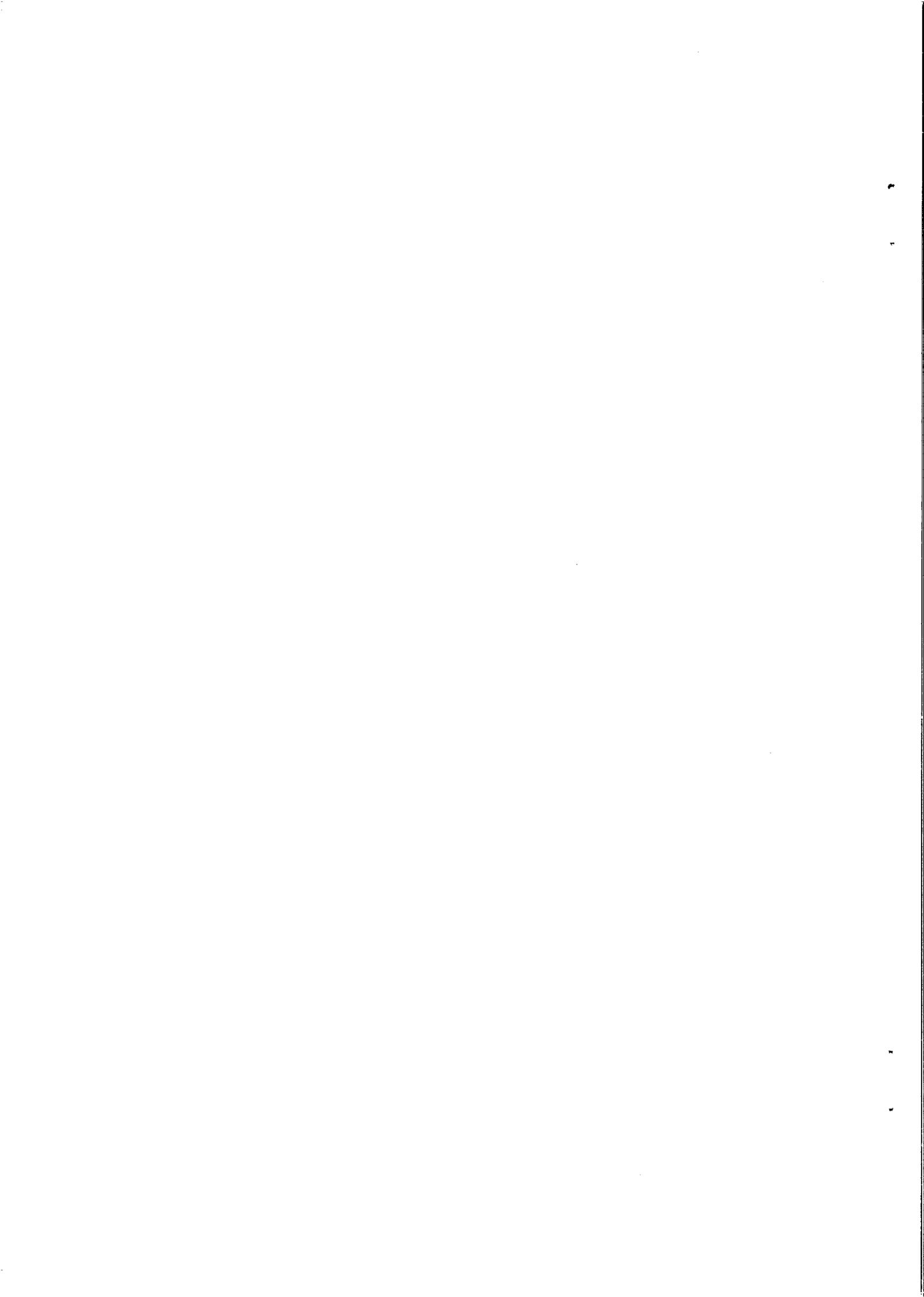


WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

**REPORT
OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE
PROVISIONAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE
ON THE WORLD CLIMATE CONFERENCE - 3
(WCC-3)**

Geneva, Switzerland, 27-28 March 2006



**REPORT OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE PROVISIONAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE
ON THE THIRD WORLD CLIMATE CONFERENCE (WCC-3)
Geneva, Switzerland, 27-28 March 2006**

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING

The second meeting of the Provisional Organizing Committee on WCC-3 was opened on Monday 27 March 2006 at 09:30 a.m. at the WMO Headquarters in Geneva. The list of participants is given in Annex 1. The Deputy Secretary-General welcomed the members of the Committee to WMO and highlighted the progress made by the Committee during its first meeting to identify the goals and outputs for a proposed WCC-3 focused on the advances in and application of seasonal to inter-annual climate prediction (SIP) and adaptation. He noted that much more work is still needed to meet the request from the WMO Executive Council at its 57th meeting, to develop a costed meeting plan and to complete a report to EC-LVIII in its consideration of a proposed WCC-3. He also reminded the Committee that any proposal for a WCC-3 would ultimately require the approval of Congress. In closing, he urged the continued efforts of the Committee to provide the best possible advice for the EC at its 58th session.

2. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

Due to the limited availability of the current Chairman (Dr Noorian), a discussion of a process to elect a co-chair for the Committee and to chair the second meeting of the POC was held. After a short discussion, the Committee selected Dr Don MacIver (Canada) as co-chair for the Committee and as the chair for the second meeting of the Provisional Organizing Committee on a World Climate Conference three (WCC-3). The Committee then adopted the agenda, which is given in Annex 2, as drafted and agreed to work from 9AM to 5:30 PM with 1 ½ hours for lunch.

3. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS ARISING FROM FIRST MEETING OF THE PROVISIONAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

3.1 Participation of UN Agencies

Dr Nyenzi reviewed the contacts made with the other UN and international agencies on their interest in participating in a WCC-3. Overall the responses have been positive. A summary of the responses from agencies to date is given in Annex 3. The committee stated that coordination needed to be further enhanced with financial agencies, such as the World Bank, European Commission, with regional organizations (e.g., SPREP and SOPAC), and with close partners, such as UNEP and UNDP. The Committee expressed its concern over maintaining continuity in planning, coordinating, and organizing the lead time activities for a WCC-3 over the next year prior to any decision by the 15th session of the WMO Congress. It suggested that the EC consider continuing the work of the POC on the science agenda and the interagency coordination started by the WMO secretariat, until a final decision on WCC-3 is reached. This would help to keep other agencies involved and informed on further developments. Also there is a need to start as soon as possible on lead-time items, such as organizing nationally and mobilizing resources.

The Committee noted that a WCC-3 with a theme focused on seasonal to inter-annual prediction would complement the climate change focus of the IPCC Conference on the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report (AR4), since they would discuss climate and adaptation science but from different perspectives. There was some concern that due to the hiatus between the IPCC AR4 and the proposed WCC-3, there would be some pressure to discuss the new science on climate change at a WCC-3. Generally this was not viewed as a problem, since the science of climate prediction requires improved understanding on all time scales. The policy issues for the proposed WCC-3 would focus on how seasonal to inter-annual prediction can best be applied to current societal problems. Further it was noted that SIP issues are largely outside the interest of the UNFCCC.

As requested by EC-LVIII, the WMO Secretary-General communicated the progress on a WCC-3 proposal and the results from the first meeting of the Provisional Organizing Committee to Permanent Representatives of Member countries. In response, the Secretariat received feedback from the PRs of a few Members that addressed a number of concerns. The Committee urged continued attention to the views of three Members and recommended continued liaison.

The meeting received the feedback from EC Advisory Group on Climate and Environment (EC-AGCE), which commended the POC on its current efforts. The EC-AGCE noted that consideration of a global infrastructure for a seasonal and inter-annual prediction would be an important step by the high level segment of WCC-3.

4. DEVELOPMENT OF A COSTED MEETING PLAN

Before considering the specific elements on this agenda item, the Committee reviewed the scientific basis for a proposed WCC-3 and the structure and timeline for the conference. It developed and is recommending that the overarching theme for the Conference be **Climate Prediction for Decision Making: Focusing on Seasonal to Inter-annual Timescales**. It further identified 4 scientific sub-themes:

- Advancing climate prediction science,
- Maximizing global development, exchange, and sharing of climate prediction information and products,
- Applications and socio-economic benefits of climate prediction,
- Using climate predictions in decision making.

The Committee also recommended that in light of the importance of a proposed WCC-3 to WMO and the ever-increasing interest in the application of climate prediction to many societal issues, WMO should plan for a large conference with a 1000 or more participants but one that is completed within a 5-day workweek. It further proposed that within a 5-day conference, the structure would be:

- Opening session, including keynote addresses, on Monday AM,
- Science sessions from Monday PM to Thursday AM, and
- High-level segment from Thursday PM to Friday PM.

4.1 Budget Assessment for WCC-3

The Secretariat provided the costs of 3 past conferences (Second World Climate Conference in 1990 (2,548,661 CHF), the 14th WMO Congress in 2003 (2,277,139 CHF), and the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2005 (5,202,508 USD). The Committee discussed the costs and structure of 4 possible scenarios for a WCC-3. These scenarios would contain the options for either a 5- or 7-day conference, which could either be a small meeting (about 400 participants) or large conference (greater than 1000 participants) conference. Estimates of the costs of these four scenarios were made by the Secretariat are given in the table below:

<u>Size</u>	<u>Length</u>	<u>Estimated Cost</u>
Large	5-day	4.81 million CHF
Small	5-day	3.18 million
Large	7-day	5.18 million
Small	7-day	3.46 million

The Committee agreed that given the importance and expected interest in such a conference, the planning should be for a large event with attendance expected to be in the range of

1000 or more participants held to 5 days and is so recommending to the EC-LVIII. Depending on the venue chosen and the political level of the attendees, there could be also significant costs for facilities and security that have not been factored into the estimates above.

The major cost drivers in these estimates were travel and interpretation. Costs for interpretation increase substantially if the conference is organized with parallel sessions as will be discussed and recommended by the Committee in agenda item 4.3. One possible way to lower costs might be to have full interpretation in the 6 UN languages for the High Level, Opening and Plenary segments, but to have an English only option for the science sessions due to the high cost for interpretation of the parallel science sessions. Another potential cost driver will be the need for pre-sessions to refine the science agenda and to better define the issues and outputs for the High Level Segment. Thus, the Committee urged the Secretariat to continue its research into the potential costs with a view to providing more detailed and better-refined estimates for consideration by EC-LVIII.

4.2 Strategy for mobilization of resources

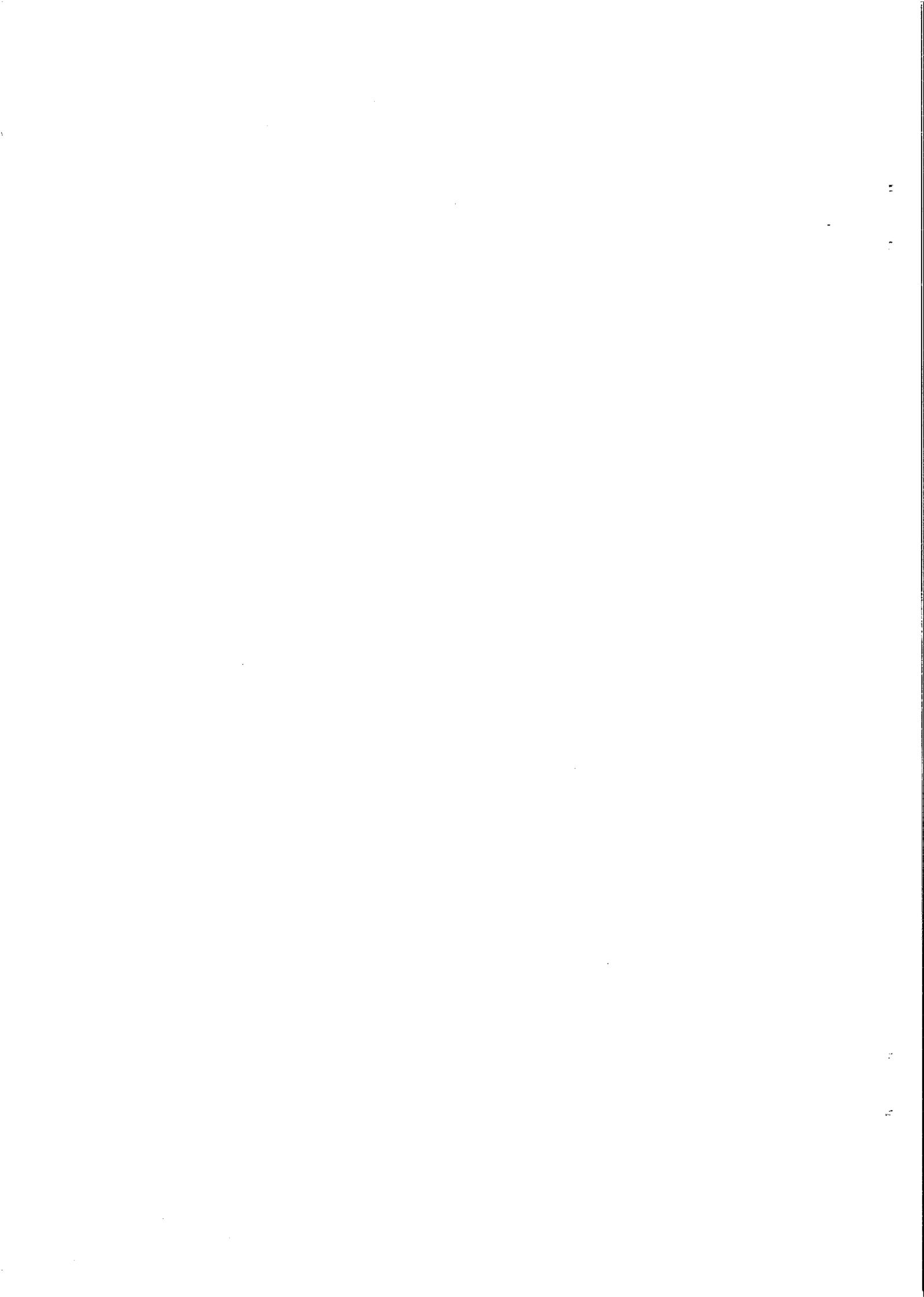
The WMO Executive Council has proposed that support for a WCC-3 should be from extra budgetary resources, not from the regular budget. A strategy for resource mobilization was discussed. This would require resource mobilization primarily from national sources, such as individual governmental agencies, NGOs, foundations, the private sector, etc or possibly from selected international organizations. The Committee concurred that if WMO agrees to a WCC-3, a financial advisory group, reporting to EC, needs to be established as soon as possible thereupon.

4.3 Outcomes for scientific segment

The Committee discussed the structure of the opening session and the science sessions together. The opening session should set the stage for the proposed WCC-3 and proposed that the opening talks be limited to the host country, WMO, and a few selected other speakers to be chosen to highlight the Conference. It further proposed that a dynamic and high profile keynote speaker should give an address that lays out the rationale for the Conference and the outcomes that it is expected to produce. Then there should be a panel of experts who would articulate in more detail the main messages of the Conference and raise the salient issues to be discussed at the Conference.

The Committee then considered in detail the structure of the science sessions and developed two possible options for consideration by the EC. The scientific topics for presentation would cover the same set of overarching issues – (1) Advancing climate prediction science; (2) Maximizing global exchange, sharing, and application of climate prediction products; (3) Applications and socio-economic benefits of climate prediction; and (4) Using climate predictions in decision making. Also, the outputs of a WCC-3 under both options would be focused on the expected outcomes of the High Level segment and would relate to specific outputs that would further the aims of the WMO Member States, the science and practice of climate prediction, especially on the seasonal to inter-annual time scales, and on the application of seasonal to inter-annual climate predictions to socio-economic problems and issues at the international, regional, and national levels. However there would be salient differences in the depth and breadth of presentations and in the number of scientists directly involved in the actual conference proceedings.

- (a) One option (Meeting Plan A) would be composed of a set of 8 major topical sessions, held over 2 ½ days plus a ½ day plenary to summarize results. This option is modelled on the approach taken at the St. Raphael Ocean Conference of 1999 in which selected expert speakers would present summary issue papers in a series of plenary sessions. This option would require extensive pre-conference planning, coordination, liaison, and agreement on the draft summary conclusions prior to the conference to identify and analyze the main issues within the 8 topical sessions and to agree on the major



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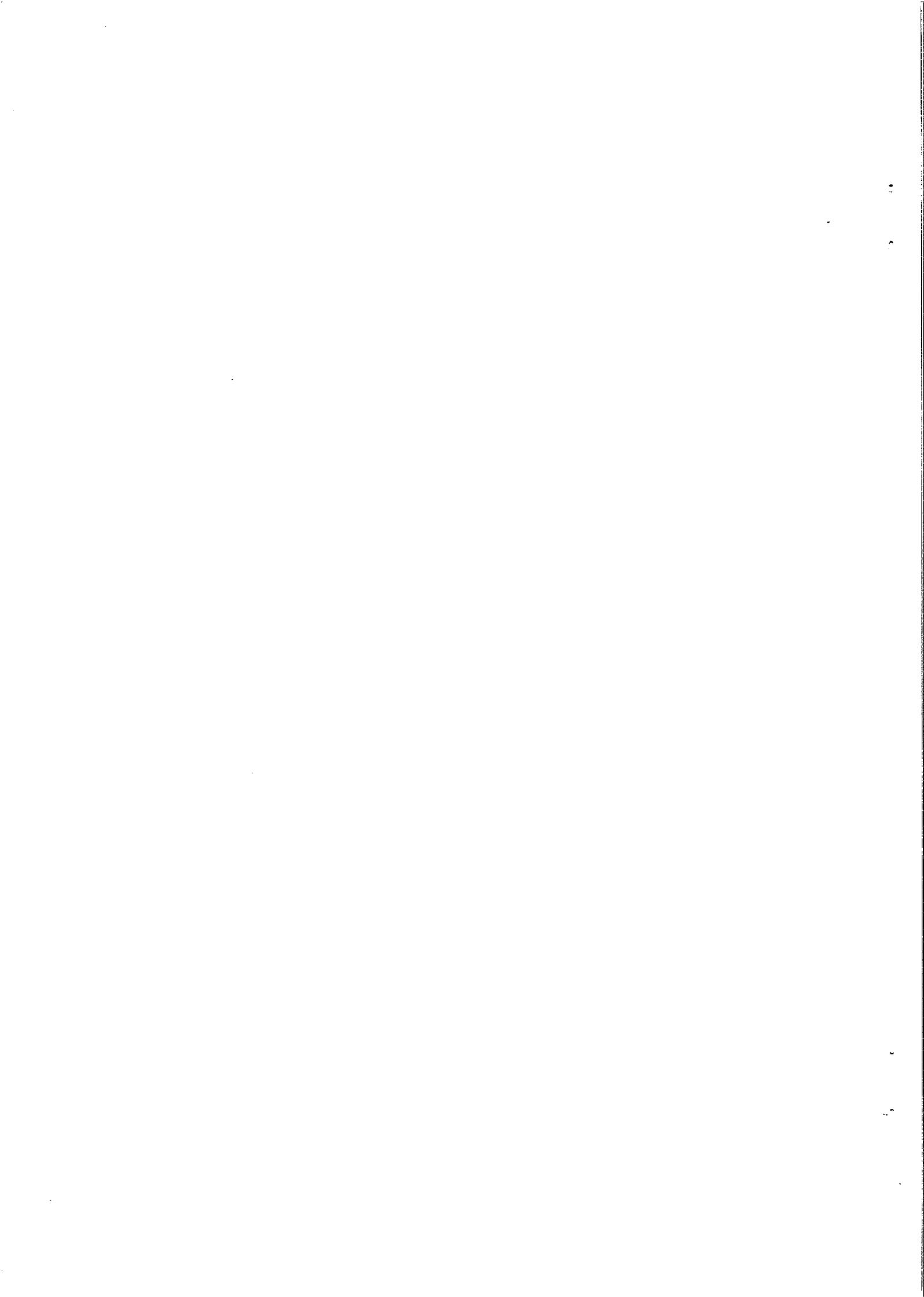
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AGENDA

- 1. OPENING OF THE MEETING (10 Min.)**
- 2. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING (15 Min.)**
 - 2.1 Election of the chairman
 - 2.2 Adoption of the agenda
 - 2.3 Working arrangements
- 3. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS FROM FIRST MEETING OF THE PROVISIONAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE (30-40 Min.)**
 - 3.1 Secretary General's Consultation with UN Agencies and WMO Members
- 4. DEVELOPMENT OF A COSTED MEETING PLAN (3 Hrs.)**
 - 4.1 Budget Assessment for WCC-3
 - 4.2 Strategy for mobilization of resources
 - 4.3 Outcomes for scientific segment (Description of Key elements, Programmes, Implementation of Projects, etc.)
 - 4.4 Definition of issues for High Level Segment (Content, Outcome, participants, etc.)
- 5. FINALIZATION OF REPORT TO EC-LVIII (3 Hrs.)**
 - 5.1 Full Report (Summary of Discussions)
 - 5.2 Recommendations to EC (for inclusion in the EC-LVIII Doc.)
(Annex I to Full Report)
 - 5.3 Costed Meeting Plan
(Annex II to Full Report)
 - 5.4 Presentation of a brief report to the EC-LVIII and selection of a Rapporteur for this purpose
- 6. FUTURE ACTIONS REQUIRED FOR A WCC-3 (2 Hrs.)**
 - 6.1 Building support at national level
 - 6.2 Building support at interagency level
 - 6.3 Development of a Discussion Paper for WCC-3
- 7. OTHER BUSINESS**
- 8. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION**



SUMMARY OF THE RESPONSES FROM UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

The WMO, through the Secretary-General and the Secretariat, has consulted with 14 international bodies, including FAO, IPCC, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFCCC and WHO on potential partnership in proposed WCC-3. Overall these agencies responded favourably to WMO organizing a World Climate Conference three (WCC-3).

1. UNEP

The Executive Director of UNEP has welcomed WMO's proposal and recognized that climate was fundamental to the welfare of man and critical to the realization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). He particularly supported the issue of '*Seasonal to inter-annual climate prediction and the related application to societal problems*'. Furthermore, UNEP has noted that although the topic has not directly involved UNFCCC, it would be especially of interest to them since climate change could impact climate variability and through that the intensity and frequency of extreme climate events. UNEP has promised to participate in all aspects of the planning for Conference and has designated a Focal Point for this activity.

2. IOC OF UNESCO

Mentioned that as a result of its active participation, the 1st and 2nd World Climate Conferences had helped establish the priorities and direction of many IOC's ocean climate activities. IOC supports the highlighting of advances in climate prediction and its applications thus linking science to society is the theme of the Conference. Since the ocean is a principal driver in climate and climate change, IOC wishes to ensure that ocean-related climate issues are thoroughly integrated into the agenda of climate programs. IOC wishes to work with an interagency group to develop WCC-3 objectives and has nominated the head of the ocean science section to serve as Focal Point and be supported by two scientists on ocean-carbon and ocean-observations.

3. FAO

The Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has confirmed its support for a WCC-3 and expressed willingness to cooperate as one of the organizers of the Conference. He will communicate the name of a Focal Point in due course.

4. UNWTO (World Tourism Organization)

The Secretary General of UNWTO supports the idea of WCC-3 and emphasized the application of climate information in tourism and other sectors. He expressed willingness in participating in an interagency committee for preparation of a WCC-3.

5. ICSU

The Executive Director of ICSU noted that ICSU was actively involved in the 1st and 2nd World Climate Conferences and welcomed the same opportunity as a major partner for the WCC-3. The issue of WCC-3 would be put on the agenda for the ICSU Committee on Scientific Planning and Review (CSPR). ICSU will communicate the name of a Focal Point to be represented in an Interagency Committee.

6. WHO

Has not yet responded. A reminder has been sent on 17 February 2006.

7. UNFCCC

Acting Executive Director of UNFCCC has endorsed a WCC-3 and the participation and cooperation of the UNFCCC in the Conference.

8. ISDR

Has responded very positively in supporting a WCC-3.

9. IPCC

Dr Pachauri, Chairman of IPCC, believes that a WCC-3 would be an extremely important and timely initiative and on behalf of the IPCC, confirmed participation in the planning and implementation of the Conference.

10. Others

Letters were also sent UNDP, GEO, ISDR, IGBP, and UNCCD, but no response has been received as yet.

SUMMARY OF THE RESPONSES FROM WMO MEMBERS

1. Netherlands

Welcomed a possible WCC-3 and the progress that has been made in the planning process. However, the PR of Netherlands was surprised for the focus on '*Seasonal to interannual and possibly decadal forecasting*', noting that scientifically the topic was interesting but didn't appear to be appropriated for a global conference at a time of increasing concern over climate change. It has proposed that the conference should address attribution and predictability on centennial timescales. In the meantime, he has noted that IPCC was planning for an international conference as part of outreach for AR4, to address different user groups, and believed that a WMO scientific conference on natural and anthropogenic climate in parallel with an IPCC Conference would lead to a number of complications. The PR has finally suggested a scientific WCC-3 on '*Natural and Anthropogenic Climate Variations and Predictions*' to be held in 2008.

2. Armenia

Welcomed the idea of WCC-3 and its topic on seasonal, inter-annual to decadal prediction. Such an activity has been on the agenda for Armenian State Hydrometeorological and Monitoring Services since 2003 and supports applications of climate predictions to agriculture, water resources and health sectors.

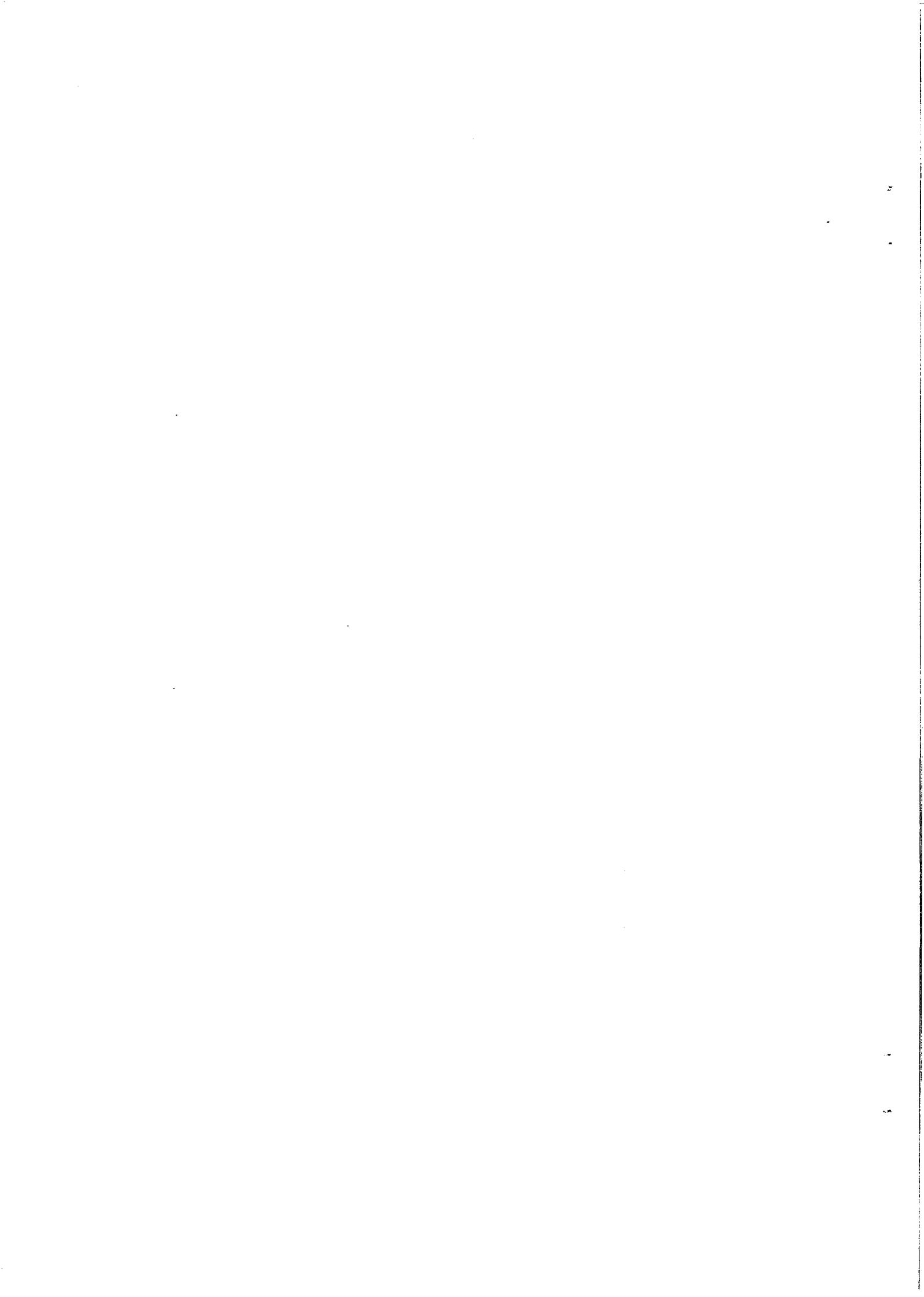
3. Russian Federation

ROSHYDROMET supported the proposal to consider scientific developments in seasonal to inter-annual predictions and, if possible, predictions for 10-year period as a general theme for WCC-3. It further proposed that specific presentations (reports, poster reports, round tables, etc.) on climate monitoring, climate change and related extreme hydrometeorological and climate phenomena as well as socio-economic aspects of climate change impacts and adaptation be included in the Conference. It proposed the consideration of the following topics:

- Expanding and improving networks of regular meteorological observations in the context of using observational data in climate investigations and modeling,
- Interrelations of frequency and intensity of extreme weather phenomena to observed and predicted climate change,
- Extreme climate phenomena impacts on production activity of different sectors of the economy,
- Problems of adaptation to climate changes,
- Climate and climate variability impacts on public health,
- Contribution of the largest ecosystems into the balance of greenhouse gases with regard to climate change

4. EC Advisory Group on Climate and Environment (EC-AGCE)

Commended the work of the Provisional Organizing Committee (POC) for a proposed World Climate Conference three (WCC-3) and noted that other substantive climate science issues and its impacts including uncertainties at the regional scale should be included in the agenda. It noted that the issue of a global infrastructure for a seasonal and inter-annual prediction would be an important step, if considered by High Level Segment of the conference.



WCC-3/POC-2, Annex 4

WCC-3 MEETING PLAN A

OUTLINE FOR PLENARY SESSIONS

Monday

- Opening Remarks by hosting government, WMO, and participating sponsors
- Break w/Day 1 Exhibits

Session 1: Keynote Addresses

- Lunch

Session 2: Advances and Challenges in Climate Prediction for Sustainable Development

- Break w/Day 1 Exhibits

Session 3: Improving Climate Prediction Skills

- Reception w/ Day 1 Exhibits

Tuesday

Session 4: Socio-Economic Benefits of Climate Prediction I

- Break w/ Day 2 Exhibits

Session 5: Socio-Economic Benefits of Climate Prediction II

- Lunch

Session 6: Observing Systems for Climate Prediction 1

- Break w/ Day 2 Exhibits

Session 7: Observing Systems for Climate Prediction 2

- Reception w/ Day 2 Exhibits

Wednesday

Session 8: World Data Networks

- Break w/ Day 3 Exhibits

Session 9: Advances and Challenges in Early Warning Systems

- Lunch

Session 10: Advances and Opportunities in Climate research, impacts and adaptation science

- Break w/ Day 3 Exhibits

Session 11: Climate Services: Sharing the Knowledge

- Reception w/ Day 3 Exhibits

Thursday

Session 12: Challenges and structures for advancing climate prediction and its benefits

- Break

Session 13: Summary Recommendations for the path forward

- End of Science Conference
- Lunch

Begin Ministerial Meeting

WCC-3 MEETING PLAN B

OUTLINE FOR PARALLEL SESSIONS

Session A – Advancing Climate Prediction Science

Monday pm	Observing systems, including networks and satellites
•	Requirements for observations for prediction systems and validation
Tuesday am	Seasonal to inter-annual predictions
•	Current capability
•	Future prospects
Tuesday pm	Climate predictions
•	Current capability
•	Future prospects
Wednesday am	Predicting extreme events and regional climate variability and change
•	Extreme events
•	Regional climate variability and change
•	Rapid or irreversible climate change
Wednesday pm	Seamless prediction
•	Current capability
•	Future prospects
Thursday am	Plenary – reports from the parallel sessions

**Session B – Maximizing global development, exchange,
and sharing of climate prediction products**

Monday pm	Successes of the World Climate Programme
Tuesday am	Developing, exchanging, and sharing of seasonal forecast information and products
Tuesday pm	Developing early warning information and products
Wednesday am	Using seasonal forecasts to adapt to climate variability
Wednesday pm	Developing, exchanging, and sharing of climate change information and products
Thursday am	Plenary

**Session C – Applications and socio-economic benefits of climate prediction
(including climate as a resource)**

Monday pm	Energy and the built environment
Tuesday am	Agriculture/food security
Tuesday pm	Water resources
Wednesday am	Health
Wednesday pm	Vulnerable ecosystems (e.g., forests, coastal zones, arctic, marine)
Thursday am	Plenary

Session D – Using climate predictions for decision making

Monday pm	Natural hazard management and disaster prevention and mitigation
•	Multi-hazard warning systems and emergency response
Tuesday am	Integrating predictions into planning and policy
•	Public sector
•	Private sector
Tuesday pm	Role of international & regional fora / connection with other multilateral environmental agreements
Wednesday am	Assessing infrastructures/institutions for using climate predictions
Wednesday pm	Defining / adapting / optimising institutions to future needs for using climate predictions
Thursday am	Plenary

**CLIMATE PREDICTIONS FOR DECISION MAKING:
FOCUSING ON SEASONAL TO INTER-ANNUAL TIMESCALES**

EXPECTATIONS FROM THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT

- **Advancing climate prediction science**
 - Promoting the development of seasonal to inter-annual climate prediction science;
 - Facilitating a global infrastructure for strengthening regional and national capacity for a seasonal to inter-annual prediction system.
- **Maximizing development, exchange, and sharing of climate prediction products**
 - Establishing the mechanisms and opportunities for sharing climate prediction information and products;
 - Developing an effective climate Early Warning System, e.g., by recommending a menu of practical response actions to near-term climate risks, including the use of indigenous practices of early warning.
- **Applications and socio-economic benefits of climate prediction**
 - Developing seasonal to inter-annual climate prediction goals for WMO, its Members, and public and private sector entities;
 - Defining strategies for the enhancement of application of climate prediction information and products for climate risk management.
- **Using climate predictions in decision making**
 - Strengthening the regional and national response systems to climate variability, especially in the developing and least developed countries frequently affected by natural disasters caused by climate extremes;
 - Extending available climate products to include annual prognostic analyses at the regional / global levels as well as to enhance the use of existing products by decision makers in key sectors throughout society;
 - Optimising the global, regional national institutional mechanisms for using climate predictions in decision making.