report and made the following observations:

- Madrid action plan provides a good structure for achieving results;
- Service delivery provides the basis for improvement in funding from governments by winning support from users who would advocate for NMHSs;
- The recognition of WMO and its Members' NMHSs as authorities in meteorology and hydrology is an added value in the climate debate.

7.2 The group made the following recommendations:

- Members from all regions should be involved in the formulation and implementation of projects;
- The Organization should market the benefits of services particularly in the current world with limited resources through the Strategic Plan and Statement on the Role and Operation of NMHSs among other means.

8. THE GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR CLIMATE SERVICES

8.1 Relationships between the Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services (IBCS) and WMO programmes and constituent bodies

8.1.1 Mr Christian Blondin informed the group of the decisions of the Ext-Cg (October, 2012). The group considered the decisions and made the following observations:

- There is no defined linkage/pathway between IBCS and rest of WMO structures;
- EC has the mandate to manage the implementation of decisions of Congress during the intersessional period;
- IB will focus on the implementation of GFCS implementation Plan;
- Only 26 nominations for GFCS focal points had been received by the Secretariat by 23 January 2013 and all the nominees were from NMHSs.

8.1.2 The group made the following recommendations:

- The Secretariat should prepare an information paper for IBCS on how WMO programmes would contribute to the GFCS and the role of EC in programme implementation, and present it to EC-65;
- A process through which IBCS would inform the EC of its initiatives/activities should be established for consideration by EC-65;
- The management groups should be aligned to address the needs of the GFCS once the substructures are established by the IBCS;
- The contribution of WMO to the GFCS should be aligned with the service delivery programme;
- The process to align WMO programmes with the GFCS should not be initiated until the IB has established the GFCS substructures;
- NMHSs should take a leading role in IBCS.

8.2 The GFCS implications on WMO programmes and systems

8.2.1 Mr Christian Blondin informed the group of the decisions of the Ext-Cg (October, 2012). The group considered the decisions and made the following observations:

- The implications of GFCS on WMO programmes and systems are expected to be complex;
- The NMHSs would continue to provide weather, water and climate services;

8.2.2 The group made the following recommendations:

- More clarity should be provided on the possible impacts of the GFCS on the Organization;
- The GFCS elements should be distributed to relevant expected results;
- Synergies should be created between WMO programmes and the relevant elements of the GFCS;
- The contribution of WMO programmes to the implementation of the GFCS should be made clearer;
- There should be more clarity on relationships between the funding agencies and WMO;
- The GFCS implementation should avoid duplication by using existing structures;
- The implementation of the GFCS should take into consideration lessons learned in the provision of weather services.

9. OTHER MATTERS

9.1 Maximum terms for the Secretary-General

9.1.1 Mr Christian Blondin presented the options on the process to be followed up to the seventeenth session of Congress to ensure proper consideration of requested changes to the Convention and General Regulations in relation to the number and duration of terms of the Secretary-General. The group considered the options and made the following observations:

- Political motivation to limit the term of Chief Executives of UN Agencies to two terms;
- The need for adequate time for a Secretary-General to have an impact on the Organization;
- WHO and a number of agencies have two terms of 5 years and their Congress meets annually;

9.1.2 The group recommended that the following options, with the associated implications, be presented to EC-65 for consideration:

- **Opt 1:** Two terms of four years (involves changes on Regulation 198 only)
- **Opt 2:** Two terms of five/six years (involves changes of the Convention, Regulation 198, and many others);
- **Opt 3:** Three terms of four years (no change, status quo)

9.2 Number and distributions of seats in the Executive Council

9.2.1 Mr Christian Blondin presented relevant decisions of congress and EC together with proposals on the process for consideration by the group. The group made the following observations:

- The possibility of other regions requesting for additional seats on the EC;
- The need to have a justification for the request;
- The increase would have financial implications.

9.2.2 The group recommended that EC be informed of the request from RA II, the implications for increasing seats and the criteria for addressing such requests, which should borrow lessons from the functioning of the "gentlemen agreement".

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The group agreed that any further input to be included in the documents to EC-65 should be received by the Secretariat not later than 10 February 2013.

11. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

The session closed at 17.30 on Wednesday, 23 January 2013.

APPENDIX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

WG/SOP members

D. Grimes Chair
I Cacic
D. Cano Villaverde
L. De Leonibus
J. Hirst
L. Makuleni (Ms)
J.R. Mukabana
C. Naranjo Jácome
M.S. Ostojski
P. Taalas
A. Tyagi

Apologies: A.C. Anuforum, M. Hatori, J.L. Hayes, F. Jacq, Zheng G.

Representatives of WG/SOP members

N. Nishide represented M. Hatori
C. Draggon (Ms) represented J.L. Hayes
S. Xiaonong represented Zheng G.

Alternates and Advisors

M. Crowe alternate to D. Grimes
M. Hurtola (Ms) alternate to P. Taalas
G. Maresca) alternate to L. De Leonibus
M. Biasini)
L.M. Michaud)
P. Pagliara (Ms)) advisors to L. De Leonibus
A. Corina (Ms))
E.G. Marco (Ms) advisor to D. Cano Villaverde
S. Gilbert advisor to J. Hirst
J.G. Kongoti)
N.W. Maingi) advisors to J.R. Mukabana
Y. Kanno)
Y. Kumagai) advisors to N. Nishide
Yu Jun advisor to S. Xiaonong

Representatives of WMO Members

Japan	Hideto Orihara, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva (UNOG)
Monaco	Gilles Realini, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Principality of Monaco to UNOG
Serbia	Milan Dacic, Permanent Representative of Serbia with WMO
Slovak Republic	Ján Plavčan, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Slovak Republic to UNOG
Switzerland	Salman Bal, Permanent Mission of Switzerland to UNOG Anita Kunath (Ms), Permanent Mission of Switzerland to UNOG

WMO Secretariat

M. Jarraud	Secretary-General
J. Lengoasa	Deputy Secretary-General
E. Manaenkova (Ms)	Assistant Secretary-General
C. Blondin	Director, Cabinet and External Relations Department
R. Masters	Director, Development and Regional Activities Department
W. Zhang	Director, Observing and Information Systems Department
P. Shi	Director, WMO Information System Branch
H. Kootval (Ms)	Chief, Public Weather Service
H. Puempel	Chief, Aeronautical Meteorology Division
M. Golnaraghi (Ms)	Chief, Disaster Risk Reduction
D. Ivanov	Chief, Europe Office
W. Nyakwada	Strategic Planning and Risk Management Officer, Strategic Planning Office
A. Alexieva (Ms)	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Strategic Planning Office

APPENDIX II

AGENDA

***For Combined Session of EC-WG SOP and CD
(09h30 – 12h30, 21 January 2013)***

1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

3. WMO STRATEGIC PLAN AND OPERATING PLAN 2016-2019

- * *Relates to
SOP Agenda 3.1: WMO Strategic Plan and Operating Plan 2016-2019 and
CD Agenda 7: Future work of the EC-WG/CD*

4. UPDATE ON THE FIVE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- * *Relates to
SOP Agenda 3.2: Update on the Five Strategic Priorities and
CD Agenda 4: Review – WMO Strategy for Capacity Development*

- 4.1. Global Framework for Climate Services
- 4.2. Aviation Meteorological Services
- 4.3. Capacity-building for the developing and least developed countries
- 4.4. Implementation of the WIGOS and WIS
- 4.5. Disaster Risk Reduction

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

6. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

APPENDIX III

AGENDA

- 1. OPENING OF THE SESSION**
 - 2. ADOPTION OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA**
 - 3. WMO STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS**
 - 3.1 WMO Strategic Plan and Operating Plan 2016 – 2019
 - 3.2 Update on the Five Strategic Priorities
 - 3.3 Recommendations of the presidents of regional associations and technical commissions on WMO Strategic and Operational Planning
 - 4. CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT OF WMO PROCESSES AND PRACTICES**
 - 4.1 Non- Controversial Documents
 - 4.2 Terms of Reference of regional associations and Mechanisms for better coordination between the regional associations and technical commissions in the WMO Integrated Planning and Implementation Process
 - 4.3 Improved practices for Planning, Scheduling and Coordination of Constituent Body Meetings, including Shortening Sessions of EC and Congress
 - 4.4 Vision for the Future Structure of WMO
 - 5. WMO MONITORING AND EVALUATION (M&E) SYSTEM**
 - 6. THE ROLE AND OPERATION OF NMHSs**
 - 7. PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MADRID ACTION PLAN**
 - 8. THE GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR CLIMATE SERVICES**
 - 8.1 Relationships between the Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services and WMO programmes and constituent bodies
 - 8.2 The GFCS implications on WMO programmes and systems
 - 9. OTHER MATTERS**
 - 9.1 Maximum terms for the Secretary-General
 - 9.3 Number and distribution of seats in the Executive Council
 - 10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
 - 11. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION**
-