

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

**THIRTEENTH
WORLD METEOROLOGICAL CONGRESS**

GENEVA, 4–26 MAY 1999

PROCEEDINGS

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Secretariat of the World Meteorological Organization - Geneva - Switzerland

REPORTS OF RECENT WMO SESSIONS

Congress and Executive Council

- 846 — **Executive Council**. Forty-eighth session, Geneva, 11–21 June 1996.
867 — **Executive Council**. Forty-ninth session, Geneva, 10–20 June 1997.
880 — **Twelfth World Meteorological Congress**. Proceedings, Geneva, 30 May–21 June 1995.
883 — **Executive Council**. Fiftieth session, Geneva, 16–26 June 1998.
902 — **Thirteenth World Meteorological Congress**. Geneva, 4–26 May 1999.
903 — **Executive Council**. Fifty-first session, Geneva, 27–29 May 1999.
915 — **Executive Council**. Fifty-second session, Geneva, 16–26 May 2000.
929 — **Executive Council**. Fifty-third session, Geneva, 5–15 June 2001.

Regional associations

- 874 — **Regional Association III** (South America). Twelfth session, Salvador, 17–26 September 1997.
882 — **Regional Association VI** (Europe). Twelfth session, Tel Aviv, 18–27 May 1998.
890 — **Regional Association V** (South–West Pacific). Twelfth session, Denpasar, 14–22 September 1998.
891 — **Regional Association I** (Africa). Twelfth session, Arusha, 14–23 October 1998.
924 — **Regional Association II** (Asia). Twelfth session, Seoul, 19–27 September 2000.
927 — **Regional Association IV** (North and Central America). Thirteenth session, Maracay, 28 March–6 April 2001.

Technical commissions

- 870 — **Commission for Climatology**. Twelfth session, Geneva, 4–14 August 1997.
879 — **Commission for Atmospheric Sciences**. Twelfth session, Skopje, 23 February–4 March 1998.
881 — **Commission for Instruments and Methods of Observation**. Twelfth session, Casablanca, 4–12 May 1998.
893 — **Commission for Basic Systems**. Extraordinary session, Karlsruhe, 30 September–9 October 1998.
899 — **Commission for Aeronautical Meteorology**. Eleventh session, Geneva, 2–11 March 1999.
900 — **Commission for Agricultural Meteorology**. Twelfth session, Accra, 18–26 February 1999.
921 — **Commission for Hydrology**. Eleventh session, Abuja, 6–16 November 2000.
923 — **Commission for Basic Systems**. Twelfth session, Geneva, 29 November–8 December 2000.
931 — **Joint WMO/IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology**. First session, Akureyri, 19–29 June 2001.

In accordance with the decision of Thirteenth Congress,
the reports are published in the following languages:

Congress	— Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
Executive Council	— Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
Regional Association I	— Arabic, English, French
Regional Association II	— Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian
Regional Association III	— English, Spanish
Regional Association IV	— English, Spanish
Regional Association V	— English, French
Regional Association VI	— Arabic, English, French, Russian
Technical Commissions	— Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish

WMO issues authoritative publications on scientific and technical aspects of meteorology, hydrology and related subjects. These include manuals, guides, training materials, public information and the WMO *Bulletin*.

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2001**

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LIST OF PERSONS ATTENDING THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

A. Representatives of WMO Members

<i>Member</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Capacity</i>
Afghanistan, Islamic State of	H. Tandar	Principal delegate
Albania	K. Krisafi M. Sanxhaku M. Gega (Ms)	Principal delegate Alternate Delegate
Algeria	F. Ounnar A. Bourbala A. Bekhouche M. Debihi O. Ghalem (Ms) A. Guerst A. Ould-Amara A. Terchi A. Zehar M. Merabet A. Lagha	Principal delegate Alternate Delegate Delegate Delegate Delegate Delegate Delegate Delegate Delegate Delegate
Angola	S. Pegado Da Silva (Ms) M. Constantino	Principal delegate Delegate
Argentina	R. A. Sonzini A. Repetti (Ms)	Principal delegate Delegate
Armenia	G. S. Kodjoyan S. Ohanian	Principal delegate Delegate
Australia	J. W. Zillman D. J. Gauntlett (4-8.5) V. K. Tsui (10-26.5) J. T. Davidson D. J. Gauntlett (10-26.5) P. Lawrence B. R. Morton K. J. O'Loughlin S. M. Pearce (Ms) V. K. Tsui (4-9.5) E. Van der Wal	Principal delegate Alternate Alternate Delegate Delegate Delegate Delegate Delegate Delegate Delegate Delegate Adviser
Austria	P. Steinhauer T. Loidl F. Neuwirth	Principal delegate Alternate Delegate
Azerbaijan	Z. F. Musaev Z. Farzaliev	Principal delegate Alternate
Bahamas	K. L. Lightbourne A. W. Rolle	Principal delegate Alternate
Bahrain	A. Majeed H. Isa H. B. Salman Al-Khalifa	Principal delegate Delegate
Bangladesh	E. M. Hossain	Principal delegate
Barbados	C. R. Layne S. Rudder (Ms)	Principal delegate Adviser
Belarus	Y. M. Pokoumeiko S. I. Mikhnevich S. Anoshko	Principal delegate Alternate Delegate

<i>Member</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Capacity</i>
Belgium	H. Malcorps G. Demarée E. Honnay (Ms) J.-M. Noirfalisse A. Quinet M. Vinck	Principal delegate Delegate Delegate Delegate Delegate Delegate
Belize	C. Depradine	Principal delegate
Benin	F. J. B. Hounton	Principal delegate
Bolivia	C. Diaz J. Loayza	Principal delegate Delegate
Bosnia and Herzegovina	E. Sarac M. Muminovic S. Avdic (Ms) S. Fadzhan M. Kordic N. Kustrinovic	Principal delegate Alternate Delegate Delegate Delegate Delegate
Botswana	G. K. Ramothwa (Ms) M. K. Mathlaga (Ms)	Principal delegate Delegate
Brazil	A. C. Athayde J. M. Rezende R. Coimbra A. M. Dall'Antonia H. D. Hofer F. Meyer	Principal delegate Alternate Delegate Delegate Delegate Delegate
British Caribbean Territories	T. W. Sutherland C. Depradine	Principal delegate Delegate
Brunei Darussalam	H. A. K. Tengah A. A. Latif	Principal delegate Delegate
Bulgaria	V. Sharov I. Krastelnikov	Principal delegate Delegate
Burkina Faso	N. F. Ouattara	Principal delegate
Burundi	A. Nahayo E. Kabushemeye-Ntamwana (Ms)	Principal delegate Alternate
Cameroon	B. H. Mbifngwen R. Owona Etende C. M. Bomba	Principal delegate Alternate Delegate
Canada	G. A. McBean D. Grimes B. Angle P. Chen S. Cormie (Ms) N. Cutler (Ms) B. J. O'Donnell O. Jalbert	Principal delegate Alternate Delegate Delegate Delegate Delegate Delegate Adviser
Cape Verde	E. F. Santos Soares E. De Brito (Ms)	Principal delegate Delegate

<i>Member</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Capacity</i>	<i>Member</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Capacity</i>
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	M. Tchitchaou	Alternate		C. Amat Fores	Delegate
Chile	N. Makuc	Principal delegate		A. Hernández-Quesada (Ms)	Delegate
	X. Ares (Ms)	Delegate	Cyprus	K. Philaniotis	Principal delegate
	F. Emst	Delegate		P. Kestoras	Alternate
	R. Velasco	Adviser	Czech Republic	I. Obrusnik	Principal delegate
China	Wen Kegang	Principal delegate		M. Somol	Alternate
	Yan Hong	Alternate		M. Wolek	Alternate
	Cai Jianyuan	Delegate		J. Kubát	Delegate
	Chen Xiaoguang	Delegate		K. Pešata	Delegate
	Ruan Shui-Gen	Delegate		P. Sepel'ák	Delegate
	Wang Caifang	Delegate	J. Nemeč	Adviser	
	Wang Xiaomin (Ms)	Delegate	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Hong Song	Principal delegate
	Xin Xianhua	Delegate		Kin Ho Bu	Delegate
	Xu Nanshan	Delegate		Ri Chol	Delegate
	Zhang Guocai	Delegate		Ri Tae Gun	Delegate
	Zhao Yang Ling (Ms)	Delegate	So Chol	Delegate	
	Zheng Guogang	Delegate	Democratic Republic of the Congo	K. Mupande	Principal delegate
	Zhou Shuguang	Delegate		M. Cizungu	Alternate
Zhu Zheng Yi	Delegate	B. Agamana (Ms)		Delegate	
Colombia	P. Leyva-Franco	Principal delegate	Denmark	L. P. Prahm	Principal delegate
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	M. E. Posada-Corrales (Ms)	Delegate		L. Wester-Andersen (Ms)	Delegate
Comoros	A. M. Rebba (4-17.5)	Principal delegate	Djibouti	I. O Robleh	Principal delegate
	M. A. B. Poundja (18-26.5)	Principal delegate		Dominica	C. E. Berridge
Congo	F. Oyou	Principal delegate	Dominican Republic	Y. Román (Ms)	Principal delegate
	J. Biabaroh-Ibora	Delegate		Ecuador	N. Salazar
	A. Miampika	Delegate	J. C. Castrillon		Delegate
Cook Islands	A. Ngari	Principal delegate	L. Gallegos		Delegate
	Costa Rica	N. Ruiz de Angulo (Ms)	Principal delegate	Egypt	M. A. Mahran
E. Zárate		Alternate	A. M. Rebba		Alternate
O. Acuña		Delegate	A. Tarek		Delegate
G. Chaves		Delegate	A. E. Amer		Delegate
J. Coghi Arias		Delegate	El Salvador	V. M. Lagos Pizzati	Principal delegate
L. Dachner (Ms)		Delegate		M. Castro Grande	Alternate
M. B. Dengo		Delegate	Eritrea	B. Woldeyohannes	Principal delegate
P. Grane		Delegate		A. Habtemicael	Delegate
C. Guillermet		Delegate	Estonia	P. Karing	Principal delegate
M. Odio (Ms)		Delegate		Ethiopia	F. Yimer Aboye
E. Penrod		Delegate	A. A. Amaha Tesfaye (Ms)		Delegate
M. Perez (Ms)		Delegate	K. Asefa		Delegate
L. Rojas B.		Delegate	B. Kassahun	Delegate	
J. Rodriguez		Delegate	Fiji	R. Prasad	Principal delegate
R. Saborio		Delegate		Finland	E. Jatila
R. Ulate		Delegate	M. Alestalo		Delegate
J. M. Dengo-Garrón	Adviser	P. Huhtaniemi	Delegate		
Côte d'Ivoire	A. Kignaman Soro	Principal delegate	L. Leskinen (Ms)		Delegate
	C. Bouah-Kamon	Delegate	T. Raivio (Ms)		Delegate
	G. Flegbo	Delegate	J. T. Riissanen		Delegate
	M. Sakho	Delegate	M. Sagbom (Ms)	Delegate	
Croatia	M. Matvijev	Principal delegate	P. Seuna	Delegate	
	C. Grebša	Delegate			
	J. Smitlehner	Delegate			

<i>Member</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Capacity</i>	<i>Member</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Capacity</i>	
France	J.-P. Beysson	Principal delegate	Hungary (Cont.)	P. Bakonyi	Delegate	
	M. Boccoz (Ms)	Alternate		Z. Buzàs (Ms)	Delegate	
	D. Lambergeon	Alternate		S. Nagy	Delegate	
	O. Moch	Alternate		Z. Varga	Delegate	
	P. Petit	Alternate		Iceland	M. Jonsson	Principal delegate
	J.-C. Tallard-Fleury	Alternate			India	R. R. Kelkar
	P. Hubert	Delegate	M. M. K. Sardana	Alternate		
French Polynesia	A. Rigaud (Ms)	Principal delegate	S. Kumar	Delegate		
			N. Sen Roy	Delegate		
Gabon	D. Ondo Ndong	Principal delegate	Indonesia	S. Diharto	Principal delegate	
	A. M. Betole	Delegate		S. Sutoyo	Alternate	
	Y. Bikes (Ms)	Delegate		S. Shirley (Ms)	Delegate	
	A. Mackosso (Ms)	Delegate		M. P. Hendrasmoro	Adviser	
	M. Angone-Abena (Ms)	Adviser		L. H. Rustam (Ms)	Adviser	
Gambia	A. T. Nije	Principal delegate	Iran, Islamic Republic of	A. M. Noorian	Principal delegate	
	P. A. Cham	Delegate		A. H. Delju	Alternate	
	B. P. Jallow	Delegate		H. Soleymanpour	Alternate	
	A. Manneh	Delegate		M. Baharvand	Delegate	
Georgia	N. Beradze	Principal delegate		E. Farman (Ms)	Delegate	
				T. Farvar	Delegate	
Germany	U. Gärtner	Principal delegate		G. H. Kamali	Delegate	
	H. Eberle	Alternate		M. Nili	Delegate	
	B. Anger	Delegate		L. Salimabadi (Ms)	Delegate	
	H. Bauer	Delegate		B. Sanagi	Delegate	
	U. Einsfelder (Ms)	Delegate		A. Sedaghatkerdar	Delegate	
	D. Frömmling	Delegate		A. Vazifeh	Delegate	
	K. Hofius	Delegate	Iraq	F. A. Ghalib	Alternate	
	H. Hüster	Delegate		Ireland	D. Murphy	Principal delegate
	U. Kalbitzer	Delegate			E. Murphy	Alternate
	S. Mildner	Delegate			B. Ardif	Delegate
	J. Ringeltaube	Delegate			T. Hanney	Delegate
	V. Vent-Schmidt	Delegate	Israel	Z. Alperson	Principal delegate	
	Ghana	N. B. Yelifari		Principal delegate	G. Koren	Alternate
G. K. Anaglate		Delegate		T. Guluma (Ms)	Adviser	
Y. Osei-Brimpong (Ms)		Delegate		Italy	C. Finizio	Principal delegate
J. Wellens-Mensah		Delegate	M. Capaldo		Alternate	
J. J. Nwaneampek		Adviser	L. De Chiara		Delegate	
Greece	C. Gkagkaoudaki (Ms)	Principal delegate	G. Maracchi		Delegate	
	(4-16.5)		F. Prodi		Delegate	
	G. Sakellaridis (17-26.5)	Principal delegate	L. M. Michaud		Adviser	
	I. Bassiakos	Alternate	G. Onorati	Adviser		
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Guinea	M. L. Bah		Principal delegate	K. G. A. Hill	Alternate	
	A. Kourouma (Ms)		Alternate	F. Hall	Delegate	
Guyana	D. K. Jaigopaul		Principal delegate	C. Maryns (Ms)	Delegate	
	Haiti		J. Antonio	Principal delegate	Japan	Y. Takigawa
M. M. Duchatellier (Ms)		Delegate	T. Hiraki	Alternate		
F. Gaspard		Delegate	A. Chiba	Delegate		
Honduras	G. Bu Figueroa (Ms)	Principal delegate	M. Kawata	Delegate		
	R. F. Licona Azcona (Ms)	Alternate	H. Sasaki	Delegate		
Hong Kong, China	H. K. Lam	Principal delegate	K. Shida	Delegate		
			S. Sumi	Delegate		
			M. Takesawa	Delegate		
Hungary	I. Mersich	Principal delegate	T. Uehara	Delegate		
	M. Kaba (Ms)	Alternate	Jordan	H. Al-Sha'er	Principal delegate	
		J. Rabadi		Alternate		

<i>Member</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Capacity</i>	<i>Member</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Capacity</i>
Jordan (Cont.)	A. H. Abu Azim N. Kafawin	Delegate Delegate	Mauritius (Cont.)	U. C. Dwarka- Canabady (Ms)	Delegate
Kazakstan	T. Kudekov A. Zhumadilov Z. Abishev E. Zhussupov	Principal delegate Alternate Delegate Delegate		A. Koodoruth R. Sawmy	Delegate Delegate
Kenya	E. A. Mukolwe K. I. Essendi K. A. A. Rana E. W. Ngare	Principal delegate Alternate Delegate Adviser	Mexico	A. Jaime C. Espinosa González E. Cubero-Gómez H. Gutierrez	Principal delegate Alternate Delegate Observer
Kuwait	R. Al-Sane K. Shuaibi	Principal delegate Delegate	Micronesia, Federated States of	G. Joel	Principal delegate
Lao People's Democratic Republic	T. Vongsipason	Principal delegate	Monaco	M. Fétrier E. Lindenfeld	Principal delegate Alternate
Latvia	A. Leitass	Principal delegate	Mongolia	Z. Batjargal S-O. Bold D. Dagvadorj B-O. Erdenebulgan	Principal delegate Alternate Delegate Delegate
Lebanon	A. P. Bejjani I. Barakt-Diab A. S. Issa	Principal delegate Delegate Delegate	Morocco	A. Diouri A. Belhouji A. Chaachoo A. El Kadiri B. Louaked M. L. Selassi	Principal delegate Delegate Delegate Delegate Delegate Delegate
Lesotho	B. T. Sekoli M. Moleleki	Principal delegate Delegate	Mozambique	F. Lucio	Principal delegate
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	T. A. Borgan M. Abuseif M. J. El-Ghadi O. M. Salem	Principal delegate Delegate Delegate Delegate	Myanmar	H. Htay Aung Kyaw Swe Tint	Principal delegate Delegate
Lithuania	P. Korkutis	Principal delegate	Namibia	A. E. S. Amer	Principal delegate
Luxembourg	F. Neu R. Kipgen	Principal delegate Delegate	Nepal	K. S. Yogacharya N. B. Shrestha M. B. Basnyat	Principal delegate Delegate Delegate
Macao	Fong Soi Kun A. Viseu Ku Chi Meng Hao I Pan	Principal delegate Alternate Delegate Delegate	Netherlands	H. M. Fijnaut A. Kattenberg J. R. T. Frederiks P. M. M. Warmerdam	Principal delegate Alternate Delegate Hydrological adviser
Madagascar	C. A. Rasolonay C. Razafy (Ms) P. R. Edafe J. C. Razaranaina M. Zafera	Principal delegate Alternate Delegate Delegate Delegate	Netherlands Antilles and Aruba	A. J. Dania P. L. Trappenberg	Principal delegate Delegate
Malawi	D. R. Kamdonyo	Principal delegate	New Caledonia	M.-A. Lecorcher (Ms)	Principal delegate
Malaysia	Lim Joo Tick Ling Leong Kwok Ahmad Jazri Mohd Tohar	Principal delegate Alternate Delegate	New Zealand	J. R. Lumsden N. Gordon M. Gubb	Principal delegate Alternate Delegate
Maldives	A. Majeed	Principal delegate	Niger	I. Also M. Diarra M. Saloum	Principal delegate Alternate Delegate
Mali	K. Konaré	Principal delegate	Nigeria	A. Y. Salahu L. E. Akeh E. E. Ekuwen J. A. Hanidu I. D. Nnodu S. C. Nwokedi O. O. Odumosi	Principal delegate Delegate Delegate Delegate Delegate Delegate Delegate
Malta	M. L. Bartolo F. T. Gauci J. Aquilina (Ms)	Principal delegate Alternate Delegate	Niue	H. Vavae (Ms)	Principal delegate
Mauritania	M. B. O. M. Laghdaf M. S. Ould Lemine	Principal delegate Delegate			
Mauritius	R. R. Vaghjee H. K. Bhunjoo	Principal delegate Delegate			

<i>Member</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Capacity</i>	<i>Member</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Capacity</i>
Norway	A. Grammelvedt	Principal delegate	Russian Federation (Cont.)	Y. Izrael	Delegate
	L. Svendsen (Ms)	Alternate		A. Maximov	Delegate
	V. Bjorhim	Delegate		T. Mishina (Ms)	Delegate
	K. Repp	Delegate		A. Vasiliev	Delegate
Oman	M. S. Al-Rawahi	Principal delegate	O. Chamanov	Adviser	
	A. R. S. Al-Harmi	Delegate	R. Kolodkin	Adviser	
	N. S. Al-Riyami	Delegate	A. Kovalenko	Adviser	
	S. Y. M. Al-Saifi	Delegate	Rwanda	D. Musoni	Principal delegate
Pakistan	Q. Z. Chaudhry	Principal delegate		L. de G. Munyazogeye	Delegate
	M. Akram	Alternate	Saint Lucia	B. N. Lamontagne	Principal delegate
	T. Janjua (Ms)	Delegate		Samoa	F. Malele
	M. S. Quazi	Delegate	Saudi Arabia		N. Twafiq
Panama	J. Bonagas	Principal delegate		S. Baazim	Delegate
	M. Garrido (Ms)	Adviser		J. A. Bantan	Delegate
Papua New Guinea	J. Nako	Principal delegate		S. Bukhari	Delegate
	Paraguay	H. Valiente	Principal delegate	N. Murshid	Delegate
C. Moreno		Alternate	Senegal	A. C. Diallo (Ms)	Principal delegate
R. Recalde		Delegate		A. Ndiaye	Alternate
R. Ugarriza		Delegate		M. Gueye	Delegate
Peru	G. Rojas-Barrantes	Principal delegate		I. Ndiaye	Delegate
	J. Canales	Delegate	M. Yattara	Delegate	
	E. B. Villegas	Delegate	Seychelles	L. Chang-Ko	Principal delegate
Philippines	L. A. Amadore	Principal delegate		F. C. M. Bijoux	Alternate
	M. A. Catalina (Ms)	Alternate	Singapore	Woon Shih Lai	Principal delegate
Poland	J. Zielinski	Principal delegate		Sim Choon Siong	Delegate
	T. Klinski	Alternate		H. K. Ann	Adviser
	D. Manczyk	Delegate	Slovak Republic	S. Škulec	Principal delegate
	R. Klejnowski	Adviser		K. Petöcz	Alternate
Portugal	F. Quintas Ribeiro	Principal delegate		P. Cellár	Delegate
	O. F. Rasquinho	Alternate		M. Hubcej	Delegate
	C. Tavares	Alternate		O. Majercáková (Ms)	Delegate
	M. A. Alves	Delegate		K. Martinka	Delegate
	R. A. Carvalho	Delegate	M. Ondrás	Delegate	
M. Ruivo	Delegate	F. Rosocha	Adviser		
A. Botao	Adviser	Slovenia	D. Hrček	Principal delegate	
Qatar	A. H. Al-Mulla		Principal delegate	F. Miksa	Delegate
	A. H. Mohamed	Alternate	D. Rogelj	Delegate	
Republic of Korea	Sung-Eui Moon	Principal delegate	B. Zupančič	Delegate	
	Kwang-Joon Park	Delegate	Solomon Islands	C. Iroi	Principal delegate
	Jai-Ho Oh	Delegate		South Africa	G. C. Schulze
	Jeong-Gyoo Park	Delegate	J. R. Coetzee Geret		Delegate
	Kyung-Sup Shin	Delegate	P. Montwedi		Delegate
Yun-Ang Chung	Delegate	B. Qwabe (Ms)	Delegate		
Republic of Moldova	V. Sofroni	Principal delegate	S. van Biljon		Delegate
	Republic of Yemen	A. A. Almakaleh	Principal delegate	Spain	E. Coca Vita
F. Al Obthani		Delegate	R. Perez-Hernandez		Alternate
M. Al-Attar		Delegate	J. Segovia		Alternate
A. Al-Hada		Delegate	J. Garcia-Legaz		Delegate
Romania	I. Sandu	Principal delegate	C. Martinez (Ms)		Delegate
	A. Ciubreag	Delegate	J. M. Salas		Delegate
Russian Federation	A. Bedritsky	Principal delegate	J. Tamayo-Carmona		Delegate
	S. Khodkin	Alternate	E. Cormenzana		Delegate
Sri Lanka	A. W. Mohottala	Principal delegate	A. Rodriguez Fontal	Delegate	
	A. S. U. Mendis	Delegate			

<i>Member</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Capacity</i>	<i>Member</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Capacity</i>
Sudan	M. E. K. Abdalla A. Sheikh Idris	Principal delegate Delegate	Ukraine (Cont.)	V. Grynshyn Y. Pavlov	Delegate Delegate
Swaziland	E. D. Dlamini P. M. Dlamini M. E. Madlopha	Principal delegate Alternate Delegate	United Arab Emirates	A. W. Al Khateeb A. Kamal A. R. Al Mandoos A. H. M. Al-Ali T. A. Al-Awadhi	Principal delegate Alternate Delegate Delegate Delegate
Sweden	H. Sandebring J. Nilsson G. Wennerberg (Ms)	Principal delegate Alternate Delegate	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	P. Ewins D. Shaw J. Bradley C. Johnson (Ms) R. Lyne P. Mason R. Patton (Ms) G. Ryall (Ms) F. Smith (Ms) R. Shearman J. Wallace G. Warrington	Principal delegate Alternate Delegate Delegate Delegate Delegate Delegate Delegate Adviser Adviser Adviser
Switzerland	T. Gutermann W. B. Gyger F. Frei D. Keuerleber E. Mayoraz G. Müller M. Spreafico J. Ambühl P. Brandt A. Rubli B. Schädler	Principal delegate Alternate Delegate Delegate Delegate Delegate Delegate Adviser Adviser Adviser Adviser	United Republic of Tanzania	M. S. Mhita N. S. Kuwese A. Mchumo D. G. Rutashobya F. Malambugi	Principal delegate Delegate Delegate Delegate Delegate
Syrian Arab Republic	N. Al-Shalabi M. Tomeh F. Hanoui S. Jabbour M. Soleiman B. Kasma	Principal delegate Alternate Delegate Delegate Delegate Adviser	United States of America	J. J. Kelly, Jr. (4-16.5) J. E. Jones (17-26.5) R. S. Greenfield (4-16.5) M. C. Yerg (17-26.5) D. G. Brandon J. M. Garner K. E. Weston (Ms) K. E. Johnson (Ms) C. McMahan (Ms) R. D. McPherson W. McPherson J. F. W. Purdom C. Sprinkle L. Taylor	Principal delegate Principal delegate Alternate Alternate Delegate Delegate Delegate Adviser Adviser Adviser Adviser Adviser Adviser Adviser
Thailand	P. Patvivatsiri K. Moongtin	Principal delegate Delegate	Uruguay	I. Dutra Maisonave (Ms) C. Perez del Castillo L. Dupuy-Lasserre (Ms) F. Perazza C. Sgarbi	Principal delegate Principal delegate Alternate Alternate Delegate Delegate Delegate
The former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia	I. Panov (4-10.5) L. Mančevski (11-26.5) G. Petreski K. Lazaroski D. Mijatovic N. Nikolovski B. Stefanovska-Sekovska (Ms)	Principal delegate Principal delegate Alternate Delegate Delegate Delegate Delegate	Uzbekistan	V. E. Chub	Principal delegate
Tonga	V. Palu P. Havea	Principal delegate Delegate	Vanuatu	W. T. Vuti	Principal delegate
Trinidad and Tobago	E. Henry L. Boodhoo (Ms)	Principal delegate Delegate	Venezuela	F. Camargo Duque T. Carballo C. O. Farias de Peña (Ms) D. Parra (Ms) V. Rodriguez	Principal delegate Delegate Delegate Delegate Delegate
Tunisia	K. Morjane M. Allouche A. Ben Jemaa M. Ketata C. M'Hamed K. Baccar	Principal delegate Alternate Delegate Delegate Delegate Adviser	Viet Nam, Socialist Republic of	Nguyen Cong Thanh Tran Cam Hung (Ms) Tran Duc Hai	Principal delegate Delegate Delegate
Turkey	H. Acar (4-12.5) M. Cebeci (12-19.5) R. Saritas (12-26.5) H. Bacanli V. Vural N. Yaman R. Yilmaz	Principal delegate Principal delegate Alternate Delegate Delegate Delegate Delegate	Zambia	G. B. Chipeta P. N. Sinyinza	Principal delegate Alternate
Uganda	Bwango-Apuuli	Principal delegate			
Ukraine	V. Lipinsky M. Maimeskoul	Principal delegate Alternate			

<i>Member</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Capacity</i>
Zambia (Cont.)	A. Hussen	Delegate
	E. Katongo	Adviser
Zimbabwe	M. C. Zinyowera	Principal delegate
	T. J. B. Jokonya	Alternate
	T. T. Chieamba	Delegate
	N. Kanyowa	Delegate
	C. L. Zavazava	Delegate
B. Representatives of non-Member countries of WMO		
Kiribati		T. Tekena
Tuvalu		H. Vavae (Ms)
C. Observer		
Palestine		I. Musa
D. Presidents of technical commissions		
<i>Commission</i>	<i>Name</i>	
President CAeM	N. D. Gordon	
President CAGM	C. J. Stigter (past president representing the acting president)	
President CAS	A. Eliassen	
President CBS	S. Mildner	
President CCI	Y. Boodhoo	
President CHy	K. Hofius	
President CIMO	S. K. Srivastava	
President CMM	J. Guddal	
E. Invited experts		
Chairperson, Steering Committee for GCOS	K. Dawson	
Chairperson, Joint Scientific Committee for WCRP	W. L. Gates	
F. IMO lecturer		
G. A. McBean		
G. Scientific lecturers		
C. Folland		
N. Nicholls		
H. Representatives of international organizations		
<i>Organization</i>	<i>Name</i>	
United Nations	K. Annan, Secretary-General	
United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG)	S. Khnelnitski	

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Name</i>
Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)	L. Nordberg
Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	H. A. Diallo A. Cissoko R. Boulharouf M. L. Allouane
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	E. Bonev B. Coppens
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	A. L. Alusa B. Bulwa (Ms) F. Schlingemann
Secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	V. Matsarski D. Tirpak
Secretariat of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN/OCHA)	V. Sakkharou
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	N. Brandstrup (Ms) M. Smith
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	P. Bernal A. Szollosi-Nagy
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)	P. Bernal G. Holland C. Summerhayes
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)	O. Turpeinen
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)	M. S. Opelz (Ms)
African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD)	M. S. Boulahya
Agency for Air Safety in Africa and Madagascar (ASECNA)	L. Ganguenon O. Issoufou-Oubandawaki J.-J. Kracmar A. B. M'Bougoua J.-P. Makosso M. Ould Lab Y. Pafadnam R. Ramasitera A. C. Sahili
Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS)	T. Mohr
Caribbean Meteorological Organization (CMO)	C. E. Berridge
European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF)	D. Burridge
Oil Industry International Exploration and Production Forum (E&P Forum)	C. J. Shaw
European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT)	S. Castañer (Ms) P. Counet

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Name</i>
Regional Committee for Water Resources of the Central American Isthmus (CRRH)	M. Campos	International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR)	P. Boullé C. Rose (Ms) W. Wagner
European Space Agency (ESA)	E. Oriol-Pibernat (Ms)	International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG)	R. List
International Association of Broadcast Meteorology (IABM)	G. Fleming W. G. Giles T. Molina I. Niedek (Ms) D. Walch	League of Arab States (LAS)	M. H. Doos
International Astronautical Federation (IAF)	R. Ramirez de Arellano (Ms)	Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC)	O. Jafar
International Council for Science (ICSU)	J. W. M. La Rivière	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)	N. L. Koop P. Lefale
		Permanent Joint Technical Commission for Nile Waters (PJTC)	M. M. Elamin

ATTENDANCE AT PLENARY MEETINGS

<i>Name</i>	<i>Meetings</i>														
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Member States															
Afghanistan, Islamic State of	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	-
Albania	-	-	X	X	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Algeria	X	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Angola	-	-	-	X	X	-	X	X	X	-	-	X	X	X	X
Antigua and Barbuda	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Argentina	X	X	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	X
Armenia	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-
Australia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Austria	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	X	-
Azerbaijan	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bahamas	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Bahrain	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-
Bangladesh	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	X
Barbados	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	X
Belarus	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-
Belgium	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-
Belize	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-
Benin	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	X
Bolivia	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bosnia and Herzegovina.....	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	-	-	X
Botswana	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Brazil	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	X
British Caribbean Territories	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Brunei Darussalam	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	X
Bulgaria	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-
Burkina Faso	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	X
Burundi	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cambodia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cameroon	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	X
Canada	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Cape Verde	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	-	X	-	-	-	-	-
Central African Republic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chad	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-

<i>Name</i>	<i>Meetings</i>														
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Guyana	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-
Haiti	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-	-
Honduras	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hong Kong, China.....	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hungary	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Iceland	X	X	X	X	-	-	X	X	-	X	-	-	-	-	-
India	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Indonesia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Iran, Islamic Republic of	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	X	X
Iraq	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ireland	X	X	X	-	X	-	-	-	X	-	X	X	X	X	X
Israel	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	X
Italy	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Jamaica	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-
Japan	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Jordan	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	X	X
Kazakhstan	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kenya	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Kuwait	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	-	-	-	-
Kyrgyzstan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lao People's Democratic Republic	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-
Latvia	X	X	-	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	-	-	-
Lebanon	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	X	X
Lesotho	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	X	X
Liberia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	-	X	X
Lithuania	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-
Luxembourg	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-
Macao	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Madagascar	X	X	X	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	X
Malawi	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-
Malaysia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Maldives	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-
Mali	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Malta	-	-	X	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-
Mauritania	-	-	-	-	-	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	X	X	X
Mauritius	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	-	-	-	-	-

<i>Name</i>	<i>Meetings</i>														
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Saudi Arabia	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Senegal	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	x	-	x	-	-	-	-	-
Seychelles	x	x	x	x	x	-	x	x	-	x	-	-	-	-	-
Sierra Leone	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Singapore	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Slovak Republic	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Slovenia	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	-	-	-
Solomon Islands	-	-	-	-	-	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	-	-	-
Somalia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Africa	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Spain	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Sri Lanka	x	x	x	-	x	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Sudan	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Suriname	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Swaziland	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Sweden	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Switzerland	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Syrian Arab Republic	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	-	-	-
Tajikistan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thailand	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	-	-	-
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia .	x	x	x	x	x	-	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	x	x
Togo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tonga	x	x	x	x	x	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	x	x
Trinidad and Tobago	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Tunisia	x	x	x	x	x	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Turkey	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	x	x	x
Turkmenistan	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Uganda	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Ukraine	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	-	-	x
United Arab Emirates	x	x	x	-	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
United Republic of Tanzania	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
United States of America	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Uruguay	x	x	-	x	-	-	x	x	-	x	-	x	-	x	x
Uzbekistan	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	-	-	-
Vanuatu	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	-	-	-	-	-

AGENDA

<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Document Nos.</i>	<i>PINK Nos. and person submitting</i>	<i>Resolutions adopted</i>
1. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION		1, President of WMO	
1.1 Opening of the session			
1.2 Establishment of a Credentials Committee		1.2(1), Chairperson, Credentials Committee	
1.3 Approval of the agenda	1.3(1)		
Explanatory memorandum relating to the provisional agenda	1.3(2)		
1.4 Establishment of committees			
1.5 Report of the Credentials Committee		1.5(1); 1.5(2); 1.5(3); 1.5(4), Chairperson, Credentials Committee	
		1.5(5), President of WMO	
1.6 Approval of the minutes			
2. REPORTS			
2.1 Report by the President of the Organization	2.1(1)	2.1, Chairperson, Committee A	
2.2 Report by the Secretary-General		2.2, Chairperson, Committee A	
2.3 Report by the chairperson of the Financial Advisory Committee	2.3(1)	2.3, Chairperson, Committee of the Whole	
2.4 Consolidated report on amendments to the Technical Regulations	2.4(1)	2.4, Chairperson, Committee A	1
3. SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL PROGRAMMES			
3.1 World Weather Watch Programme			
3.1.0 WWW basic systems and support functions; the report of the president of CBS	3.1.0(1)	3.1.0, Chairperson, Committee B	2; 3
3.1.1 Instruments and Methods of Observation Programme; the report of the president of CIMO	3.1.1(1)	3.1.1, Vice-chairperson, Committee B	4
3.1.2 WMO satellite activities	3.1.2(1)	3.1.2, Vice-chairperson, Committee B	
3.1.3 Tropical Cyclone Programme	3.1.3(1)	3.1.3, Vice-chairperson, Committee B	5
3.1.4 Emergency response activities	3.1.4(1)	3.1.4, Vice-chairperson, Committee B	
3.1.5 WMO Antarctic activities	3.1.5(1)	3.1.5, Vice-chairperson, Committee B	
3.2 World Climate Programme			
3.2.0 World Climate Programme; the report of the president of CCI	3.2.0(1)	3.2.0, Chairperson, Committee B	
3.2.1 Coordination activities within the Climate Agenda	3.2.1(1), ADD. 1	3.2.1, Chairperson, Committee B	
3.2.2 Support to climate change-related activities, including IPCC and the Conventions on Climate Change, on Biodiversity and on Desertification	3.2.2(1); 3.2.2(2)	3.2.2(1); 3.2.2(2), Chairperson, Committee B	6
3.2.3 Global Climate Observing System	3.2.3(1), REV. 1	3.2.3, Chairperson, Committee B	7
Report of the chairperson, GCOS Steering Committee	3.2.3(2)		

<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Document Nos.</i>	<i>PINK Nos. and person submitting</i>	<i>Resolutions adopted</i>
3.2.4 World Climate Data and Monitoring Programme	3.2.4(1)	3.2.4, Chairperson, Committee B	
3.2.5 World Climate Applications and Services Programme	3.2.5(1)	3.2.5, Chairperson, Committee B	8
3.2.6 World Climate Impact Assessment and Response Strategies Programme	3.2.6(1)	3.2.6, Chairperson, Committee B	
3.2.7 World Climate Research Programme	3.2.7	3.2.7, Chairperson, Committee B	9
3.3 Atmospheric Research and Environment Programme	3.3(1); 3.3(2), ADD. 1	3.3, Vice-chairperson, Committee B	
3.3.0 Atmospheric Research and Environment Programme; the report of the president of CAS			10
3.3.1 Support to ozone and other environment-oriented conventions			
3.3.2 Global Atmosphere Watch			
3.3.3 World Weather Research Programme			
3.3.4 Tropical Meteorology Research Programme			
3.3.5 Programme on Physics and Chemistry of Clouds and Weather Modification Research			
3.4 Applications of Meteorology Programme			
3.4.1 Public Weather Services Programme	3.4.1(1)	3.4.1, Vice-chairperson, Committee B	11
3.4.2 Agricultural Meteorology Programme; the report of the president of CAgM	3.4.2(1), ADD. 1	3.4.2, Chairperson, Committee B	12
3.4.3 Aeronautical Meteorology Programme; the report of the president of CAeM	3.4.3(1)	3.4.3, Vice-chairperson, Committee B	13
3.4.4 Marine Meteorology and Associated Oceanographic Activities Programme; the report of the president of CMM	3.4.4(2)	3.4.4, Vice-chairperson, Committee B	14; 15
Joint WMO/IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology	3.4.4(1)		
The Argo Project	3.4.4(2), ADD. 1		
3.5 Hydrology and Water Resources Programme	3.5(1)	3.5, Chairperson, Committee B	
3.5.0 Hydrology and Water Resources Programme; the report of the president of CHy			16
3.5.1 Programme on Basic Systems in Hydrology			
3.5.2 Programme on Forecasting and Applications in Hydrology			
3.5.3 Programme on Sustainable Development of Water Resources			
3.5.4 Programme on Capacity Building in Hydrology and Water Resources			
3.5.5 Programme on Water-related Issues	3.5.5(2)		
3.6 Education and Training Programme	3.6(1)	3.6, Chairperson, Committee A	17
3.6.1 Human resources development			
3.6.2 Training activities			
3.6.3 Education and training fellowships			
3.6.4 Support to the training events under other WMO major Programmes			

<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Document Nos.</i>	<i>PINK Nos. and person submitting</i>	<i>Resolutions adopted</i>	
3.7	Technical Cooperation Programme	3.7(1)	3.7, Chairperson, Committee A	
3.7.1	General review of the Technical Cooperation Programme			18
3.7.2	Organization and funding of the Technical Cooperation Programme			
3.8	Regional Programme			
3.8.0	Reports of the presidents of regional associations		3.8.0, Chairperson, Committee A	
	Report by the president of RA I	3.8.0(1)		
	Report by the president of RA II	3.8.0(2)		
	Report by the president of RA III	3.8.0(3)		
	Report of the president of RA IV	3.8.0(4)		
	Report by the president of RA V	3.8.0(5)		
	Report by the president of RA VI	3.8.0(6)		
3.8.1	Regional activities	3.8.1(1)	3.8.1, Chairperson, Committee A	
4.	PROGRAMME SUPPORT SERVICES AND PUBLICATIONS			
4.1	Conferences	4.1(1), CORR. 1	4.1, REV.1, Chairperson, Committee A	
4.2	Languages	4.2(1)	4.2, Chairperson, Committee A	19; 20
4.3	Publications	4.3(1)	4.3, Chairperson, Committee A	21
4.4	Office automation and information technology support	4.4(1)	4.4, Chairperson, Committee A	
5.	INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMME	5(1)	5, Vice-chairperson, Committee A	22
6.	LONG-TERM PLANNING			
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WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

Geneva, 4–26 May 1999

MINUTES OF THE FIRST PLENARY MEETING 4 May 1999 at 10 a.m.

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

1. Opening of the session (agenda item 1.1)

The **PRESIDENT**, Mr John Zillman, declared open the Thirteenth Congress of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and welcomed the guests on the podium: H.E. Mrs Ruth Dreifuss, President of the Swiss Confederation; Mrs Martine Brunschwig Graf, President of the State Council of the Republic and Canton of Geneva; H.E. Mr Walter B. Gyger, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Switzerland to International Organizations and Permanent Observer to the United Nations; and Mr André Hediger, Mayor of the City of Geneva.

The President asked the participants to observe one minute's silence in honour of Mr Zou Jingmeng, former President of WMO, who died in Beijing in February 1999. Additional tributes to Mr Zou would be presented during the afternoon plenary session.

1.1 Statement by H.E. Mrs R. Dreifuss, President of the Swiss Confederation

H.E. MRS R. DREIFUSS said the recent around-the-world balloon voyage by Bertrand Piccard and Brian Jones had made millions of people a lot more familiar with the scientific work of meteorologists, who demonstrated extraordinary expertise in guiding the balloon through the upper-air flows. Success would not have been possible without close collaboration and constant contact with meteorological stations throughout the world. That was a perfect demonstration of the two main axes of WMO: the need for advanced research to improve scientific knowledge of natural phenomena and the international cooperation between meteorologists throughout the world.

A global approach to the environment and to environmental threats was one of the key roles of WMO. The Organization had two critical missions: ensuring high quality scientific observation on Earth and by satellite, and warning both politicians and the public of environmental threats such as the destruction of the ozone layer, the shortage of drinking water and climate change. That work was carried out through scientific programmes such as the World Weather Watch (WWW), the World Climate Programme (WCP) and the Atmospheric Research and Environment Programme (AREP).

Meteorology was a field that touched everyone's lives, mainly through climate, the weather and water. The shortage of water would be a critical problem for many regions of the world in the future. Switzerland had experienced disastrous avalanches during the past winter which had claimed many lives and caused great damage. That had brought an awareness of how vulnerable the Alps were to variations in climate and

weather and of the importance of the Mesoscale Alpine Programme (MAP). It was hoped that the programme would lead to a greater understanding of the conditions which sparked off extreme weather conditions in the Alps region, which would help to develop more effective early warning systems for ensuring the safety of mountain populations.

Switzerland was ready to support WMO, not only through fulfilling its own contractual obligations to the Organization but also by putting forward concrete management proposals. The Swiss delegation was planning to put forward a resolution on the introduction of an observer status on the WMO Executive Council for Members of the Organization whose Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services were not EC members.

Mrs Dreifuss thanked WMO and Member States for their work in the field of meteorology. During Congress, particular attention should be given to the role of National Meteorological Services (NMSs) in each country and to the need to make qualified staff and resources available in order to carry out their work. Switzerland was currently involved in passing a new law on meteorology and climatology which would ensure a strong foundation for the country's Meteorological Service in the years to come.

1.2 Message from H.E. Mr E. Primakov, Prime Minister of the Russian Federation

MR A. I. BEDRITSKY, Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation with WMO, conveyed a message from H.E. Prime Minister E. Primakov along with his warm greetings to all participants. With members from all over the world, WMO had created a unique system of partnership aimed at forecasting meteorological events. WMO was a key agency within the United Nations system for implementing scientific and technical programmes for a better and more efficient use of hydrological information and for the protection of the environment. The decisions of Thirteenth Congress would contribute to furthering constructive cooperation between the Members of WMO in the twenty-first century.

1.3 Message from H.E. Mr U. Sultanov, Prime Minister of Uzbekistan

MR V. E. CHUB, Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan with WMO, conveyed a message from H.E. Prime Minister U. Sultanov. Global cooperation between Meteorological Services was essential to further the safe and stable development of mankind and to ensure the resolution of global, regional and national environmental problems. That was a particular concern for the Central Asian region which had a wealth of natural resources but was suffering from the adverse effects of unsustainable use of the environment. The

environmental crisis affecting the Aral Sea, for example, was having an impact on the climate and on the biological balance and population of that region. The impact of the environmental crisis was now being felt not only at the regional level but at the global level as well. Because the scale and complexity of the ecological, socio-economic and demographic aspects of large regions was so great, there was a need to strengthen and expand international cooperation. Through WMO, Uzbekistan was working to forge new links with the global community. Without closer cooperation and the integration of scientific, technical and cultural activities, further progress would not be possible. He noted both the high level of cooperation that existed with WMO as well as the Organization's remarkable attention paid to Uzbekistan and to the development of Hydrometeorological Services throughout the Central Asian region.

1.4 Statement by Mr P. Bernal, Assistant Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and Executive Secretary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)

MR P. BERNAL extended warm greetings from Dr Federico Mayor, Director-General of UNESCO, for Thirteenth Congress and drew attention to the constructive, cooperative and friendly dialogue that now existed between WMO and IOC. He thanked the WMO Secretariat for establishing operational links between meteorological and oceanographic agencies and organizations at the national, regional and global levels.

During 1998, the International Year of the Ocean (IYO) and the World Exhibition on the Oceans in Lisbon had put the global spotlight on oceans and had highlighted some of the risks that threatened the sustainable use and enjoyment of its resources. The IYO had helped raise public awareness of the need to protect the ocean and coastal environment; that momentum should be retained and extended in future years.

The implementation of Agenda 21 called for a radical shift in approach to sustainable development from a sectoral to an integrated, holistic approach. To achieve that, special efforts were needed to coordinate the different specialized agencies within the United Nations system, especially in view of increasing financial constraints. That called for leadership in international organizations that would not hesitate to establish compromises and commitments across institutional boundaries instead of using those boundaries as a constraint to action. He urged greater cooperation between IOC and WMO at the regional, subregional, and national levels. Good examples of that cooperation were the joint *El Niño* studies, the proposed establishment of the Joint WMO/IOC Technical Committee for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM) and the development of the storm surges project proposal for the northern part of the Indian Ocean.

In the future, both IOC and WMO would face new challenges in helping develop the capacity of all societies to use the observing system currently under development and in playing a more active role in the emerging issues of ocean governance and the global sustainability of the planet's life support system.

1.5 Statement by Mr J. W. Zillman, President of the World Meteorological Organization

The PRESIDENT highlighted some of the outstanding achievements of national and international meteorology over the past decade. First, he drew attention to the major advances in the meteorological and related earth sciences. Not only had that improved our understanding of the basic workings of the weather and climate system, but researchers in universities and government laboratories had built models that clearly demonstrated the power of the science in improving weather prediction and in simulating accurately the global patterns of climate, including phenomena such as *El Niño*/Southern Oscillation (ENSO). Meteorological science had become more interdisciplinary in its approach and, within the earth sciences, the complementarity of scientific research and technological development was now more evident and more effective.

Progress in atmospheric technology had been little short of revolutionary over the past few decades. The meteorological community had developed high performance computing skills and had pioneered the use of outer space for Earth observation. However, since the initiation of the Global Atmospheric Research Programme (GARP) Global Weather Experiment which ended in 1979, the meteorological and space communities had drifted apart. Today, as part of the more integrated approach to observation and monitoring of the global environment in the twenty-first century, there was a need to forge new partnerships between the atmospheric science and satellite communities under the auspices of WMO.

Turning to natural disaster reduction, he said that while there had been much progress over the past decade under the auspices of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR), there was still much to be done. The world had been shaken by events such as the tsunami which hit the northern coast of Papua New Guinea and by Hurricane *Mitch* which caused devastation in Central America during 1998. The Potsdam Conference on early warning systems in 1998 had highlighted the economic and human impact of early warning systems and, in particular, the benefit of a single authoritative official warning service in potential disaster situations.

One of the most outstanding achievements of recent years had been the increased focus on provision of weather services for the general public and the success achieved in partnership with the mass media. In the event of life-threatening weather conditions, good communication and cooperation between Meteorological Services and the media was of critical importance.

However, he noted with concern that the long-standing collaboration that existed between the meteorological and civil aviation communities had suffered from the airlines' need to keep their operational costs down in order to remain highly competitive. There was now a need to strengthen the aviation-meteorology partnership in a way that served the interests of both more effectively in a highly competitive world.

Another key partnership was that between WMO and IOC of UNESCO. That had resulted in joint efforts in vital initiatives such as the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) and the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS). Meanwhile, research scientists and service providers in both the oceanographic and meteorological communities had been

involved in efforts to institutionalize better the partnership. The outcome was a bold initiative involving the restructuring of the WMO Commission for Marine Meteorology (CMM) as a joint technical commission of WMO and IOC. For WMO, that would first require the approval of Congress.

The President said that, despite its complexity, weather and climate forecasting had now become a skilful scientific process. The forecasts and warnings provided to society had great economic, social and environmental value. However, in view of the need to ensure continued investment in national and international meteorological infrastructure, the meteorological community should put more effort into demonstrating the value of the services provided. Recent research on the economic value of meteorological services had produced some impressive findings. That should be a particular focus for WMO over the next few years.

The establishment of Meteorological and Hydrological Services had ensured that virtually all Governments were able to give advance warning of weather-induced natural disasters; underpin the safety of travel by air, land and sea; enhance the reliability and productivity of agriculture and the availability of food and fibre; manage their natural resources in an efficient way; and take steps to avert or minimize the impact of global environmental threats such as desertification, acid rain and depletion of the ozone layer. That had been made possible through a unique system of cooperation between nations dating back to the nineteenth century and nurtured by WMO in the second half of the twentieth century.

One of the greatest challenges today was to maintain the stability of international cooperation and the free and unrestricted exchange of data and products, in line with the spirit of Resolution 40 (Cg-XII). That was essential in view of the differing views of Governments on the issue of whether charges should be levied for the use of publicly-funded meteorological data. He stated his own belief that nothing in the almost 50-year history of WMO had been as important for the future of international cooperation as the need for Thirteenth Congress to reaffirm and strengthen its commitment to Resolution 40 (Cg-XII).

On climate, the President said that WMO must collaborate closely with IOC, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Council for Science (ICSU) to ensure that the vision of an integrated GCOS became an operational reality. And on sustainable development, he noted that IOC and WMO had the scientific skill and collective will to help those in the political sphere pave a more sustainable way in the future.

He urged Congress, the last before the new millennium, to commit the entire WMO community to help build a world in which nations would continue to work closely together within the framework of the WMO Convention; the principle of free and unrestricted international exchange of basic meteorological data and products would be maintained and strengthened; nations and scientific institutions and communities would strengthen their commitment to collaborative study and monitoring of the Earth's natural systems; the potential of meteorological and hydrological systems in forecasting natural disasters, strengthened through the activities of the IDNDR, would be fully realized early in the twenty-first century; collaboration among the geosciences

would lead to the development and use of effective systems for seasonal forecasts and climate predictions; increasing cooperation between the meteorological, oceanographic and hydrological communities would help establish an integrated global environmental monitoring and service system based on the WWW; and WMO would collaborate with other international agencies to provide an effective forum and voice for the application of meteorological, hydrological and related sciences to serve the global community.

The meeting was suspended at 11.15 a.m. and reconvened at 2.40 p.m.

1.6 Statement by Mr Wen Kegang, Administrator of the China Meteorological Administration

On behalf of the delegation of China, **MR WEN KEGANG** expressed gratitude to the President and to all delegations for their condolences and kind words concerning Mr Zou Jingmeng.

Mr Zou had been an outstanding Chinese meteorologist who devoted his life to the Chinese Meteorological Service and to world meteorological cooperation. From 1981, he was Permanent Representative of China to WMO and in that year was elected an acting member of the Executive Council. In 1983, he became Second Vice-President of WMO and from 1987 to 1995 he served as President. During those years, Mr Zou Jingmeng contributed to bridging the gap between developing and developed countries in the meteorological and hydrological fields, to the preparation and implementation of WMO Programmes and to the strengthened role of WMO in global climate change and environment issues.

Mr Zou's tragic death brought much sadness to Chinese meteorologists but they would continue to engage in the modernization of Chinese meteorological services and in international meteorological cooperation. In that, they would have the Chinese Government's full support. Chinese meteorologists had made valuable contributions to the protection of human life and property, for example with the provision of timely and quality meteorological services at the time of the floods in 1998.

Mr Wen Kegang pledged to work in the same way as Mr Zou to support WMO Programmes and activities, maintaining and encouraging the free and unrestricted exchange of meteorological data and products, friendly cooperation between Members and supporting developing countries.

1.7 Statement by Mr Y. Israel, former Head of the former USSR State Committee on Hydrometeorology and Environmental Monitoring and special guest at the opening ceremony

MR Y. ISRAEL expressed gratitude for the warm words spoken in memory of Mr Zou Jingmeng by the Administrator of the China Meteorological Administration and of his activities as head of the Chinese Meteorological Service. The assembly knew him very well in the context of WMO as Vice-President and President, and as a warm and generous human being. Members could witness his goodwill outside politics. Developing and developed countries alike worked hand-in-hand under his leadership. He was a very good friend and

would remain in everyone's memory not only as an administrator, an outstanding professional and meteorologist but also as a dear friend.

1.8 Statement by H.E. The Honourable M. Moleleki, M.P., Minister of Natural Resources of Lesotho

H.E. MR M. MOLELEKI conveyed warm greetings and best wishes for the success of Thirteenth Congress from H.M. the King, the Right Honourable Prime Minister and the entire Basotho nation.

International cooperation in meteorology started in Vienna in 1873, with the formation of the International Meteorological Organization (IMO), WMO's forerunner. In 1884, the historically significant Berlin Conference took place whereby systematic colonization of the continent of Africa was formally adopted. Had the politicians that met in Berlin sought cooperation and dialogue, as did the meteorologists that met in Vienna, the present century could perhaps have avoided the conflicts and unprecedented exploitation of land resources that occurred.

The dawn of the twenty-first century was more promising, under the banner of Agenda 21 espousing environmentally-sound and sustainable development underpinned by democratic principles. It was clear that humankind acknowledged the importance of scientific advice as one of the factors in planning for the future. That was particularly true for the science of meteorology and its applications.

The Government of Lesotho believed that meteorology was fundamental to the provision of security of life and sustainable development. WMO was held in high regard and its reputation had grown; the provision of aeronautical meteorological services had made air navigation safer and more economic; agrometeorological services had made it easier for nations to feed themselves by harmonizing agricultural activities with weather and climate; hydrometeorological services had enabled sound planning and sustainable exploitation of water resources. Several successful regional projects illustrated the application of meteorology in sustainable economic development, addressing basic needs in the areas of food production and water availability. Those included the Early Warning System on Food Security, the Drought Monitoring Centres (DMCs) for southern and eastern African countries and the Hydrological Cycle Observing System (HYCOS).

WMO was also to be commended for collaborating with other organizations so as to ensure a better life for the world's population through the creation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), established by UNEP and WMO, and the Inter-Agency Committee on the Climate Agenda (IACCA).

Climate was the single most important element in Lesotho in determining the availability of food and water, disease outbreaks and disaster occurrence. Climate had influenced migration and settlement patterns, even wars. The national greeting "Khotso, Pula, Nala" literally meant "Peace, rain and prosperity".

Despite the current unfavourable financial situation, the Government was strengthening meteorological activities, starting with the Lesotho Meteorological Services whose

1999–2000 budget represented an investment of US\$ 0.40 for every citizen of Lesotho.

The decisions and conclusions of Thirteenth Congress would have far-reaching implications for the role of meteorology throughout the globe in the new millennium. The Government of Lesotho recognized the importance of WMO and hoped that Congress would reaffirm the importance of the Programme and ensure that developing countries continued to have reliable, observational networks. Assistance should be available particularly to those countries emerging from wars and internal strife, which might have destroyed meteorological infrastructure, and efforts should be made to ensure that developing countries continued to have access to satellite-derived data. Congress should also continue to give attention to the Education and Training (ETR) Programme, particularly since other programmes depended on the availability of well trained professional meteorologists at the national level.

The biggest challenge facing the meteorological community in the next millennium was under the WCP. The Government of Lesotho believed that meteorologists should provide not only warnings of evolving situations but also leadership on how the situation should be handled. Lesotho was proud to be associated with WMO which it believed would remain a truly objective and scientific specialized agency, free from political bias. WMO must jealously guard against erosion of its tradition of international and inter-organizational collaboration and cooperation even in the face of political differences among Member States.

1.9 Statement by H.E. Mr C. M. A. Rasolonay, Minister of Transport and Meteorology of Madagascar

H.E. MR C. M. A. RASOLONAY expressed honour and pleasure in greeting all participants of Thirteenth Congress in the name of the Government of Madagascar.

Meteorology was a major concern of the Government, as witnessed by the large delegation to Congress headed for the first time by a minister and further demonstrated by the inclusion of the term in the name of the Ministry itself (Ministry of Transport and Meteorology).

The Meteorological Service began as a small unit with three technical divisions (meteorology, climatology and hydrology) under the Civil Aviation Authority; now it was a parallel organization and the discipline had an increasing influence on economic and social life.

Madagascar was particularly affected by meteorological catastrophes (tropical depressions, cyclones, floods and droughts) which caused serious material damage and even deaths. Currently, a plague of locusts covered three quarters of the country. The Government attached much importance to WMO's activities and continued to make a great effort to meet its contributions as a Member. Through WMO, exchange of information could be assured and transfer of technology to Madagascar facilitated. Madagascar had benefited from the Voluntary Cooperation Programme (VCP) which made possible the acquisition of equipment and training of personnel. The Government took the opportunity to thank WMO and those Member countries who had helped Madagascar in recent years, in particular China and the United Kingdom. Madagascar would continue to need such assistance.

Mr Rasolonay wondered whether WMO could consider developing emergency programmes as had other specialized United Nations agencies (for instance, the work that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) was doing to help with the locust invasion in Madagascar). After a cyclone, for example, institutional funders acted to rebuild social and educational infrastructures (hospitals, schools, even town halls) but rarely meteorological infrastructures that would help forecast better such natural disasters and reduce the damage and loss of life in the future.

The Government of Madagascar appealed to WMO and the international community for assistance in hydrology as almost no observation stations existed, while floods and droughts were ever more frequent. Current equipment was so obsolete as to threaten the collection of national meteorological data. Madagascar placed great hopes in the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD).

The Government of Madagascar supported the candidature of Australia as President of WMO and of France as first Vice-President. As regarded the Secretary-General, the country remained faithful to Professor Obasi who had shown competence and efficiency in the post.

1.10 Statement by H.E. Senator P. M. Dlamini, Minister for Public Works and Transport of Swaziland

On behalf of His Majesty's Government, the people of Swaziland and himself, **H.E. SENATOR P. M. DLAMINI** thanked the WMO Secretariat for providing excellent facilities for Congress and extended appreciation to the Government of Switzerland for the support it provided.

Climate was in itself a resource which provided for the necessities of life. Throughout the ages, human beings had adapted to that resource by arranging shelter, food production, energy provision and lifestyles in harmony with climate and the Earth's atmospheric environmental conditions. Information on weather, climate and water-related events provided by national Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) was appreciated by the general public since, when properly applied, that information not only saved lives and property but also contributed to economic and social development. Internationally, the WWW provided valuable contributions. WMO was commended for the establishment of that and other cooperative partnerships.

The Kingdom of Swaziland had received much assistance from WMO through coordinated bilateral and multilateral programmes, for which it was greatly indebted. Donor Governments were now urged to consider providing assistance to developing countries — along the lines of the Finnish International Development Agency (FINNIDA)/South African Transport and Communications Commission (SATCC)/WMO project — to combat the year 2000 (Y2K) problem. The major technological changes to be addressed were not affordable by developing countries.

Swaziland's policies on environmental and related issues were commensurate with those of Regional Association I and of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). With the many challenges and threats posed by such concerns as global warming, shifts in

agricultural zones, depletion of the ozone layer, incidence of droughts and tropical storms, the position of Swaziland and the region at large was a precarious one. Policies of sustainable development with atmospheric environmental conservation could not be fully achieved without collective regional and international action. The Government of Swaziland encouraged all forms of relevant support to continue to be made available to the developing world, given the limited economic and technical abilities of such countries to address environmental hazards related to severe weather and atmospheric activities.

WMO was to be congratulated on the completion of its new Headquarters building. It was hoped that a better working environment would facilitate the continued delivery of the Organization's services.

1.11 Statement by H.E. Mr M. O. A. Aideed, Ambassador and Representative of the Minister of Communication of Oman

H.E. MR M. O. A. AIDEED expressed greetings on behalf of the Minister of Communication of the Sultanate of Oman and deep appreciation of the efforts made by WMO in the interests of the international community.

Meteorology and hydrology in the Sultanate of Oman benefited right from the start from the keen interest of the Government. Despite financial constraints, vital projects had been undertaken in order to promote national meteorology; the national Service provided services at the national and international levels, especially within the framework of the WWW, cooperating with the WMO Secretariat in particular to replace obsolete observing stations with modern systems. Cooperation with the technical commissions had borne fruit as had education and training programmes which were of paramount importance for developing countries. Such cooperation had been very beneficial for the national Service, allowing it to play a very important role in the efforts for sustainable development. It was only possible to bridge the gap between developed and developing countries by strengthening local capacities.

A new century was around the corner and the gap between developing and developed countries might broaden; it was therefore vital to tackle certain problems related to meteorology. WMO had assisted developing countries to overcome problems related to modernization. Now was the time to evaluate all national and regional centres and to consider measures that had been taken so far to solve the problems.

In 1997–1998, several countries were affected by *El Niño*. Once again that phenomenon showed how important it was to have proper observations and forecasts. Such services were particularly important for developing countries; it was vital to follow closely such phenomena in order to make appropriate economic and social decisions.

None of the countries in the Indian Ocean had satellites. The countries which did have satellites had shifted them to 63 degrees east so that the international countries now needed to modernize their stations to be able to benefit from those satellites. Satellites were very important because they provided excellent knowledge of the atmosphere. Thanks were due to the countries belonging to the European Organization

for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT); hope was expressed that they would continue to help the Indian Ocean countries.

A number of countries had been through a difficult economic period and had therefore cut resources for meteorology. As a result, the possibility of increasing the proportional contributions of certain countries should be considered.

1.12 Statement by Mr H. A. Diallo, Executive Secretary of the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

MR H. A. DIALLO welcomed all the delegates and political figures taking part in the work of Thirteenth Congress.

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification was signed in Paris on 14 October 1994 and came into force on 26 December 1996. It had been ratified by 151 countries including all African countries. It was hoped that shortly all the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean would have signed the Convention. The same went for Asia and central and eastern Europe. That demonstrated an extraordinary manifestation of political will on the part of the international community which saw in that instrument an adequate means of promoting sustainable development in regions affected by recurrent drought and degradation of soils.

Some countries had already begun to prepare their National Action Programmes and establish relevant intergovernmental organizations to coordinate action programmes at the subregional or regional levels. There had been true collaboration between various categories of actors (the countries concerned, technical services of Governments, non-governmental organizations and other structures of civil society). Earlier policies on combating desertification had been critically re-appraised and, where necessary, reoriented. However, all that could only work if other partners with an operational role were in place to bring the initiative to fruition. Such partners included obviously the national focal points of the Convention.

There were high hopes for the Convention which was in a way an innovation in the problem of development. Hopes were high because the Earth was still very rich in natural resources and because each had a moral obligation to push back the limits of the desert. The countries concerned expected a lot from the international community in their combat against desertification. The Convention did not only aim at protecting the quality of the soil; it had much more ambitious goals. It would pave the way towards a real sustainable development policy, taking preventive action but also rehabilitate degraded areas, improve water supply and reforestation, and create new mechanisms to benefit from scientific and technical progress.

Mr Diallo expressed deep gratitude to all countries and organizations helping to implement the Convention. Among those were WMO which had played a major role, since in many articles of the Convention, NMHSs were called upon directly. The necessary means were now available for early warnings and for a better understanding of the processes that led to drought and desertification.

No effort would be spared to implement the Convention. WMO should continue to strengthen research in the area of climatology — which was a priority in the Fifth

WMO Long-term Plan — and also in the Hydrology and Water Resources Programme (HWRP) and the Agricultural Meteorology Programme. WMO played an essential role in the creation and use of specialized regional centres in the field of agriculture, desertification and drought.

Joint WMO/UNCCD efforts had led to the drafting of an important document on water resources management and a scientific paper on drought and desertification (with WMO and UNEP). Seminars (with WMO, FAO and UNEP) were also envisaged shortly. An international symposium on the interaction between oceans and the atmosphere, drought and desertification, was in preparation (WMO, FAO and the Global Environment Facility (GEF)).

The Secretariat of the Convention was deeply grateful for the support of WMO, its President and its Secretary-General for their active support in the negotiation process and follow-up actions, in particular with activities linked to combating desertification and the consequences of drought. Professor Obasi had always shown great interest personally and had frequently encouraged the Secretariat with his presence.

1.13 Statement by Mr E. Bonev, Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

MR E. BONEV noted that UNDP and WMO had worked together ever since the inception of UNDP. As a result, numerous Meteorological Services had been set up in developing countries worldwide. Today, on the eve of a new millennium, that partnership required a fresh impetus to meet the challenges of an ever-changing world.

He recalled that in March 1998, Mr Federico Mayor, Director-General of UNESCO, had proposed a new initiative entitled "Towards a new partnership between UNDP and the specialized agencies." Since then, several consultations had been held involving UNDP and five specialized agencies: FAO, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). In March 1999, the Inter-Agency Consultative Committee (including WMO) was informed of progress to date, with the expectation that other agencies would join.

The new partnership initiative was in response to the wish of all Member States to contribute towards making the United Nations system an effective partner in the definition and implementation of joint strategies for sustainable development which required cross-border, cross-cutting and cross-sectoral approaches. The traditional role of UNDP as central funder and the specialized agencies as providers of know-how and programme design was giving way to a system in which each partner put forward both ideas and funding for joint programmes.

The main objectives of the new partnership initiative were: to strengthen mutual confidence and understanding through establishing a better system for dialogue between UNDP and the specialized agencies through annual consultations and improved information exchange; to work together more effectively in support of national development priorities through joint programming and strategies, research, advocacy and resource mobilization; to improve management

activities and achieve economies of scale through pooling of networks and human resources; and to review existing tools such as roundtables or support cost arrangements.

It was important that other United Nations agencies, particularly the small technical agencies like WMO, join the partnership initiative. WMO had always been in the front line of such initiatives, taking the leadership role for the small agencies and it was hoped that that group could be revived to play a proactive role in the coordinating mechanism of the United Nations system.

In the field of poverty reduction through sustainable development, UNDP's top priority, WMO had a particular contribution to make. For example, the WMO-assisted development of meteorological services could be designed to target small farmers. Close collaboration between the two agencies could prove very effective in fighting poverty.

1.14 Statement by Mr F. Schlingemann, Representative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

MR F. SCHLINGEMANN stated that WMO and UNEP had a long history of collaboration through WCP and the Climate Agenda, IPCC, GCOS, the Global Terrestrial Observing Systems (GTOS), GOOS and Earthwatch in general.

IPCC's fifteenth session in Costa Rica looked at recent severe climatic events and their relationship to climate change, for example, Hurricane *Mitch* and the prolonged and intense *El Niño/La Niña* events in 1997 and 1998. Was climate change influencing the frequency, intensity and timing or even the location of those severe climate and weather events? Was the occurrence and severity of those events purely the result of climate variability or were they suggestive evidence of climate change? IPCC should address such issues.

Droughts, floods and hurricanes had been known to occur before the onset of the industrial era. The Earth's population must learn to deal with normal climate variability. The capacity to deal with climate variability would help better address the consequences of climate change.

UNEP was pleased to record its very close collaboration with WMO and other agencies and organizations in the implementation of the Climate Agenda. UNEP itself was tasked to implement the World Climate Impact Assessment and Response Strategies Programme (WCIRP) of the WCP and Thrust 3 of the Climate Agenda. In the last few years, resource limitations had made it difficult for UNEP to meet its obligations in implementing the programme. But the resource base had improved and the work would now receive highest priority. UNEP requested the support of Congress and the climate community in its implementation of WCIRP.

UNEP was in the process of reconstituting WCIRP's Scientific Advisory Committee to bring on board new expertise in response to emerging priorities in the climate field. Additionally, in response to the new guidance by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to GEF, UNEP was organizing a series of think tank meetings in developing regions to identify and prepare proposals on climate impact and adaptation.

Every opportunity would be taken to make proposals to the United Nations Fund for International Partnership (UNFIP) and WMO's collaboration was sought in preparing

those proposals. UNFIP had approved in principle a project proposal made by UNEP on the assessment of the impacts of the 1997–1998 ENSO event.

Both funding agencies and Governments were encouraging inter-agency collaboration on project proposals since it was ineffective to compartmentalize environmental management. Indeed the single-issue approach in the resolution of environmental problems had led to other problems or had exacerbated existing ones; for example, the excellent substitutes for ozone-depleting substances which turned out to have high global warming potential (HFCs and PFCs, among others). Linkages between environmental issues had to be taken into account.

UNEP also recognized, as the repository of many environmental conventions, the existence of synergies between them that needed to be exploited so that their implementation could be cost effective. In collaboration with the World Bank and the United States National Aeronautical and Space Administration (NASA), UNEP had published a report addressing the question of linkages between environmental issues and the satisfaction of basic human needs for food, shelter, health and clean water. A good example of an inter-agency approach was the UNFIP-approved project between IDNDR, WMO, the United Nations University (UNU) and the United States National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR).

UNEP's collaboration with FAO, WMO, WHO, UNESCO and its IOC, and ISCU in the Climate Agenda clearly reflected the multifaceted nature of climate-related problems. UNEP had collaborated with WHO and WMO on a brochure on climate and health and, through the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE), many monographs had been produced. UNEP was committed to working with WMO on areas of common interest in the future.

The most visionary collaboration between UNEP, WMO and Governments was exemplified in the IPCC, which provided the basis, through its assessments, for the negotiation of the Climate Convention and for the further impetus for the Kyoto Protocol. At the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties, the UNFCCC agreed on the Buenos Aires Plan of Action that would seek to resolve issues that needed to be addressed in order to operationalize the Kyoto Protocol. There were many of those; IPCC was addressing, for instance, the question of land use, land use change and forestry. Inter-agency collaboration in the resolution of issues related to the economics of climate change would be of critical importance. UNEP, UNIDO, UNDP and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) under the coordination of the UNFCCC Secretariat had already prepared a project proposal for submission to UNFIP on the clean development mechanism.

Many more issues related to the flexible mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol would require elaboration. The key would be to emphasize collaboration, exploit synergies and produce results.

1.15 Statement by Mr J.-P. Makosso, Representative of the Agency for Air Safety in Africa and Madagascar (ASECNA)

Speaking on behalf of the Director-General of ASECNA, **MR J.-P. MAKOSSO** said that ASECNA, which

involved 15 African States and France, would celebrate its fortieth anniversary during 1999. He noted the exemplary cooperation that had always existed between WMO and ASECNA. In particular, he highlighted the excellent technical support provided by WMO over the past four years in the joint organization of seminars for French-speaking countries. That training by WMO had enabled countries to follow the rapid technological developments and put them into operation.

Meanwhile ASECNA, together with other regional and international organizations, had signed protocol agreements which provided working frameworks to take up issues related to meteorology and training. Those included the Regional Training Centre for Agrometeorology and Operational Hydrology and their Applications (AGRHYMET), ACMAD and EUMETSAT.

Economic and scientific progress today could favour the implementation of the WMO Long-term Plan by all

Member States. However, African States had not yet mastered that scientific and technical progress and that fact should not lead to the marginalization of the continent. There was a need to maintain some flexibility in the functioning of the WWW in order to harness the support needed by developing countries in order to comply properly with their admission in the area of meteorology. ASECNA had always tried to implement and update its equipment in order to meet the needs of Member States. However, Congress would have to deal with the issue of the Y2K problem. ASECNA, together with its Member States, had already prepared a plan of action for the year 2000. The guidelines adopted by Thirteenth Congress would assist the studies now being carried out by ASECNA. Regional and international cooperation in that area should be strengthened.

The meeting rose at 4.25 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE SECOND PLENARY MEETING
4 May 1999 at 4.30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 4.55 p.m.

2. Establishment of a Credentials Committee (agenda item 1.2) (Cg-XIII/Doc. 1.2(1))

The **PRESIDENT** referring to General Regulation 22, pointed out that a Credentials Committee could be established immediately after the completion of the opening formalities and for the duration of the session. General Regulation 23 referred to the participation of individuals whose credentials were found not to be in order. Credentials Committees had been established at previous Congresses and if there were no objections, he proposed to follow the same procedure and the same regional proportion.

It was so agreed.

After having consulted with the presidents of the Regional Associations, the **PRESIDENT** invited each in turn to put forward their suggestions for membership of the Credentials Committee. It was proposed that membership should consist of the principal delegates of the following Members:

Regional Association I:	Gabon, Guinea, Lesotho, Sudan
Regional Association II:	Maldives, Republic of Korea, Uzbekistan
Regional Association III:	Ecuador (in the absence of the president of Regional Association III and of the vice-president and after consultation, that proposal was made by the President)
Regional Association IV:	Canada, Cuba
Regional Association V:	Indonesia
Regional Association VI:	Ireland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Sweden

It was so agreed.

3. Approval of the agenda (agenda item 1.3) (Cg-XIII/Docs. 1.3(1); (2))

The **PRESIDENT** submitted the agenda for Thirteenth Congress (Cg-XIII/Docs 1.3(1); (2) and Cg-XIII/INF. 4) for approval.

The agenda was approved.

4. Establishment of committees (agenda item 1.4)

In conformity with General Regulation 24, the **PRESIDENT** proposed the establishment of the following committees:

4.1 Nomination Committee

In accordance with General Regulation 25, and with the prior agreement of the Bureau and the presidents of the

Regional Associations, the **PRESIDENT** proposed the establishment of a Nomination Committee composed of the presidents of the Regional Associations and other principal delegates, as followed:

Regional Association I:	President of RA I (United Republic of Tanzania), Senegal and Tunisia
Regional Association II:	President of RA II (Mongolia) and Nepal
Regional Association III:	Peru
Regional Association IV:	President of RA IV (Netherlands Antilles and Aruba) and Bahamas
Regional Association V:	President of RA V (Malaysia)
Regional Association VI:	President of RA VI (Italy), Lebanon and Ukraine

It was so agreed.

The **PRESIDENT** observed that all principal delegates concerned had been consulted and that, in accordance with General Regulation 30, he would be present at the first meeting for the election of the chairperson. In accordance with General Regulation 26, a representative of the Secretary-General, with consultative status, would be invited to assist the committee in its work.

It was so agreed.

4.2 Drafting Committee

The **PRESIDENT** observed that experience had shown that a Drafting Committee was not necessary and, therefore, proposed that such a committee should not be established.

It was so agreed.

4.3 Coordination Committee

The **PRESIDENT** proposed the establishment of a Coordination Committee with the composition prescribed in General Regulation 28, including both the chairpersons and the vice-chairpersons of the Working Committees, when established.

It was so agreed.

4.4 Working committees

The **PRESIDENT** pointed out that the Executive Council had planned the work of Congress on the basis of two such committees. The allocation of agenda items between the proposed Committees A and B appeared in Document Cg-XIII/INF. 4. If there was no objection, he would assume that the establishment of two working committees, with the proposed allocation of the agenda items, was approved.

It was so agreed.

The President also proposed that the Committee of the Whole would deal with a number of major issues on which it would be undesirable to have parallel functioning committees. He would invite the First Vice-President, Mr C. E. Berridge, to chair the Committee of the Whole.

It was so agreed.

The President invited the two committees to elect their co-chairpersons and suspended the work of the Plenary meeting.

Sitting as Committee A, Congress elected Mr N. Sen Roy (Second Vice-President) as chairperson and Mr B. Apuuli (Uganda) as vice-chairperson by acclamation.

Sitting as Committee B, Congress elected Mr J.-P. Beysson (Third Vice-President) as chairperson and Mr N. I. Tawfik (Saudi Arabia) as vice-chairperson by acclamation.

The Plenary meeting was reconvened.

4.5 Approval of the minutes

The **PRESIDENT** proposed that the minutes of as many Plenary meetings as possible should be approved during Congress and that the remainder would be approved by correspondence after the closure of the session, in accordance with General Regulation 113.

It was so agreed.

4.6 Working hours

The **PRESIDENT** proposed that the working hours should be the same as those for previous Congresses:

Monday to Friday: 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.
2.30 p.m. – 5.30 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

It was so agreed.

5. Review of previous resolutions of Congress

(agenda item 11.4) (Cg-XIII/Doc. 11.4(1))

The **PRESIDENT**, after having consulted the Bureau and the presidents of the Regional Associations, proposed Mr G. C. Schulze (South Africa) to be nominated Rapporteur to Review the Previous Resolutions of Congress.

It was so agreed.

In response to a comment made by the delegation of Egypt, the **PRESIDENT** suggested that he hoped the new system for numbering of documents introduced on the recommendation of the Executive Council would be used as far as possible. That involved referring to documents as identified by the agenda item number appearing at the top right-hand side rather than by the number that appeared at the bottom left-hand side of documents.

The meeting rose at 5.35 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE THIRD PLENARY MEETING

5 May 1999 at 9.40 a.m.

The meeting was called to order at 9.40 a.m.

6. Report by the President of the Organization (agenda item 2.1) (Cg-XIII/Doc. 2.1(1))

The **PRESIDENT**, in introducing his report pointed out that it was structured in accordance with the three formal requirements of General Regulation 137. Under Regulation 137(a), he highlighted the achievements of WMO and its constituent bodies since Twelfth Congress. He noted that the membership of the Organization now comprised 179 States and six Territories, with seven States and Territories having acceded to the WMO Convention since Twelfth Congress: Cook Islands, Macao, Federated States of Micronesia, Monaco, Niue, Samoa and Tonga.

The President reported that he had attended sessions of all six regional associations, whose great value, he believed, was that they provided the opportunity for Permanent Representatives to address the implications of global issues within their particular regions.

He commended the WMO technical commissions to which all countries had been given the opportunity to provide expert representatives, to pool their efforts, to explore new concepts and to develop common approaches to the major scientific and technical issues faced by the global meteorological and hydrological communities. He believed the effectiveness of the global programmes of WMO ultimately depended on the effectiveness of the technical commission system.

Among the commissions' key achievements in the past four years was the work of the Commission for Basic Systems (CBS) which had improved its response capability and efficiency, and was focusing on such difficult issues as the role of the Internet in the operation of the WWW. The President also noted the Commission for Instruments and Methods of Observation (CIMO), which focused on instrument development, training and capacity building with special reference to the needs of developing countries; also, Regional Instrument Centres had been established covering all six WMO Regions; the Commission for Atmospheric Sciences (CAS) which had made a major input into the development of the concept of the World Weather Research Programme; the Commission for Climatology (CCI), one of whose initiatives was the establishment of the Climate Information and Prediction Services; the Commission for Aeronautical Meteorology (CAeM), which focused attention on revised aeronautical codes and the implementation of the World Area Forecast System; the Commission for Marine Meteorology (CMM), which had coordinated the full implementation of the WMO marine broadcast system for the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System, and had designed and guided

development of a global Marine Pollution Emergency Response Support System; the Commission for Agricultural Meteorology (CAgM), which was refocusing its activities for the WMO Agricultural Meteorological Programme on regional solutions; and the Commission for Hydrology (CHy) which was implementing projects directly involving national Hydrological Services as a means of assisting countries to protect life and property and to contribute to their sustainable development. The development of the World Hydrological Cycle Observing System was an example of how the Commission supported the dissemination of hydrological databases at regional and international levels.

In reporting on the work of the Executive Council, the President expressed his appreciation for the invaluable support of the Secretary-General, the Vice-Presidents and the members of the Council who had served as vice-chairpersons of the Executive Council Working Committees and in other important roles in enabling him to preside over its sessions. He was grateful for the insight, wisdom and hard work of his Executive Council colleagues during the past four years. He believed that the Council had carried out all the main responsibilities entrusted to it by Twelfth Congress. All of the recommendations put forth by the Council for consideration by Congress had been achieved by consensus and he commented briefly on some of those.

Among the difficult tasks dealt with by the Executive Council since Twelfth Congress were the deliberations over the Secretary-General's budget proposals for the thirteenth financial period. A consensus had been achieved after much soul-searching, and he commended the spirit of compromise reached to the present Congress. The Executive Council study on restructuring of WMO had also involved a number of compromises. While some of the original proposals were bold and innovative, it was finally agreed to recommend only minimal changes, as many Executive Council members were unconvinced that the proposed changes would represent improvements. The Executive Council had concluded that Congress itself would need to consider some of the more difficult decisions.

The Executive Council had taken up the challenge of preserving the spirit of Resolution 40 (Cg-XII), strengthening it where possible, but avoiding reopening the debates of Twelfth Congress. The President paid tribute to the Executive Council members for their prevailing sense of goodwill in ensuring that the spirit of Resolution 40 (Cg-XII) would continue. Lastly, the Executive Council had devoted its attention to the problems faced by NMHSs as the Governments of both developed and developing countries responded to the pressures of economic globalization. Perhaps one of the greatest challenges of the Executive Council had

been to provide guidance to those Members who had sought advice on how to respond to government policies on restructuring and alternative services delivery without jeopardizing the international structure on which all nations depended.

The President referred briefly to the various matters in his written report which were required to be reported in accordance with General Regulation 137(b). Turning to General Regulation 137(c), he noted that the help of a group of eminent persons had been sought to chart the future of meteorology and the related geosciences in the United Nations system. Their advice included increased integration of the work of meteorology, oceanography and hydrology; greater consolidation of dispersed water science activities; and new initiatives to reduce losses from natural disasters. They also urged WMO to reach out and more closely involve the social and biological sciences, so that the Organization might jointly contribute to assist in the relief of human suffering, the improvement of economic conditions and the promotion of the health and well-being of people in all parts of the world.

In closing, the President wished to thank all those who had assisted him during his term of office, in particular the Vice-Presidents during the past financial period for their valuable advice and constant support, members of the Executive Council with whom he had the honour and pleasure of working, and all former colleagues. He also thanked the presidents of the regional associations and the technical commissions, and the chairpersons, rapporteurs and members of the many panels and working groups for their dedicated efforts. He expressed special appreciation to the Secretary-General and the Secretariat for their cooperation and assistance. Lastly, he paid tribute to those colleagues who had passed away, in particular the former President of WMO, Mr Zou Jingmeng.

The **DELEGATE OF DENMARK**, speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Denmark, observed that the Nordic countries had always played, and would continue to play, an active role in the implementation of WMO Programmes. They attached great importance to a well-functioning WWW. They found that observing activities — surface, upper air and space-based systems — were of crucial concern for the fulfilment of services related to weather, water and climate, as well as environmental matters.

Sufficient resources to implement the basic systems should be available, he said, especially in developing countries. Functioning basic systems would support the other activities of the world meteorological community and benefit all the users of the services, and he noted the Nordic countries supported basic systems in several countries. For example, in the past decade, Finnish technical support had amounted to US \$30 million for infrastructure development in the SADC and Central American isthmus countries as well as bilateral projects in Sudan, Nicaragua and the Baltic countries.

He affirmed the need for close cooperation in the functioning of NMHSs, among whose objectives were the safety and welfare of mankind and efforts to prevent loss of life and property during severe weather, and in that context he endorsed the principle of free and unrestricted international exchange of basic meteorological data.

He had supported the adoption of Resolution 40 (Cg-XII), which was a demonstration of the tradition in international meteorological and hydrological cooperation where solutions to difficult problems could be achieved. Noting that the Nordic countries supported and respected the letter and spirit of Resolution 40 (Cg-XII), and would continue to do so, he expressed the hope that a strong commitment would be forthcoming from Thirteenth Congress.

Of major importance in the future was WMO's active role in climate and global climate change questions. The research needs of the IPCC and the climate-related conventions, as well as the other components of WCP in the framework of the Climate Agenda, would be of high value and the Nordic countries would support the Organization's objectives in those fields in its long-term plans.

Lastly, he gave assurances that the Nordic countries would cooperate to ensure that the Organization was fully prepared to face the challenges and opportunities of the new millennium.

The **FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT** expressed concerns that the Commission for Agricultural Meteorology, at its twelfth session, had failed to reach a quorum for its final plenary meetings. He suspected the reason was that many developing countries were financially unable to send delegates to meetings. He said that was particularly unfortunate in the case of the Commission for Agricultural Meteorology, since many developing countries had agriculturally-based economies and would have benefited most from attendance at the meeting. He called on Thirteenth Congress to address that issue, adding that it was an area in which WMO could enhance its image with national Governments. He also praised highly the President for his efforts over the past four years.

The **DELEGATE OF FRANCE** thanked the President for his report. She called for increased coordination between the fields of meteorology and oceanography, and said that France endorsed the strengthening link between WMO and IOC of UNESCO. Technical cooperation was an essential component of WMO activities, she said, especially as regarded developing countries. She also regretted the lack of availability of documents in French; at the start of Congress, only half the documentation available in English had been issued in French, which hindered the preparatory work of numerous delegations.

Expressing his heartfelt congratulations for the quality of the President's report, the **DELEGATE OF MALI** also commended him for his personal, constant commitment to the work of WMO. He said that defining the role and functioning of Meteorological and Hydrological Services was a diverse problem that must be dealt with by both developing and developed countries. He would like Thirteenth Congress, in light of the recommendations of the fiftieth session of the Executive Council, to have more far-reaching discussions on WMO support for Meteorological and Hydrological Services, especially in developing countries.

The **DELEGATE OF GEORGIA** wished Thirteenth Congress much success, and thanked WMO and its leadership under the Secretary-General for the assistance it had been given through WMO's VCP. He also thanked the United Kingdom, Switzerland and France for their assistance. With the help of those donors, Georgia was able to carry out 11

projects that enabled it to update its communication system as well as its satellite reception and interpretation system. Despite that assistance, however, the delegate said the economic situation in his country was causing difficulties in carrying out meteorological and hydrological services. He said that Georgia was involved in several large international projects for which meteorological services would need to work properly, and that the NMHSs of those countries should work more actively to coordinate their activities in those projects. He called for an international conference involving all the countries concerned in the year 2000 to discuss a project to transport oil from the Caspian Sea, and expressed Georgia's willingness to host such a conference, with the assistance of WMO. He also called on WMO to participate more actively in the process of technical study in implementing Kyoto Protocol mechanisms.

Congratulating the President and the Secretary-General for their leadership over the previous four years, the **DELEGATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN** said that current problems and developments implied there was a need to reorganize WMO. He mentioned the problem of water scarcity, and said that the important role of Meteorological Services was becoming less visible in that area, whereas other national Services unrelated to meteorology were becoming more so. He said the role of the Global Telecommunication System (GTS) was also becoming less visible. He said those problems showed it was necessary to consider again the restructuring of WMO, taking into account the needs and obligations of Agenda 21. That was the reason, he believed, that CBS should refocus and reexamine its programmes and projects to eliminate duplication.

The **DELEGATE OF KENYA**, congratulating the President for his comprehensive report, believed it was an excellent reflection of his able leadership, and also that of the Secretary-General. He called for a strengthening of the WWW, the ETR, the Technical Cooperation (TCO) and the Regional Programmes. He said that as a member of the committee on the restructuring of WMO, he felt the efforts in that area had been worthwhile, and that even though some of the changes implemented up to that point had been minor, they were nevertheless what he considered improvements. Mentioning meeting documentation as one area in which change was already being implemented, he believed that the restructuring should be a continuous process.

The **DELEGATE OF BOTSWANA** congratulated the President for his work in the twelfth financial period. She also congratulated the Secretary-General and his staff, the Vice-Presidents and the Executive Council. She expressed the gratitude of her delegation to those countries that had contributed to the Meteorological Services of her country, specifically the United Kingdom, the United States and the Nordic countries, both for bilateral support and for their support through the SADC. With that assistance, her country was able to strengthen its meteorological infrastructure and replace some of its equipment. However, she said her country still had difficulties, especially with upper-air observations because of the cost of consumables, and thought that perhaps Thirteenth Congress could convince donor countries, notably the Nordic countries, to extend their support under VCP to include such consumables. She encouraged WMO's continuous participation in environmental issues, notably the

UNFCCC, the International Convention to Combat Desertification (ICCD), the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer and the IPCC. She expected that WMO's Climate Information and Prediction Services (CLIPS) would help in climate prediction and make an impact in that area. She thanked WMO and Members who were involved in the Southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook Forum (SARCOF), and called for more work to be done in that area. She also requested that Thirteenth Congress provide some clarification in the interpretation of Resolution 40 (Cg-XII) as to its implications for satellite and related information, as her country was under budgetary constraints and could not gather such information on its own. She expressed the hope that the current arrangements with operators were maintained. In addition, she asked WMO to assist her country to address the Y2K problem and said her delegation supported the restructuring of WMO.

The **DELEGATE OF GERMANY** stated that his delegation had noted the report and wished to thank the President for his work during the twelfth financial period.

Also wishing to congratulate the President for his high-quality report, the **DELEGATE OF NIGERIA** would intervene during the discussions under the appropriate agenda items. He expressed satisfaction on the progress of the Organization under the leadership of the President, the Vice-Presidents and the Secretary-General. He said that WMO publications, which he called guidelines in enhancing the quality of national Meteorological Services, had been beneficial to many Members in raising funds from their Governments.

The **DELEGATE OF SAMOA** requested that his statement be included in the record of the Third Plenary Meeting.

It was a privilege and honour for him, he said, to address Congress for the first time in his capacity as Permanent Representative of the Independent State of Samoa to WMO, and he wished to extend the warm greetings of His Highness Malietoa Tanuamafili II, Head of State of Samoa, the Prime Minister, H.E. Tuilaepa Sailele and all the people of Samoa.

Reflecting on Samoa's history, he explained that Samoa's first European contacts were with French and Dutch explorers in the seventeenth century. The western islands, known as Western Samoa, were annexed by Germany in the late nineteenth century under the Berlin Treaty while the United States administered the eastern islands, now known as American Samoa. From 1920, New Zealand administered the territory, until independence in 1962. It was under the German administration that meteorological observations were first carried out at the Apia Observatory, which was one of the oldest stations established in the South Pacific island nations, and which would celebrate its one-hundredth anniversary in 2002.

His Government's wish to join WMO stemmed from the recognition of the importance of international collaboration in meteorology and hydrology. Samoa was one of many small island countries scattered in the Pacific Ocean and was dependent on other countries to ensure that its long-term development plan for meteorology and operational hydrology was not only nationally but also regionally and globally compatible, sustained and satisfied.

Since becoming a Member of WMO in 1996, Samoa had benefited enormously from WMO's Programmes and activities, which had served to improve the Meteorological Service. He acknowledged with gratitude the assistance received from the Organization and from Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand and United Kingdom, as well as the European Union.

Like a number of other Members, however, Samoa had endured social and economic problems over the years, particularly at the peak of the 1990–1992 *El Niño* event, which generated tropical cyclones that had a devastating and crippling effect on the country. With the support of the regional and global community, his country had recovered and it was hoped that no future cyclones would find the country unprepared.

In closing, he wished to thank the Secretary-General and his staff, and the Director of the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, as well as the former and present presidents of Regional Association V, and looked forward to cooperating with other WMO Members to guide the Organization into the next century.

7. Report by the Secretary-General (agenda item 2.2)

The **PRESIDENT** noted that no separate document had been submitted under agenda item 2.2 because the subjects the report covered were under the appropriate agenda items. He therefore proposed that the item be considered as having been dealt with.

It was so agreed.

8. Reports of the presidents of regional associations (agenda item 3.8.0) (Cg-XIII/Docs. 3.8.0(1); (2); (3); (4); (5) and (6))

8.1 Report by the president of Regional Association I (Africa) (Cg-XIII/Doc. 3.8.0(1))

The **PRESIDENT OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATION I** introduced his report and described the major activities undertaken by the Association since Twelfth Congress. He said that Members of RA I had participated in several regional meetings and training events organized by WMO.

The Regional Office for Africa was officially located in Bujumbura, Burundi, but due to the deterioration of the security situation, the international staff had been reassigned to the WMO Secretariat in Geneva, where they continued to perform their duties.

A highlight was the establishment of a Subregional Office for Western Africa and a Subregional Office for Eastern and Southern Africa at Lagos, Nigeria in February 1997 and at Nairobi, Kenya in June 1998, respectively.

Major developments in the Region during the past four years included improvements in Regional Meteorological Telecommunication Network (RMTN) point-to-point circuits; the installation of 14 PDUS/SDUS and 12 SADIS systems as well as the installation of six television weather presentation systems; the deployment of 200 data collection platforms; the automation of National Meteorological Centres at Lagos and Dar-es-Salaam; the installation and/or upgrading of climate computing (CLICOM) systems in 19 countries; and the transformation by several countries of their NMSs to autonomous/semi-autonomous status. The considerable

decline in UNDP-supported projects over the years had had a major negative impact in the Region.

The president briefly highlighted the major issues and concerns raised at the Regional Association's twelfth session, *inter alia*, the low availability of observational data from RA I at various national, regional and global centres; the strong support for the CLIPS project; the increased gap between fellowship requests and actual fellowship resources; and the need for training in areas such as the Y2K problem, telecommunications, numerical weather prediction (NWP) and climate prediction. In addition, many Members of the Region regarded Resolution 40 (Cg-XII) as being complex with several areas sensitive to interpretation. Additional guidance was required to enable Members to understand fully the implications of Resolution 40 (Cg-XII) and therefore a Task Group had been established to assist with that issue.

Turning to the challenges ahead for the Association, he noted that advances in science and technology, especially space, computers and telecommunications, were changing the modes of operation of NMHSs. Also, the role of NMHSs would become increasingly difficult in the face of the delineation of their mandates, the choice of service delivery systems and the decreasing financial resources available.

The president defined the priorities of the Association, among which were enhancing the quality and use of NWP outputs in developing reliable seasonal and interannual forecasting; developing an effective and efficient public weather services to enhance the visibility of NMHSs; improving the understanding and extent of the potential threat related to climate variability and change; reviewing the Regional Basic Synoptic Network; evolving effective and efficient telecommunications systems; and improving equipment, facilities and human resources capabilities. He envisaged that the major WMO Programmes would have to be strengthened to respond to those priorities.

In closing, he expressed his appreciation to the Association's vice-president, chairpersons and rapporteurs, its previous president and vice-president and all Members who had assisted him, as well as to those Members outside the Region who had contributed. Also, he conveyed his appreciation to the Secretary-General and the Secretariat, in particular the Regional Office for Africa and the two Subregional Offices.

8.2 Report by the president of Regional Association II (Asia) (Cg-XIII/Doc. 3.8.0(2))

The **PRESIDENT OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATION II** thanked the Government of Mongolia for hosting the eleventh session of the Association at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia in 1996. He also expressed his appreciation to the President and Secretary-General for having attended the session.

During the past four years, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan exercised their right to become Members of the Association and Macao became a Member of both WMO and the Association, while Portugal ceased to be a Member of the Association. The membership of RA II now totalled 34. He warmly welcomed the new members and thanked Portugal for its valuable contribution to the work of the Association.

The Association assisted Members in the implementation of WMO scientific and technical programmes.

All the scheduled meetings of the working groups were held and the president reported that sessions of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)/WMO Typhoon Committee and the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones were held annually and contributed greatly to natural disaster preparedness and reduction. The vast area of RA II contained a great diversity of topography, climatic zones and ecosystems. Asia suffered severely from all types of natural disasters and a number of Member countries were victims of typhoons, tropical cyclones, storm surges, flooding, drought and earthquakes. The resulting loss of life and material damage had serious consequences for the social and economic well-being of those Members and could jeopardize their chances of achieving sustainable development. He recalled that most Members in the Region were developing countries that faced a number of challenges and difficulties. All efforts to assist those Members should be enhanced and in that regard expressed his deep appreciation to the Secretary-General for his support.

During his travels in the Region the president was pleased to note the activities of the NMHSs, but conceded that some Services, particularly in Newly Independent States and countries such as Lao People's Democratic Republic and Nepal, needed strengthening in order to find solutions to problems of upper-air sounding observations, telecommunications and training. Some Members from the Gulf Cooperation Council had asked for support to coordinate the marine meteorological activities in that subregion, underscoring the importance of regional cooperation.

He expressed his appreciation, in particular to the vice-president, chairpersons, members and rapporteurs of the working groups, as well as to the Members who had contributed to the work of the Association, and to those who had provided facilities for hosting the various events in the Region. He also extended his gratitude to the Secretariat, in particular to the staff of the Regional Office for Asia and the South-West Pacific for their assistance and advice.

8.3 Report by the president of Regional Association III (South America) (Cg-XIII/Doc. 3.8.0(3))

On behalf of the **PRESIDENT OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATION III**, who had terminated his responsibilities with the Paraguay Meteorological Service, the **DELEGATE OF BRAZIL** relayed the president's appreciation to all those who had collaborated with him during his term, in particular the President of WMO and the Secretary-General.

In introducing the report, he noted that the technical highlights of the Region of the past four years were included in the annex to the report. He would not elaborate on the report, but wished to mention some of the important activities for which the Association sought the support of Congress.

With the conclusion of the feasibility study of the Ibero-American Climate Project in December 1998, it was anticipated that WMO, the donor countries and the international funding agencies would continue collaborating with the participating countries. The regional seminar held in Lima, Peru to study the *El Niño* phenomenon recommended the creation of a working group comprising members of Regional Associations III and IV, and he sought support so that it could carry out its tasks. A recent meeting of experts held in

Buenos Aires discussed the setting up of a new network to modernize telecommunications in the entire Region. The system, which was important for the WWW, particularly in the Americas, should be available in the year 2000.

Strengthening the role of regional offices was one of the activities for which wide support was considered essential. He stressed that the regional and subregional offices proved to be an excellent means of enhancing the WMO activities in the regions, and especially technical cooperation activities among countries in the Region. Therefore, more support should be given to those offices as they were vital to the strengthening of WMO. In that context, the Government of Brazil had submitted its formal proposal to the president of Regional Association III to host the Regional Office for the Americas in Brazil. He invited Congress to consider that proposal.

In conclusion, he thanked the Director of the Regional Office and the Secretary-General for their constant support and assistance.

8.4 Report by the president of Regional Association IV (North and Central America) (Cg-XIII/Doc. 3.8.0(4))

The **PRESIDENT OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATION IV** reported that several training courses had been conducted in RA IV. Among those were the Technical Conference on the Enhancement of Management Skills for the Directors of Meteorological Services held in Nicaragua; the activities of the Regional Hurricane Committee; the twelfth session of RA IV in Nassau, Bahamas; the meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Education and Training; and training courses on Tropical Meteorology and Tropical Cyclone Tracking and Forecasting, organized annually in Miami. He thanked WMO and others, in particular, the United States for their support in those activities.

Another important development was the implementation of the new RMTN based on the VSAT/STAR 4 satellite meteorological telecommunication system. That was done through the strong support of the United States and FINNIDA.

Some of the important activities during the period included meetings on climate issues and the *El Niño* phenomenon. Studies included a feasibility study on the Ibero-American Climate Project, a draft of which had been submitted to the Inter-American Development Bank. Another feasibility study on the socio-economic impact of *El Niño* in Latin America and the Caribbean, carried out by WMO and the Inter-American Development Bank, was set to begin during the second half of 1999. Others who would provide support for that project included the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the United States National Weather Service and the International Research Institute for Climate Prediction (IRI).

He said that education and training were top priorities in RA IV because many people would be retiring in the next few years, and there was a need to fill posts at the Class I and Class II levels. An ad hoc working group met in Miami last year to discuss that issue and had requested WMO to prepare a project document. He put out an appeal to WMO and donor countries to help with long-term fellowships to help RA IV deal with that problem.

Noting that hurricanes had caused a total of more than US\$ 20 billion in damage in the past year, he reported that two hurricanes, namely *Georges* and *Mitch*, had also caused more than 10 000 deaths, mostly in the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In January 1999, a meeting was held in San José, Costa Rica, for potential donors to help with relief operations from those hurricanes. The result of that meeting was an urgent call for assistance to help rebuild the meteorological and hydrological infrastructure of the countries affected by the hurricanes. He asked that in light of those efforts, WMO grant full support to RA IV's Hurricane Committee, whose activities were considered of the highest priority in the Region. In order to promote awareness for the coming hurricane season, two hurricane awareness tours had been successfully conducted in Latin America and the Caribbean, sponsored by the United States.

He said that over the last decade, meteorology had made great advances in accuracy of forecasts; research and development, especially in the areas of climate variability and seasonal forecasting; possibilities of industry and commerce to use meteorological information in an appropriate manner; and the provision of products and services. To further improve on those achievements, he felt it necessary that Congress design adequate strategies for the development of NMHSs, to enhance modernization of the Services and thus their contribution to the socio-economic development of countries.

A problem his Region faced was a decline in attendance at sessions of RA IV and at Congress. He said the major reason for that was financial, giving the example of Honduras, which was financially devastated by Hurricane *Mitch*. He strongly appealed to WMO to provide financial assistance to Members to allow them to attend those meetings.

The Subregional Office for North America, Central America and the Caribbean in Costa Rica had been active and had carried out, *inter alia*, projects for 12 of the Region's 25 countries, and was planning projects for 21 countries. It had also participated in 20 national, regional or international meetings or events, and had organized three meetings in Costa Rica on behalf of the WMO Secretariat and IPCC.

He expressed gratitude to the United States for assistance to the Region's NMHSs in the fields of education and training and technological advances. He also thanked the Director of the Regional Office, the staff of the Subregional Office in Costa Rica, the Secretary-General and the International Activities Office of the United States National Weather Service, who had provided him with substantial support.

8.5 Report by the president of Regional Association V (South-West Pacific) (Cg-XIII/Doc. 3.8.0(5))

Introducing his report, the **PRESIDENT OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATION V** thanked the Government of Indonesia for hosting the twelfth session of RA V in Bali in September 1998. Since Twelfth Congress, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Niue, Samoa and Tonga had all become Members of WMO, increasing the number of Members in the Region to 21.

He said the Region was composed of many Small Island Developing States, and was thus vulnerable to phenomena such as tropical cyclones and ENSO. The

1997–1998 *El Niño* had a drastic effect on the economies of many Members, especially those in the South-East Asian region. Many Members lacked the infrastructure to lessen the impacts of such natural disasters. The Region was also extremely vulnerable to climate change, especially as it related to a rise in sea level. In that respect, the president called for special emphasis on the Regional Aspects of WWW and on the Tropical Cyclone Programme (TCP). He also called for improvements in NMHSs' interannual and seasonal climate predictions and technical cooperation between WMO and regional organizations. He said that Members in the Region had been encouraged to participate actively in the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP)-4.

The Association continued to assist Members in implementing the scientific and technical programmes of WMO. Although the general level of implementation was satisfactory, there were still areas that could be improved. Significant progress had been made in the implementation of the Emergency Managers Weather Information Network (EMWIN), which had been extended to 15 countries in the Region with the support of the United States. The Region benefited from the Public Weather Services (PWS) Programme, especially in training workshops and in joint activities with the TCP and regional bodies such as the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

The Association appreciated the efforts of the Secretary-General in helping the Region establish a Subregional Office in Samoa. The president expressed his appreciation to all Members who had contributed to the work of the Association and who provided facilities for hosting various events in the Region. He thanked the vice-president of the Association; the chairpersons of the working groups and rapporteurs; and the former president and former acting president of the Association. Lastly, he wished to thank the Secretary-General and the Secretariat, in particular the staff of the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific for their assistance and advice.

8.6 Report by the president of Regional Association VI (Europe) (Cg-XIII/Doc. 3.8.0(6))

The **PRESIDENT OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATION VI**, having been elected in May 1998 at the twelfth session of the Association, expressed the Association's gratitude and appreciation to the former president and vice-president. In that respect, he also wished to thank the present vice-president for his continuing support.

Turning to the work of the Association, he said that an ad hoc group had been developed in the Region to improve WWW activities and data availability, especially for economies in transition. Special attention was being paid to the needs of new Members in the Middle Eastern section of Region VI.

An important project for the Region, the Regional Meteorological Data Communication Network (RMDCN), had entered its planning and implementation phase, with initial deployment due to start any day. Scheduled to participate in the initial deployment were 18 Members that were also members of the European Centre for Medium-range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF); in addition, 13 non-ECMWF members were also expected to participate. A workshop to assist

Members in implementing the RMDCN was organized in Geneva in January 1999 and a coordinated project was established to help implement the RMDCN, with cash contributions received from Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

The Association felt that attention should be given to the responsibility of Governments with respect to public warnings of natural disaster. In that regard, 48 participants attended a technical conference of management of national Meteorological and Hydrometeorological Services which was held in Geneva in March 1999. The implementation of the recommendations of the meeting would be one of the Association's main priorities during the thirteenth financial period.

He called on WMO Members not to renegotiate Resolution 40 (Cg-XII), but rather to focus on continuing the monitoring of its implementation. It was important to follow up on the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) draft Treaty on Intellectual Property in Respect of Databases to ensure that the protection of databases containing additional data was consistent with Resolution 40 (Cg-XII).

For the future of the Association, he foresaw strengthening cooperation between WMO and regional organizations such as EUMETSAT and ECMWF. The organizations in the Region could cooperate with WMO to ensure that the exchange of information remained free of charge. He also called on increased cooperation in medium- and long-range forecasting between WMO and ECMWF. He said the Association needed to focus on the full implementation of all its programmes, which meant that assistance would be needed for central and eastern European countries with economies in transition.

He expressed his appreciation to all those who had contributed towards the functioning of the Association and the implementation of its activities, especially the chairpersons and members of the working groups and rapporteurs. He also thanked those Member countries that supplied host facilities for meetings, particularly Israel, for hosting the twelfth session of the Association. He also thanked the President and Secretary-General as well as the Secretariat for their support.

9. Fifth WMO Long-term Plan (2000–2009) (agenda item 6.2) (Cg-XIII/Docs. 6.2(1); 6.2(1), ADD. 1)

At the invitation of the President, the **SECRETARY-GENERAL** introduced the draft Fifth WMO Long-term Plan covering the period 2000–2009, as contained in Cg-XIII/Docs. 6.2(1) and 6.2(1) ADD. 1. He said the Executive Council had mandated its format, structure and contents, as well as the policy and strategy principles to be included, and it was the basis for the budget for the thirteenth financial period. All Member countries had contributed in the planning process, directly or either through the six regional associations or the eight technical commissions, as had the other WMO constituent bodies.

The draft provided WMO's vision for the future in the medium and long term, and outlined the purposes and overall WMO objectives, its opportunities and challenges as well as trends and advances likely to develop in the period 2000–2003 and beyond. The draft Plan spelled out programmes and activities for WMO in a way that enabled the Organization to

evaluate its implementation, while the financial resources required were also identified.

The Secretary-General stated that through the long-term planning process, WMO Members agreed on the criteria for priority activities, thus the draft Plan provided a broad overview of relevant political, social, economic and other factors in addition to pertinent scientific and technological advances related to WMO interests and relevant issues. Among those were globalization, market economies and modernization; alternative service delivery; international exchange of data and products; integration of the geosciences; natural disaster mitigation; climate and climate change; capacity building; and sustainable development.

Congress would touch upon those issues during its discussions, as they affected the provision of relevant services and the role of NMHSs and WMO as a whole. Substantial linkages existed among those issues; globalization and the shift to a market economy had led to a review of services which had traditionally been provided as public services in many countries. In turn, such reviews had led to the examination of cost-recovery efforts, commercialization and sometimes to privatization of some NMHSs. There were, therefore, implications for global cooperation in the international exchange of meteorological and related data, as well as in the provision of appropriate weather and climate services.

WMO sought to strengthen the core activities of NMHSs and their contribution towards sustainable development. The Plan also provided details of the implementation components within major WMO Programmes and individual scientific and technical programmes.

Regional priorities had been identified by each of the six regional associations which had emphasized specific areas in their respective Regions, taking into account the best interests of the Organization as a whole. National priorities were important and had also been identified, taking into account the various challenges facing the NMHSs.

A specific feature of the draft Fifth Long-term Plan was the WMO vision statement, "World Meteorological Organization in the service of mankind: A vision for the twenty-first century". Built on international cooperation and scientific achievements, the vision sought to place WMO in a position to address challenges posed by changing social, economic and political situations, rapid changes in technology as well as environmental concerns to benefit humanity. Such challenges needed to be turned into opportunities.

The WMO vision statement outlined ways in which WMO would help to build a better world by enabling countries to work closely together in the field of meteorology; and in which the principle of free and unrestricted international exchange of meteorological data and products was maintained; where countries, institutions and communities strengthened their commitment to the collaborative study and monitoring of the planet's natural systems; a world where the potential of early warning systems to reduce losses from severe weather, flood and drought were fully realized; where collaboration among the geosciences led to successful seasonal forecasts and climate predictions for such phenomena as *El Niño* and global warming; where international cooperation led to an integrated global environmental monitoring and service system; and

where weather and climate applications were harnessed to sustainable development and national capacities were created for their maximum use.

The Organization sought to exploit fully the unlimited possibilities opened up by new technology, in particular, improvements in satellite data collection, communications and computing, to ensure that weather, water and climate products were further improved. WMO also sought to play a leading role in converting twentieth century research activities into twenty-first century fully operational services; to enhance the Organization's role within the United Nations system in the coordination of the geosciences and their applications; to help member countries develop new methods of providing weather, water and climate information and services that were more user-oriented, responsive and innovative; to encourage national strategies to build on the framework of international cooperation, recognizing that essential core weather, water and climate services were public goods; and to promote an international environment in which policy and legislation, institutions, human resources and management systems could be used to the advantage of national and global communities.

The Secretary-General said that in looking ahead to the first decade of the next century covered by the draft Fifth WMO Long-term Plan, he had confidence that WMO could meet the challenges. They could be achieved by working together with its partners in the United Nations system, through NMHSs and in cooperation with other international and national institutions. He believed the draft Plan laid out a positive set of actions that could be achieved by WMO in the next decade and wished to urge Congress to adopt the draft Plan and its accompanying draft resolution.

The plenary was suspended at 12.50 p.m. and reconvened at 2.40 p.m.

General discussion resumed on the Secretary-General's presentation of the draft Fifth WMO Long-term Plan. The **PRESIDENT** explained that general comments were welcome, but that the more detailed discussions were to take place during Working Committee B. He called upon the **SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT**, who served as chairperson of the Executive Council Working Group on Long-term Planning, who explained that WMO had been working on Long-term Plans since 1983. The objective of the Plans was to ensure effective operation and implementation of WMO's scientific and technical programmes and to provide a mechanism for Members to work together to achieve common goals. He said that many innovations in content, presentation, strategy and structure had been introduced in the Fifth WMO Long-term Plan, and that it would be easier to relate programme goals to budgetary figures. It was an honour to serve as chairperson of the Executive Council Working Group on Long-term Planning, and he thanked the members of the working group and the Executive Council for its guidance.

The **PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION FOR AERONAUTICAL METEOROLOGY** called the Fifth WMO Long-term Plan an iterative process with wide participation, which produced a very good document. He added, however, that since the Plan was drafted, CAeM had held its eleventh session in Geneva in March 1999 and had agreed on several minor changes to the

section dealing with aeronautical meteorology. He would submit those changes to Working Committee B.

Stating that his delegation supported the Plan, the **DELEGATE OF JAPAN** added that it should be flexible enough to reflect and to adapt to the unforeseen changes in the socio-economic status of various Member countries.

The **DELEGATE OF NEW ZEALAND** called the Plan inspiring and a vision for the twenty-first century. He urged, however, that activities should not be restricted by the Plan, as some of the text was not necessarily consistent with other documents submitted by the Secretary-General, for example Doc. 7.2(1) on the role and operation of NMHSs. He wished that statements made by the Secretary-General in his general remarks when introducing the Plan would be reflected in the existing text, as followed: "The essential core weather, water and climate services are public goods, and it would be desirable to ensure that the related basic activities continue with public sector support."

The **DELEGATE OF COSTA RICA** said the part of the Plan dealing with hydrology seemed somewhat indefinite regarding the extent to which WMO would be involved in the issue of water resources. He called for WMO to define clearly its role regarding that issue, as there were other organizations ready to take the lead in hydrological issues.

The **DELEGATE OF THE PHILIPPINES** said the vision laid forth in the Plan would provide guidance and refinement of mission statements for NMHSs. His delegation therefore endorsed the adoption of the Plan. He also called for the strengthening of the Tropical Meteorology Research Programme (TMRP), with emphasis on tropical cyclone forecasting and on the improvement of the accuracy of very short- to short-term forecasts, especially on daily weather forecasting in the tropics. He noted that, thanks to WMO and its constituent bodies, considerable progress had been made in seasonal forecasting, specifically regarding the *El Niño/La Niña* phenomena. He also noted the increased accuracy of short- to mid-term forecasting of mid-latitude Member countries. He said that significant improvement in tropical weather forecasting could be attained through more intensified and concerted efforts on research activities.

The **DELEGATE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM** believed the Fifth WMO Long-term Plan was a greatly improved Plan. He called on Thirteenth Congress to identify clearly its priorities in the Plan; to identify outputs from the designed programmes; to ensure that the approved objectives, outputs and programmes were consistent with the approved budget; and not to be frightened of change or of changing the structure of WMO if it helped achieve its objectives within its constrained budgets.

The **DELEGATE OF CANADA** called it a great pleasure to work with the chairperson of the Working Group and congratulated the President on his earlier speech, as it focused on the hazards that weather-related events posed to humans. He also welcomed the focus which had been placed on people in the draft Fifth WMO Long-term Plan. In addition, he said that WMO should focus more on results, which would help Members better argue their positions with national governments and international organizations.

The **DELEGATE OF MALI** said that Mali and other developing countries were still trying to find their places in the

application of meteorology, and that the Plan was precisely the framework they needed to accomplish that, and thus his delegation supported the Plan. At the same time, the Plan shed light on regional problems, and he called it very consistent, meriting Members' full support. He added, however, that it required the necessary financial support to be properly implemented.

Pleased with the overall contents of the Plan, the **DELEGATE OF MALAYSIA** wished to make an addition. Referring to regional priorities, in particular Region V (South-West Pacific) on pages 50 and 51 of the Plan, he noted that there were no provisions for the implementation of operational hydrological activities in the Region. He indicated that he would submit an appropriate text to the Secretariat for inclusion in the Plan.

The **DELEGATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA** said that his delegation fully supported the draft Fifth WMO Long-term Plan which, beginning in the first decade of the twenty-first century, displayed two major aspects: the first was scientific development and the other was increased public awareness of Meteorological and Hydrological Services. Higher priority should be given to the development of the global observation system, particularly upper-air observations and enhancement of use of NWP output. Public weather services should also be strengthened to heighten public awareness of the national Services.

The **DELEGATE OF JORDAN** welcomed the draft Long-term Plan but regretted the anticipated budgetary reductions as many countries in the Region needed assistance in adapting to the new communication protocols and satellite services. National Services had to adapt to those changes and WMO should be helping developing countries in that respect. He stressed that countries able to do so should help those countries that needed assistance, in the interests of mankind. He cited as an example the Middle East region where rainfall was 40 per cent less than on average, and where the lack of water created a critical situation.

The **DELEGATE OF SENEGAL** admitted to some misgivings with the document, as the African continent had encountered particularly difficult circumstances that had resulted in the deterioration of Meteorological Services. Some Services had been reduced to incapacity and could no longer function; the network in Africa was already scarce and an increased burden would mean the disappearance of other parts of the network. WMO had already made tremendous efforts to help the Region and his delegation appealed to WMO and the international community to keep supporting and, indeed, increasing their support to the African countries that greatly needed help with their Meteorological Services. He wished to take the opportunity of thanking along with WMO the individual countries that had already given help under the VCP, namely France, Kenya, Morocco, Netherlands, United Kingdom and United States.

The **DELEGATE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION** expressed his appreciation of the Long-term Plan which he found creative and innovative, and he welcomed the manner in which priorities had been dealt with in the Plan, in particular the priorities of the regional associations. The proposals would guide and enable his country to plan the development of its NMS. The drafting of a special document for decision makers

that would be distributed to all Members would help Governments better understand the mechanisms of the Organization and eventually help the national Services improve their activities. He proposed that the Plan also be distributed to international organizations with whom WMO collaborated, and to name those organizations in paragraph 6.2.10, thus demonstrating the importance of increased inter-agency coordination.

Concurring with the views expressed by the delegate of Senegal, the **PRESIDENT OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATION I** stated that developing countries needed more assistance because of the worsening economic situation. The rapid advances in science and technology meant that countries could not cope with the deterioration of their meteorological systems. He requested that WMO and the donor countries continue or increase their assistance to developing countries. He fully agreed with the objectives as stated in the Plan and pointed out that those for RA I were included in paragraphs 5.5 to 5.7. To that, he wished to add that capacity-building also needed to be taken into consideration, especially with respect to climate or seasonal prediction while help was also needed for services to give disaster warnings to help in disaster mitigation. He thanked WMO for its assistance in the Region through the VCP and in education and training, as well as donors such as France, the United Kingdom and the United States for helping in his country, and the United Republic of Tanzania. He added that the SADC countries in the Region who had benefited from FINNIDA support looked forward to receiving additional help in the future.

The **DELEGATE OF NIGERIA** believed that the realization of development could only be based on well-articulated projects and programmes. His delegation was pleased with the priority accorded to the ETR Programme which would be useful for enhancing capacity-building in the developing countries, especially in his Region. His delegation would comment during the forthcoming deliberations in Working Committee B.

The **DELEGATE OF ECUADOR** expressed satisfaction with the Plan, in particular as it related to the mitigation of natural disasters. The Plan was a humanitarian document, going beyond science and technology and taking into account populations. The Plan showed such conviction, and consequently addressed his concerns with respect to extreme weather events. The *El Niño* phenomenon provided a natural laboratory that would be of assistance in helping mitigate natural disasters. The latest *El Niño* had proved to be devastating to the economy of his country, among many others in the Region, causing more than US \$400 million in damages. Therefore, countries had to learn to live with the *El Niño* phenomenon and Governments had to be made aware that WMO could assist. The Plan was a guide that showed that WMO could be effective in the service of humankind.

In closing the discussion on the draft Fifth WMO Long-term Plan, the President, on behalf of Congress, thanked the Secretary-General for introducing the document. He noted that the previous speakers had been highly appreciative of the efforts of the Executive Council Working Group on Long-term Planning and, particularly, its chairperson, Mr Sen Roy, and joined in thanking them for their hard work.

10. Consolidated programme and budget 2000–2003
(agenda item 8) (Cg-XIII/Docs. 8(1); 8(1), ADD. 1, 8(2) and 8(3))

The **PRESIDENT** explained that the Long-term Plan and the programme and budget were inextricably linked and invited the Secretary-General to present his budget proposals.

Presenting the programme and budget for the thirteenth financial period, the **SECRETARY-GENERAL** said that the budget proposals had been developed in full coordination with the draft Fifth WMO Long-term Plan, in order to ensure consistency between those two key documents. An earlier draft of the budget document had been presented to the fiftieth session of the Executive Council after examination by the Financial Advisory Committee. The comments made by the Executive Council were contained in document Cg-XIII/Doc. 8(2). After analysis by the Secretary-General, his comments were included in document Cg-XIII/Doc. 8(3). He announced that the Executive Council had reached a compromise budget of SFR 257.3 million. That amount was determined by using the zero-nominal growth figure of SFR 248.8 million determined by the Executive Council, plus an additional SFR 5.0 million from Members, plus SFR 3.5 from the sale of the old WMO building.

With inflation estimates in Switzerland revised downward to 1.3 per cent from 2 per cent, the recosted zero-real growth figure stood at SFR 254.1, compared with the earlier figure of SFR 267.9 million, leading to a recalculation of the Executive Council's compromise figure to a figure of SFR 251.2 million.

He stressed that the responsibility of Thirteenth Congress was of exceptional importance in adopting the programme and budget, profoundly affecting WMO's role in such growing global issues as climate and climate change, drought and desertification, mitigation of natural disasters, water resources assessment, ozone layer depletion and atmospheric environment, and its effective contribution to capacity building and sustainable development during the thirteenth financial period and beyond.

New programme initiatives, the new internal audit function and other requirements that were not provided for in the twelfth financial period would need to be funded during the upcoming financial period and would need to be accommodated by raising the budgeted staff vacancy factor to 13 per cent from 10 per cent.

He said he formulated his proposals in such a way as to describe clearly the programme activities and expected programme outputs. He also said that a new emphasis had been placed on priorities during preparation of the programme and budget proposals for ongoing high-priority programmes.

The Executive Council considered that the WWW was the basic programme of the Organization. The Secretary-General called it the backbone of virtually all the scientific and technical programmes, providing the technical and procedural infrastructure for delivering the basic data, products and support functions they required. He said WWW would follow a multidimensional but balanced strategy during the next four years. One dimension was to emphasize strengthening the operational capabilities of developing countries in order to enable them to participate fully in WWW, while another would

continue to focus on the modernization of the WWW system's infrastructure and operational procedures. All WWW component programmes needed to include training and development of technical guidance, together with engineering advice, which would be enhanced through the WWW system support activities (SSA) programme. The WWW programme and budget proposals identified high-priority activities and pertained mainly to implementation aspects of the commercialization issue, new requirements for the development and implementation of telecommunications and data management functions, and services for the GCOS.

Some of the high-priority initiatives under the various WWW subprogrammes included the Global Observing System (GOS), GTS, the Global Data-processing System (GDPS), the Instruments and Methods of Observation Programme (IMOP) and TCP. The redesign of GOS was to continue as the fundamental prerequisite for WMO to meet, *inter alia*, WWW's increasing NWP activities. He said that continued efforts were needed to prevent the further erosion of global surface and upper-air networks, with an emphasis on conversion of meteorological satellites and the associated receiving stations from analogue to digital transmission formats, with a view to ensuring uninterrupted satellite receiving capabilities for all Members.

The major thrusts for the GTS were to be through coordinated implementation to take the best advantage of the advances in telecommunication techniques and services for attaining a more cost-effective and flexible GTS to support WWW and other WMO Programmes. The programme also included activities for the coordination and management of radio frequencies for meteorology.

The GDPS would continue to work for the provision of improved forecast products and services from the World and Regional Specialized Meteorological Centres to the National Centres, so that NMHSs could meet their national responsibilities. Improvements were to be made possible through advances in data-assimilation techniques, further progress in NWP techniques, longer forecast ranges, enhanced verification techniques and capacity-building measures to augment the generation and use of NWP products in developing countries. The WWW Data Management (WWWDM) programme would coordinate data-management activities of NMHSs to ensure the most efficient use of resources.

The IMOP would continue to promote the use of observing systems through training and technology transfer to meet better the needs of developing countries. The Regional Instrument Centres were to be strengthened and together with technical conferences invigorate technology transfer activities. Standardization and calibration of meteorological and geophysical instruments and methods of observation would continue to be essential for ensuring the long-term quality of observations.

The main long-term objective of the TCP was to assist Members in upgrading the capabilities of NMHSs to provide better tropical cyclone, flood and storm surge forecasts and more effective warnings. Outputs were to include coordinated regional operational plans for the most effective tropical cyclone warning services, comprehensive plans for enhancing tropical cyclone disaster mitigation, improved tropical cyclone

and storm surge forecasting, and assistance to Members in capacity building of NMHSs, as follow-on activities to the IDNDR.

The WCP remained the linchpin of WMO's activities in climate-related matters, through which the Organization made its contribution to the Climate Agenda, and through which CCI was coordinated. The United Nations system continued to look to WMO for leadership on the climate issue, in coordinating the science and technological infrastructure that underpinned the growing number of climate-related activities of the United Nations programmes and those of its specialized agencies.

Development of the CLIPS project included the promotion of CLIPS, the development of technical capabilities in climate prediction, and improvement of coordination between forecast producers. The Regional Climate Outlook Forums, which were conducted during and since the 1997–1998 *El Niño* event, represented the main method of progress to date and would continue to lead to improved effectiveness in communicating climate information, including forecasts, to user communities. Those forums provided opportunities for capacity building, both for NMHS providers and users. Regional training workshops and roving seminars were also planned to be held.

With the increasing skill of model-based seasonal-to-interannual timescale predictions, there was a need for strong cooperation between WWV and WCP/CLIPS in the development of support infrastructure, which would optimize the mix of capabilities within the existing basic systems of WMO and the new capabilities emerging from successful research programmes such as the Tropical Ocean and Global Atmosphere (TOGA) programme and the Climate Variability and Predictability (CLIVAR) study. The CCI/CLIVAR Joint Working Group on Climate Change Detection would coordinate the Climate Change Detection Project, the initial results of which were anticipated to be included in the Third IPCC Assessment. A book on the climate of the twentieth century was in preparation as part of the WMO fiftieth anniversary celebrations, and annual statements would continue throughout the financial period.

The Secretary-General said the continuing success of the CLICOM project in meeting the diverse climate data-management needs of Members would rely on funds contributed through WMO's VCP for the provision of equipment and related training.

He called the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) the key international scientific programme aimed at developing an improved understanding of climate as well as global and regional climate-change predictions. The programme, undertaken jointly by WMO, IOC of UNESCO and ICSU, would follow a broad-based, multidisciplinary strategy, in which all aspects of the climate system would be investigated, as outlined in the Fifth WMO Long-term Plan.

The GCOS was to focus on completing the GCOS Initial Operational System for the atmosphere, oceans and land surface; continue furthering the Integrated Global Observing Strategy (IGOS); establish an operational data and information management system; and complete the first set of demonstration projects initiated during the twelfth financial period.

He said participation in the IPCC thematic and regional workshops and assessment activities was a direct method of building up the scientific and technical capacity and infrastructure of developing countries. He proposed maintaining provisions for hosting the IPCC Secretariat in WMO and contributing to the IPCC Trust Fund.

Support would have to be given during the thirteenth financial period to the Secretariats of IPCC, GCOS, UNFCCC and UNCCD. He also called on WMO to remain the lead agency in providing the overall coordination of the WCP.

He called for a new emphasis and considerable resources for AREP's GAW, calling it the only worldwide long-term monitoring programme of the chemical composition of the atmosphere.

The newly-established World Weather Research Programme (WWRP), with its focus on high-impact weather, defined as weather that affected the quality of life, was economically disruptive or life-threatening, would continue its emphasis on medium- and long-range forecasting. The TMRP would promote and coordinate research activities in high-priority areas, with major attention given to the weather system scale, as well as prediction of monsoons, droughts and other seasonal events.

As interest in the possibilities of modifying the weather remained strong, the Eighth International Conference on Weather Modification was proposed as an international forum for information exchange.

Under the Applications of Meteorology Programme, the PWS Programme would continue to develop Members' capacities to provide the best possible meteorological information, warnings and forecasts in support of life and property by, *inter alia*, assisting Members to become more user-focused, by improving the dissemination of products, and by improving Members' relations with the media.

The Agricultural Meteorology Programme would continue to assist Members in providing meteorological and related services to the agricultural community through the implementation of six projects, which included the promotion of agrometeorological applications and determination of agrometeorological adaptation strategies to climate variability and climate change.

The Aeronautical Meteorology Programme would focus on the development and implementation of the World Area Forecast System (WAFS) and on the improvement of forecasting and warning of meteorological hazards, training and development of the interface between service providers and users, and the impact of aviation on the environment.

A major thrust of the Marine Meteorology and Associated Oceanographic Activities Programme would be the implementation of an operational oceanographic observing and data-management system to support enhanced service provision to marine users, as well as global climate monitoring, research and prediction. The adoption of the proposal for JCOMM would result in more effective and efficient use of resources for programme implementation.

The HWRP would continue to be directed towards assisting the Hydrological Services of Members to meet increasing demands for the assessment and development of water resources and protection from the threat of natural disasters. In 1999, 22 countries were under water stress, and

by the year 2025, one-third of the projected global population of 8.5 billion was expected to be under water stress. The main thrust of the Programme would continue to be centred on operational hydrology, with support through the further development of the World Hydrological Cycle Observing System (WHYCOS), aimed at improving the availability of water resources data and information. Further support was to be provided through the Hydrological Operational Multipurpose System (HOMS). In addition, the problems of rapid urbanization, changing hydrological regimes, arid and semi-arid regions and the over-exploitation of groundwater in small islands and low-lying coastal areas also needed to be urgently addressed. To address those problems, two new component programmes on sustainable development of water resources and on capacity building in hydrology and water resources were being proposed.

The ETR Programme was well recognized and appreciated by Members and therefore deserved high priority. The proposed budget foresaw continuation of traditional activities, such as training seminars and workshops. The increase in WMO Members had also increased the requirements for fellowships, thus the high priority accorded to that subprogramme. Thus, high priority would be placed on all activities that would assist Members in their capacity-building efforts, with proposed resources providing assistance to Regional Meteorological Training Centres (RMTCs) and new training activities.

The Regional Programme supported the implementation of activities of the regional associations, assisting Members in strengthening NMHSs through regional training seminars, workshops and technical conferences, as well as implementation coordination meetings. Those activities were carried out through the three Regional Offices for Africa, the Americas, and for Asia and the South-West Pacific, as well as through the Subregional Offices for Western Africa, Eastern and Southern Africa, Northern America, Central America and the Caribbean, and the South-West Pacific. Additional Subregional Offices for Asia and for Central Eastern Europe were being studied for possible implementation during the thirteenth financial period. The activities of those offices were harmonized with the TCO Department, resulting in increased support to Members as the offices evolved into more effective focal points within the regions.

The TCO Programme aimed at ensuring the enhancement and development of NMHSs. Their main sources of funding for the upcoming financial period were expected to come mainly from trust funds, the VCP, GEF, UNDP, the World Bank, the United Nations Foundation, regional development banks and the WMO regular budget, as well as bilateral and multilateral cooperation arrangements. Restructuring of the TCO Department and harmonization of Regional and Subregional Offices with the TCO Department were two measures the Secretariat took during the twelfth financial period to adjust expenditures according to revenue. Budgetary proposals concerning TCO related essentially to the funding of core Secretariat support to the programme. Operational activities and projects were funded primarily from extrabudgetary sources.

Programme Support Services covered such basic Secretariat functions as servicing, conferences and meetings,

interpretation and documentation services, translation, reproduction of documents, and editing, design and printing of publications.

Despite economy measures that included a 30 per cent reduction in the volume of documentation for constituent body meetings, the overall increased demand for documentation, including that associated with the additional requirements for Arabic and Chinese languages, imposed a net increase on the demand for services that had required an increase in the use of temporary staff and of outsourcing. Internal trading for Languages, Publications and Conferences had been implemented in order to foster awareness and effectiveness. WMO publications deemed essential for scientific and technical programmes were defined by Congress resolutions as mandatory publications and were funded through the WMO regular budget and the Publications Fund. The remaining publications were funded on a case-by-case basis under the relevant programmes.

Development of information systems, through the acquisition of hardware and software, and of the Internet — to provide information to Members — would be major thrusts of the thirteenth financial period for the Office Automation System (OAS). The Information and Public Affairs (IPA) Programme would further contribute to the development of the WMO Home Page to generate greater public awareness of WMO.

Drawing attention to document Cg-XIII/Doc. 8(1), ADD. 1, the Secretary-General requested that Congress authorize him to revise staffing tables with the same authority he had been given during the twelfth financial period, so as to enable him to make the best use of the available resources in view of increased requirements. Twelfth Congress converted the maximum number of established posts in the Secretariat (246) into an overall staff cost ceiling to allow for greater flexibility. The ceiling of 246 posts as a limit on staff with permanent and fixed-term contracts had nevertheless been kept in force.

In order to meet financial obligations, it was found necessary to maintain a 13 per cent across-the-board vacancy factor, compared with a 10 per cent vacancy factor for the twelfth financial period. Budgetary restraints and cash flow problems resulted in an increased number of long-term temporary staff, and he was implementing measures to improve the working conditions of long-term temporary staff, some of which had already been implemented.

Although operating from the new and larger WMO Headquarters building would require some increases in budgetary resources to cover the higher costs of maintenance, utilities, etc., the loan repayments and higher operating costs would be offset to the maximum amount possible by rental of surplus office space, and the impact on WMO Programmes would be minimal.

The Secretary-General restated his zero-real growth budget at SFR 254.1 million. Congress had also received the report of the fiftieth session of the Executive Council in document Cg-XIII/Doc. 8(2). Adjustment to achieve that recommended budget level gave a revised figure of SFR 251.2 million. The Executive Council also suggested minimum percentages to be allocated to certain high-priority programmes, which were accepted and included in the

proposal, but were still open to discussion at Thirteenth Congress.

In concluding, he said that proposals for the thirteenth financial period included the basic resource requirements for the provision of meteorological and hydrological services in all countries and responded to, and anticipated, urgent global issues. The Secretary-General stressed that the thirteenth

financial period was a critical time for WMO as it fulfilled its important role in global issues of the twenty-first century. Members were therefore urged to extend their full commitment to the programmes of the Organization, whether financed from the regular budget or from extrabudgetary sources.

The meeting rose at 4.10 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE FOURTH PLENARY MEETING
6 May 1999 at 2.30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 2.35 p.m.

11. Report of the Credentials Committee (agenda item 1.5) (Cg-XIII/PINKS 1.2(1) and 1.5 (1))

Presenting the first report of the Credentials Committee, the **CHAIRPERSON OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE** reported that the credentials of 148 Members were found to be in order.

The delegates of Hungary, Syrian Arab Republic and Uruguay stated that, although their credentials had been submitted, the names of their countries did not appear in Documents Cg-XIII/PINKS 1.2(1) and 1.5(1).

After assurances by the chairperson of the Credentials Committee that he would examine the matter and report back to the next Plenary, the **PRESIDENT** confirmed that the Credentials Committee would consider credentials throughout Congress and would issue subsequent reports.

The first report of the Credentials Committee, as contained in Documents Cg-XIII/PINKS 1.2(1) and 1.5(1), was approved.

12. Statement by the Observer from Palestine

In the context of agenda item 2.1, the **OBSERVER FROM PALESTINE** took the floor at the invitation of the President.

The **OBSERVER FROM PALESTINE** wished to inform Congress of the status of meteorology in Palestine. The Palestine Meteorological Office was established in March 1997. A detailed implementation plan had been prepared, taking into consideration present and future arrangements encompassing national, regional and global needs. The Secretary-General had been informed of the necessity for the Service as well as the difficulties, be they administrative, technical or geographical. The various comments of WMO and the European and neighbouring Arab countries were taken into consideration in the formulation of the plan.

At present, six synoptic stations as well as five climate and over 60 rainfall stations were in operation, among them the station at the Gaza airport. Meteorological records had been collected and annual forecasts and reports were being issued. There was great demand for those data and they had been submitted to national as well as international bureaux. Past climate records had been collected in order to build a national data bank and the Office issued weather forecasts for various purposes, including weather bulletins disseminated to the media. Information was exchanged with the Arab countries and with the Israeli Meteorological Service.

Another objective was to train staff locally, as well as in the neighbouring Arab countries. Thus far, 24 persons had been trained in Egypt and had taken up their duties at the

Palestinian Meteorological Office and others were being trained in Egypt, Morocco and the Russian Federation.

The Office had been exerting tremendous efforts in its contact with all countries and had requested assistance. All of the achievements thus far would not have been possible without outside assistance, for example, the assistance of Egypt, Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates in the operation of the Gaza airport. He wished to express his appreciation and gratitude to all who had provided assistance. Various European organizations had assisted in field missions, and the majority of the instruments at the Gaza airport had been provided by Spain; Germany and German institutions had provided various instruments, as had British organizations. The achievements were also due to the great moral and material assistance offered by WMO, which had helped with training, in finalizing the meteorological programme and in providing publications and training aids. WMO was also taking effective measures to implement the Mediterranean Hydrological Cycle Observing System (MED-HYCOS) project.

Wishing to give historical background, he affirmed that weather and climate had a long history with the Palestinian people, and records collected in Jerusalem were used in climate change studies. Prior to 1967, three synoptic stations — Gaza, Jericho and Jerusalem — were under Egypt and Jordanian authority. However, at present, the two former stations formed part of the national Palestinian network, while the latter remained under Israeli authority. He expressed the strong desire of the Palestine Meteorological Office to have that station form part of its network. He expressed the hope of successfully obtaining that station within the framework of the peace negotiations.

Noting that he was addressing Congress as an observer, the observer of Palestine stated that the Palestine Meteorological Office would apply for full membership in WMO. In the Palestine Meteorological Office's first communication with WMO, an invitation had been extended to the Secretary-General to inaugurate the Office when it entered into full operation, and it was hoped that would occur in the not too distant future.

He concluded his remarks by adding that the Palestinian people believed in peace and were committed to work to achieve that end so that peace became a reality in his region.

The **DELEGATE OF ISRAEL** said his delegation welcomed a few aspects of the statement made by the observer from Palestine, especially his call for peace and cooperation. He also said his delegation welcomed any assistance given by WMO or its Members to the Palestinian Authority. His delegation regretted, however, what he called an attempt to

politicize the work of Thirteenth Congress. Israel, however, could not disregard some of the statements without responding. With respect to Jerusalem, Israel's position was absolutely clear that it considered Jerusalem to be the capital of Israel, undivided under Israeli sovereignty. He stressed that under Article 17 of the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement, Jerusalem was a Final Status negotiation issue, and that the Palestinians had no authority or powers in that city. He said that Israel objected to raising that issue in any other context because it might prejudice the outcome of Final Status negotiations. Agreeing with the statements about cooperation, he said that the Israeli Meteorological Service cooperated with the Palestinian Authority under the provisions of the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement, under which both sides agreed on a wide range of cooperation in the sphere of meteorology, in particular the update of weather forecasts and transfer of weather information. Israel had transferred to the Palestinian Authority synoptic stations and equipment in working order, with no interruption in their functioning, and that the Israeli Meteorological Service provided the Palestinians updated 48-hour forecasts twice daily. He added that the Palestinians also supplied the Israelis with similar forecasts, but that the Palestinian observer had only briefly mentioned that fact. He said that, while it was true, as the Palestinian observer had pointed out, that the historical rainfall record of Jerusalem was used in climate change studies, the longest of those was produced by the Israeli Meteorological Service. Finally, he regretted that the Palestinian observer, while calling for peace, had not used the full name of Israel in his statement.

The **DELEGATE OF THE UNITED STATES** welcomed the cooperation that existed between WMO, the Palestinian Authority and Israel, and thought it was helpful to the peace process in the Middle East. He added, however, that as a matter of policy the United States Government did not wish to see technical United Nations specialized agencies politicized, and that Thirteenth Congress was not the appropriate forum in which to discuss the status of Jerusalem.

Concurring that WMO was a scientific organization first and foremost, and not a political organization, the **DELEGATE OF EGYPT** called for a document stating that WMO was not a political organization and should not be politicized.

The delegate of Jordan stated that the Jerusalem station had Jordanian number 40280, and in that respect a letter had been submitted to the Secretary-General stating that Israel had been issuing information from that station bearing a different number. He requested that the use of the station cease until the end of peace negotiations as it was considered Jordanian property. It was important for the station to continue to operate, but with the appropriate number that appeared in WMO documentation. With respect to the comment on rainfall measurement in Jerusalem, he explained that was done by using information obtained from churches in Jerusalem, which had been supplying that information for the past 150 years.

Assuring the delegate of Jordan that the Secretariat would examine the matter, the **PRESIDENT** said that he believed all Members would agree that WMO was not a political organization. He gave assurances that all of the statements made on the issue would be recorded in the minutes of the Proceedings.

13. Consolidated programme and budget 2000–2003 (continued) (agenda item 8) (Cg-XIII/Docs. 8(1), 8(1), ADD. 1, 8(2) and 8(3))

Turning to the Secretary-General's presentation of his consolidated programme and budget proposals during the Third Plenary Meeting, the **PRESIDENT** invited general comments on that agenda item. He said the purpose was to give general guidance to the Programme and Budget Subcommittee, including guidance on overall priorities, for the next four years.

The **DELEGATE OF FRANCE**, stating that budgetary decisions were becoming more difficult as the majority of NMHSs in the world were facing funding reductions, said it was for that reason that some Members supported a zero-nominal growth budget. He disputed the arguments in favour of a zero-nominal growth budget. One was efficiency. While his delegation supported the idea of a more efficient organization, he said that WMO could easily benefit from progress in automation and from the reduction in personnel costs which that entailed. Another was administrative costs. Upon examination of the budget proposals, where administrative costs accounted for 40 per cent of the budget, those actual costs were in support of programmes, while the purely administrative costs comprised approximately 18 per cent of the budget. That was a fair amount taking into consideration the additional expenditures required for the administration of the new Headquarters building. France was in favour of a budget that supported the needs of the Organization, as WMO had operated for many years under a very constrained budget. He noted that the budget contained clear and precise indications of the various expenditures, while leaving the Secretariat with extremely limited margin on that matter. He expressed his concern with the budget transfers between some of the programmes, such as TCO, a programme dear to his delegation, that had seen its financing cut by more than a third. In a situation where some Members supported a zero-real growth budget and others a zero-growth budget, compromises must be found. His delegation was in favour of that compromise and during the previous session of the Executive Council had made some recommendations to that effect. The Executive Council had recommended to Congress a budget which he called balanced and which corresponded to every delegation's main concerns. Taking into account the new rate of inflation, realistically-speaking the budget corresponded exactly to that proposed by the Executive Council. He said his delegation believed that a zero-nominal growth budget, to which SFR 2.4 million could be added from the sale of the old premises, was a good compromise, and reflected consensus among the Members. Therefore, France supported the budget without reservations.

The **DELEGATE OF UGANDA** called the WWW the lifeblood of WMO and its Members, and thanked WMO and the Secretary-General for their assistance to the Uganda Meteorological Service. He also wished to thank *Metéo-France*, the United Kingdom Meteorological Office, NOAA, along with the United States country's National Weather Service, the Australian Weather Bureau, and EUMETSAT, among others for their assistance to Uganda. He added that his country required further support to deal with the Y2K problem and Meteosat second generation (MSG). He called the ETR

Programme crucial, especially for capacity-building in developing countries. The Regional Programme, which he believed seemed constrained by inadequate resources that were felt especially in developing countries, also deserved serious attention from Thirteenth Congress.

The **DELEGATE OF BOTSWANA** congratulated the Secretary-General and expressed appreciation for the WMO support to her country. She said the emphasis for the next financial period would rest with WWW, under which she would be looking for the strengthening of those stations that contributed to GCOS and problems associated with the GCOS upper-air network. She said that very little education and training had been coming from WMO because there was no provision for it under its regular budget. She said that other programmes, for instance TCO, also could not be overlooked. That programme previously received support from UNDP, support that would no longer be forthcoming as none had been received during the twelfth financial period. She mentioned NWP as a new area for developing countries, an area for which specific training was required to enable her country's experts to study and help countries develop their own local products. She said it was no longer satisfactory to provide only 24-hour forecasts, and her country needed the resources, in the form of training and experts, to provide longer forecasts. The budget should foresee the strengthening of services. Her delegation supported the proposed budget.

The **DELEGATE OF CHINA** stated that the Secretary-General's comprehensive and detailed proposals to adjust the budget as a result of such factors as inflation were reasonable and feasible. Continuing development meant that requirements for meteorological and hydrological services were always increasing, and WMO and the NMHSs had to explore new ways to meet the increasing demands and to find appropriate funding. His delegation supported the proposed budget and hoped that the WWW Programme would be given the highest priority, along with the ETR, the Regional and the TCO Programmes.

It was a known fact that developing countries faced difficult financial situations and had to live with financial constraints, said the **DELEGATE OF SUDAN**. Such countries needed support from all relevant bodies and programmes, especially WWW, CLIPS, the Climate Agenda, as well as others related to West Africa. He thanked WMO and those countries, particularly the United Kingdom, who had given assistance in technical cooperation, and Intelsat for its assistance in the use of satellites, and urged that all continue their support.

The **DELEGATE OF THE NETHERLANDS** was encouraged by the procedure in which there was a relation between the results of the Organization and the budgeting process, to better define policies and improve transparency. He pointed out that not only developing countries but also developed countries had severe financial problems. For instance, in the Netherlands, the budget for meteorology had decreased but, in view of the importance of WMO, his country accepted the proposal for zero-nominal growth. The proposals relating to priorities were also acceptable. Outstanding contributions had a negative effect on programmes and their implementation and he would be pleased to see the Secretariat provide information in that respect. Also, with respect to the implementation of the

programme priorities and the percentages agreed to at Twelfth Congress, he wished to see what had actually transpired during the twelfth financial period. Concurring with the delegations who had spoken during Congress and who all agreed that the WWW demanded the highest priority, his delegation proposed that not only the percentage of funds but the nominal amount be allocated to that Programme.

The **DELEGATE OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA** agreed that the proposed budget took into account most of the major programmes, such as the WWW. He also expressed his gratitude to WMO for the assistance rendered, as well as to other countries such as France and the United Kingdom. Without assistance, however, many countries in his Region would find it difficult to fulfil the minimum demands of the WWW Programme and GCOS. Assistance to developing countries was vitally needed to enable them to continue their work. Emphasis should be placed on the WWW, TCO, ETR and Regional Programmes. His delegation supported the proposed budget.

The **DELEGATE OF PHILIPPINES** noted the difficulties in preparing the consolidated programme and budget and in striking a balance between the amount of money available, on one hand, and the allocation of such amounts to priority programmes and projects on the other. His delegation agreed with the proposal to increase the budget for the WWW and the ETR Programmes. He expressed concern over the reduction in the budget for IPA. The Applications of Meteorology Programme, particularly stressed the value of the *Guide to Public Weather Services Practices* (WMO-No. 834). Reducing financial support for those programmes was a disservice to the NMHSs of developing countries, he believed, and he was further disappointed at the reduction in the budget for WCP, specifically for the development of CLIPS. That reduction would result in the cancellation of a project he deemed extremely important — assistance to Members in developing national climate programmes. NMHSs had gained enhanced credibility and respect due to improved seasonal forecasts and service delivery during the latest *El Niño* event. He believed it was not the proper time to reduce support for such worthwhile programmes and projects.

Referring to Cg-XIII/Doc. 8(1), page 204, the **DELEGATE OF MONGOLIA** proposed that Table 168, Subregional Office for Asia, be amended to indicate either an International Professional Officer in the P.1 to P.4 column, or that National Professional Officer be replaced by International Professional Officer in the following column, and that the other relevant parts of the budget be aligned, as a matter of principle. Asia was a continent of great diversity of language and culture, he stated, and there was a large gap between developed and developing countries. Therefore, resources for the Subregional Office should be increased to help overcome the gap. He also suggested that the text in Cg-XIII/Doc. 8(3), Appendix C, page 6, paragraph 3162 be amended to include the words "and new cost-effective observation instruments and technology" after the word "intercomparisons". He would submit the proposed text to the Secretariat.

Noting that the majority of comments on the programme and budget proposals he had heard thus far had been favourable, the **DELEGATE OF BENIN** was in agreement with those views. The proposed budget was very positive for

the Organization, he said, and he was certain that when next Congress met in 2003, the same assessment would be given when examining the thirteenth financial period's achievements. To continue in a positive vein, Members should take due account of the proposals put forward in the Secretary-General's budget. His delegation, therefore, supported the Secretary-General's proposed budget.

The **DELEGATE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION** said that the Russian Federation supported the key elements in the budget, and that the WWW should remain WMO's main programme and should be accorded appropriate priority. He stressed that the problem of funding acutely affected both developing and developed countries, necessitating the move toward zero-nominal growth. He also addressed four other points: (a) Members should understand that unless contributions were paid on a regular basis, it would not be possible for the Organization to operate in the manner in which it should. He said that the problem could be more effectively resolved if the Organization adopted the United Nations Principle, which assessed countries in a realistic manner according to their capability to pay; (b) Budgetary constraints necessitated a search for ways and means to enhance the effectiveness of WMO activities, such as was done after Twelfth Congress; (c) Congress needed new ideas on how to mobilize extrabudgetary funding. For example, other bodies such as GEF could help with WMO's environmental programmes. Better understanding among potential funding sources of the role of NMHSs could lead to increased funding; and (d) he welcomed WMO's beautiful new building, but expressed concern that expenditures on the building would be an additional financial burden on the Organization. He therefore called for a detailed accounting of expenses relating to the building and what type of resources might be obtained through leasing parts of the building.

Stating that the considerations during Plenary were intended to provide guidance to the Programme and Budget Subcommittee, the **FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT** believed that Members would have been better able to provide that guidance had they been privy to the discussions and recommendations of the Financial Advisory Committee (FINAC). Members had heard reference to FINAC recommendations, but did not know what those recommendations were. He thought that the manner in which the agenda was scheduled put many Members at a distinct disadvantage on a very important issue.

Associating himself with the views of the First Vice-President, the **DELEGATE OF MALI** expressed his delegation's appreciation for the budget, particularly on the new initiatives and reforms. He said that the budgets of the Meteorological Services of developing countries comprised the national budget and the WMO budget, both complementing each other. The WMO budget comprised the ordinary budget and extrabudgetary resources. With respect to extrabudgetary sources, he thanked all those who had assisted his country, particularly China, France, Italy, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States, and hoped that he could count on their continued support. With respect to the WMO regular budget, he said that the various ways in which figures could be interpreted could present problems. Also, the setting of priorities posed some difficulties for his delegation, and the Organization had to take into account the differing needs and

requirements of Members. His delegation supported the overall basis of the budget, but asked the Organization to consider that in some countries, such as Mali, if there was not sufficiently good information given by the meteorological or agrometeorological services, then agriculture and, hence, the country's growth would be affected.

The **DELEGATE OF ALGERIA** said the programme and budget covered all the activities related to meteorological services as well as the challenges that existed today. He supported priority being given to WWW, which was the backbone of the Organization and of NMHSs. The Applications of Meteorology Programme was a means for Meteorological Services to improve their status regarding users of meteorological data. It was important to stress the fact that the development of all those programmes would be an illusion for the developing countries if the necessary human and financial resources were not forthcoming. The ETR and the TCO Programmes constituted essential support for developing countries to adjust to new technology and to meet the challenges that lay ahead. The resources made available by the Algerian Government were dwindling and consequently the budget for meteorological services had fallen below what it should have been in nominal terms. He also wished to take the opportunity to thank the countries participating in the VCP. He fully supported the proposals for the Secretary-General's programme and budget.

The **DELEGATE OF NIGERIA** stated that most African countries found it difficult to rank the projects in the budget with respect to priorities in order to achieve an ideal Meteorological Service. The ETR, TCO, WWW and Regional Programmes were most important. Particular importance should be placed on the TCO Programme, as funding from other sources had fallen off sharply, for example from UNDP. His delegation supported the zero-real growth budget and would submit their recommendations during the Committee deliberations.

Supporting the need for strengthening the ETR, TCO and HWR Programmes, the **DELEGATE OF MOROCCO** said those programmes had contributed to capacity building, to increasing availability of human resources and to improving NMHSs in many developing countries. It was difficult to adapt to new equipment and new technologies in the field of meteorology. For that reason, a large share of his country's meteorology budget was devoted to basic training and professional vocational training. In that respect, his country had benefited from WMO assistance as well as bilateral cooperation from countries such as France, Italy, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States. Workshops and roving seminars had been organized with WMO for the benefit of Morocco and other countries in the region. His delegation supported the budget proposals.

The **DELEGATE OF NORWAY** stressed that the highest priority should be given to the WWW and the basic scientific and technical programmes. Sufficient resources should be put aside to enable the Members to implement the basic observing system and to ensure that observations were made available. Water resources should also receive high priority. His delegation gave high priority to the role of WMO in climate-related issues. Resources should also be available for the continuing restructuring of WMO. In addition, he expressed

concern about outstanding contributions and urged Members to pay their contributions in time, so that the programmes could be implemented.

The proposed programmes needed an adequate budget in order to be properly implemented, declared the **DELEGATE OF SENEGAL**. Consideration should be given to the fact that countries were developing at different rates. With respect to the African region, he wished to express his gratitude with regard to the voluntary support received and hoped that it would continue in the thirteenth financial period. His delegation gave unreserved support to the proposed programme and budget.

The **DELEGATE OF MALAWI** wished to place on record his country's gratitude and appreciation for the technical assistance received from WMO and other countries through the VCP, *inter alia*, Australia, Egypt, France, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States. He was delighted that, in their reports, the presidents of the regional associations had recommended that WMO increase funding for its programmes. The ETR Programme was crucial for his country's Meteorological Service, as recently staff turnover in the NMHS had been high. If assistance in the form of fellowships was not soon forthcoming, then disruptions in the aeronautical and public weather services would occur within the next five years. Aeronautical and public weather services had the greatest visibility for the NMHS and, as a result, he urged WMO to increase funding for fellowships during the thirteenth financial period. His delegation joined with a number of others in supporting the zero-real growth budget proposal.

Supporting the approach taken of the relation between the programme and budget, the outcomes and the long-term plan, the **DELEGATE OF CANADA** believed it to be a step in the right direction for the Organization. His delegation supported the many comments that emphasis should be placed on the WWW and the ETR Programmes, as those were critical to all Members. It was of significant importance to examine the availability of funds from other sources, particularly from UNDP and GEF. WMO should work with Member States in convincing the UNDP of the value of assisting all programmes within the NMHSs, in order to provide better warning and forecasting systems, to mitigate the loss of life and high socio-economic costs related to extreme weather events. He reported that some progress had been made, through IACCA, in convincing GEF that it was appropriate to invest in climate observations under the UNFCCC.

The **DELEGATE OF ITALY** was pleased that the spirit of the numerous discussions had been taken into account by the Secretary-General when formulating the budget proposals. He particularly wished to support the relevance in the programme and budget given to the WWW and to the ETR Programmes.

The **DELEGATE OF ZIMBABWE** observed that in most of the developing countries, there was a high rate of staff turnover and that the majority of the support to overcome that problem was provided through the TCO Programme. Therefore, his delegation would support any consideration that would make that Programme more effective and hoped that it would be given important consideration when examining the budget. He also wished to express his appreciation for the past support of TCO. Another area of concern was the availability of data which was affected by the type of equipment and the operating

environment. He felt that WMO should not stand aside in that respect as assistance was urgently needed.

A few speakers had voiced their concerns over the zero-nominal growth budget, but the **DELEGATE OF THE BAHAMAS** said that they should be aware that WMO was not a large corporation making a large profit, but that it simply provided a budget that supported maintaining the current programmes and implementing new proposals. The budget would have an impact on all institutionalized programmes and his delegation believed it would serve its objectives. He supported the emphasis placed on the WWW as well as the increases for the HWR and for the ETR Programmes. The increase in funds for those three programmes had been very positive for the NMHSs throughout the world, particularly in developing countries. The Bahamas therefore strongly supported the budget proposals.

The **DELEGATE OF JAPAN** stated that a number of countries had experienced significant financial difficulties in their economies during the past few years, and his country was no exception. He considered it undesirable for WMO's budget to continue to increase. His delegation believed that the budget should be managed on zero-nominal growth. However, if the new recosted budget was higher than that of zero-nominal growth and the difference was not dependent on Members' contributions, then Japan would consider endorsing the recosted budget.

Reaffirming the importance his country attached to all WMO programmes, the **DELEGATE OF YEMEN** nevertheless recognized the need to set priorities in the implementation of the various programmes. That was crucial to the successful operation of the Organization, and it was particularly important in ensuring the proper flow of data among the regional centres. He wished to take the opportunity to thank China for the assistance in improving the surface observation systems and communication systems in his country.

The **DELEGATE OF NEPAL** said that his country faced problems in several phases of meteorology such as modernizing the Meteorological Service which was over 30 years old. Upper-air observations was an area of operations that required development. He expressed his appreciation to the United Kingdom for having recently provided and established the satellite distribution network, or SADIS, in Nepal, which greatly assisted aeronautical meteorology in his country, and to WMO for making such arrangements possible.

The **PRESIDENT** observed that during the general discussion on the consolidated programme and budget 2000–2003, those who had taken the floor commended the Secretary-General on the excellence, clarity and conciseness of the document, which reflected the priorities proposed by the Executive Council. The various remarks on the budget were comprehensive, wide-ranging and constructive, and the information would be used as background for the work of the Committee. With respect to the level of the budget, he said there was a fair measure of support for the Secretary-General's overall proposals. There were diverging views supporting both a zero-real growth and a zero-nominal growth budget. He sensed in the delegates' remarks a willingness to come to a compromise on the budget in line with what had been recommended by the fiftieth session of the Executive Council.

Even though the FINAC report had not yet been formally presented, he was confident that that report would follow a similar approach. He noted the numerous interventions on priorities, with particularly strong reference to the WWW, the ETR, the TCO and the Regional Programmes, as well as climate and water issues. He said the many helpful comments

on the budget included exhortations to seek out additional funding sources and that, overall, the comments provided sound and clear advice to the Programme and Budget Subcommittee.

The meeting rose at 4.35 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH PLENARY MEETING

7 May 1999 at 9.35 a.m.

The meeting was called to order at 9.35 a.m.

14. Report of the Credentials Committee (agenda item 1.5) (Cg-XIII/PINK 1.5(2))

Introducing the second report of the Credentials Committee as contained in Document Cg-XIII/PINK 1.5(2), the **CHAIRPERSON OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE** stated that credentials for a further eight Member States were in order, bringing the total to 156 Members with credentials in order. He reiterated the need for those participants who had not presented credentials to do so at the earliest opportunity.

The second report of the Credentials Committee, as contained in Document Cg-XIII/PINK 1.5(2), was approved.

15. Appointment of the Secretary-General (agenda item 12.3)

The **PRESIDENT** announced that, after direct and indirect representations and consultation with various delegations, he had agreed to convene and chair a meeting outside the formal business of Congress, in which the three candidates for the post of Secretary-General would have the opportunity to present their views to the delegations. After consultation with the chairperson of the Nomination Committee, he would, in writing, formally invite the candidates who, through informal consultations, had agreed to participate in such a meeting. Although aware of the arguments both for and against that type of meeting, he believed that a meeting with no question period, in which the candidates would have approximately 20 minutes each to speak to the delegations, would help the process of the election and would contribute to the delegations' greater familiarity with the candidates. The date of the meeting would be announced in the Journal.

The **PRESIDENT OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATION I** voiced some concerns about such a meeting. He questioned the relevance of holding a meeting, as the candidates had submitted statements of intent when presenting their candidatures and, as far as he knew, that was not the practice in other United Nations organizations. As that had never been done before, he believed that it would set a precedent and that, subsequently, candidates for elected posts, including that of President, Vice-President and members of the Executive Council, would request the opportunity to be heard. In the interests of WMO, he believed it best to avoid any political campaigns and to avoid any polarization within the Organization. Also, as many Members had to respect the position of their Governments with regard to the casting of their ballots, the meeting would not in any manner change their position.

Concurring with those views, the **DELEGATE OF GHANA** stressed that the Organization should not involve itself

in political campaigns. If the candidates wished to hold rallies, they should do so at their own initiative. He urged the President to take those views into consideration. Also wishing to be associated with the views expressed, the **DELEGATE OF BENIN** pointed out that it could become a drawn-out process in the future were there a large number of candidates vying for the post, and wished to know if the WMO regulations allowed that type of meeting. The **DELEGATE OF GUINEA** concurred, saying that his Government had presented him with a list of candidates prior to his arrival, and if there was the need for that type of meeting, it should be delayed until the next Congress, so that delegates could be prepared. Believing that if it were done for one post, it would be done for all, the **DELEGATE OF TUNISIA** also wished to support the views expressed by the president of Regional Association I.

The **DELEGATE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION** also believed that type of meeting would not prove useful in determining the positions of the candidates. He was of the opinion that it was through their active participation during the daily meetings on various agenda items that the delegates could better assess the candidates and form an opinion.

To allay the doubts expressed, the **PRESIDENT** replied that such a process was not stipulated in the regulations, but the regulations did not preclude meetings outside the formal business of Congress. He also shared some of the concerns voiced and stated that his intent was to consult widely on how to conduct the meeting in a manner that minimized the risk of polarization in the Organization, for example by drawing lots to determine the order of presentation. He had weighed the concerns and as some delegations were strongly in favour of holding a presentation, he had concluded it would be best to hold a meeting, stressing that he envisaged it being confined to one hour outside the formal business of Congress. There would be no obligation for delegates to attend, but it would be an opportunity for delegates who did not know all of the candidates to familiarize themselves with them.

The **DELEGATE OF COSTA RICA** considered that the statements of the candidates would be overall useful to the voting process. If that had not been done in the past, it was because there had been only one candidate. Now that there were three candidates, he felt it very important that delegates had the opportunity to listen to their statements so that they would know the views of the candidates and thus be able to form an opinion. Also, that type of presentation had been successfully done in other organizations such as WHO and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). He urged the participants to support the presentation, which he believed would be useful. Concurring with that view, the **DELEGATE OF THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES AND ARUBA** believed that such an opportunity would enhance the transparency of the

Organization. He thought that many delegates would appreciate hearing the views of the candidates, especially those not so well known to the delegations, and as the President had received the informal agreement of all three candidates, he supported the proposal.

Responding that he was aware that many delegations had come to Congress with instructions from their Governments on the appointment of the Secretary-General, the **PRESIDENT** reiterated that there would be absolutely no obligation on delegates to attend the meeting. It was not a formal part of Congress, but simply an opportunity for those who wished to hear the views of the candidates to do so. He recognized that there was a division of views but trusted that polarization could be avoided over the issue. He would not, in any case, continue the debate, since he was simply advising the Plenary of representations he had received and his presently proposed response to them.

A point of order was raised by the **PRESIDENT OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATION I**, who suggested that the Plenary be suspended for further consultation as a consensus had not been reached and many of those who had voiced an opinion were not in favour of holding such a meeting. The President

reiterated that he had simply used the occasion of all delegations being present at the Plenary to make an announcement of a process he was proposing to carry through outside the formal business of Congress. He would be happy for delegations to consult over the next few days and he would welcome informal feedback on the proposed course of action, but he would not reopen the issue for formal debate in Plenary since the proposed meeting would not be a formal part of Congress. The president of Regional Association I indicated that it was so the delegates could reach a common position that he had requested the suspension of the Plenary.

The **PRESIDENT** agreed that the views of delegations were welcome and that they should hold discussions outside the Plenary and he would inform the delegates of the outcome of such consultations. At the request of the president of Regional Association I, the President agreed not to proceed with the formal written invitation to the candidates pending the outcome of the informal consultations. As the regulations stipulated that a debate could not ensue following a point of order, the President adjourned the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10.05 a.m.

MINUTES OF THE SIXTH PLENARY MEETING
13 May 1999 at 9.30 a.m.

The meeting was called to order at 9.35 a.m.

16. Report of the Credentials Committee (agenda item 1.5) (Cg-XIII/PINKS 1.5(3) and (4))

The **CHAIRPERSON OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE** presented the third and fourth reports of the Credentials Committee. In addition to the countries listed in Document Cg-XIII/PINK 1.5(3), the credentials of the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Maldives were also found to be in order. Credentials had also been submitted by Burundi and Comoros since the fourth meeting. Responding to a question from the President, the chairperson said that credentials from 169 Member States out of WMO's total membership of 185 had been found to be in order so far.

The **PRESIDENT** noted that it was the largest attendance ever by WMO Member States at a Congress.

The third and fourth reports of the Credentials Committee, contained in Documents Cg-XIII/PINKS 1.5(3) and (4), were approved.

The **DELEGATE OF PAKISTAN** requested that the following statement be included in the minutes of the session:

The Pakistan delegation registers its deep disappointment at the report of the Credentials Committee on the issue of the representation of Afghanistan. The recommendation of the Credentials Committee is incorrect and unacceptable on functional, political and legal grounds. Pakistan therefore wishes to register its reservations on this recommendation.

WMO is a technical organization which is dependent on the cooperation and engagement of authorities in actual control of territory to carry out its important functions. It cannot rely on fictional or phantom governments for such cooperation and interaction.

Afghanistan is a country with a landmass the size of most of central Europe. All of its meteorological stations are under the control of the Government in Kabul. Afghanistan is to the west of Pakistan and therefore the absence of meteorological data negatively affects Pakistan.

How could WMO seek cooperation on matters having a bearing on not only the citizens of Afghanistan but on the larger international community from a vestigial representative?

WMO itself has recognized the realities. The Personal Representative of Afghanistan to WMO since 1994 has been Mr Qader, who is based in Kabul. He represents the interests of the Government and people of Afghanistan. He and the authorities he represents are in a position to engage with, and extend cooperation to, WMO. No other entity from any other place in Afghanistan is capable of engaging in cooperation with WMO.

The WMO Secretariat, rightly, has recognized this fact and has issued invitations to the concerned persons in Kabul to participate and contribute to the work of Congress. The delegation welcomes this realistic, pragmatic and correct decision taken by Secretary-General Obasi and the WMO Secretariat. The recommendation of the Credentials Committee flies in the face of reality.

The Afghan Government in Kabul satisfies all criteria for the recognition of the Government and their representation in international organizations. It controls the capital Kabul as well as almost all the territory of the country. It exercises effective sovereignty as a functioning Government. It is capable of, and engaged actively in, trade and other external relations. The Government in Kabul has every legal, political and moral right to be recognized as the legitimate Government of the people of Afghanistan.

Taking into account the above objective criteria, Pakistan recognizes the present Government in Kabul as it has done previous Governments in Kabul which have satisfied the established criteria.

It is unfortunate that the United Nations has continued to adopt the anomalous position to allow a non-representative and non-existent Government to continue to represent Afghanistan at the United Nations. This fictional "Government" is at best one of the factions engaged in an insurgency against the central Government in Kabul. By no stretch of imagination, rules and legal norms could it be considered to be fulfilling any of the criteria necessary to claim recognition or to represent the entire country and people of Afghanistan.

In similar cases of "ancien regimes", the United Nations has consistently applied the factual and legal test in according recognition to the successor and or withdrawing it from the regime that no longer exists. It is unacceptable that an emotional and subjective criterion is being applied to deny representation to the Government which is effectively ruling Afghanistan at the present time.

In view of the above, Pakistan wishes to register its reservations on the recommendation of the Credentials Committee with regard to the representation of Afghanistan. Pakistan is confident, in any case, that WMO will not become a party to a legally and politically flawed policy which denies the people of Afghanistan their due representation and cooperation with all international organizations. Pakistan also hopes that WMO will continue to cooperate with the Government in Kabul to carry out its activities.

The **DELEGATE OF CHINA** requested that the following statement, made by the Chinese delegation during the afternoon session of the Committee of the Whole on 10 May 1999 on the subject of the attack by the North Atlantic Treaty

Organization (NATO) on the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade, be placed on the record within the minutes of the session:

In the early morning of 8 May 1999 (Beijing time), the United States-led NATO brazenly bombed the Chinese Embassy to Yugoslavia in Belgrade, causing casualties to the Chinese side and damaging the embassy building severely. This barbaric act by NATO, which is a gross violation of the international laws and the norms of international relations, constitutes a grave infringement on the Chinese sovereignty. The Chinese meteorological delegation expresses its indignation and outrage at, and condemnation of, this brutal atrocity. The Chinese delegation wishes to thank some delegations for their sympathy and support voiced to the Chinese people over the past two days.

The **DELEGATE OF THE UNITED STATES** requested that the following statement made on 10 May 1999 also be included in the minutes of the session:

The United States delegation joins President Clinton in extending sincere regret and condolences to both the leaders and the people of China for the tragic, but accidental, bombing by NATO aircraft of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade on 7 May. In remarks in Oklahoma on 8 May, the President has stressed that "we're doing everything we can to avoid innocent civilian casualties."

17. Request for membership of the Organization
(agenda item 11.5) (Cg-XIII/Doc. 11.5(1))

The **PRESIDENT** informed Congress that requests for membership of the Organization had to be considered under the provisions of Articles 3(c), 3(e), 33 and 34 of the Convention. One request had been received from the Governments of Portugal and China concerning membership by Macao.

A **REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARIAT** said that Macao would be handed over from the sovereignty of Portugal to that of China on 20 December 1999. Referring to the process involved in the earlier membership of Hong Kong, he noted that Article 3(d) of the Convention was applied on that occasion because Hong Kong was listed in Annex II to the Convention. Since Macao was not listed in that Annex, Article 3(e) of the Convention would have to be applied in the present case.

The **DELEGATE OF PORTUGAL** said the accession of Macao to WMO had been unanimously approved during Twelfth Congress in June 1995. The proposal had been put forward by the Government of Portugal with the full support of China. Then on 24 January 1996, a decision had been taken on that issue. Macao had an efficient Meteorological Service; in addition to the different duties it carried out, such as forecasts and seismological appraisal, it played a fundamental role in relation to the neighbouring areas. The Meteorological Service in Macao had very modern equipment and was the first Service in Asia to have the satellite distribution (SADIS) system installed to receive data and to pass it on for aeronautical purposes. Macao had been a very active member of the Hurricane Committee and in 1994 had hosted the twenty-seventh session of the Hurricane Committee, even before it became a member of WMO. Two years after its accession to WMO, Macao had successfully hosted the Second Technical Conference on Meteorological and Hydrological

Services Management for Regional Association II. Macao was also a founding member of the Agency for Climate and Related Environmental Issues (CRIA Agency), an association of the Portuguese-speaking countries and territory of Macao which dealt with issues involving climate and environment. In addition, it was one of the most active Members involved in experiments carried out on the rainfall regime in the Huanam Province, in collaboration with Thailand and neighbouring countries. Macao's accession to WMO had been and would continue to be a very dynamic factor in trying to develop services relating to meteorology and hydrology. The delegation of Portugal recommended to Congress that Macao should continue to be a Member of WMO under the sovereignty of the People's Republic of China.

The **DELEGATE OF CHINA**, referring to Document Cg-XIII/Doc 11.5(1), and speaking on behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of China, said that, in accordance with the Joint Declaration of the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Republic of Portugal signed in Beijing on 13 April 1997, China would resume the exercise of sovereignty over Macao on 20 December 1999. From that date, Macao would become a special administrative region of China and it would then take charge of the foreign affairs related to the Macao Special Administrative Region.

The Governments of China and Portugal had formally presented declarations to the Secretary-General of WMO. In its declaration, the Chinese Government had noted that it had been a contracting country to the Convention of WMO signed in Washington on 11 October 1947. China had ratified the Convention on 19 January 1973. From 20 December 1999, the Convention would be applied to the Macao Special Administrative Region. After that date, the Administrative Region would remain in the Organization as a Member using the name "Macao, China", as it would meet the necessary requirements for membership.

The Macao Meteorological Service and the Macao Geophysical and Meteorological Observatory had been established in 1952. Prior to that, meteorological observations had been carried out by the Portuguese Navy which had been stationed there. Although those had not been regular, the observations dated back to 1861. Macao now operated 10 automatic weather stations, which constituted a sound automatic observation network. Since 1987, Macao had participated in Pearl Delta significant weather discussions co-sponsored by the Guangdong Province and Hong Kong.

In 1992, Macao had been accepted into the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Typhoon Committee. In 1994, Macao had hosted the twenty-seventh session of the Typhoon Committee. In 1996, Macao had obtained membership as a Member territory of WMO and had fulfilled all its obligations. It had hosted the Second Technical Management Conference involving Members from Regional Association II, as well as other meetings. It was the common wish of the Governments of China and Portugal to maintain the status of Macao with WMO after 20 December 1999. That sentiment was shared by the 400 000 citizens of Macao. It would also be helpful for the future development of the Macao Observatory. He thanked the Secretary-General for his active involvement in efforts to

maintain the status of Macao with WMO and various Governments for their support.

The **PRESIDENT** said that if Congress agreed that the membership of Macao should continue under the provisions of Article 3(e) of the Convention and that that arrangement reflected the changed political status of a Member rather than a request for new membership, then some of the text contained in paragraph 11.5.6 of Document Cg-XIII/Doc 11.5(1) would be included in a PINK document to be submitted to a later Plenary.

Messages of support for the continued membership of Macao were presented by the **DELEGATES OF EGYPT, FIJI, KIRIBATI, MALAYSIA, MONGOLIA, PAKISTAN, SAMOA, SAUDI ARABIA, SYRIA AND THAILAND.**

Speaking in his capacity as an observer at Congress, the **DELEGATE OF KIRIBATI** noted that small island developing States had their own national priorities within their own political circles. Kiribati, which had been experiencing the wide impact of climate change, had recently submitted an application for membership of the United Nations. The Government of Kiribati was very keen to become a Member of WMO and an application might be submitted in the next financial year.

The **DELEGATE OF SAMOA** fully endorsed the presentation by the delegation of Kiribati. His country was a small island developing State within the South Pacific Region which dearly needed the help, support and the missions of WMO.

The **DELEGATE OF FIJI**, noting that there had been a significant increase in membership of WMO among small island developing States, asked for particular attention to be paid to their needs during the next financial period of WMO. He wished that it be noted that Congress noted and appreciated the significant increase in the membership of WMO by small island developing States during its last financial period and the prospects for new members to join within the next financial period. It was recognized that there were special issues confronting those small island developing States. He requested the Secretary-General to pay particular attention to the needs of those States and to assist them in enhancing their role and functions during the thirteenth financial period.

The **DELEGATE OF MACAO** said that his delegation was pleased to be recognized as a continuing Member territory after 20 December 1999 when sovereignty would return to China. After that date, Macao would exercise a high degree of autonomy, except for military and foreign affairs. So the spirit of "one country, two systems" would be pursued in Macao consistently.

The long-standing development of the Meteorological Service had benefited from China and Portugal. Macao was deeply indebted to their assistance in the past. In 1996, Macao acceded to WMO and had since undertaken various activities, hosting many international meetings. In the years to come, Macao would strengthen its cooperation and interactions with other Members and would be active in the implementation of programmes and activities. The delegate expressed gratitude to all Members for their understanding and support.

The **PRESIDENT** said it was clear from reactions in the meeting that Members were delighted that Macao would continue as a Member of WMO.

18. Questions concerning the Convention (agenda item 11.2) (Cg-XIII/PINK 11.2(1))

The **CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE** submitted Document Cg-XIII (PINK 11.2(1)).

The draft text for inclusion in the general summary, contained in the appendix to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 11.2(1), was approved.

19. Revision of the General Regulations (agenda item 11.3) (Cg-XIII/PINK 11.3(1))

The **CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE** submitted Document Cg-XIII/PINK 11.3(1).

Draft resolution 11.3/1 (Cg-XIII), contained in Appendix B to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 11.3(1), was approved.

The draft text for inclusion in the general summary, contained in Appendix A to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 11.3(1), was approved.

MR J.-P. BEYSSON, speaking as Third Vice-President and as Principal delegate of France, felt that the approval of that PINK document was a historic moment for WMO. The adoption of the new rule made the Organization a fine example within the United Nations system; it had seemed an almost impossible task, but after three attempts the efforts were successful. France was delighted to have been able to facilitate unanimous approval of the new resolution.

20. Statement by Mr S. C. Nwokedi, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Aviation of Nigeria

MR S. C. NWOKEDI, speaking on behalf of the Minister of Aviation, H.E. The Honourable B. Briggs, and of the Government of Nigeria, brought warm greetings from H.E. General Abdulsalami Abubakar, Head of State, and from the people of his country.

Congress would consider how best to deal with meteorological and hydrological challenges affecting humanity: the mitigation of natural disasters, such as famine, drought and desertification; global warming, climate change and variability; ozone layer depletion; availability of fresh water; and air and water pollution. Policy makers in Member countries were anxious to know how soon concrete solutions could emerge for ameliorating the adverse effects of those changes on life and property. Severe weather occurrences had persisted despite the various technological and scientific advances and many laudable programmes of WMO and other United Nations agencies.

Significant improvements had nevertheless taken place in forecasting severe weather systems, including tropical storms and cyclones. Such improvements had been aided by the enhancement of the infrastructure of NMSs, by the introduction of sophisticated meteorological satellite receiving systems as well as by the establishment of upper-air measuring devices within the framework of the global observing system of WMO's WWW Programme. Progress had also been made in monthly to seasonal climate forecasts. None the less, further efforts were needed, particularly in improving the accuracy of long-term forecasts in support of agriculture, so as to improve food production and sound water-resources management.

Recent anomalies in climate patterns had been attributed to climate change. There, countries needed to be

guided by the advice of the scientific community. WMO and UNEP were to be commended for the work of IPCC which had produced invaluable assessment reports on the science, impact and mitigation options relating to climate change.

Countries were increasingly aware of the need for global cooperation in the search for a lasting solution to the threat posed by global warming and climate change. It was essential to ensure a legacy of a cleaner environment for future generations. The world community looked to WMO for the continued role and efforts aimed at finding viable solutions to those and other meteorological and hydrological global problems. Nigeria attached great importance to WMO's support for developing countries through its programmes of technical cooperation and education and training.

WMO had been playing a leading role with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) to establish ACMAD. The vital role of WMO in the development of the Centre would go a long way in finding solutions to minimizing the devastating impact of the ever-recurring meteorological drought in many African countries. It also enabled many NMSs to improve advisory services to policy makers and users of such information.

Nigeria's NMS had shown rapid development and achievements since last Congress. The network of meteorological stations had been greatly enhanced, thus assuring more data which were now being exchanged through a number of observing and collecting centres through the use of high technology communications systems. The Nigerian Government was committed to develop and strengthen further its Meteorological and Hydrological Services to enable them to provide the required information and products for the sustainable economic development of the country. International support, particularly from WMO, would still be very much needed.

Nigeria was appreciative of the training opportunities offered to staff of the Nigerian Meteorological Service and of the Federal Ministry of Water Resources as well as to university staff teaching hydrological and meteorological courses.

WMO had established a number of subregional offices, to enhance its services to Members. Nigeria confirmed its support to WMO's Subregional Office for Western Africa, in Lagos. Since its establishment in 1997, the office had played an important role in assisting Members to formulate and implement development projects related to meteorology and hydrology. Nigeria would be willing to host some regional working group meetings or sessions of other constituent bodies of WMO, for example the next session of CHy in Abuja, and would continue to offer partial assistance to WMO fellows at the Federal University of Technology at Akure.

During Congress, participants would be faced with the enormous tasks not only of taking stock of WMO's achievements through its numerous programmes but also of identifying problem areas and of drawing up consolidating plans to address them. Congress would look very closely into the Fifth WMO Long-term Plan. Congress would accomplish those vital tasks with the usual spirit of cooperation and understanding which had guided its proceedings.

Nigeria paid tribute to the collective leadership of WMO for the high degree of efficiency and cost-effectiveness

with which they had piloted the affairs of the Organization. In particular, it was to be commended for their various contributions towards the completion of the new and magnificent Headquarters building. Nigeria was proud to be associated with that achievement.

21. **Statement by Mr O. M. Turpeinen, Meteorological Officer, Meteorological Section, International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)**

MR O. M. TURPEINEN, speaking on behalf of the Secretary-General of ICAO, Mr Costa Pereira, expressed his sincere thanks at having the opportunity to address Congress. ICAO and WMO had worked closely together for the benefit of international air navigation ever since the first WMO Congress established CAeM, which had become a vital link between the two Organizations. Through that link and on the basis of the joint Working Arrangements of 1953, WMO had greatly contributed to the success of international air navigation.

Since Twelfth Congress, an impressive list of issues had been addressed jointly by WMO and ICAO. Two specific issues might be mentioned that illustrated well the scope and variety of technical and scientific problems dealt with. First, the development of WAFS — no doubt the most ambitious and extensive project in international aeronautical meteorology being undertaken by ICAO in close coordination with WMO. Significant progress had been made since Twelfth Congress towards the final phase of WAFS. As an example, the implementation of three international satellite services, providing global coverage, had significantly increased the quality of meteorological services provided for pilots and airline operators and had brought to aeronautical meteorological offices worldwide a complete set of operational meteorological information to support the issuance of warnings and forecasts for aviation. Also within WAFS, advances had been made in the production of global significant weather forecasts by the two World Area Forecast Centres in London and Washington. ICAO was committed to working together with WMO to complete the implementation of the final phase of WAFS in the interest of the safety, regularity and efficiency of international air navigation.

Second, the development of the ICAO International Airways Volcano Watch. In particular, the designation by ICAO of nine Volcanic Ash Advisory Centres was made on the advice of WMO and, in 1998, the two Organizations jointly organized a volcanic ash workshop, which was hosted by France. Plans for the future included a Meteorology Division Meeting in 2002, to be held conjointly with the twelfth session of the CAeM.

Mr Turpeinen expressed ICAO's appreciation for the cooperation and support received from WMO technical commissions, regional bodies, expert groups and the Secretariat, mentioning specifically the active involvement of CAeM and its outgoing president, Mr C. Sprinkle. He formed the wish that WMO's magnificent new Headquarters building, with its futuristic, aerodynamic shape, might provide the perfect framework for the Organization to face the future challenges of international aeronautical meteorology.

The meeting rose at 10.55 a.m.

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH PLENARY MEETING

14 May 1999 at 9.30 a.m.

The meeting was called to order at 9.40 a.m.

22. Report of the Credentials Committee (agenda item 1.5)

The **CHAIRPERSON OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE** noted that, since the fourth report of the Credentials Committee, the credentials of Cape Verde were received and found to be in order. That brought the number of delegations to a record of 170. A new Document Cg-XIII/PINK 1.5(5) would be prepared shortly to reflect that information.

23. Appointment of the Secretary-General (agenda item 12.3) (Cg-XIII/PINK 12.3(1), CORR. 1)

The **PRESIDENT** recalled Article 21 of the Convention, General Regulation 135, governing the appointment of the Secretary-General by Congress, and General Regulations 195 and 196, which stipulated the electoral procedure. He also made reference to Documents Cg-XIII/INF. 6 and Cg-XIII/INF. 6, ADD. 1, which contained the list of Members who were eligible to vote. The President explained that he had written to Ministers of Foreign Affairs of all Members on 29 June 1998 inviting those who wished to do so to present candidates for the post of Secretary-General (with effect from 1 January 2000). Three nominations had been received and had been passed to the chairperson of the Nomination Committee.

The **CHAIRPERSON OF THE NOMINATION COMMITTEE** presented Document Cg-XIII/PINK 12.3(1), CORR. 1, in which the names of Messrs Manuel B. Dengo (Costa Rica), Gordon McBean (Canada) and Godwin O. P. Obasi (Nigeria) were submitted as candidates for the post of Secretary-General of WMO for the thirteenth financial period.

The **PRESIDENT**, having ascertained that there were no further nominations from the floor, called for the election to proceed. At his invitation, Messrs R. A. Sonzini (acting president of Regional Association III) and Lim Joo Tick (president of Regional Association V) acted as tellers and Messrs A. I. Bedritsky (Russian Federation) and N. B. I. Tawfiq (Saudi Arabia) acted as assistant tellers, assisted by Mr S. Chacowry (representing the Secretariat).

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The President announced the results of the election as followed:

Total number of ballots:	153
Number of abstentions and blank ballots:	1
Number of valid ballots:	152
Required majority:	102

Number of votes obtained:

Mr G. O. P. Obasi (Nigeria):	105
Mr G. McBean (Canada):	24
Mr M. B. Dengo (Costa Rica):	23

The President, referring to General Regulation 196(e) declared *Professor G. O. P. Obasi re-appointed Secretary-General for the thirteenth financial period and extended to him the congratulations of the Congress.*

The **SECRETARY-GENERAL** expressed his heartfelt thanks to Congress for giving him the opportunity to be of further service to WMO. He thanked Messrs M. B. Dengo (Costa Rica) and G. McBean (Canada) for having offered their services to WMO and hoped that their desire to serve the Organization would remain and be manifested in some other capacity. With great humility, he continued to recognize the immense responsibility which the post of Secretary-General carried with it, especially on the eve of the twenty-first century.

Over the many years he had been associated with WMO, he had come to learn and better appreciate the important role played by the Organization in the promotion and coordination of international activities within its sphere of competence, not only in meteorology and hydrology but in other related geophysical fields as well. The purposes of WMO, as stated in its Convention, emphasized cooperation, promotion and coordination in a range of activities which were beyond the capacity of a single nation but which were essential for the practice and advancement of meteorology, hydrology and other related disciplines at the national, regional and global levels.

He was fully aware of the challenges currently facing the Organization; more would arise in the future. He expressed his continuing resolve to turn those challenges into opportunities for growth and development. The future challenges would be met if the Organization continued to be steadfast in its determination and generous in its cooperation. Meanwhile, progress made at the national and regional levels in the fields of interest to WMO would also lead to the realization of WMO's goals at the international level.

He thanked all those who had extended their support to him in carrying out his responsibilities as Secretary-General over the years. He would continue to draw from the wisdom of Congress, the guidance and advice of the Executive Council and the support of all Members. He renewed his pledge to offer everything he was capable of to carry out the mandate of WMO and to discharge his duties as Secretary-General in the best interests of the Organization.

The **PRESIDENT** reaffirmed the congratulations extended by all Members of Congress to Professor Obasi on his re-appointment as Secretary-General of WMO and thanked the other two candidates for presenting their candidature. He

also thanked the tellers and ordered that the ballot papers be destroyed. Since many delegates would want to congratulate the Secretary-General, he suggested that, in accordance with previous practice, the president of each regional association (or acting president) should extend their congratulations verbally, while other representatives should submit them in writing for inclusion in the minutes.

MR G. McBEAN offered his congratulations to Professor Obasi and assured him and all Members of Congress that Canada would continue to work in the best interests of meteorology in WMO within the broader global context. He also thanked Mr M. B. Dengo of Costa Rica for being an active participant and for providing the opportunity to have an election process.

MR M. B. DENGO congratulated Professor Obasi on his re-election. On behalf of his delegation, he also expressed sincere gratitude to the delegation of Canada for the frankness and transparency in relations between the two delegations. He believed that the process of change proposed by the delegate of Canada and himself had already begun: for example, it had initiated a democratic process within the Organization which had allowed delegates to express their different opinions. He hoped that the ideas which Mr G. McBean and himself had put forward during their candidature would be taken into account in the work of the Organization. He thanked those delegations which had supported and encouraged the candidacy of Canada and Costa Rica and assured Members that his country would continue to provide full support to the Organization.

The **PRESIDENT OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATION I**, speaking on behalf of the United Republic of Tanzania and of his Association, thanked the other delegates who had shown their confidence in Professor Obasi and congratulated him on his election. The election had given him the chance to continue to demonstrate his competence and serve the Organization to the best of his ability. Regional Association I committed itself to working and cooperating with him in order to enable Professor Obasi to carry out his duties. He also thanked the other two candidates for offering their services to WMO. He hoped they would carry on with the same momentum.

The **PRESIDENT OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATION II**, speaking on behalf of his Association, the Government of Mongolia and on his own account, congratulated Professor Obasi and wished him every success. Professor Obasi was known not only as a person working in the field of meteorology but as a person living with meteorology. He was sure that Professor Obasi would now be looking forward to serving the Organization and its Members with dedication and renewed enthusiasm in order to meet the increasing challenges faced by the Members and by the NMHSs. On the basis of the WMO documents initiated by Professor Obasi and developed under his leadership and on the statements he had made during the election process, it was evident that he had a clear vision for the future role of the Organization and for global initiatives related to climate, water and environmental issues, as well as for the successful implementation of WMO Programmes for the benefit of all Members and nations. The president of RA II thanked the opposing candidates, who had come to the election with new ideas and sincere wishes to work with the Organization. He was confident that Professor Obasi would

take up many of their ideas and proposals for reform and find that they fully supported him in his future work.

The acting **PRESIDENT OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATION III** said the Organization had a democratic system of election but it was difficult when the election was taking place among friends. Meteorological activity did not only require technical knowledge and support but also relied on the many good friends present at Congress, who helped each other in different parts of the world. One of the weaknesses of that system was that sometimes it created a kind of "trauma" because a choice had to be made between friends. The delegates of Canada and Costa Rica had not "lost"; they had won, together with all Members of Congress. They had the courage and the strength to be candidates for the post of Secretary-General in the face of a tremendous challenge. He congratulated them and said he was sure that Professor Obasi would know how to take advantage of all the ideas they had put forward, to develop them for the good of all Members. He congratulated Professor Obasi for the massive support he had received. That was additional evidence that the leadership of WMO was excellent and that the activities of the Secretariat were very good. He also thanked the President for the orderly and disciplined way in which Congress was being conducted.

The **PRESIDENT OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATION IV** offered his congratulations to Professor Obasi on behalf of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba and his Association. The Members wished him health, strength and wisdom in the execution of his tasks and duties during the next financial period. They were confident that Professor Obasi would continue to support all NMHSs over the next few years. They also thanked the opposing candidates for offering their services to WMO. Regional Association IV was proud of having two outstanding candidates for the post of Secretary-General and was looking forward to working with Professor Obasi during his next term.

The **PRESIDENT OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATION V** extended his congratulations to Professor Obasi on behalf of the Government of Malaysia and the Members of his Association. Professor Obasi had visited the Region, including Malaysia, on many occasions. As a result, he understood the goals, aspirations and challenges of countries in that Region. The support Professor Obasi had extended to Regional Association V in relation to technical cooperation programmes had been greatly appreciated. He looked forward to Professor Obasi's continued support for the Region's efforts to strengthen the Meteorological and Hydrological Services of developing countries. Finally, he thanked the two other candidates for offering their services to WMO.

The **PRESIDENT OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATION VI** expressed his warmest congratulations to Professor Obasi on behalf of his Association and thanked the delegates of Canada and Costa Rica for the services they had offered to WMO. The Members of Regional Association VI were confident that Professor Obasi would continue to serve the Organization according to the Convention and, at the same time, implementing Article 2 of the Convention in the light of the new challenges which science, economy, social services, modern society, the world meteorological community and all the NMHSs would have to face in the year 2000. Regional Association VI would continue to be fully engaged in the

WMO Programmes and in supporting the Secretary-General and the Secretariat in implementing the Fifth WMO Long-term Plan, and in particular, the objectives which delegates were currently determining for the next four years.

The **PRESIDENT OF THE COMMISSION FOR BASIC SYSTEMS** spoke on behalf of the presidents of the technical commissions. They were critically dependent on the Secretary-General in carrying out the work of their programmes. Professor Obasi's assurance of collaboration gave them a guarantee and a

programme to carry out their tasks under the various commissions. They would devote themselves, along with the Secretary-General, in promoting the authority of WMO within the United Nations family — the authoritative scientific voice in terms of meteorology and operational hydrology. He expressed success to Professor Obasi in his new term and sturdy health in facing the challenges of the new century.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.

ANNEX

CONGRATULATORY STATEMENTS SUBMITTED ON THE OCCASION OF THE RE-ELECTION OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL TO OFFICE FOR THE THIRTEENTH FINANCIAL PERIOD

ALGERIA

The delegation of Algeria heartily congratulates Professor Godwin O. P. Obasi on his re-election to the post of Secretary-General of WMO. It is a recognition of the devotion he has shown to the Organization for the last 16 years. The Algerian delegation thinks he will continue to work with his habitual devotion towards the implementation of the Organization's scientific programmes so that all parts of the world can benefit from the progress of meteorological science. Thanks to his experience and the collaboration of the Executive Council and its members, the Organization will continue to play an important part on the international scene and will take up the challenges that are taking shape on the eve of the third millennium.

The Algerian delegation wishes Professor Obasi every success in his work during the next four years and thanks Messrs Manuel Dengo and Gordon McBean for seeking to place their expertise at the service of the Organization.

ARMENIA

The delegation of Armenia speaks in its capacity as president of the Interstate Council on Hydrometeorology of the Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States. It is a crucial day for Professor Obasi and he has won. The delegation wishes him good health and energy in the implementation of the decisions of Congress. Professor Obasi has visited the countries in the Region and knows what the problems are. He is a very good man whose knowledge and wisdom will ensure continuity and prosperity for the Organization. The delegation expresses its congratulations to the President for the way in which he conducted the elections.

BAHAMAS

The Government of the Bahamas and its delegation congratulates Professor Obasi on his re-election as Secretary-General, for which the support of the Bahamas is

unwavering. Professor Obasi is a friend to the Bahamas and, through his support, the Bahamas Meteorological Department has benefitted tremendously. WMO has assisted the Bahamas in technology, training and in many other ways.

WMO and, in particular, its Secretary-General is largely responsible for the smooth-running and prestige of the meeting of Regional Association IV held in the Bahamas in May 1997.

The delegation of the Bahamas shares the sentiments of all the speakers in wishing the Secretary-General good health and goodwill as WMO moves into the new millennium.

BELARUS

The delegation of Belarus heartily welcomes the election of Professor G. O. P. Obasi as Secretary-General of WMO. It knows his commitment to the ideals of WMO, his sustained efforts on behalf of the Newly Independent States, and is grateful to him for this. It hopes that during this next period Professor Obasi will also provide support and assistance in implementing the technical cooperation programme, in strengthening the observational network, and in improving the role of National Hydrometeorological Services. The delegation congratulates again Professor Obasi on the occasion of his re-election as Secretary-General of WMO.

BOTSWANA

On behalf of the delegation of Botswana, its principal delegate said that in 1983 she personally had had the honour to congratulate Professor Obasi on his first appointment as Secretary-General. Today, there was another opportunity. All in all, that shows the confidence Congress has in him. At the time of his first appointment, there were great challenges ahead of him. Even today, there are still great challenges ahead, among them the challenge of maintaining the image of WMO in a changing world. Messrs Dengo and McBean are to be thanked for opening the eyes of Congress to the excellent leadership potential within the Organization.

BURKINA FASO

On the occasion of your re-election to the post of Secretary-General of WMO, the delegation of Burkina Faso heartily congratulates you. Your re-election, besides demonstrating the trust that our countries have placed in you, is an invitation to further the work you have undertaken at the head of the Organization.

The task is vast and your electoral rivals have put forward very interesting ideas which certainly should be taken into account as far as possible to strengthen further the institution's standing so that it can fully play its rightful part and meet all expectations. The delegation is aware of your courage and devotion to the cause of the Organization. Its wish is that God grant you peace and health so that you may lead the Organization into the third millennium with serenity, wisdom and equity. Burkina Faso will support you as it has in the past and wishes you complete success in your work.

BURUNDI

It is a real pleasure for the delegation of Burundi to acknowledge on this memorable day, when a citizen of the world of African origin, Dr Godwin O. P. Obasi, has been re-elected Secretary-General of WMO. A citizen of the world, since the post he has occupied for more than 10 years now, making him well known across the entire world, a fact confirmed by his brilliant re-election as Secretary-General of WMO.

The delegation congratulates, on behalf of all the other delegations that have participated in Thirteenth Congress, Professor Godwin O. P. Obasi on his re-election. Mr Secretary-General, once more, our congratulations. The delegation also thanks each and every one of you for once again placing your continued trust in Professor Obasi as Secretary-General of WMO. It is not the task of the delegation to interpret your vote, it is self-explanatory. In re-electing Professor Obasi you have chosen competence and continuity for the greater effectiveness of WMO. Congratulations on your far-sightedness. Your re-election is even more distinguished in that your fellow contenders for the post are such eminent personalities in the world of meteorology. I refer, of course, to Messrs Manuel B. Dengo of Costa Rica and Gordon McBean of Canada.

By participating loyally in the competition for the post of Secretary-General of WMO they have let democracy have its say in this international organization. On behalf of all of you, the delegation would ask them to continue to make their contribution towards developing meteorological services throughout the world. Finally, despite the legendary modesty of Africa the delegation of Burundi would not like to end this address without expressing the pride that the African continent feels in the re-election of Professor Obasi.

CAMEROON

The delegation of Cameroon wishes to congratulate Professor Obasi for his re-appointment as Secretary-General of WMO. His re-election is concrete proof of his ability to

handle WMO issues correctly. What he has done for the past 16 years for the advancement and development of meteorological services is real. The delegation thanks Professor Obasi for the special interest he has for Cameroon, hoping that the fruitful cooperation that exists between them will continue. Cameroon wishes the Secretary-General and his staff good health and success in office.

CHAD

On behalf of the Government of Chad, the delegation of Chad offers its warm and sincere congratulations to Professor Godwin O. P. Obasi on his outstanding re-election, in the first round, as head of WMO. Mr President, the re-election of Professor Obasi as head of the Organization did not occur purely by chance. The fact that he has good experience and carries out exemplary hydrometeorological activities led to his re-election to this post. The delegation is very grateful to him. It also thanks the two candidates, Messrs Manuel B. Dengo from Costa Rica and Gordon McBean from Canada for offering their services to the Organization. Once again, on behalf of the Government of Chad, the delegation congratulates Professor Obasi. May the Almighty Allah guide him through this term in office.

COMOROS

The delegation of Comoros express its great pleasure for the overwhelming success achieved by Professor Obasi and for the increasing confidence placed in him, as demonstrated by his re-election as Secretary-General of WMO. It is confident of his outstanding ability to run this Organization in an excellent manner and wishes him continuous progress and success.

CONGO

On behalf of the Government of the Congo, its delegation would like to express its congratulations to Professor Obasi for his re-election as Secretary-General of WMO. If you have been re-elected it is because you have worked hard, so continue to do well. Again, warmest congratulations.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

The delegation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo is delighted by the re-election of Professor G. O. P. Obasi to the post of Secretary-General of WMO and extends its congratulations. For the Democratic Republic of the Congo, privileged beneficiary of support from WMO to develop its meteorological services, this re-election is resounding proof of the tremendously positive nature of the work of Professor Obasi at the head WMO.

DJIBOUTI

On behalf of the Republic of Djibouti and its people, its delegation earnestly congratulates Professor Godwin O. P. Obasi on his re-election as Secretary-General of WMO. It

wishes him every success in his difficult professional life but is full of hope that, with his experience and skills and his colleagues within the WMO Secretariat, Professor Obasi will do everything necessary for the good of all the Members of WMO. The delegation supports him in these efforts and will do everything in its power to ensure complete success for him in the four years to come.

ECUADOR

The delegation of Ecuador extends its congratulations to Professor Obasi on his re-election. In the process that has unfolded earlier that morning, there are neither winners nor losers: there are only winners and the winners are the democratic procedures. It congratulates Professor Obasi, wishing him success so that in the next four years he might achieve the goals for all who carry out meteorological activities. There are special challenges in the case of South America, for example, the *El Niño* phenomenon. Members are ready to face such challenges, with the Secretary-General's help, and to carry out dialogue with faith and good will.

EGYPT

The delegation of Egypt wishes to express great pleasure for the re-election of Professor Obasi as Secretary-General of WMO. It confirms that it will continue to cooperate with him in his endeavour to achieve the desired objectives of WMO. It also expresses its appreciation for his continuous efforts to implement WMO's activities successfully and for his continuous support to the development of Meteorological Services in developing countries.

ERITREA

The delegation of Eritrea expresses its warmest congratulations to Professor Obasi on his re-election as Secretary-General of WMO. His distinguished and proven leadership has been endorsed not only by his success re-election but was also clear from the statements heard in the plenary from many delegations from all regions. Eritrea has full confidence that he will lead WMO smoothly through the year 2000 and beyond and looks forward to continued cooperation.

FRANCE

For the first time in many years, Congress has had a competition between three candidates for the position of Secretary-General. This is a sign of vitality and democracy within our Organization. These candidatures have also sent a significant message, showing a general, yet very real desire to see our Organization develop, change and adapt to face up to the new challenges of the twenty-first century. Essentially, Messrs McBean and Dengo made an appeal to us and we should thank them for having the courage to do so.

The challenge is posed perhaps less to you, Mr Secretary-General, than to all of us, the Members of the Organization. Indeed, for a long period of time you have

shown your commitment to WMO and its ideals. You have done many things over recent years to ensure that WMO speaks with a single, stronger, more noticeable and more credible voice within the international community and the United Nations system. However, there is still a lot of work to be done. In order to carry out this work, Mr Secretary-General, you can count on the support of France. You have always had its support and you will continue to do so to carry out your final term in office at the head of WMO. On behalf of the Government of France and its delegation, please accept our heartiest congratulations for this splendid election.

GAMBIA

The delegation of Gambia expresses its gratitude and joy for the re-election of Professor Obasi. The President of the Republic sends his congratulations on the well deserved victory, which is one for the whole African continent.

GHANA

The Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva and the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the WMO on behalf of the Government and people of Ghana wishes to express their profound congratulations to Professor Obasi on his re-election to the post of Secretary-General of WMO for yet another term. The delegation also wishes to take this opportunity to renew its unflinching support and readiness to cooperate fully with Professor Obasi in the execution of his onerous tasks as Secretary-General during his tenure of office. It also offers to the other candidates, Messrs Dengo and McBean, its commiseration and wishes them better luck next time.

GUINEA

The delegation of Guinea wishes to take this opportunity to express its congratulations to Professor G. O. P. Obasi on his brilliant re-election to the post of Secretary-General of WMO. It also congratulates all the delegations on the proof they have given of their efforts on behalf of international meteorology. The delegation is convinced that Professor Obasi will do everything for the triumph of our ideals.

INDIA

The delegation of India expresses its heartiest congratulations, on behalf of the entire Indian delegation, his country and the Region, to Professor Obasi who has been a source of inspiration and a tower of strength. He is well known not only as Secretary-General of WMO but as a friend on whom it has been a privilege to confer the Honorary Fellowship of the Indian Meteorological Society. India commits its total support to him and to WMO in his next term and looks forward to his continued support, which has never been lacking. The delegation expresses warm wishes to Messrs McBean and Dengo for the continuation of their good work.

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

On behalf of the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr A. M. Noorian, its permanent representative to WMO, extends heartfelt congratulations on Professor Obasi's re-election. Mr Noorian is confident that with his technical and scientific knowledge together with his experience, the world meteorological community will greatly benefit from Professor Obasi's leadership and will continue to develop in the right direction. The members of Regional Association II (Asia) will fully support him in strengthening the role of WMO in the twenty-first century. Professor Obasi will be leading WMO into the new millennium when the major challenges have to be faced.

JAPAN

The delegation of Japan wishes to congratulate Professor Obasi on his re-election as Secretary-General of WMO for the thirteenth financial period. It hopes Professor Obasi will exercise the same excellent leadership he has shown for the last 16 years, developing more effective and efficient operations of the Organization for the twenty-first century. At the same time, the delegation will count on Messrs Dengo and McBean to continue to devote themselves to the activities of WMO with their excellent wisdom in their own capacities.

JORDAN

The delegation of Jordan congratulates the Secretary-General and wishes him and his staff full success in the next financial period. The delegation is sure that Professor Obasi will do his best to help the least advanced, least endowed countries and to give them assistance in training and education that are so badly needed. Thanks were extended to Messrs Dengo and McBean for having participated in the democratic election.

KENYA

The delegation of Kenya to Thirteenth Congress wishes to congratulate Professor Obasi most warmly on his re-election as Secretary-General of WMO. The overwhelming vote given to Professor Obasi is a manifestation of the confidence that Congress has in him as Secretary-General and a confirmation of the sound manner in which he has managed the affairs of the Organization in the past years. It also gives him the mandate to continue to lead the Organization to greater heights. All delegates know that Professor Obasi is a good and world-renowned scientist and, in that capacity, he has represented the Organization very effectively in many international scientific forums. It should not be forgotten that Professor Obasi has trained many leading meteorologists throughout the world. There is no doubt that Congress in its usual wisdom has made the right decision. The delegation of Kenya wishes Professor Obasi continued good health as he leads WMO into the next millennium.

KUWAIT

The delegation of Kuwait warmly congratulates Professor Obasi on his re-election as Secretary-General of WMO for the thirteenth financial period, wishing him all success in realizing progress and continuing work in the interest of WMO. The delegation's congratulations are also extended to the other candidates, Messrs McBean and Dengo, for their support to the work of WMO, wishing that they continue this support in the interest of the Secretary-General and WMO Members. The delegation expresses its full confidence in Professor Obasi's devotion to the advancement of National Meteorological Services in developing countries and in assisting them in realizing the required integration of meteorological services in those countries.

LEBANON

On behalf of the Government of Lebanon, and in the name of the Arab League's Permanent Commission for Meteorology, its delegation extends heartfelt congratulations to Professor Obasi. It is confident that his presence as the leader of WMO's Secretariat constitutes another new opportunity to follow up the achievement of the objectives for the realization of which WMO was established. Congress has once again renewed, by absolute majority, its confidence in the Secretary-General. The delegation expresses its sincere thanks and profound appreciation to Messrs McBean and Dengo who turned this election into a marvelous manifestation of the democracy which strengthens our joint work in WMO. The delegation views the great majority achieved by Professor Obasi as another incentive for him to increase, as usual, his dedication and efforts aimed at ensuring the success of the programmes and activities decided by Congress, developing projects for cooperation among all Meteorological Services in the World and advancing coordination to respond to future challenges and to turn them into opportunities for success, development and solution of international problems. In conclusion, the delegation expresses once again its congratulations to Professor Obasi and wishes him a successful and healthy life. May God grant him success and guide his steps.

LESOTHO

The Government of Lesotho congratulates Professor Obasi for his re-election to the position of WMO Secretary-General for the thirteenth financial period. The Government of Lesotho is aware of the achievements of WMO in the last few years under the leadership of Professor Obasi. It therefore believes that with Professor Obasi at the helm at the beginning of the new millennium, WMO will be well placed to meet the challenges facing the world at large in climate-related areas. The Government of Lesotho, in particular, notes the problems associated with food production, water availability and the degradation of the environment. The Government of Lesotho, therefore, feels that Professor Obasi is indeed a deserving choice and wishes him good health to carry out his duties as Secretary-General of WMO.

LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA

The delegation of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya extends its heartfelt congratulations to Professor Obasi on his re-election as Secretary-General of WMO. It is confident of Professor Obasi's outstanding ability to run the work of WMO and to deal with all the problems facing mankind as a result of climatic and environmental changes. It is also confident that he will continue providing his usual support to all countries in general and to developing countries in particular.

MALAWI

The delegation of Malawi congratulates Professor G. O. P. Obasi on his re-election to the high office of Secretary-General of WMO. The delegation places its confidence in Professor Obasi that the good stewardship he has shown in the past will continue during this thirteenth financial period. It therefore pledges its continued support to Professor Obasi personally and also to WMO so that the good work the Organization has been undertaking continues. It wishes Professor Obasi continued good health and wisdom so that he can take WMO to even greater heights.

MALDIVES

The delegation of the Maldives is delighted to congratulate Professor Obasi on his re-election, demonstrating the wide confidence the Members have in him. It thanks the other two candidates for taking part in the transparent, democratic elections. Professor Obasi has time-tested and proven qualities of leadership: dedication, effectiveness and efficiency. Furthermore, impartiality towards all Member countries is his most remarkable real quality. His relentless efforts has lifted the image and visibility of WMO during his tenure. He has travelled broadly, has met Heads of State, ministers and other senior officials and has spoken eloquently of the common benefits of meteorology and hydrology. Such visions have borne fruit in that even small nations are currently seeking accession. Maldives firmly believes that Professor Obasi is the very deserving choice of WMO as it enters the new millennium and has no doubt whatsoever that he delivers the best.

MALI

On behalf of Mali, its delegation wishes to express very warm and sincere congratulations to Professor Obasi for his brilliant re-election as Secretary-General of our dear, incomparable Organization, WMO. This outstanding success is the best sign that the international meteorological community can award to any of its servants. The delegation has witnessed the unflinching devotion Professor Obasi shows in executing his exalted functions. He has always been wherever he was needed. The delegation salutes in him a citizen of the world and the standard-bearer of WMO. Mali will always be at his side within the limits of its capacities and wishes good health to our excellent Secretary-General, Professor G. O. P. Obasi.

MAURITANIA

On behalf of Mauritania, its delegation congratulates Professor Obasi on his brilliant re-election as Secretary-General of WMO and takes the opportunity to thank all the delegations that have added their votes in support of this son of Africa. It also thanks Messrs McBean and Dengo for having kindly offered their services to WMO. The delegation hopes that following his re-election, Professor Obasi will continue his hard work and strive for a much closer collaboration with developing countries so that the WMO Programmes can be executed in their entirety with the participation and involvement of all the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services.

The delegation also congratulates all the members of the African Group of the Organization of African Unity present in Geneva for the efforts they have made to ensure the re-election of Professor Obasi.

MOROCCO

The delegation of Morocco congratulates Professor Obasi on his re-election as Secretary-General of WMO in a democratic and transparent atmosphere. His re-appointment to lead this Organization constitutes another opportunity to follow up the achievement of the objectives for which WMO was established. The delegation will be at the disposal of the Organization to perform its duties vis-à-vis WMO and its Secretary-General.

NAMIBIA

On behalf of the Government of Namibia, its delegation congratulated Professor Obasi on his re-election as Secretary-General of WMO for the next financial period. It was an honour to Africa and to the whole meteorological community to have Professor Obasi continue to serve the Organization and to promote its meteorological, hydrometeorological and environmental programmes through his wisdom and future vision. The Government of Namibia would continue to cooperate with WMO and Professor Obasi.

NEPAL

The delegation of Nepal extends its congratulations to Professor Obasi on his re-election as Secretary-General for the next financial period and expresses its best wishes for his success in promoting meteorology and operational hydrology. It also thanks Messrs McBean and Dengo for offering their services to the Organization.

NIGER

On behalf of the Council for National Reconciliation, and the Government and the people of the Republic of Niger, its delegation would like to congratulate very warmly Professor G. O. P. Obasi on his brilliant election. The delegation is convinced that Congress has made the best possible choice for our Organization by once again placing Professor Obasi at the head of our Organization for a four-year term of office. This victory is one of

competence and continuity over change for the sake of change. The delegation also wishes to congratulate, through this election, the sister Republic of Nigeria, with whom Niger shares the same destiny. The Government of Niger wishes Professor Obasi good health, courage and determination to lead our Organization into the new century. May the Almighty Allah watch over you.

NIGERIA

The delegation of Nigeria, speaking on behalf of the Government and people of Nigeria, expresses immense gratitude to Congress for once again demonstrating its confidence and trust in Professor Obasi, who has led the Organization in a remarkable and efficient manner. Judging by the massive support for his candidature, Professor Obasi has been re-elected for a further four years not because he is Nigerian but because his performance as Secretary-General has been exemplary and worthy of commendation. The delegation of Nigeria is very proud of that. The Government of Nigeria is resolved to give moral and financial support to WMO in the implementation of its programmes. In his acceptance speech, Professor Obasi has once again given the assurance that he will continue to give his very best to WMO. The delegation has every confidence that Professor Obasi will fulfil that promise and discharge his duties to the Organization in a creditable manner. The delegation also extends thanks to the opposing candidates for their offer to serve the Organization.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The delegation of Papua New Guinea congratulates Professor Obasi on his re-election as Secretary-General and thanks the principal delegates of all countries who have voted for Professor Obasi to ensure that he would lead the Organization into the next millennium. Despite the recognized achievements of WMO under Professor Obasi's leadership, unfinished work remains. The delegation wishes Professor Obasi health and vigour to steer the Organization forward.

PERU

On behalf of the Government of Peru its delegation extends its congratulations to Professor Obasi on his re-election as Secretary-General of WMO. While wishing him success for his new term of office, the delegation would like to assure him of the full cooperation of Peru for the important tasks that lay before him. It invites Messrs Dengo and McBean to continue their invaluable contribution to the work and objectives of WMO. The delegation is sure that Professor Obasi will take into due consideration the significant approach made by both distinguished figures, which could be seen in their proposals and recommendations.

PHILIPPINES

The delegate of the Philippines extends heartfelt congratulations to Professor Obasi on his re-election as

Secretary-General. His election is proof of the approval of Congress at the way he has managed the Organization and of his dynamic, forward-looking vision of WMO for the next millennium. The delegation wishes Professor Obasi good health and every success in the task ahead.

PORTUGAL

The delegation of Portugal congratulates Congress for the way in which the elections were conducted and the new ideas that were brought forward. Portugal appreciates the strength and willingness of Messrs McBean and Dengo in participating in the elections. A special word of thanks are due to the Secretary-General for his support for the cause of the Portuguese language in the Organization. The delegation expresses many thanks on behalf of Portugal and all those included in the CRIA Agency.

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

The delegation of the Republic of Korea expresses its warmest congratulations to Professor G. O. P. Obasi on his re-election as Secretary-General of WMO for the thirteenth financial period, wishing him continued success in carrying out his responsibilities during his new tenure. The delegation also wishes to assure Professor Obasi of its continued support in efforts to strengthen WMO and the world meteorological community.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

The delegation of the Russian Federation heartily congratulates Professor G. O. P. Obasi on the occasion of his re-election to the post of Secretary-General of WMO. Thirteenth Congress has shown wisdom, confirming through his election, its commitment to the basic ideals and aims of WMO on the threshold between two millennia. We are convinced and consider it very important that the great learning and experience of Professor Obasi will be used to the utmost in accomplishing the work decided on by Thirteenth Congress and in informing the world meteorological community, at the beginning of the twenty-first century, of its new agenda. We wish Professor Obasi good health and strength in executing the noble and complex tasks standing before the Organization. At the same time, the delegation is sincerely grateful to Messrs Dengo and McBean for their candidature for WMO Secretary-General and for their proposals put forward in their electoral campaigns, as they are extremely useful for developing international cooperation in the meteorological field and for laying good foundations for continuity in the work of the Organization.

SAINT LUCIA

The delegation of St Lucia offers warmest congratulations to Professor Obasi on his re-election as Secretary-General of WMO. His victory is testimony of the overwhelming support of the majority of Member countries and of the confidence which they continue to have in his

leadership of the Organization. The delegation also thanks the other candidates for their contribution to the election process.

SAMOA

The delegation of Samoa speaking on behalf of the new Members of Congress urges the defeated candidates not to lose hope and give up and extends his warmest congratulations to Professor Obasi on his re-election as Secretary-General.

SAUDI ARABIA

On behalf of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, its delegation extends its sincere congratulations to Professor Obasi on his re-election as Secretary-General of WMO for the next period. This is a demonstration of his scientific status and devotion to advance WMO's work during his previous term of office. As we approach the twenty-first century, the delegation is confident of Professor Obasi's devotion to carry out his mandate during the next period with full integrity and utmost efficiency, to advance WMO's activities in meteorology, forecasting, hydrology, scientific research and other scientific fields, and to provide all kinds of support to developing countries. The delegation would also like to express its thanks and appreciation to Messrs McBean and Dengo for their active participation and devotion to serve WMO and its various activities. It has full confidence in the continuity of their support and persistent efforts to advance actively and earnestly the work of WMO.

The delegation, once again, congratulates Professor Obasi and confirms the devotion of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to collaborate fully with him and with the Organization in all the areas of WMO's activities and wishes him success.

SENEGAL

The delegation of Senegal expresses its satisfaction on the re-election of Professor Obasi. The trust Member States have placed in Professor Obasi has led to his brilliant re-election. Congress has confidence in him and is fully satisfied with the way he has conducted the Organization. The delegation thanks the other two candidates and again assures the Secretary-General that he can count on the full support of Senegal.

SEYCHELLES

On behalf of the people of Seychelles and the staff of the National Meteorological Service, the delegation of Seychelles congratulates Professor Obasi on his re-election. Professor Obasi is the right choice to lead the Organization into the new millennium, for the benefit of future generations. The delegation also thanks the other candidates for bringing fresh impetus to the Organization.

SINGAPORE

The delegation of Singapore joins other delegations in congratulating Professor Obasi and wishes him good health and a successful term in office.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

On behalf of the Government of Solomon Islands, its delegation extended warm and sincere congratulations to Professor Obasi and hopes that he will continue to offer his dedication and commitment for the welfare of WMO and its Member countries, especially the small island developing States. The delegation also thanks the other candidates for their participation in the democratic process and for their service to the Organization.

SPAIN

Professor Obasi, the delegation of Spain is in agreement with everything that has been said and written about your resounding victory in the elections. This result is undeniable proof of your solid position among all delegations and of your success at the head of WMO during your previous terms in office. Spain will continue to collaborate with WMO, with its Secretary-General and with all the countries and territories that make up our Organization. However, Spain will especially work for the most needy of Meteorological Services, in an act of solidarity to which you are the witness and main actor. Without doubt, this was one of the reasons (among many other well-known ones) which determined your absolutely clear-cut victory on what is an unforgettable day for you, for Nigeria, for Africa and for Region I (into which Spain is also integrated).

SRI LANKA

The delegation of Sri Lanka congratulates Professor Obasi on his re-election. It is confident that with Professor Obasi's vision, as indicated in the long-term plan he has placed before Congress, he will be able to work to narrow the existing gap between the Meteorological Services of the developed and developing countries. The delegation wishes Professor Obasi success and good health.

SUDAN

On behalf of Sudan, its delegation extends sincere congratulations to Professor Obasi on his re-election as Secretary-General of WMO for the thirteenth financial period. This is a rightfully devoted appointment. The delegation wishes him all the success in fulfilling his task and assures him of Sudan's cooperation in this regard. May God grant him success.

SWAZILAND

The delegation of Swaziland extends warmest congratulations to Professor Obasi on his re-election and wishes him good health and luck in steering the Organization into the twenty-first century.

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

The delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic expresses its utmost pleasure on this occasion which has revealed the

great support awarded to the Secretary-General by the Members of WMO. It has always been confident of this result because of Professor Obasi's great efforts and dynamism in leading WMO throughout his previous terms in office, his close relations with all Members without any discrimination and his continuous assistance to the developing countries endeavouring to develop their Services. The delegation expresses its congratulations, once again, and wishes Professor Obasi good health, happiness and success at all times.

THAILAND

The delegation of Thailand expresses sincere appreciation and congratulations to Professor Obasi and wishes him success for his new term in office. It also thanks the two opposing candidates for offering their services to WMO.

TUNISIA

The delegation of Tunisia offers its warm congratulations to Professor Obasi on his re-election as Secretary-General of WMO and wishes him the utmost success for his new term in office. The delegation thanks the two other candidates, Messrs McBean and Dengo, from Canada and Costa Rica, respectively, for their willingness to serve WMO and for having given this election a mark of democracy.

UNITED KINGDOM

The delegate of the United Kingdom congratulates Professor Obasi on his re-election. The size of his majority is a tribute to the high regard in which he is held by Member States. The delegation also offers warm thanks to Messrs Dengo and McBean, who have so generously offered their services to WMO. Through the re-election of the Secretary-General and the move to a new Headquarters, the Secretariat is now well placed to meet the challenges of the next period and to take the Organization successfully into the new millennium. The Government of the United Kingdom, its Permanent Representative with WMO and its Meteorological Office will work determinedly with the Secretariat to bring about the necessary change and help ensure that WMO develops to meet the needs of its Members.

UNITED STATES

The delegation of the United States is pleased to join the other delegations in congratulating Professor Obasi on his decisive electoral victory. Professor Obasi should be proud of his many accomplishments over the last 16 years as he has moved WMO forward. During difficult budget times he has managed its programmes with shrewd resourcefulness. He has ably represented WMO in international forums and has kept the name of the Organization at the forefront of international environmental events. He has worked tirelessly to balance the many interests represented in Congress and

has done it very well. The entire Organization should be proud of the strength of the two opposing candidates who have offered their services. Messrs Dengo and McBean are qualified individuals and the strength of the Organization is that it can draw such candidates for this important position. The delegation wishes Professor Obasi continued success and good health and looks forward to working with him to make the Organization even better and to face the many challenges in the next millennium.

UZBEKISTAN

The delegation of Uzbekistan joins the previous speakers in congratulating Professor Obasi and wishes him full success in all fields, especially meteorology, as well as a great deal of energy.

VIET NAM

On behalf of the Government of Viet Nam, its delegation expresses warmest congratulations to Professor Obasi on his re-election and wishes him every success in this important position. Under Professor Obasi's coordination, cooperation between Members in the meteorological community will continue to be strengthened and expanded and WMO will achieve greater things and contribute to sustainable development. The delegation thanks Professor Obasi for his previous assistance and cooperation and is confident that he will give the Hydrometeorological Service of Viet Nam stronger support and assistance in the coming years.

ZAMBIA

The delegation of Zambia congratulates Professor Obasi on his re-election and assures him that Zambia will continue to support him in carrying out his work in the next millennium.

ZIMBABWE

The delegation of Zimbabwe congratulates Professor Obasi on his re-election. The African countries have stood together in supporting the candidature of Professor Obasi through the Organization of African Unity. The delegation hopes that Africa will continue to stand united in all future programmes of WMO. The African countries have no doubt that Professor Obasi will continue to serve the Organization with unwavering diligence and integrity. WMO can count on the support of the African countries in the third millennium.

CARIBBEAN METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION (CMO)

On behalf of the CMO and its Members, the First Vice-President of WMO extends heartiest congratulations to Professor Obasi on his re-election, which is a reflection of Congress' appreciation of his efforts in the past and confidence in his continued activities in fulfilling the objectives of WMO in the future. The delegation wishes the

Secretary-General a successful term of office, urges him to guard his health as he undertakes the demanding task and looks forward to interacting with him in the years ahead. "Well done, sir!"

SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES FROM THE SOUTH-WEST PACIFIC

On behalf of the Members of WMO from the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) of the Cook Islands, Federated State of Micronesia, Fiji, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu in the South-west Pacific, as well as the SIDS of Kiribati and Tuvalu who are represented here at Thirteenth Congress as observers, we heartily congratulate Professor G. O. P. Obasi for his re-election for a fifth consecutive term as Secretary-General of WMO. His re-election as Secretary-General will be a challenging one especially at the dawn of the new millennium. However all delegates to Thirteenth Congress have shown their support for him as he faces the challenges

of the twenty-first century. SIDS from the South-west Pacific are more than willing to support him in any way possible in the meteorological field, as foreseen by the Convention and in a spirit of cooperation. Professor Obasi's own support for SIDS, such as those of the South-west Pacific, has been very much appreciated. These States hope that he will continue his valuable service, as in the past, to their specific problems and especially to the issues of natural disaster reduction and climate change. Such issues are crucial, especially when island States are prone to cyclones and are just a few metres above mean sea level.

The SIDS extend their appreciation to Messrs Manuel Dengo of Costa Rica and Gordon McBean of Canada who kindly offered their services as candidates for the post of Secretary-General, thus expressing their commitment and dedication to WMO and their respective programmes and activities. The SIDS from the South-west Pacific wish Professor Obasi good health and a fruitful term with WMO and hope that he will continue the support shown in the past especially to the needs of small island developing States.

MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH PLENARY MEETING

14 May 1999 at 3 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

24. Address by Mr Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations

The **PRESIDENT** said he was pleased and honoured to welcome Mr Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, to the Thirteenth World Meteorological Congress.

He assured the Secretary-General that the message of hope, optimism, cooperation and encouragement he had sent in a video message presented at the inauguration of the new WMO Headquarters building had been much appreciated. The 170 delegations attending Congress, who represented the world's meteorological and hydrological communities, were proud of the spirit of cooperation that bound the WMO family together in its important work. They were also proud to be part of the larger United Nations family. They interpreted the Secretary-General's presence as a tangible sign of his own pride in the work of WMO. Congress had another reason for happiness and pride in that it had just re-appointed Professor Obasi for a further term. Thus, it was a doubly significant moment for Congress. The President then invited the Secretary-General of the United Nations to address Congress.

MR KOFI ANNAN congratulated Professor G. O. P. Obasi on his re-appointment as Secretary-General of WMO. It was an honour to address Congress. When the new Headquarters building was inaugurated he had said that the new issues facing the planet not only were a challenge, but a unifying force: the vessel-shaped structure was a reminder that everyone on the planet was in the same boat.

Interdependence had been understood by no organization better than WMO, which throughout its history had promoted better understanding of weather, water and climate, and had helped others understand that those phenomena knew no national boundaries. By the same token, WMO had fostered an understanding that had helped others to recognize there were no distinct boundaries among the scientific disciplines, such as atmospheric studies, hydrology, oceanography, and the biological and agricultural sciences. Nor were the scientific challenges independent of one another. Climatic change occasioned by greenhouse gases or the depletion of the ozone in the upper atmosphere were issues that needed to be addressed by interdisciplinary means.

Instead of focusing on expanding its own activities, WMO had recognized at an early stage that it was more efficient to establish joint projects and programmes with other United Nations agencies and with the global scientific community. It had concentrated on harnessing the resources of potential partners rather than engaging in turf battles. It had

thus become a model of interagency cooperation as well as a pioneer of partnerships with civil society in the academic world.

That collaborative spirit had generated a number of landmark initiatives: inter-agency collaboration with regard to water; the joint WMO/ICSU Global Atmospheric Research Programme; the WMO/UNEP/ICSU World Climate Programme, which explored ways of predicting climate change, whether natural or human induced, with the active participation of many governmental and non-governmental organizations.

WMO, which he termed the original networker, had shown how to respond to the challenge of perceived interdependence in the world by linking up national activities and making the network the response. Three decades later, the whole of the United Nations system was seeking network solutions.

The future role of WMO would require even greater vigilance and creativity. The atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases was increasing alarmingly and the possibility of their being harmful to human activities could not be excluded. Food production, for example, could be seriously affected — at the same time as the world population was growing rapidly.

With increasing water shortage in many parts of the world, the rate of desertification threatened to increase further. In small island developing States, more intense and frequent tropical storms posed a threat to the survival of coastal infrastructures, defence systems, habitats and human settlements. In the long term, a gradual rise in sea-level could have a similar impact. Natural disasters were of grave concern to the international community as a whole, with nearly three quarters of all natural disasters — whether floods, tropical cyclones, droughts, forest fires and epidemics — being weather and climate-related.

Great strides in weather prediction had enabled WMO to provide advance warnings that saved lives and reduced damage to property and the environment. Every cent invested in the Meteorological and Hydrological Services yielded a more than 10-fold economic return over the initial outlay.

WMO's proven ability to forge close partnerships with other organizations within and outside the United Nations system could be relied upon to anticipate, identify and address the many new challenges that would confront the world in the next century.

PROFESSOR OBASI thanked the Secretary-General of the United Nations for his encouraging remarks and noted that that was the first occasion in the past 25 years that the Secretary-General of the United Nations had addressed Congress. His presence was a tangible expression of the

cooperation that characterized the relationship of the United Nations and WMO.

Since WMO became a specialized agency of the United Nations in 1951, the United Nations/WMO relationship had been most beneficial to humanity. In the 1950s, WMO had contributed to the activities of the United Nations and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on matters related to the atmosphere, oceans and fresh water. In the 1960s and 1970s, resolutions of the General Assembly had led to establishing the WMO WWC, the WMO/ICSU Global Atmosphere Research Programme and the WMO TCP. Those programmes had resulted in notable advances and understanding of atmospheric processes and the global climate system (improved weather forecasts, seasonal forecasts and climate prediction in support of a wide range of human activities including food security, safe and efficient

transportation and mitigation of natural disasters). WMO's monitoring and research activities had led the United Nations to adopt resolutions on the protection of the Earth's climate and on disaster reduction. In turn, those had led to the ratification of UNFCCC. Such symbiotic relationships would continue as the Organization explored and broadened areas of cooperation with the United Nations on issues of mutual interest and concern to humanity.

In facing the challenges of the twenty-first century, the strengths of the two Organizations must be built upon, their weaknesses identified and addressed, opportunities explored and exploited, priority measures identified and implemented, and the means found to attain the goals and objectives set to respond to the requirements and wishes of the Member States.

The meeting rose at 3.30 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE NINTH PLENARY MEETING

17 May 1999 at 9.30 a.m.

The meeting was called to order at 9.30 a.m.

25. Report of the Credentials Committee (agenda item 1.5)

The **CHAIRPERSON OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE** indicated that no further credentials had been received since the fourth report.

26. Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Organization (agenda item 12.1) (Cg-XIII/ PINKS 12.1(1) and (2))

Introducing the present agenda item, the **FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT** cited the relevant Articles of the WMO Convention and WMO General Regulations which governed the election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Organization, and called upon the **DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL**, who read the relevant articles.

The **CHAIRPERSON OF THE NOMINATION COMMITTEE** presented Document Cg-XIII/PINK 2.1(1), submitting the name of Mr J. W. Zillman of Australia for the office of the President.

There being no other nominations, Mr J. W. Zillman was declared President of the Organization for the thirteenth financial period.

The **PRESIDENT** expressed his deep appreciation to Thirteenth Congress for the trust placed in him and reaffirmed his belief that WMO was the finest international organization in the world. He said the world had never been more in need of the spirit of cooperation, mutual understanding and goodwill between cultures and nations that pervaded the global meteorological community and bound the WMO family together to contribute to the safety and welfare of humanity.

He underscored the collective satisfaction and pride in the achievements of Congress thus far. Thirteenth Congress, the largest gathering ever of WMO Member States and Territories, had been addressed for the first time in over 24 years by a United Nations Secretary-General. Congress could also take pride in the tributes that the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr Kofi Annan, had paid WMO, calling it a model of inter-agency cooperation, a pioneer of partnerships with civil society and the originator of global networking. In addition to the praise, the United Nations Secretary-General set high standards and daunting challenges for WMO, and those should be met with insight and enthusiasm, declared the President.

The President enumerated the following as necessary to ensure that individual nations and the global community could realize the immense potential benefits that meteorological and hydrological services could provide in the

early decades of the twenty-first century: publicly-funded NMHSs; the WMO framework of international cooperation among nations; the principle of free and unrestricted international exchange of data and products; and enhanced contributions by developed countries to strengthening the basic infrastructures of public Meteorological Services of developing countries. He believed that one of the most important challenges for WMO would be to rebuild its essential framework of international cooperation and national service delivery within the context of the twenty-first century.

In view of the prevailing uncertainty and re-evaluation of the role and operation of NMHSs, it was critically important, he believed, for an increase in both directions in the speed and relevance of communication between the Executive Council and Members. In so doing, however, he hoped the members of the Executive Council would remember what he believed was the most important single ingredient of the successful non-political operation of WMO — their almost sacred duty to set aside their own national interests in carrying out their Executive Council responsibilities in the best interests of all the Members of the Organization. He underlined that by quoting from an extract from the proceedings of the 1947 Conference of Directors in Washington, D.C., which drew up the WMO Convention, and which was included in the 1998 edition of the *Reference Guide to the Work of the Executive Council*.

With respect to the restructuring of WMO, he believed that WMO should continually examine new ways of organizing and performing its work. He was impressed by the spirit of cooperation and mutually supportive interaction that had developed over the previous decade between the technical commissions, and expressed hope that in that spirit, whatever Congress decided on merging or regrouping the work of CBS and CIMO, the trust and cooperation that existed between commissions would remain. He hoped that the concept of universality which provided all WMO Members the opportunity to benefit from the commission system would be maintained while also maintaining the vital relationship between the work of the commissions and the regions.

The President welcomed the emphasis delegations had been giving to the vitally important emerging issues of climate. He stressed, however, that the use of the term “meteorology and climatology” was a disservice to the meteorological community. It was important to make it absolutely clear that climatology was not a new field of science, but had always been an intrinsic part of meteorology since the early days, as meteorology embraced both weather and climate and the two could only be properly monitored, understood and predicted if studied together. That understanding had immense practical implications for NMHSs, as the recent progress in climate

science would open up opportunities for climate services to serve as part of a truly integrated environmental service system based on the established networks and infrastructure of WMO's WWW.

Congress felt strongly about the role that WMO should play in facilitating the interaction between NMHSs and the media, academia and the private sector meteorological and hydrological communities. He emphasized the pivotal role of Permanent Representatives under WMO General Regulation 6 as the channel to the Organization from all sectors within the individual Member countries.

Congress had shown its overwhelming confidence in the Secretary-General by re-appointing him to another term in office. In that respect, the President wished to place formally on record his personal confidence in the Secretary-General and his immense admiration for his vision, energy, leadership and, above all, his total commitment to WMO. He believed that the Secretary-General, who never gave less than all of his effort, always acted with the best interests of WMO in mind, and while setting high standards for his staff, he met those standards himself many times over. The President also praised the immense professionalism and loyalty of the staff of the WMO Secretariat. He pledged the Executive Council to work closely with the Secretary-General to provide whatever support it could to carry out the mandate given by Thirteenth Congress, with special priority given to help strengthen staff commitment and morale.

The President recalled that he had been privileged to serve alongside three generations of leaders in the governing bodies of WMO, during which time he had seen the WMO leadership pass from the developed to the developing world and the emergence of an immense commitment to bridging the gap between those two worlds. He had seen that vision falter in the face of financial difficulties, but had also seen great steps forward. There was a timeless wisdom in WMO and the WMO community had been blessed with the noblest traditions of international cooperation, a clear charter and the immense potential for its science to contribute to the good of all humanity.

He praised the work of the three outgoing Vice-Presidents, Messrs Berridge, Sen Roy and Beysson, and looked forward to working with their successors and the new Executive Council. He hoped that delegates would be able to leave Congress with confidence in the future of WMO and those they had chosen to lead it through the next four years. He pledged to do his utmost to assist the Executive Council, the technical commissions, the regional associations and the Secretariat in their work. He also pledged to help maintain and strengthen the role of the NMHSs of the developing countries and to help the Secretary-General in his work of reinforcing the place of WMO in the United Nations system, and in building stronger links to other disciplines and programmes especially to the international media and private sectors.

In closing, the President affirmed that he was proud to be a member of WMO and humbled to have again been accepted to lead the Organization. He looked forward to working with all Members on the great challenges and opportunities ahead and hoped that delegates at Fourteenth Congress would find a world substantially better for the work of WMO.

The **PRESIDENT** then proceeded to the election of the Vice-Presidents of the Organization and called on the **CHAIRPERSON OF THE NOMINATION COMMITTEE**, who presented Document Cg-XIII/PINK 12.1(2), in which the name of Mr Jean-Pierre Beysson (France) was submitted for the office of First Vice-President.

There being no other nominations, Mr J.-P. Beysson was elected First-Vice-President of the Organization for the thirteenth financial period.

The First Vice-President elect, **MR J.-P. BEYSSON**, expressed his tremendous pride at having been elected. As a recent newcomer to the Organization, he was participating in his second Congress, and thought that, perhaps, the tenacity and vigours of his convictions, although strong, had somehow proved worthwhile. He was proud of the confidence that had been placed in him. He had tremendous passion for the science of meteorology and expressed his strong determination to contribute to the implementation of the WMO Programmes.

At the invitation of the President, the **CHAIRPERSON OF THE NOMINATION COMMITTEE** submitted the names of Mr Victor Chub (Uzbekistan) and Mr Ali-Mohammad Noorian (Islamic Republic of Iran) for the office of Second Vice-President, as contained in Document Cg-XIII/PINK 12.1(2). Having ascertained that there were no further nominations from the floor, the **PRESIDENT** called for the election to proceed. At his invitation, Messrs C. E. Berridge and N. Sen Roy (the First and Second Vice-Presidents, respectively) acted as tellers, and Messrs A. I. Bedritsky (Russian Federation) and N. B. I. Tawfiq (Saudi Arabia) acted as assistant tellers.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The **PRESIDENT** announced the results of the election as followed:

Total number of ballots:	142
Number of abstentions and blank ballots:	2
Number of valid ballots:	140
Required majority:	71

Number of votes obtained:	
Mr Ali-Mohammad Noorian (Islamic Republic of Iran):	119
Mr Victor Chub (Uzbekistan):	21

Mr A. M. Noorian was declared Second Vice-President of the Organization.

In expressing his appreciation for the trust shown in him, **MR A. M. NOORIAN** said he was convinced that at least once in a lifetime everyone would be faced with a situation in which he or she would be lost for words. That was the position he found himself in and he felt overwhelmed by two conflicting emotions — pride and apprehension: pride in the honour bestowed upon him in electing him Second Vice-President of WMO and at the same time apprehension of the responsibilities that office entailed. Over two decades of participating in Congress and the Executive Council in various capacities he had benefited from the advice, knowledge and

experience of his colleagues from both developed and developing countries. He counted on those continuing contacts, guidance and assistance. It was imperative that the gap between developing and more advanced countries be reduced and eventually eliminated, particularly in the field of meteorology which knew no political frontiers, and where deficiencies in one part of the world could cause serious repercussions in other parts. He looked forward to coordinated efforts in all areas of meteorological activities under the able guidance of the President and the Secretary-General and congratulated them on their new terms of office. He paid tribute to Mr Chub and trusted they would work closely together in the future. He would do his utmost to uphold the confidence placed in him.

MR V. CHUB congratulated Mr A. M. Noorian on his election as Second Vice-President and wished to express his appreciation to all those who had placed their trust in him and had supported his candidacy. He hoped to receive their support in his future activities both within his NMS and for activities undertaken within the framework of WMO. He looked forward to the continued collaboration and to working with members in the future.

At the request of the President, the **CHAIRPERSON OF THE NOMINATION COMMITTEE** submitted the name of Mr Ramon A. Sonzini (Argentina) for the office of Third Vice-President, as contained in Document Cg-XIII/PINK 12.1(2).

There being no further nominations, Mr R. Sonzini was declared Third-Vice President of the Organization.

MR R. SONZINI said it was a great honour and privilege to be elected to the post of Third Vice-President. Recalling the words of Mr Noorian, he too believed his election implied immense responsibilities. He could not add to what the President had said in his address as he believed he had summed up everything. He thanked all those who had supported him, in particular his wife, and complimented Mr Castro Wrede, the former president of Regional Association III, for the active role he had played in the Organization. In calling for unity, he gave assurances that he would do his utmost in the interests of the Organization.

The **PRESIDENT** warmly congratulated the three Vice-Presidents on their election and thanked Mr Chub on behalf of Congress for making himself available as a candidate and for the assurances of his continued contributions to the work of the Organization. He also thanked the tellers for their assistance.

The **SECRETARY-GENERAL** extended his warm congratulations on his own behalf and that of the Secretariat of the Organization to the President on his unanimous re-election. He recalled that the President had wide experience in the affairs of WMO, having been a member of the Executive Council since 1979, and had participated in WMO Bureau meetings since that time. He had been chairperson of the Working Group on Long-term Planning since its inception in the early 1980s until 1995 and had served as First Vice-President of the Organization since Tenth Congress.

In addition, he had served as President in a highly commendable manner during the present financial period. It had been a pleasure to work with him over the past four years and his advice was greatly appreciated when difficulties arose.

He had a deep commitment and interest in the promotion of the Organization to which he had devoted tremendous efforts. The Secretary-General expressed certainty that the President would labour unceasingly for the future of WMO, and he would cooperate with him for the continued strengthening of the Organization so that it could confidently meet the challenges of the twenty-first century. Both he and the President were committed to hand over to their successors the best Organization within the United Nations system.

The Secretary-General also offered his congratulations to Messrs Beysson, Noorian and Sonzini, First, Second and Third Vice-Presidents, respectively. The three Vice-Presidents were well known, having proven their commitment to WMO in their various capacities in the past, and he looked forward to their cooperation during the next financial period. He was certain that, with their experience, they would perform the tasks entrusted to them by Congress and serve the cause of the Organization competently and commendably.

The **PRESIDENT OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATION I**, speaking on behalf of the Regional Association and the delegation of the United Republic of Tanzania, offered his sincere congratulations to the President and the three Vice-Presidents. Having worked with them in the Executive Council and the Bureau, he had confidence in their commitment to the cause of the Organization. They could count on the support of members of Regional Association I in undertaking their responsibilities, and he hoped that they, in turn, would take into consideration the particular problems of the developing countries in their endeavours to carry out essential operations and provide better services.

The **PRESIDENT OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATION II** offered his Region's congratulations as well as those of the delegation of Mongolia and his own to the President on his re-election for a second term. The President, with a broad background in geoscience and wide-ranging experience in international meteorology and hydrology, had a deep commitment to the role of national meteorology and hydrology in providing warning and information to mitigate disasters, and to the role of WMO to strengthen NMHSs for the socio-economic development of their countries. He was confident that the President's ability to preside over meetings would promote, as in the past, increased efficiency. As well, congratulations were offered to Messrs Beysson, Noorian and Sonzini on their election as First, Second and Third Vice-Presidents, respectively. He was confident that they would serve the Organization with great enthusiasm in order to achieve tangible results in the implementation of WMO Programmes. He expressed his appreciation to Messrs Sen Roy and Berridge for their dedicated service to the Organization and wished them good health and well-being. He also wished to express appreciation to Mr Chub for his candidacy and believed that the candidate from Region II would continue to work for the benefit of the WMO community.

The **DELEGATE OF COLOMBIA**, in the absence of the president and vice-president of **REGIONAL ASSOCIATION III**, said he was convinced that the new leadership of WMO would serve as a guarantee of full support to the Secretary-General, and took the opportunity of congratulating him on his re-appointment. It was a new phase for the Organization: efforts at modernization already under way should be continued as

well as the strengthening of the Services of developing countries to meet the challenges of the years to come as without such efforts WMO would not be operating at optimum efficiency. The difficulties needed to be overcome in new fields of knowledge, especially in areas related to climate and climate change, made it imperative to understand the Services and strengthen them in order to build an Organization that was worthy of Members' aspired objectives in the service of humanity. The members of Regional Association III had requested that he extend congratulations to the President and the Secretary-General and that he emphasize the pride they felt in Mr Sonzini's election to the Bureau. Their congratulations were also extended to Messrs Beysson and Noorian. The Bureau could count on the full support of the Region during the next four years.

The **PRESIDENT OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATION IV** was pleased, on his own behalf and that of the members of the Region and the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba, to congratulate the President of WMO on his re-election and the three Vice-Presidents on their election. He was confident the presidency would be in able hands in the forthcoming years and wished them the strength and wisdom to deal with the issues that WMO would be facing in the future. It would be a pleasure to continue working with them in the next four years. In addition, he paid tribute to the First Vice-President, Mr Berridge, who would be retiring as Director of the Caribbean Meteorological Organization, for his dedication and commitment to international meteorology. He had been extremely active in WMO and in the Region during the past 40 years and had played an important role in developing NMHSs throughout the world, particularly in developing countries. Expressing the hope that Mr Berridge's skills would not be lost to WMO, and that he would be involved in one way or another in the Organization's activities in the years to come, he wished him well for the future.

The **PRESIDENT OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATION V** extended, on behalf of the Regional Association and of the delegation of Malaysia, his heartfelt congratulations to the President on his re-appointment and emphasized his Region's pride in having regularly provided meteorologists of high calibre to the Organization. His effective leadership and deep devotion would bode well for the Organization and he looked forward to working closely with him and to receiving his invaluable advice and guidance, particularly in fulfilling the needs and priorities of Regional Association V. He also expressed his warmest congratulations to the three Vice-Presidents whose experience in the work of the Organization would ensure their effective contribution to the progress and development of WMO. He also wished to thank Messrs Berridge and Sen Roy for their meaningful contributions and service over many years to the Organization.

On behalf of the Regional Association and the delegation of Italy, the **PRESIDENT OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATION VI** expressed sincere and warm congratulations for the President's re-election. He was confident that in the next four years the same invaluable wisdom, dedication and effort would be seen as had been seen in the past four. The joint leadership of the President and the Secretary-General would ensure continuous progress of the Organization. Regional Association VI would be fully engaged in, and would

provide unconditional support to, WMO Programmes. He also expressed warm congratulations to Messrs Beysson, Noorian and Sonzini for their election as Vice-Presidents. They had all served WMO in various positions with great success and he was confident they would continue to serve with the same dedication and efficiency. Finally, he wished to express his appreciation to Mr Chub for standing for election and to thank Messrs Berridge and Sen Roy for their services as First and Second Vice-Presidents, respectively.

Speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Meteorological Organization, the **DELEGATE OF DOMINICA** congratulated the President on his re-election. It reflected the confidence and pleasure of Congress in his ability to lead WMO as effectively as in the past. He offered his delegation's congratulations to the new Vice-Presidents and said he was equally confident their wisdom would guide the Bureau in furthering WMO objectives.

The **DELEGATE OF LEBANON** said it was a pleasure for him, on behalf of his country and of the Permanent Committee on Meteorology under the League of Arab States, to congratulate heartily and thank the President on the occasion of his re-election. He expressed their tremendous gratitude for his wisdom and excellent leadership during his last term of office, in which he had met the challenges with dedication and had laboured to find the right solutions. His efforts during the past four years had been successful and gave everyone confidence at a time when problems were on the rise. Congratulations were also due to the three Vice-Presidents, and his delegation wished the new Bureau every success, certain that the spirit of cooperation and coordination would continue during the next four years.

The **DELEGATE OF KENYA** warmly congratulated all those who had just been elected and believed that Thirteenth Congress had made wise decisions. There was no doubt that together with the Secretary-General they would effectively lead the Organization forward on such pressing issues as climate change. That meant an effective WWW which, in turn, could only be achieved through an efficient ETR Programme as well as through, a large extent, the TCO Programme. He gave assurances that Kenya, an active participant in the TCO Programme, would continue and strengthen its participation in the future and would continue to cooperate to achieve the aims of the Organization. The delegation also wished to thank Messrs Berridge and Sen Roy for the services they had rendered the Organization over the past years.

The **DELEGATE OF CHINA** expressed its delegation's warm congratulations to Mr Zillman on his re-election as President and said he also wished to take the opportunity of extending congratulations to the Secretary-General on his re-appointment. The election process demonstrated Members' acknowledgements of past efforts and contributions. He extended congratulations to Messrs Beysson, Noorian and Sonzini on their election as First, Second and Third Vice-Presidents, respectively. The strong leadership, talents, wisdom, industriousness and perseverance coupled with the active support of all Members would bring a thriving WMO and flourishing NMHSs into the twenty-first century.

Congratulating the President and the three Vice-Presidents, the **DELEGATE OF BOTSWANA** said Congress had

made a wise decision again in electing them to office. WMO's Bureau had four able personalities capable of taking the Organization into the new era of fast developing technologies. An effective Bureau would not be complete without an equally effective Executive Council and she believed the new Council to be elected would provide such an impetus, especially with regard to such programmes as, *inter alia*, the WWW and the ETR Programmes. She paid tribute and extended her sincere gratitude to Messrs Berridge and Sen Roy for their contributions to WMO and wished them well.

The **DELEGATE OF OMAN** joined the other delegations in congratulating Messrs Zillman, Beysson, Noorian and Sonzini on their election as President and First, Second and Third Vice-Presidents, respectively, and was convinced they would lead WMO forward into the twenty-first century, and prove capable of dealing with the challenges facing the Organization.

Noting that it was his delegation's first attendance at Congress as his country was a new Member of WMO, the **DELEGATE OF SAMOA** thanked the President for the opportunity of addressing Congress. He congratulated Mr Beysson for assuming the mantle left by Mr Berridge, and believed he would serve with the same vigour and passion. He welcomed Mr Noorian's election as Second Vice-President while bidding farewell to Mr Sen Roy, and was pleased that Mr Sonzini had been elected to the post of Third Vice-President. He reiterated his pleasure that Congress had once again placed its trust in the President, a "son of the Pacific" from Regional Association V, by re-electing him, believing it was because of his qualities and merits and on the feats he had accomplished, while embodying the spirit of WMO by basing his work not on political boundaries but on scientific and technical judgements.

On behalf of his delegation and the Government of Nigeria, the **DELEGATE OF NIGERIA** offered his congratulations to all who had been elected or re-elected, and wished them health and wisdom to move the Organization into the new millennium. He regretted the loss to the Organization occasioned by the departure of Mr Berridge and appealed to the Bureau to keep in mind democratic principles which would help make the Organization operate smoothly. The new Bureau should also consider new technologies, including the use of the Internet, in the operation of NMHSs.

The **DELEGATE OF SWAZILAND** said it gave his delegation great pleasure to congratulate the President on his re-election and, based on his past accomplishments, had faith in his ability to guide the Organization into the twenty-first century. He also wished to congratulate the three Vice-Presidents and had no doubt they would ably represent the interests of WMO in a spirited manner, as they had demonstrated in various capacities in the past. He wished to acknowledge the willingness of Mr Chub to serve the Organization and expressed appreciation for the work of the outgoing Vice-Presidents. In addition, he wished to take the opportunity to extend his delegation's heartfelt congratulations to the Secretary-General for his re-appointment, which demonstrated the confidence Members had in his outstanding commitment to the work of the Organization, and acknowledged also the contenders who had shown their

interest in providing their services to WMO. He gave assurances that Swaziland would continue to fulfil its commitment to the Organization to the best of its abilities.

On behalf of his delegation, the **DELEGATE OF JORDAN** congratulated the President for his unanimous re-election and thanked him for the efforts he had made in the service of the Organization, his great experience and farsightedness in the field of meteorology, and his wise leadership of the sessions of Thirteenth Congress. He also congratulated the First, Second and Third Vice-Presidents on their election and wished them every success for the good of the Organization and of humanity. He also expressed the wish of his delegation that the new leadership team support the developing countries by working to reduce the gap between developed and developing countries and cooperate constructively with the Secretariat.

The **DELEGATE OF NEPAL**, on behalf of the Government of Nepal, his delegation and personally, cordially congratulated Mr Zillman on his re-election and Messrs Beysson, Noorian and Sonzini on their election. He wished them all the possible success in their efforts to enhance the role of WMO. He believed all the Members would collaborate with them in all activities related to meteorology and hydrology and in implementing the programmes planned for the thirteenth financial period. Finally, he expressed his appreciation to Messrs Berridge and Sen Roy for their excellent contributions to WMO as Vice-Presidents.

The **DELEGATE OF ARMENIA**, speaking on behalf of his delegation and the Intergovernmental Council of the Newly Independent States, expressed his satisfaction with the results of the elections, and congratulated the President and the incoming and outgoing Vice-Presidents. He expressed confidence that the leaders would work to bridge the gap between developed and developing countries and ensure optimum conditions for the activities of the Organization. He also congratulated the Secretary-General, saying that he and the other leaders complemented each other well and wished them every success in their endeavours.

The **DELEGATE OF INDIA**, on behalf of his delegation and his country, offered his heartiest congratulations to the "Millennium Team", consisting of four strong personalities — the President and the three Vice-Presidents. He said they would face many complex issues in the next four years, and he committed his delegation's support and confidence in facing them. He said that India had made an outstanding contribution to WMO in the Second Vice-President, Mr Sen Roy, and although he would miss him in his leadership post, was pleased that he was coming home to India. He also wished much success to the First Vice-President, Mr Berridge, who was also stepping down from his leadership position. Lastly, he reiterated his delegation's confidence in the new team and its commitment to extend its full support.

Congratulating the President and the three Vice-Presidents, the **DELEGATE OF SAUDI ARABIA** was fully confident that under their wise leadership the Organization would have nothing to fear on the eve of the twenty-first century. He said he had known the President for many years, both on a personal and professional level, and had witnessed his competence, knowledge, expertise and experience, as well as his confidence, both in himself and in the sacred task with

which he had been entrusted. He said that was the reason the Organization had elected and then re-elected him. He expressed confidence that, with the help of the Vice-Presidents and the Secretary-General, the Organization's future was a promising one. He also thanked the outgoing Vice-Presidents, Messrs Berridge and Sen Roy, for their service to the Organization, and wished them full success in their future activities. He offered his country's full and unconditional support to the new leaders.

The **DELEGATE OF SPAIN** wished to associate his delegation with those that had congratulated the outgoing Vice-Presidents, Messrs Berridge and Sen Roy, and expressed sorrow at having to say goodbye to them in the near future. His delegation also wished to be associated with the congratulations and tributes paid to the President and the new Vice-Presidents and he expressed their pleasure in noting that there would continue to be representatives of modern meteorology in the leadership of the Organization. He wished them every success and hoped that many achievements in modern meteorology would occur throughout their terms of office. He said that the leaders could count on the full, unconditional support of the Permanent Representative of Spain and the entire Spanish delegation in their difficult task ahead.

On behalf of his delegation, the **DELEGATE OF THE GAMBIA** heartily congratulated the President and the three Vice-Presidents on their election and had no doubt their collaboration with the Executive Council and the Secretary-General would provide the wise guidance the Organization required in the next four years, especially in terms of augmenting assistance to Meteorological and Hydrological Services in developing countries. He also wished to commend Mr Chub for offering his services to WMO. Certain of the tremendous achievements WMO would achieve over the next four years, he renewed his country's pledge to collaborate with the Organization in all aspects of its work.

Wishing to join previous speakers, the **DELEGATE OF FRANCE** also wished to congratulate the President as well as the newly elected Second and Third Vice-Presidents. Having observed their enthusiasm and the quality of their work in numerous capacities in the service of the Organization over a number of years, he was pleased that their qualities would once again be used for the benefit of WMO. As to the renewed confidence entrusted in the First Vice-President-elect, WMO's gain would be *Météo-France's* loss, as he lamented that in performing his new responsibilities, Mr Beysson would have even less time to devote to France's Meteorological Service. He also paid tribute to Messrs Berridge and Sen Roy, the outgoing Vice-Presidents, grateful for all they had done for the Organization.

The **DELEGATE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA** expressed his delegation's pleasure that the President had been unanimously re-elected, and offered congratulations to him and the three newly-elected Vice-Presidents. He said he supported the Secretary-General's statement describing the President as superhuman. He wished all those newly elected or re-elected to leadership posts the health, vigour and wisdom necessary to lead the Organization successfully and said his delegation had every confidence that the new leaders had those qualities.

The **DELEGATE OF THE LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA** wished to add his personal, and his country's, congratulations to the President and the three Vice-Presidents in addition to the sentiments expressed by the president of Regional Association I on behalf of the countries in the Region. He said his country had worked towards better cooperation and improving meteorology at the national level to take advantage of new developments and bridge, to the extent possible, the gap between the developed and developing countries. He also wished to extend his congratulations to the Secretary-General on his re-appointment and wished him full success in the next financial period.

The **DELEGATE OF VENEZUELA**, on behalf of his Government and himself as Permanent Representative, congratulated the President on his re-election and the newly-elected Vice-Presidents. He expressed hope that they and the Secretary-General would continue to lead the Organization down the highway of success and maintain the unity of the Members. He also congratulated Mr Berridge, the outgoing First Vice-President, on his retirement, saying that he still had much to contribute to the Organization as an advisor, and that he was considered a true friend to Venezuela.

On behalf of his delegation, the **DELEGATE OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO** wished the President, the three new Vice-Presidents and the Secretary-General every success in running the affairs of the Organization during the next financial period. He said he was certain that all Members were satisfied with the progress of the Organization over the previous four years, in part due to the contributions by the First and Second Vice-Presidents, and he wished them well on their retirements. Indeed, his country and, he believed, all Members of all Regions, were justly proud of the First Vice-President, Mr Berridge, a national of Trinidad and Tobago. His many achievements over a period of 42 years in meteorology included service as director of the Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service, coordinating director of the Caribbean Meteorological Organization, several terms as president of Regional Association IV, and lastly as First Vice-President of WMO. The eloquent contributions of the national of a small island developing State would be sorely missed.

On behalf of his Government and his delegation, the **DELEGATE OF TURKEY** expressed his warmest and most sincere congratulations to the President on his re-election, the Secretary-General on his re-appointment and Messrs Beysson, Noorian and Sonzini on their election as First, Second and Third Vice-Presidents, respectively. He said his delegation had great confidence in the new leaders' ability to face the challenges of the next millennium. They could count on the support and cooperation of Turkey in all activities related to meteorology and hydrology.

The **DELEGATE OF SRI LANKA** joined the previous speakers in extending his delegation's sincere and warm congratulations to the President and the new Vice-Presidents. His delegation was confident that the President, Vice-Presidents and the Secretary-General, in addition to the Executive Council to be elected, would be able to guide the Organization to meet all the challenges of the new millennium. He also congratulated the outgoing First and Second Vice-Presidents for their outstanding service to the Organization.

The **DELEGATE OF URUGUAY** offered her heartiest congratulations, on behalf of her country and herself as Permanent Representative to WMO, to the Secretary-General, the President and the three new Vice-Presidents and wished them much success. She added that it was Uruguay's wish that the WMO leadership would continue to work for the well-being of the Organization through the various programmes, and in that way contribute to the scientific community worldwide. She added that Regional Association III, of which Uruguay was a member, was honoured to be represented by the Third Vice-President, Mr Sonzini of Argentina, as a member of the new leadership.

On behalf of his delegation, the **DELEGATE OF TUNISIA** extended sincerest and warmest congratulations to the President on his re-election and the three new Vice-Presidents on their election. He was convinced that the new Bureau would continue to carry out the activities of the Organization in an exemplary manner. He also congratulated the outgoing First and Second Vice-Presidents, Messrs Berridge and Sen Roy, for their many years of tremendous service to the Organization.

The **PRESIDENT** announced that he had been informed that Mr Kelkar had been formally appointed as Permanent Representative of India to take over from Mr Sen Roy, but proposed that Mr Sen Roy continue as chairperson of Committee A until the end of Congress, which was agreed. He next invited Mr Sen Roy to take the floor.

Overwhelmed by the kind words that had been expressed about him, the **SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT** wished to take the opportunity to respond. Firstly, he wished to extend his congratulations to the newly-elected leaders, and he was certain that WMO was in able hands and that they would wisely steer the Organization through the many challenges it would be facing in the next financial period. It had been his privilege to serve the Organization in many capacities, and he owed a deep debt of gratitude for the friendship and warm cooperation extended to him over the years. It was his belief that the world took notice not of the discussions and decisions of Congress per se, but of how those decisions were acted upon thereafter. WMO had a distinguished tradition in that regard as well as being able to establish the unique tradition of unity in diversity, hence the status of meteorology as an instrument of human welfare in developing the world. It was thus his immense pleasure to continue to serve the Organization throughout Congress and he wished all well.

Recalling the words of Dr Kintanar, a former President of WMO, that the wisdom of Congress would show through after many discussions and deliberations, the **FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT** said that Congress had indeed shown its wisdom once again. That wisdom was reflected in the quality of the Bureau that had been elected. Expressing pleasant surprise at the many kind words that had been spoken about him, he believed he had paid his dues, but stressed that the honour and pleasure of working with, and listening to, the wisdom emanating from the members of many cultures the world over had been his.

On his own behalf and that of the three Vice-Presidents, Messrs Beysson, Noorian and Sonzini, the **PRESIDENT** thanked the Secretary-General for his kind words

of encouragement. He also expressed his appreciation and thanked all the delegates who had spoken for their kind remarks, good wishes and the confidence and trust they had bestowed upon him and Messrs Beysson, Noorian and Sonzini. He said that he and the Vice-Presidents, as the new Bureau, would do their utmost to live up to their expectations. He heartily endorsed the tributes paid to Messrs Berridge and Sen Roy and wished them all the best in their retirement. He also wished to place on record the appreciation of the contribution of Spain to meteorology and to Mr Bautista-Pérez of that country, who had served as Third Vice-President in the beginning of the twelfth financial period. In closing, the President recalled that congratulatory statements received in writing would be placed on record and invited those delegations wishing to do so to submit written statements, the following which were received.

The **DELEGATION OF THE COOK ISLANDS** congratulated Mr Zillman on his re-election as President of WMO for a second term. The challenges at the turn of the century in the world of meteorology included issues of climate change and sea-level rise which were of particular concern to small island developing States such as the Cook Islands. Mr Zillman's role in the past had transformed some NMHSs in the Region, including the Cook Islands, from basic observing services to very active services. Those attributions could only be appreciated because the commitment and dedication that Mr Zillman had shown had never been seen in the Cook Islands nor in the South Pacific Region. It was hoped that we could contribute to the work of WMO in whatever manner was required as we approached the new millennium. The delegation also wished to extend congratulations to the three Vice-Presidents and looked forward to working with them. Lastly, we wished to express our appreciation to the outgoing First and Second Vice-Presidents, Messrs Berridge and Sen Roy, for their visible contributions to the well-being of WMO.

The **DELEGATION OF GHANA** wishes to place on record its congratulation to Mr Zillman on his re-election as President and to Messrs Beysson, Noorian and Sonzini on their election as First, Second and Third Vice-Presidents, respectively, for the thirteenth financial period. The delegation hoped that their election would help move WMO confidently into the next millennium and that together they would work to improve further the image of WMO and help bridge the technological gap between the developed and developing Members of the Organization.

The **DELEGATION OF MALAWI** extended its congratulations to the President on his re-election and to Messrs Beysson, Noorian and Sonzini on their election as First, Second and Third Vice-Presidents, respectively. The Government of Malawi had confidence in the team and believed it would endeavour to continue in the good work of the Organization. The Government pledged its continued support and trusted that during the team's four-year term of office it carried out further activities that would benefit Malawi through the strengthening of the NMS so that it could contribute effectively to the socio-economic development of the country.

On behalf of the Government of the Maldives, the **DELEGATION OF THE MALDIVES** offered sincere congratulations

to Mr Zillman on his unanimous re-election, which demonstrated the popular trust placed in him by Members. His devotion, fairness and ability in discharging his onerous duties deserved every support and the delegation assured him of its full cooperation and wished him good health and every success. The delegation also congratulated Messrs Beysson, Noorian and Sonzini on their election as First, Second and Third Vice-Presidents, respectively, and had confidence in their abilities to fulfil their obligations successfully, as demonstrated by their competence and experience. The delegation offered its unwavering support to the Bureau during the thirteenth financial period. Lastly, the delegation thanked the outgoing Vice-Presidents, Messrs Berridge and Sen Roy, whose commitments were appreciated and cherished, and wished them good health, happiness and success in their retirement.

The **DELEGATION OF MALI** was particularly pleased to offer its sincere and warmest congratulations to the President on his re-election and to Messrs Beysson, Noorian and Sonzini on their election as Vice-Presidents. Words did not suffice to express the exceptional personal and professional qualities of Mr Zillman. He had shown exceptional skills and the delegation would be happy to continue cooperating with him in the future, alongside Mr Beysson, who had the remarkable capability to find solutions to pressing problems, and Messrs Noorian and Mr Sonzini. The delegation had confidence in the work of those competent and devoted colleagues which they accomplished with an incomparable professionalism. The departure of the much-admired Messrs Berridge and Sen Roy was a great loss to the Organization, as they performed their duties in an exemplary manner. The delegation wished them good luck in the future.

The **DELEGATION OF MOROCCO** was happy to offer its warm congratulations to Mr Zillman on his unanimous re-election. It believed his election expressed the wish of the Organization for greater progress in the next four years and demonstrated universal confidence in his capacity to assist WMO to function in a changing world. The delegation of Morocco underlined the contribution made by Mr Zillman in the successful implementation of a wide variety of WMO activities within limited resources. The delegation's best wishes were also due to the three Vice-Presidents on their election. The Organization's role with respect to climate change would be crucial, not only for WMO but for humanity. The lessening of the gap between the developed and developing countries was particularly important for the Organization as it affected the progress in meteorological services. The delegation was certain that the new Vice-Presidents, together with the wisdom of the Secretary-General and the farsightedness of the President, would do their utmost to reduce the existing gap.

On behalf of the Government and people of Niger, the **DELEGATION OF NIGER** offered its very best wishes to the members of the new recently-elected Bureau of WMO consisting of Messrs Zillman, Beysson, Noorian and Sonzini. They had the delegation's prayers for the safe conduct of the affairs of the Organization in the future despite the difficulties they might face. At the same time, the delegation wished to place on record its appreciation to Messrs Berridge and Sen Roy for their services to WMO.

The **DELEGATION OF PERU** wished to express its very warm congratulations for the recent re-election of Mr Zillman as President of WMO and wished him much success in that very important role so that it might prove fruitful. The delegation also wished to extend its congratulations to the distinguished representatives of France, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Argentina for their election as First, Second and Third Vice-Presidents, respectively. The Delegation of Peru offered its unconditional assistance and support that they might require in carrying out their responsibilities in a successful manner.

The **DELEGATION OF SAINT LUCIA** expressed its sincere congratulations to Messrs Zillman, Beysson, Noorian and Sonzini on their election. The delegation wished them success in leading WMO together with the Secretary-General during the thirteenth financial period which would be a challenging one. The delegation wished to offer its support and looked forward to working with them in the future. It also wished to be associated with the words of appreciation already extended by other delegations to Messrs Berridge and Sen Roy and, in particular, those extended by the delegate of Trinidad and Tobago to the outgoing First Vice-President, Mr Berridge. The delegation wished them both good health and many more fruitful years.

The **DELEGATES OF THE SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS) OF THE SOUTH-WEST PACIFIC**, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu, and the possible future Members of WMO, Kiribati and Tuvalu, wished to convey their hearty congratulations to the President of WMO on his unanimous re-election. The delegation had always had the highest regard for him as Director of the Australian Bureau of Meteorology and was proud that a Member of Regional Association V had earned the trust of the entire meteorological community and had thus been appointed to such an important post for a second time. The SIDS in Regional Association V, which had particular needs that required special solutions, had received never-ending support from Mr Zillman and had no doubt that such support would continue in the future. The delegation also took the opportunity of congratulating the First, Second and Third Vice-Presidents and to thank Mr Chub for declaring himself a candidate and hoped that he would continue to give his full support to WMO Programmes and activities. The SIDS also wished to thank Messrs Berridge and Sen Roy for their excellent contributions and dedication to the work of the Organization and looked forward to their continued participation in the field of meteorology.

On behalf of the Government of the Solomon Islands, the **DELEGATION OF THE SOLOMON ISLANDS** wished to convey its warm congratulations to Messrs Zillman, Beysson, Noorian and Sonzini. Their election showed the confidence and trust Congress had in them and in the Secretary-General to continue to provide guidance and advice in leading the Organization into the next millennium. The wise leadership of the President had seen a number of transformations to the NMHSs of small island developing States of Regional Association V. The delegation would always value Mr Zillman's advice and support and looked forward to the continuation of that advice and support. Finally, the delegation conveyed its best wishes to Messrs Berridge and Sen Roy for their excellent service in

the work of WMO and wished them good health and good tidings.

The **DELEGATION OF THAILAND** extended its sincere appreciation and congratulations to Mr Zillman for his unanimous re-election as President of WMO for the thirteenth

financial period and to Messrs Beysson, Noorian, and Sonzini, the newly elected First, Second and Third Vice-Presidents, respectively.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE TENTH PLENARY MEETING
19 May 1999 at 9.30 a.m.

The meeting was called to order at 9.40 a.m.

27. Report of the Credentials Committee (agenda item 1.5) (Cg-XIII/PINK 1.5(5))

The **PRESIDENT** informed Congress that there was no further report from the Credentials Committee. However, an earlier decision by Congress to accept the credentials of the Islamic State of Afghanistan had not been fully in accordance with the decision of the political organ of the United Nations. If the decision of the United Nation General Assembly had been followed exactly, a straightforward acceptance of the credentials of Afghanistan would not have been appropriate. Referring to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 1.5(5), the President suggested an amendment to the Third Report of the Credentials Committee which would involve Congress agreeing to defer a decision on the credentials of the representatives of Afghanistan on the understanding that the current representatives of Afghanistan accredited to the United Nations would continue to participate in the work of Congress pursuant to the Convention and General Regulations of WMO. He therefore proposed that Congress adopt the following decision in lieu of the decision embodied in paragraph 2 of Document Cg-XIII/PINK 1.5(3):

Having considered the question of the credentials of Afghanistan, Congress agreed to defer a decision on the credentials of the representatives of Afghanistan on the understanding that the current representatives of Afghanistan accredited to the United Nations would continue to participate in the work of Congress pursuant to the Convention and General Regulations of WMO.

It was so agreed.

28. Election of members of the Executive Council (agenda item 12.2) (Cg-XIII/PINK 12.2)

The **PRESIDENT** pointed out that, in accordance with Article 14 of the Convention, the Executive Council was the executive body of the Organization and responsible to Congress for the coordination of the programme of the Organization between sessions of Congress. He also reminded Congress that the 36 members of the Executive Council all served in their personal capacity. They fell into three groups. The first group included the President and three Vice-presidents of WMO. They were elected by the entire membership of the Organization, with the proviso (General Regulation 83) that they should normally belong each to a different region. Following the most recent elections for those posts, that condition applied. The second group included the presidents of the six regional associations. They had been elected not by Congress as a whole but by their own

associations and were responsible to their regions for presenting the views of their region to the sessions of the Executive Council. The third group included an additional 26 Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services. Those were elected by the entire Organization, with the proviso (Article 13(c) of the Convention) that not more than nine and not less than three of the total Executive Council members, including the presidents of regional associations and the President and Vice-Presidents of the Organization, should come from any one region. Once elected, the 26 would be responsible to the entire Organization for their work as members of the Executive Council. They were elected to serve until the close of Fourteenth Congress.

The President pointed out that in accordance with Article 8(j) of the Convention and General Regulation 135(19), Congress should now proceed to elect the members of the Executive Council who were not ex-officio members. The ex-officio members comprised the President and Vice-Presidents of WMO and the presidents of six regional associations. The conditions of eligibility were laid down in Articles 6(a) and 13(c) of the Convention and Resolution 37 (Cg-XI) and the election procedures were described in General Regulations 79 to 82 and 85 to 89.

At the request of the President, the **DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL** read out the provisions of the Convention and the General Regulations relating to the election procedure and referred participants to Document Cg-XIII/INF. 2.

The **PRESIDENT** drew attention to the computer-assisted voting system, which had been used for the Executive Council elections in 1995 by Twelfth Congress and at recent sessions of the Executive Council for the International Meteorological Organization (IMO) Prize selection and had proved to be efficient. Stating that all the basic rules and procedures had been strictly built into the computer-assisted system, he invited Congress to approve the use of the system which would help accelerate the election process.

It was so agreed.

The **CHAIRPERSON OF THE NOMINATION COMMITTEE**, introducing Document Cg-XIII/PINK 12.2, reported that in accordance with the guidance of Ninth Congress, the presidents of regional associations had agreed on the following regional distribution of seats on the Executive Council (including those attributed to the President, Vice-Presidents and presidents of regional associations) up to Fourteenth Congress: Regional Association I — 9; Regional Association II — 6; Regional Association III — 4; Regional Association IV — 5; Regional Association V — 3; Regional Association VI — 9. He submitted the names of candidates for the remaining 26 seats.

The **DELEGATE OF PAKISTAN** stated that Mr Q. Z. Chaudhry had withdrawn his candidature for election to the Executive Council.

The **DELEGATE OF SAMOA** proposed the candidature of Mr J. R. Lumsden (New Zealand) for Regional Association V.

The **DELEGATE OF AUSTRALIA** supported the proposal of the delegate of Samoa.

MR J. R. LUMSDEN thanked the two delegations for their proposal but declined the candidacy.

Confirming that, with the exception of Mr Q. Z. Chaudhry, whose name should be deleted, all other names in Document Cg-XIII/PINK 12.2 were valid, the **PRESIDENT** asked whether there were any other nominations from the floor.

In the absence of other nominations, Document Cg-XIII/PINK 12.2, as amended, was approved as the final list of candidates for the Executive Council.

The **PRESIDENT** explained that the election would be held in two stages. In the first stage, it was required that eight members be elected up to a maximum of three from each region in accordance with Article 13(c)(ii) of the Convention and General Regulation 85(a). It was therefore necessary, in order to ensure the correct regional distribution, to fill the eight seats as followed: Region I — 2; Region II — 1; Region III — 1; Region 4 — 2; Region V — 1; Region VI — 1. He called upon the presidents of the regional associations or their representatives to nominate candidates for the vacant seats in their respective regions.

The **PRESIDENT OF RA I** nominated Messrs F. Oyou (Congo) and Y. Salahu (Nigeria).

The **PRESIDENT OF RA II** nominated Mr Wen Kegang (China).

The **ACTING PRESIDENT OF RA III** did not put forward any proposal.

The **PRESIDENT OF RA IV** nominated Messrs J. J. Kelly (United States) and G. A. McBean (Canada).

The **PRESIDENT OF RA V** nominated Mr R. Prasad (Fiji).

The **PRESIDENT OF RA VI** nominated Mr A. I. Bedritsky (Russian Federation).

The President declared those persons elected members of the Executive Council.

The **PRESIDENT** proceeded to the election of one candidate for Region III. He invited Messrs C. E. Berridge (First Vice-President) and N. Sen Roy (Second Vice-President) to act as tellers and asked Messrs S. Chacowry, S. Shaddock and D. Hume (all members of the Secretariat) to assist them.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The **PRESIDENT** announced the results of the election as followed:

Total number of ballots:	147
Number of abstentions and blank ballots:	1
Number of invalid ballots:	1
Number of valid ballots:	145
Required majority:	73

Number of votes obtained:

Ms I. Dutra Maisonnave (Uruguay)	73
Mr F. Camargo Duque (Venezuela)	46
Mr A. C. Vaz de Athayde (Brazil)	26

The President declared Ms I. Dutra Maisonnave elected a member of the Executive Council.

In accordance with General Regulations 85(b), 87 and 89, the President proceeded to the second stage of the election to fill the other 18 vacant seats. He stressed that not more than six candidates from any region could be elected.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

The **PRESIDENT** announced the results of the election as followed:

Total number of ballots:	147
Number of abstentions and blank ballots:	0
Number of invalid ballots:	1
Number of valid ballots:	146
Required majority:	74

Number of votes obtained:

Mr A. Diouri (Morocco)	125
Mr P. D. Ewins (United Kingdom)	122
Mr R. R. Kelkar (India)	120
Mr Y. Takigawa (Japan)	120
Mr K. Konaré (Mali)	115
Mr G. C. Schulze (South Africa)	113
Mr E. A. Mukolwe (Kenya)	109
Mr N. B. I. Tawfik (Saudi Arabia)	109
Mr T. Sutherland (British Caribbean Territories)	102
Mr U. Gärtner (Germany)	101
Ms G. K. Ramothwa (Botswana)	100
Mr A. Jaime (Mexico)	98
Mr D. E. Coca Vita (Spain)	93
Mr F. Camargo Duque (Venezuela)	86
Mr J. Zielinski (Poland)	85
Mr F. J. B. Hounton (Benin)	84
Mr Z. Alperson (Israel)	82
Mr L. P. Prahm (Denmark)	81
Mr N. Al-Shalabi (Syrian Arab Republic)	68
Mr I. Obrusnik (Czech Republic)	65
Mr A. C. Vaz de Athayde (Brazil)	48
Mr V. E. Chub (Uzbekistan)	37

Mr M. A. Mahran (Egypt) had received 82 votes but was the seventh highest candidate in Region I and therefore was not eligible for election.

In accordance with General Regulation 87(a), the **PRESIDENT** declared the first 18 persons listed above elected as members of the Executive Council for the thirteenth financial period. Thanking the tellers and Secretariat staff for their assistance and having seen that all records of the elections were destroyed, he invited Congress to give a round of applause to the newly-elected members of the Executive Council.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE ELEVENTH PLENARY MEETING

24 May 1999 at 2.30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 2.30 p.m.

29. Report of the Credentials Committee (agenda item 1.5)

The **CHAIRPERSON OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE** indicated that no further credentials had been received since the fourth report.

30. Approval of unamended general summary texts

During the course of the meeting and on behalf of the relevant Committee chairperson, the **PRESIDENT** introduced the following documents, which did not attract any discussion or amendments from Members:

Report by the President of the Organization (agenda item 2.1) (Cg-XIII/PINK 2.1)

Report by the Secretary-General (agenda item 2.2) (Cg-XIII/PINK 2.2)

Emergency response activities (agenda item 3.1.4) (Cg-XIII/PINK 3.1.4)

WMO Antarctic activities (agenda item 3.1.5) (Cg-XIII/PINK 3.1.5)

World Climate Programme (WCP): the report of the president of CCI (agenda item 3.2.0) (Cg-XIII/PINK 3.2.0)

Support to climate change-related activities, including IPCC and the Conventions on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Desertification (agenda item 3.2.2) (Cg-XIII/PINK 3.2.2(2))

World Climate Data and Monitoring Programme (agenda item 3.2.4) (Cg-XIII/PINK 3.2.4)

The draft texts for inclusion in the general summary, contained in the appendices to the above documents, were approved.

31. Adoption of unamended resolutions and associated texts

The **PRESIDENT** also introduced the following documents on behalf of the relevant Committee chairperson, which contained draft resolutions, and which did not attract any discussion or amendments from Members:

Consolidated report on amendments to the Technical Regulations (agenda item 2.4) (Cg-XIII/PINK 2.4)

Support to climate change-related activities, including IPCC and the Conventions on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Desertification (agenda item 3.2.2) (Cg-XIII/PINK 3.2.2(1))

World Climate Research Programme (agenda item 3.2.7) (Cg-XIII/PINK 3.2.7)

Aeronautical Meteorology Programme: the report of the president of CAeM (agenda item 3.4.3) (Cg-XIII/PINK 3.4.3)

The draft resolutions, contained in the appendices to the above documents, were adopted.

The draft texts for inclusion in the general summary, contained in the appendices to the above documents, were approved.

32. Report by the chairperson of the Financial Advisory Committee (agenda item 2.3) (Cg-XIII/PINK 2.3)

MR BERRIDGE (chairperson of the Committee of the Whole) submitted Document Cg-XIII/PINK 2.3.

The **PRESIDENT** pointed out that, in Appendix B, Recommendation 3, "Cg-XII" should be changed to "Cg-XIII" and that some of the bold headings should be changed to italics to reflect that they were sub-issues of "Contribution matters".

The draft text for inclusion in the general summary, contained in Appendix A to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 2.3, and the annex in Appendix B, with editorial amendments, were approved.

33. World Weather Watch Programme (agenda item 3.1.0) (Cg-XIII/PINK 3.1.0)

MR BEYSSON (chairperson of Committee B) submitted Document Cg-XIII/PINK 3.1.0.

Draft Resolutions 3.1.0/1 (Cg-XIII) and 3.1.0/2 (Cg-XIII), contained in Appendices B and C, respectively, to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 3.1.0, were adopted.

At the request of the **DELEGATE OF IRELAND** for an explanation of "not-standing expert" in the second line of paragraph 3.1.0.8, **D/WWW** explained that it was a typographical error and that it should read "non-standing expert".

The draft text for inclusion in the general summary, contained in Appendix A to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 3.1.0, as amended, was approved.

34. Instruments and Methods of Observation Programme: the report of the president of CIMO (agenda item 3.1.1) (Cg-XIII/PINK 3.1.1)

Having introduced Document Cg-XIII/PINK 3.1.1 on behalf of Mr Tawfiq (vice-chairperson of Committee B), the **PRESIDENT** pointed out that the word "no" should be inserted before the word "longer" in the note at the end of the draft resolution.

Draft Resolution 3.1.1/1 (Cg-XIII), contained in Appendix B to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 3.1.1, as amended, was adopted.

The draft text for inclusion in the general summary, contained in Appendix A to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 3.1.1, was approved.

35. WMO satellite activities (agenda item 3.1.2) (Cg-XIII/PINK 3.1.2)

The **PRESIDENT** submitted Document Cg-XIII/PINK 3.1.2 on behalf of Mr Tawfiq (vice-chairperson of Committee B).

The **DELEGATE OF IRELAND** questioned the use of the words “make readily available” in the last penultimate line of paragraph 3.2.1.15, and at the suggestion of **D/WWW**, *it was agreed* to replace the word “make” with “provide”.

The draft text for inclusion in the general summary, contained in the appendix to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 3.1.2, as amended, was approved.

36. Tropical Cyclone Programme (agenda item 3.1.3) (Cg-XIII/PINK 3.1.3)

Having submitted Document Cg-XIII/PINK 3.1.3 on behalf of Mr Tawfiq (vice-chairperson of Committee B), the **PRESIDENT** turned to the draft resolution in Appendix B. The **DELEGATE OF THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES AND ARUBA** proposed that the United States be added under “Expresses” as it had provided extensive support to the region through its RSMC. To be consistent, the **DELEGATE OF BOTSWANA** proposed that the reference to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland be shortened to Finland. As Finland was part of the European Union, the **DELEGATE OF GERMANY** believed that European Union should be European Commission, which was confirmed by **D/WWW**. The **PRESIDENT** added that Japan should also be included in the list. It was agreed to incorporate the suggested changes so that the sentence would read “...UNDP, the European Commission, the United States, Finland, Japan, and bilateral arrangements;”.

Draft Resolution 3.1.3/1 (Cg-XIII), contained in Appendix B to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 3.1.3, as amended, was adopted.

The **DELEGATE OF FIJI** proposed that the last sentence of paragraph 3.1.3.6 be changed to reflect the fact that countries other than those mentioned also operated global centres. He suggested the following: “It expressed its appreciation to the Members operating global centres for providing global model-based forecast guidance....”. The **DELEGATE OF NEW ZEALAND** agreed, but proposed that “for providing” be changed to “which provide” to stress that it referred to those centres which provided specific tropical cyclone guidance. Also agreeing with the proposal, the **DELEGATE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM** proposed that “Members” be changed to “NMSs” as it was the NMSs that provided the service and not the countries. *It was agreed* to amend the sentence to read “It expressed its appreciation to NMSs operating global centres which provide global model-based forecast guidance....”

With respect to paragraph 3.1.3.7, *it was agreed*, at the proposal of the **DELEGATE OF FIJI**, to insert “where necessary” after “capabilities” in the first line, and to insert “or strengthen” after “establish” in the second line.

The draft text for inclusion in the general summary, contained in Appendix A to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 3.1.3, as amended, was approved.

37. Coordination activities within the Climate Agenda (agenda item 3.2.1) (Cg-XIII/PINK 3.2.1)

MR BEYSSON (chairperson of Committee B), having submitted Document Cg-XIII/PINK 3.2.1, the **PRESIDENT** pointed out that “Science” should be changed to “Scientific” in the third line of paragraph 3.2.1.2, and that any other such editorial amendments should be corrected at the final report stage.

The draft text for inclusion in the general summary, contained in the appendix to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 3.2.1, with the editorial amendment, was approved.

38. Global Climate Observing System (agenda item 3.2.3) (Cg-XIII/PINK 3.2.3)

MR BEYSSON (chairperson of Committee B) submitted Document Cg-XIII/PINK 3.2.3.

Draft Resolution 3.2.3/1 (Cg-XIII), contained in Appendix B to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 3.2.3, was adopted.

With respect to paragraph 3.2.3.4, *it was agreed* to delete (GXOS) in the eighth line, at the suggestion of the **DELEGATE OF IRELAND**. In that regard, the **PRESIDENT** replied that the final report of Congress always included a list of acronyms in an appendix.

The draft text for inclusion in the general summary, contained in Appendix A to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 3.2.3, as amended, was approved.

39. World Climate Impact Assessment and Response Strategies Programme (WCIRP) (agenda item 3.2.6) (Cg-XIII/PINK 3.2.6)

MR BEYSSON (chairperson of Committee B) submitted Document Cg-XIII/PINK 3.2.6.

The **DELEGATE OF IRELAND** considered the word “fertilizing” in the fourth line of paragraph 3.2.6.3 to be inappropriate, and *it was agreed* that “beneficial” should be used in its place.

The draft text for inclusion in the general summary, contained in the appendix to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 3.2.6, as amended, was approved.

40. Atmospheric Research and Environment Programme (agenda item 3.3) (Cg-XIII/PINK 3.3)

The **PRESIDENT** presented Document Cg-XIII/PINK 3.3 on behalf of Mr Tawfiq (vice-chairperson of Committee B).

Draft Resolution 3.3/1 (Cg-XIII), contained in Appendix B to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 3.3, was adopted.

With respect to the text in Appendix A, *it was agreed* to change “Congress encouraged the future prospects” to read “Congress welcomed the prospects” in the last sentence of paragraph 3.3.4.2, at the suggestion of the **DELEGATE OF IRELAND**. At the suggestion of the **PRESIDENT**, *it was agreed* to change “land falling” to “land-falling” in the same sentence. Turning to paragraph 3.3.5.4, the **DELEGATE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM**, having consulted with other delegations, namely

France and China, as well as the Secretariat, proposed that the third sentence be deleted and replaced by the following: "It was noted that weather modification techniques need to be more fully understood and developed to establish if they can contribute to the management of the world's water resources.", which was agreed.

The draft text for inclusion in the general summary, contained in Appendix A to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 3.3, as amended, was approved.

41. Public Weather Services Programme (agenda item 3.4.1) (Cg-XIII/PINK 3.4.1)

The **PRESIDENT** introduced Document Cg-XIII/PINK 3.4.1 on behalf of Mr Tawfiq (vice-chairperson of Committee B).

Draft Resolution 3.4.1/1 (Cg-XIII), contained in Appendix B to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 3.4.1, was adopted.

Referring to paragraph 3.4.1.15, the **DELEGATE OF THE PHILIPPINES** proposed changes to the fourth bulleted paragraph to indicate that an official single-voice policy should apply in the case of severe weather warnings. Discussion ensued, with the **DELEGATE OF FRANCE** stating that it should be made clear that it was a national single-voice policy. The concern of the **DELEGATE OF THE PHILIPPINES**, however, was that a situation could arise in which more than one forecast was issued. The **DELEGATE OF SOUTH AFRICA** thought that a reference to Resolution 40 (Cg-XII), where it was stated that the National Weather Service should be the authentic voice for issuing severe weather warnings, would address the concerns. At the proposal of the **DELEGATE OF NEW ZEALAND**, however, it was agreed that "warning" should be preceded by "official" in both places where it appeared in the sentence.

The draft text for inclusion in the general summary, contained in Appendix A to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 3.4.1, as amended, was approved.

42. Marine Meteorology and Associated Oceanographic Activities Programme: the report of the president of CMM (agenda item 3.4.4) (Cg-XIII/PINK 3.4.4)

On behalf of Mr Tawfiq (vice-chairperson of Committee B), the **PRESIDENT** presented Document Cg-XIII/PINK 3.4.4.

Draft Resolution 3.4.4/1 (Cg-XIII) and the annexes thereto, and Draft Resolution 3.4.4/2 (Cg-XIII), contained in Appendices B and C, respectively, to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 3.1.0, were adopted.

Stating that the last sentence in paragraph 3.4.4.11 did not reflect his delegation's intervention during committee meetings, the **DELEGATE OF JAPAN** proposed that it be replaced by the following: "Congress further noted with appreciation the work under way by Japan to digitize the Kobe Collection of historical marine meteorological observations before 1933, especially during World War I, and to make these data available to users on CD-ROM.", which was agreed. Responding to a query by the **DELEGATE OF BOTSWANA**, he replied that the specific dataset would be available only on CD-ROM.

The draft text for inclusion in the general summary, contained in Appendix A to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 3.4.4, as amended, was approved.

43. Hydrology and Water Resources Programme

(agenda item 3.5) (Cg-XIII/PINK 3.5)

MR BEYSSON (chairperson of Committee B) presented Document Cg-XIII/PINK 3.5.

Draft Resolution 3.5/1 (Cg-XIII), contained in Appendix B to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 3.5, was adopted.

The **DELEGATE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION** proposed changing the penultimate sentence of paragraph 3.5.0.25 so that it read "It was considered essential to initiate similar data rescue projects in other regions." The **DELEGATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM** believed the word "essential" to be too strong when compared to the previous sentence, and suggested inserting "equally" before "essential" in the amended sentence. The **DELEGATE OF KENYA** concurred. It was agreed to amend the sentence to read "It was considered equally essential to initiate similar data rescue projects in other regions."

Referring to paragraph 3.5.2.11, the **DELEGATE OF CHINA** proposed adding "and drought" at the end of the last sentence, which was agreed.

With respect to paragraph 3.5.3.1, the **DELEGATE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM** wished to change "information" to "products" in the seventh line to reflect the discussions in the subcommittee. The **DELEGATE OF NIGERIA** believed "information" to be more appropriate in that context. At the suggestion of the **DELEGATE OF COLOMBIA**, it was agreed to add both, so that the sentence read "...data, information and products...".

The draft text for inclusion in the general summary, contained in Appendix A to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 3.5, as amended, was approved.

44. Education and Training Programme (agenda

item 3.6) (Cg-XIII/PINK 3.6)

MR SEN ROY (chairperson of Committee A) submitted Document Cg-XIII/PINK 3.6.

Draft Resolution 3.6/1 (Cg-XIII), contained in Appendix B to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 3.6, was adopted.

A discussion ensued following the intervention by the **DELEGATE OF PAKISTAN**, who preferred to see "training institutes" in place of "country hosting an RMTC" in the first sentence of paragraph 3.6.3.6. He believed any training institute could waive tuition fees. The **DELEGATE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM** also expressed concern about the use of the term country, as he believed it was an NMS that hosted the RMTC and not the country. The **DELEGATE OF BOTSWANA**, however, believed the passage referred to RMTCS and no other training institutions. **MR BEYSSON** (chairperson of Committee B), having explained that the paragraph referred to the Voluntary Cooperation Programme, in which case it was indeed the country that was involved, and the **PRESIDENT** having stated that it would not preclude other institutions from offering that type of aid, it was agreed that the text remain unchanged.

The draft text for inclusion in the general summary, contained in Appendix A to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 3.6, was approved.

45. Reports of the presidents of regional associations
(agenda item 3.8.0) (Cg-XIII/PINK 3.8.0)

MR SEN ROY (chairperson of Committee A) submitted Document Cg-XIII/PINK 3.8.0.

Turning to paragraph 3.8.0.6, the **DELEGATE OF THE UNITED STATES** asked for clarification, as it seemed to address several issues at once. Thus, it was unclear what kind of support was referred to in the penultimate sentence: upper air data, telecommunications or Internet data and product exchange. Having participated in the committee discussions, he would be pleased were that sentence amended to reflect the discussions, and suggested the following: "It also requested the Secretary-General to support some of the seriously affected countries to enable them to have appropriate facilities such as Internet for their exchange of data and products". The **SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL** explained that the sentence referred to the previous one and that it addressed the seriousness of the problem of poor data availability in the central part of Africa.

The **DELEGATE OF KENYA** would have no difficulties with such a sentence if it could be assumed that the data and products were available. He said, however, that RA I had suffered from the discontinuation of the OMEGA navigational system, resulting in upper-air data not being available for exchange. He wished to persuade the delegate of the United States to agree to a general reference encompassing support for various needs. The **DELEGATE OF THE UNITED STATES** replied that his reservation was with language calling on WMO to support countries to upgrade their upper-air systems and other facilities. That went beyond what was discussed in committee, which he said was confined to telecommunications and the Internet, and he questioned whether the sentence reflected the intent of Congress. The **DELEGATE OF KENYA** said the discontinuation of the OMEGA system was a special case for which many WMO VCP requests had been made, and that the question of upgrading of upper-air observing was a serious problem in the Region and assistance was still required to reinstate availability of upper-air data. The **DELEGATE OF ARGENTINA** added that he believed the paragraph discussed two separate issues, thus giving rise to the difficulties voiced.

To merge the differing views, the **DIRECTOR OF THE WMO REGIONAL OFFICE FOR AFRICA** proposed that the following be added to the end of the sentence: ", particularly to enable them to have appropriate facilities such as the Internet for their exchange of data and products".

While the **DELEGATE OF THE UNITED STATES** concurred, he took exception to retaining the phrase "within available means" as he was unsure if the support was to come from regular budget or extrabudgetary resources. He preferred that extrabudgetary resources be specified, to which the **DELEGATE OF KENYA** suggested leaving out "within available means" altogether. The **PRESIDENT** responded that would be feasible if the word "support" were replaced with "assist". *It was therefore agreed* that the sentence would be amended as follows: "It also requested the Secretary-General to assist some

of the seriously affected countries to address their immediate problems, particularly to enable them to have appropriate facilities such as the Internet for their exchange of data and products".

Turning to paragraph 3.8.0.8, the **DELEGATE OF FRANCE** proposed that "with regard to proposals that contravene existing practices." be deleted in the seventh line, so that the third sentence would end with the words "Fourteenth Congress." *It was so agreed.*

Also with respect to paragraph 3.8.0.8, the **PRESIDENT OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATION IV** queried why only one region had been singled out in the penultimate sentence. He fully endorsed not only the work of the rapporteurs, but also that of the chairpersons of working groups, and felt it was equally true of all regions, not only RA I. In that context, he proposed that the sentence be amended to reflect that, perhaps by the following: "Congress further noted the need to support rapporteurs and chairpersons of working groups of all regional associations to participate in WMO activities related to their work.". If so, the Third Vice-President thought it best that words such as "may need assistance" be added, as not all rapporteurs or chairpersons would necessarily require assistance from the Organization. The **PRESIDENT** suggested adding the words "as required" at the end of the sentence to qualify it. The **DELEGATE OF KENYA** said that if the penultimate sentence of the paragraph were to change, it would necessitate changing the last sentence as well, for when decisions were being recorded under agenda item 8, they were being recorded in relation to the requirements that had been raised. The **PRESIDENT** therefore suggested that the words "RA I and other regions as required" might satisfy the desire to specifically mention RA I without excluding other regions. The **DELEGATE OF KENYA** said his delegation was in agreement. The **PRESIDENT OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATION IV** reiterated his belief that RA I should not be singled out, as Members in other regions also required WMO support. Concurring with those views, **MR SEN ROY** (chairperson of Committee A) suggested that the change to the penultimate sentence could be made if the last sentence were deleted. The **DELEGATE OF MALI** stressed that it should be recalled why the specific mention of RA I had been added in the first instance and that debates should not be reopened. He said that there were other mentions of specific Regions, for example in paragraphs 3.8.0.10 and 3.8.0.11, but that did not preclude those paragraphs applying to other Regions.

Having taken all of the various views into consideration, the **PRESIDENT** proposed that the sentence be amended to read: "Congress further noted the need to support rapporteurs in RA I (and other Regions as required) to participate in WMO activities related to their work.", adding that the modification would retain the emphasis on RA I while not excluding the other Regions. As that amendment addressed their concerns, the **PRESIDENTS OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS II, V, VI** and the **DELEGATE OF COLOMBIA**, on behalf of RA III, concurred, as did the **DELEGATE OF BOTSWANA**, and *it was therefore agreed* to amend the sentence.

Turning to paragraph 3.8.0.11, *it was agreed* to change "supported their enhanced activities" to "enhancement of their activities" in the third line, at the suggestion of the **DELEGATE OF FIJI**.

At the request of the **DELEGATE OF PORTUGAL**, *it was agreed* to amend paragraph 3.8.0.16 by adding “Portugal to host the next session of Regional Association I (Africa) in Madeira” after “Congress noted with appreciation the kind offer of” in the first line.

The draft text for inclusion in the general summary, contained in Appendix A to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 3.8.0, as amended, was approved.

The meeting rose at 5 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE TWELFTH PLENARY MEETING
25 May 1999 at 11 a.m.

The meeting was called to order at 12 p.m.

46. Regional activities (agenda item 3.8.1)
(Cg-XIII/PINK 3.8.1)

Before consideration of the PINK documents, the **ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL** announced corrections to the status of PINK documents as listed in that day's Journal of Congress. Delegates should amend the list as followed: PINK 3.2.5 had not yet been approved; PINK 3.6 had been approved; PINK 4.2 had not yet been issued.

The **PRESIDENT** introduced Document Cg-XIII/PINK 3.8.1 on behalf of Mr Sen Roy (chairperson of Committee A).

The **DELEGATE OF THE UNITED STATES** proposed that the text of paragraphs 3.8.1.12 and 3.8.1.13 be amended to be brought in line with paragraphs 3.8.1.14 and 3.8.1.15. She proposed to insert in paragraph 3.8.1.12, second sentence, after "and South-East Asia", the words "and the assessment by the Executive Council" and to insert in paragraph 3.8.1.13, fifth sentence after "the establishment of a subregional office", the words "following the assessment by the Executive Council." She also proposed to change the last sentence in paragraph 3.8.1.14 to read "Congress further requested the Executive Council to review the assessment study before any additional subregional offices are established."

MR SEN ROY (chairperson of Committee A) commented that the United States delegate had expressed the same view at the Committee discussions but he believed that the document as it stood truly reflected Committee A's conclusions. The question was whether the sense of the Committee was that no action on the establishment of subregional offices should take place until the Executive Council assessment report had been presented.

The **PRESIDENT OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATION VI** concurred that the PINK document fully reflected Committee A's discussions.

The **PRESIDENT OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATION II** explained that the word "additional" was used in the last sentence of paragraph 3.8.1.14 to mean "any others beyond those it had already been decided to establish". That was what had been meant for Regional Association II.

The **PRESIDENT OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATION V** agreed that the president of RA II would be unhappy with the amendment proposed by the United States, particularly in paragraph 3.8.1.12.

The **DELEGATE OF NIGERIA** said the question had been debated in Committee A, where the view of the majority was that the assessment was only carried out once the subregional offices had been established and not before establishing them.

The **DELEGATE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM** supported the amendments proposed by the United States and proposed

to remove, in paragraph 3.8.1.13, the words at the end of the fourth sentence "once a decision is taken". The sentence would then read "The Government of Bulgaria offered to host a subregional office for the Region."

It was so agreed.

The **PRESIDENT** proposed the addition of a time clause, to ensure that a decision on the establishment of subregional offices would not be unnecessarily delayed. The last sentence of paragraph 3.8.1.14 might then read "Congress further requested the Executive Council to review at its fifty-second session the assessment study before any additional subregional offices are established."

It was so agreed.

The **DELEGATE OF YEMEN** questioned why the proposal he had put forward at the Committee discussions regarding the necessity to establish a subregional office in the western part of Region II, had not been reflected in the PINK document.

The **PRESIDENT** proposed that the word "the" be changed to "an" in paragraph 3.8.1.12, fourth sentence, so that the relevant sentence would read "Another Member expressed the need to locate an Office in the Western part of Asia."

It was so agreed.

The **PRESIDENT OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATION VI** expressed his unhappiness with the change of sense from the discussion in Committee A. The assessment that was proposed in the document referred to regional offices which were already established and not to new subregional offices to be established. However both he and the president of Regional Association II would agree with the President's final amendments.

The **PRESIDENT**, in summing up, proposed the following amendments, including the deletion of the United States amendments in paragraphs 3.8.1.12 and 3.8.1.13. In paragraph 3.8.1.12, fourth sentence, the word "the" should be changed to "an". In paragraph 3.8.1.13, fourth sentence, the words "once a decision is taken" should be deleted. Paragraph 3.8.1.14, last sentence should be amended to read "Congress further requested the Executive Council to review the assessment study before any additional subregional offices are established." He noted that no time clause was included in that text but the Minutes should record that the assessment report should be completed by the fifty-second session of the Executive Council.

It was so agreed.

The draft text for inclusion in the general summary, contained in the Appendix to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 3.8.1, as amended, was approved.

47. Conferences (agenda item 4.1) (Cg-XIII/PINK 4.1, REV. 1)

The **PRESIDENT** introduced Document Cg-XIII/PINK 4.1, REV. 1 on behalf of Mr Sen Roy (chairperson of Committee A) and announced the following additions to the appendix of the document. In page 4, for 2001, the name of the Commission for Marine Meteorology should be changed to read "Joint WMO/IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology". The remarks column would refer to the relevant paragraph in the general summary which was contained in Document Cg-XIII/PINK 3.4.4. In page 5, for 2002, the thirteenth session of Regional

Association V would take place in Samoa (reference was to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 3.8.0).

The **DELEGATE OF FIJI** proposed the addition of "Apia" after Samoa.

It was so agreed.

The draft text for inclusion in the general summary, contained in the appendix to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 4.1, REV. 1, as amended, was approved.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE THIRTEENTH PLENARY MEETING
25 May 1999 at 2.30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 2.35 p.m.

In opening the Plenary, the **PRESIDENT** made two announcements. Mr Sonzini, in his capacity as acting president of Regional Association III, invited all members of RA III to a meeting to discuss the arrangements involving RA III during the period during which the Association had no president, and during which, according to the General Regulations, the President of WMO was acting president.

The second announcement was with respect to the Commission for Agricultural Meteorology. Congress would consider the unresolved matter of the presidency and vice-presidency of the Commission in Plenary. Three options had been put forward, and some delegations were looking for a compromise proposal that would be acceptable to the entire Congress. Mr Lambergeon, who had chaired the sub-committee and represented France, and whose national position was neutral, had indicated his willingness to look for a solution to avoid going to a vote. Therefore, an informal meeting would take place immediately following Plenary to which all interested delegates were invited to participate in an attempt to find a compromise solution.

48. Approval of unamended general summary texts

During the course of the meeting, the **PRESIDENT**, on behalf of the relevant Committee chairperson, introduced the following documents, which did not attract any discussion or amendments from Members:

Report on the monitoring of the implementation of the Fourth Long-term Plan (agenda item 6.1) (Cg-XIII/PINK 6.1)

WMO structure (agenda item 6.4) (Cg-XIII/PINK 6.4)

Cooperation with other disciplines and programmes (agenda item 7.3) (Cg-XIII/PINK 7.3)

Cooperation with United Nations and other international organizations (agenda item 9.1) (Cg-XIII/PINK 9.1(1))

Follow-up to UNCED (agenda item 9.2) (Cg-XIII/PINK 9.2)

International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) (agenda item 9.4) (Cg-XIII/PINK 9.4)

Financial matters (agenda item 10.1) (Cg-XIII/PINK 10.1(3))

Staff matters (agenda item 10.3) (Cg-XIII/PINK 10.3(1))

Appointment of the Secretary-General (agenda item 12.3) (Cg-XIII/PINK 12.3(2))

Scientific lectures and discussions (agenda item 13) (Cg-XIII/PINK 13)

Date and place of Fourteenth Congress (agenda item 14) (Cg-XIII/PINK 14)

The draft texts for inclusion in the general summary and any annexes thereto, contained in the appendices to the above documents, were approved.

49. Adoption of unamended resolutions and associated texts

The **PRESIDENT** also introduced the following documents on behalf of the relevant Committee chairperson, which contained draft resolutions, and which did not attract any discussion or amendments from Members:

Agricultural Meteorology Programme: the report of the president of CAgM (agenda item 3.4.2) (Cg-XIII/PINK 3.4.2)

Information and Public Affairs Programme (agenda item 5) (Cg-XIII/PINK 5)

Preparation of the Sixth WMO Long-term Plan (2004–2013) (agenda item 6.3) (Cg-XIII/PINK 6.3)

Year 2000 issue (agenda item 7.4) (Cg-XIII/PINK 7.4)

Consolidated programme and budget 2000–2003 (agenda item 8) (Cg-XIII/PINK 8)

Financial matters (agenda item 10.1) (Cg-XIII/PINK 10.1(4))

Revision of the General Regulations (agenda item 11.3) (Cg-XIII/PINK 11.3(2))

The draft resolutions and any annexes thereto, contained in the appendices to the above documents, were adopted.

The draft texts for inclusion in the general summary and any annexes thereto, contained in the appendices to the above documents, were approved.

50. World Climate Applications and Services Programme (agenda item 3.2.5) (Cg-XIII/PINK 3.2.5)

The **PRESIDENT** submitted Document Cg-XIII-PINK 3.2.5 on behalf of Mr Beysson (chairperson of Committee B).

Draft Resolution 3.2.5/1 (Cg-XIII), contained in Appendix B to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 3.2.5, was adopted.

To reflect his intervention during the discussions, the **DELEGATE OF KENYA** suggested that “and Drought Monitoring Centres” be added in the tenth line in paragraph 3.2.5.7 so that the sentence would begin as follows: “Congress noted also that the PRESAO process, the ACMAD and the Drought Monitoring Centres achievements...”. The **DELEGATE OF NIGERIA**, stating that the original draft was his delegation’s contribution, had no objection to the addition, and so *it was agreed*.

The draft text for inclusion in the general summary, contained in Appendix A to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 3.2.5, as amended, was approved.

51. Fifth WMO Long-term Plan (2000–2009) (agenda item 6.2) (Cg-XIII/PINK 6.2)

The **PRESIDENT** introduced Document Cg-XIII/PINK 6.2 on behalf of Mr Beysson (chairperson of Committee B).

Draft Resolution 6.2/1 (Cg-XIII), contained in Appendix B to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 6.2, was adopted.

It was agreed, at the proposal of the president of CAeM, that in Appendix C, under Chapter 6, Programme 4.3 Aeronautical Meteorology Programme (24), the text be amended as followed: “Improvement of forecasts and warnings in the terminal area (as assessed using international verification standards) with particular emphasis on the first three hours to assist in air traffic management;”.

The draft text for inclusion in the general summary, contained in Appendix A to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 6.2, and the annex in Appendix C, as amended, were approved.

52. International exchange of data and products (agenda item 7.1) (Cg-XIII/PINK 7.1)

MR SEN ROY (chairperson of Committee A) submitted Document Cg-XIII/PINK 7.1. With respect to the draft resolution as contained in Appendix B, the **DELEGATE OF NEW ZEALAND** wished to add, under “**FURTHER ADOPTS (3)**”, the word “hydrological” before “data” in the second line, which was agreed. Under “**FURTHER ADOPTS (4)**”, *it was agreed* to delete the word “use” in the second line, at the suggestion of the **DELEGATE OF SWEDEN**.

Draft Resolution 7.1/1 (Cg-XIII), contained in Appendix B to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 7.1, as amended, was adopted.

In recording the approval of Draft Resolution 7.1/1, the President thought it appropriate to record the appreciation of Congress to all who had worked on the preparation of the draft resolution, in particular the president of CHy and the Commission members for that great achievement on the part of the hydrological community. The delegate of New Zealand concurred with those sentiments.

Turning to Appendix A, the president of CAeM wished to add the word “meteorological” after “aeronautical” in the first line of paragraph 7.1.36, which was agreed.

The draft text for inclusion in the general summary, contained in Appendix A to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 7.1, as amended, was approved.

53. Cooperation with United Nations and other organizations (agenda item 9.1) (Cg-XIII/PINK 9.1(2))

MR BWANGO-APUULI (vice-chairperson of Committee A) submitted Document Cg-XIII/PINK 9.1(2). With respect to the draft resolution, the **DELEGATE OF IRELAND** suggested that “**NOTING FURTHER (3)**” be deleted, believing that it referred to “**NOTING**”, but the **DELEGATE OF BOTSWANA** responded that “**NOTING**” referred to recommendations and resolutions of organizations other than WMO, which was not the case in “**NOTING FURTHER (3)**”, so therefore it was agreed to retain the paragraph.

The **DELEGATE OF IRELAND** furthermore proposed to delete “of all ages” under “**RECOMMENDS** that Members (1)”.

The **DELEGATE OF NEW ZEALAND**, replying that the phrase was meant to encompass the education of girls at the elementary school levels as well as women at the post-graduate levels, and the **DELEGATE OF BOTSWANA** having concurred, *it was agreed* that the phrase be retained.

Draft Resolution 9.1/1 (Cg-XIII), contained in Appendix B to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 9.1(2) as amended, was adopted.

The draft text for inclusion in the general summary, contained in Appendix A to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 9.1(2), as amended, was approved.

54. Financial matters (agenda item 10.1) (Cg-XIII/PINK 10.1(1))

MR BWANGO-APUULI (vice-chairperson of Committee A) having submitted Document Cg-XIII/PINK 10.1(1), *it was agreed* to amend “present building” to “old building” in the fourth line of the second paragraph, at the proposal of the delegate of China.

The draft text for inclusion in the general summary, contained in the appendix to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 10.1(1), as amended, was approved.

55. Financial matters (agenda item 10.1) (Cg-XIII/PINK 10.1(2))

MR BWANGO-APUULI (vice-chairperson of Committee A) submitted Document Cg-XIII/PINK 10.1(2). The **DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL** pointed out that as a result of the discussions on the budget “2.0 to 2.5 million Swiss francs” should be amended to read “1.0 to 1.5 million Swiss francs” in the fourth line of the second paragraph.

The draft text for inclusion in the general summary, contained in the appendix to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 10.1(2), as amended, was approved.

56. Secretary-General’s contract (agenda item 10.4) (Cg-XIII/PINK 10.4)

MR BWANGO-APUULI (vice-chairperson of Committee A) having submitted Document Cg-XIII/PINK 10.4, the **PRESIDENT** drew attention to an error in the English text of the Annex to Draft Resolution 10.4/1 contained in Appendix B, where a line had been duplicated in paragraph 4(c).

Draft Resolution 10.4/1 (Cg-XIII), contained in Appendix B to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 10.4, with the editorial amendment, was adopted.

The draft text for inclusion in the general summary, contained in the Appendix A to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 10.4, was approved.

57. IMO and WMO prizes (agenda item 11.1) (Cg-XIII/PINK 11.1)

MR BWANGO-APUULI (vice-chairperson of Committee A) submitted Document Cg-XIII/PINK 11.1. To reflect better the discussions in committee where his delegation had requested greater transparency in the selection process, the **DELEGATE OF IRELAND** proposed that “maintain” be replaced by “explore methods of improving” in the third line. The **PRESIDENT** having suggested that “improving” be

changed to “increasing”, the **DELEGATE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM** stressed that it was important to maintain the current level of transparency while exploring methods of increasing it, and believed that the word “maintain” should be retained. It was agreed that the sentence read “...maintain, and explore methods of increasing, transparency...”.

The draft text for inclusion in the general summary, contained in the appendix to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 11.1, as amended, was approved.

58. Questions concerning the Convention; revision of the General Regulations (agenda items 11.2 and 11.3) (Cg-XIII/PINK 11.2(2))

Deliberations ensued following the submission of Document Cg-XIII/PINK 11.2(2) by **MR BWANGO-APUULI** (vice-chairperson of Committee A) on changing the term “Association” for WMO regional bodies.

The **DELEGATE OF NEW ZEALAND**, while sympathetic to the reasons prompting the amendments to the WMO Convention and the General Regulations, reiterated his concerns raised during earlier discussions that the proposed draft text and draft resolution did not conform to the rules relating to changes to the Convention and the General Regulations. His concerns were twofold: constitutional and practical. With respect to constitutional matters, Article 28 of the Convention stated that the text of any proposed amendments should be disseminated at least six months in advance of being considered by Congress. Although the proposed text referred only to changing the term “Regional Association”, that resulted in subsequent changes throughout the Convention and General Regulations, and also led to some ambiguity where “Region” was being replaced by “region”. He believed that insufficient time had been given to examine the ramifications of such a change. With respect to the practical implications, he was of the opinion that the practicality of those changes had not been thought through, for example, unless a specific definition for the term “regions” was given, all “Regions” would be changed, leading to ambiguity.

Concurring with those views, the **DELEGATE OF INDIA** said that his delegation supported the spirit of the text but amendments to the Convention were sensitive issues and it was essential to follow constitutional procedures. Even if the draft resolution were approved as it then stood, it would not alter the Convention but simply begin the process of changing it under Article 28.

Also wishing that the procedures as set out under Article 28 were followed, the **DELEGATE OF GERMANY** expressed concern at the legality of a change to a basic document such as the Convention as it was international law. He advised caution as well as seeking legal advice before undertaking further action.

Like the delegate of India, the **DELEGATE OF MALI** approved of the spirit of the draft resolution, as it was an important step forward, but stressed that his delegation agreed that the correct legal procedures had to be respected so that the rules of the Convention were not violated. The **DELEGATE OF NEW ZEALAND** concurred.

The **DELEGATE OF BOTSWANA** agreed that Congress should follow the proper procedures, and if it could not make a change immediately, it could be asked to recognize that there

was a problem, particularly in Regional Association I. If not resolved, Congress should ensure that steps were taken so that the problem could eventually be resolved.

Taking into account the concerns expressed by a number of delegations, the **DELEGATE OF FRANCE** made a proposal to amend the second line of the third paragraph in Appendix A to read: “...agreed on the principle of replacing the term ‘Regional Association’ by another term.” He also proposed deleting the text under paragraph 11.3 and replacing it with a fourth paragraph reading: “Consequently, Congress asked the Secretary-General and the Executive Council to study the question, taking into account the debates that had taken place during Congress to put a proposal for consideration to Fourteenth Congress.” He also proposed deleting the draft resolution in Appendix B. The **DELEGATE OF BOTSWANA** suggested changing “asked” to “requested”. The **DELEGATE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM** added that, as six months’ notice to Congress was required under Article 28 of the Convention, that should also be reflected in the text.

The **FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT** questioned the arguments concerning the legality of the changes and was under the impression that more than six months’ notice had been given. He added that if a change were made to the Convention, related consequential amendments could be made if those did not change the basic intent of the proposal. However, if the proposal made by the delegate of France was acceptable to the delegations from Regional Association I, he also had no objection.

The **DELEGATE OF GERMANY** expressed his dissatisfaction that no legal advice had been sought at any time and reaffirmed his position that legal advice was necessary before any further action.

In light of the concerns voiced, the **SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL** hoped that his following comments would help in clarifying the issue. He explained that Tenth Congress had established procedures related to Article 28. Any proposals for amendments to the Convention made by the Executive Council must be communicated to Members at least nine months before the beginning of Congress, and that had been done. He recalled that, after thorough discussion, no agreement had been reached on any specific terms that had been proposed, and quoted the relevant text from Tenth Congress as follows:

Sixth Congress decided that, in the course of its consideration, as required by the provisions of Article 28 of a draft amendment to the Convention, Congress may receive, discuss and, if it so decides, adopt any proposal for modifying this draft, 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 new subject.

Welcoming that information, the **DELEGATE OF NEW ZEALAND** nevertheless wished he had received it earlier. However, he supported the proposal of the delegate of France but maintained his view that the correct process should be followed. Agreeing that he was also pleased to receive the information, the **DELEGATE OF INDIA** also supported the French proposal. Referring to the difficulties encountered, he believed that time should be allocated at an appropriate stage so that the

procedures for implementing Article 28 were incorporated into the basic documents and thus made very clear.

The **PRESIDENT OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATION I** proposed that references to the relevant text of Sixth and Tenth Congresses should be included under “**NOTING**” in the draft resolution.

Referring to his proposal to amend the draft text and draft resolution to alleviate the concerns expressed by some delegations, the **DELEGATE OF FRANCE** said he was open to suggestions to change the text but was concerned that certain delegations had difficulty with the legal implications.

The **DELEGATE OF BOTSWANA** suggested that instead of deleting the draft resolution, the operative paragraph beginning “**DECIDES:**” could be amended in line with the French proposal. She believed adopting a resolution would carry more weight than solely approving a text.

The **DELEGATE OF SOUTH AFRICA** thought that a consensus had been reached to change the term “Regional Association” to “WMO Region”, which had resulted in the draft text and draft resolution. However, he was not in agreement that “Region” be replaced by “region” throughout. The amendment would lead to related changes in the General Regulations, and he suggested that when referring to WMO Regions, the word “Region” remain capitalized; otherwise, if used in general terms, it should appear as “region”. That would be in line with the text as it now stood and could simplify the amendment. He hoped that a pragmatic agreement could be reached so as not to prolong the deliberations another four years, a sentiment that was echoed by the **PRESIDENT OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATION I**.

The **PRESIDENT** said that if Congress favoured the proposal made by the delegate of France as modified by the delegate of Botswana, a revision of the document would be necessary, including also the indication that any amendments should be done in accordance with Article 28, as had been stated by various delegations. However, he had another option that he wished to present for consideration and comments. As many delegates were satisfied with the term “Regional Association” and the term “WMO Region” seemed satisfactory to the others who had difficulty with the first, he suggested that both be retained. That could be done simply by making a change to Article 4(a) (3) of the Convention, which was the first time “Regional Association” appeared. The text could be changed from: “Regional meteorological associations (hereinafter called “the regional associations”) to “Regional meteorological associations (hereinafter called “the regional associations” and which may be abbreviated to “WMO Regions”)”. Thus, the use of both terms would be permitted.

The **DELEGATE OF MALI** believed the President’s proposal to be revolutionary as far as WMO was concerned. However, as the concern over the issue was to solve the problems of certain countries without causing difficulties to others, he thought it was reasonable and allowed countries to proceed without questioning the authority of the Organization and the status of the regional associations.

The **DELEGATE OF THE BRITISH CARIBBEAN TERRITORIES** said the President’s proposal, while perhaps good from a legal standpoint, did not fully address the difficulties of the issue. That any Member could choose which

term to use could lead to confusion as, for example, correspondence from and to any Member could still contain both terms, therefore not resolving the initial problem. To resolve that problem, the **DELEGATE OF NEW ZEALAND** suggested that the words “and which may be abbreviated to WMO Region” in the President’s proposal be changed to “and may be alternatively referred to as WMO Region”. That would avoid changing the Convention and the General Regulations. The president of Regional Association I did not envisage that the proposal would improve the situation from the standpoint of RA I.

Reiterating his previous concerns, the **DELEGATE OF GERMANY** pointed out that it was not simply a regulation that was being discussed but a Convention. It was national law in his country and changes, especially definitions, would require informing Parliament. He believed the advice of legal experts was required as amendments had to be done in the correct legal form. He recalled the delegate of Botswana’s statement that the changes should not be made lightly. Concurring with those views, the **DELEGATE OF JAPAN** believed the matter too important for last-minute agreements to be relied upon. The **DELEGATE OF MEXICO** expressed his agreement with the position of those two delegates.

Taking account of the diverging views expressed thus far, the **DELEGATE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN** suggested that the document be revised and discussed again later.

The **PRESIDENT** proposed that a revised version of Document PINK 11.2 (2) should be prepared, based on the proposals by the delegate of France. In Appendix A, the first two paragraphs would be retained; the second line in the third paragraph would be amended to read: “...agreed on the principle of replacing the term ‘Regional Association’ by another term.”; and a fourth paragraph would be added as follows: “Consequently, Congress requested the Secretary-General and the Executive Council to study the question taking into account the discussions that had taken place during Congress and to prepare a proposal for consideration by Fourteenth Congress, in accordance with Article 28 of the Convention. Accordingly, Congress adopted Resolution 11.2/3 (Cg-XIII).” With respect to the draft resolution in Appendix B, the text under “**DECIDES:**” would be deleted in its entirety and replaced by the following: “**REQUESTS** the Secretary-General and the Executive Council to arrange for the preparation of proposals for consideration by Fourteenth Congress for the replacement of the term ‘Regional Association’ by another term in line with Article 28 of the WMO Convention.” A reference to consequential changes should also be made. Agreeing with the President’s proposal, the **PRESIDENT OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATION I** also insisted that the decisions of the Sixth and Tenth Congresses should be included under “**NOTING**”. The **DELEGATE OF NEW ZEALAND** believed that the resolution should contain the phrase “**DECIDES** that in principle the term ‘Regional Association’ should be changed to some other term.”

In light of the amendments proposed, the **PRESIDENT** declared that a revised Document Cg-XIII/PINK 11.2(2) would be issued for consideration at the next plenary meeting, after verification by the president of Regional Association I and the delegates of France, Mali and New Zealand.

59. Revision of the General Regulations (agenda item 11.3) (Cg-XIII/PINK 11.3(3))

MR BWANGO-APUULI (vice-chairperson of Committee A) submitted Document Cg-XIII/PINK 11.3(3). Referring to the second sentence of the last paragraph, the **DELEGATE OF THE UNITED STATES** proposed that, in order to reflect the discussions in Committee A, the words “to all Permanent Representatives with WMO” should be added after the word “provided”. The **DELEGATE OF THE BRITISH CARIBBEAN TERRITORIES** suggested that “interested” be added before “Permanent Representatives”. The delegate of the United States replied that it had been agreed that all Permanent Representatives would receive a password. At the suggestion of the **PRESIDENT**, *it was agreed* to insert “interested” before “Permanent Representatives” in the last sentence of the paragraph.

Stating that the French version of the document did not correspond to the English text, the **DELEGATE OF FRANCE** said it was difficult to follow the discussions. He requested that it be aligned with the English version. The **DELEGATE OF SWITZERLAND** concurred, adding that text submitted to Plenary should not contain such differences. The President gave assurances that the text would be aligned in the final report.

The draft text for inclusion in the general summary, contained in the appendix to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 11.3(3), as amended, was approved.

60. Request for membership of the Organization (agenda item 11.5) (Cg-XIII/PINK 11.5)

Submitting Document Cg-XIII/PINK 11.5, the **PRESIDENT** wished to place on record the appreciation of

Congress of the collaboration between China and Portugal on the question of Macao.

The draft text for inclusion in the general summary, contained in the appendix to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 11.5, as amended, was approved.

61. Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Organization (agenda item 12.1) (Cg-XIII/PINK 12.1(3))

The **PRESIDENT** submitted Document Cg-XIII/PINK 12.1(3). The **DELEGATE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN** pointed out that his title should be “Vice-Minister of Roads and Transportation and General Administrator of the Islamic Republic of the Iran Meteorological Organization” in paragraph 12.1.3.

The draft text for inclusion in the general summary, contained in the appendix to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 12.1(3), with the editorial amendment, was approved.

62. Election of Members of the Executive Council (agenda item 12.2) (Cg-XIII/PINK 12.2(2))

Having submitted Document Cg-XIII/PINK 12.2(2), the **PRESIDENT** noted that “N.I. Tawfik” should be changed to “N. I. Tawfiq”. The **DELEGATE OF SPAIN** added that “D. E. Coca Vita” should be changed to “E. Coca Vita”.

The draft text for inclusion in the general summary, contained in the appendix to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 12.2(2), as amended, was approved.

The meeting rose at 5.30 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE FOURTEENTH PLENARY MEETING

26 May 1999 at 9.30 a.m.

The meeting was called to order at 9.35 a.m.

63. Approval of unamended general summary text

During the course of the meeting, the **PRESIDENT**, on behalf of the relevant Committee chairperson, introduced the following document, which did not attract any discussion or amendments from Members:

Status reports on the Conventions on Climate Change and on Desertification (agenda item 9.3) (Cg-XIII/PINK 9.3)

The draft text for inclusion in the general summary and any annexes thereto, contained in the appendix to the above document, was approved.

64. Adoption of unamended resolutions and associated texts

The **PRESIDENT** also introduced the following documents on behalf of the relevant Committee chairman, which contained draft resolutions, and which did not attract any discussion or amendments from Members:

Technical Cooperation Programme (agenda items 3.7.1 and 3.7.2) (Cg-XIII/PINK 3.7)

Questions concerning the Convention (agenda item 11.2)

Revision of the General Regulations (agenda item 11.3) (Cg-XIII/PINK 11.2(2), REV. 1)

Draft Resolutions 3.7/1 (Cg-XIII) and 11.2/3 (Cg-XIII), contained in the appendices to the above documents, were adopted.

The draft texts for inclusion in the general summary and any annexes thereto, contained in the appendices to the above documents, were approved.

65. Organization of the session (agenda item 1) (Cg-XIII/PINK 1)

The **PRESIDENT**, introduced Document Cg-XIII/PINK 1.

The **DELEGATE OF TANZANIA**, referring to paragraph 1.4.1, requested that the list of principal delegates representing their regional association on the Nomination Committee should be amended so that in each case the president of the regional association was listed first, as appeared in Document Cg-XIII/MIN. 2.

The **DELEGATE OF BENIN**, referring to paragraph 1.1.19, requested that the French translation of Mr O. Oubandawaki's title be aligned with the English version.

The **DELEGATE OF UGANDA**, referring to paragraph 1.4.3, requested that his name be amended from Mr B. Apuuli to "Mr Bwango-Apuuli".

It was so agreed.

The draft text for inclusion in the general summary, contained in the appendix to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 1, as amended, was approved.

66. Languages (agenda item 4.2) (Cg-XIII/PINK 4.2)

The **PRESIDENT** introduced Document Cg-XIII/PINK 4.2 on behalf of Mr Bwango-Apuuli (vice-chairperson of Committee A) and not Mr Sen Roy, and requested that that correction be taken into account in the cover of the PINK.

MR BWANGO-APUULI informed Congress that after the draft report was completed, discussions had taken place between a number of delegates on interpretation services in Portuguese. As a result, a new draft text, representing an agreed compromise on the use of Portuguese, had now been prepared and attached to the last page of Document Cg-XIII/PINK 4.2. If that text was adopted, most probably for insertion after paragraph 4.2.4, it would have a direct implication on the subsequent discussions on Document Cg-XIII/PINK 11.3(4). He also informed delegates that references to the preparation of Arabic and Chinese publications had been removed from agenda item 4.2 and included in agenda item 4.3 on publications as that was more appropriate.

The **PRESIDENT** proposed that in new paragraph 4.2.5 (old paragraph 4.2.x, last page), the words "and adopted Resolution 4.2/1" be inserted at the end of the first sentence.

It was so agreed.

Draft Resolution 4.2/1 (Cg-XIII), contained in Appendix B to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 4.2, was adopted.

The draft text for inclusion in the general summary, contained in Appendix A to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 4.2, as amended, was approved.

67. Revision of the General Regulations (agenda item 11.3) (Cg-XIII/PINK 11.3(4))

The **PRESIDENT** introduced Document Cg-XIII/PINK 11.3(4) on behalf of Mr Bwango-Apuuli (vice-chairperson of Committee A).

MR BWANGO-APUULI said that, in view of the approval of the additional paragraph on the use of the Portuguese language in the last page of Document Cg-XIII/PINK 4.2 and of the adoption of draft Resolution 4.2/1 (Cg-XIII), Option A of the draft text and of the draft resolution, contained in Document Cg-XIII/PINK 11.3(4), should now be deleted.

It was so agreed.

The **DELEGATE OF PORTUGAL** stated that the adoption of the resolution on the use of Portuguese was a small step, although a constructive step forward.

68. Publications (agenda item 4.3) (Cg-XIII/PINK 4.3)

The **PRESIDENT** submitted Document Cg-XIII/PINK 4.3 on behalf of Mr Sen Roy (chairperson of Committee A).

MR SEN ROY, referring to paragraph 4.3.2, explained that one delegation felt that the text of that paragraph in the working paper did not accurately reflect the proposal made in Committee A and that several other delegations had asked to see a new written text so that they could consider that proposal. As a result, two alternative forms of wording were being submitted to Congress for discussion and for a decision.

Draft Resolution 4.3/1 (Cg-XIII), contained in Appendix B to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 4.3, was adopted.

The **DELEGATE OF FRANCE**, referring to paragraph 4.3.2, pointed out that, in the French version, the second alternative text did not correspond to the text that had been suggested, as it omitted the last sentence; which was most of the last sentence in the first alternative text. The French version should be aligned with the English version.

In support of the second alternative text, as amended, he claimed that there had been a shift in WMO policy on distribution and publication towards maximization of sales from publications to the detriment of distribution. Yet the primary purpose of WMO was to distribute publications, not to make money from publications. If publications could be distributed at lower cost by using electronic means and less paper, that should not be limited by the wish to ensure that publication costs were recovered through sales. While that proposal might have important financial implications through reducing the sale of printed publications, the delegation had full trust in the Secretary-General to adapt the amount of revenues from printed publications to the actual requirements of Members. If more information was available in electronic form, less money would be needed for publications and savings would be possible.

The second alternative text, as represented in the English version, was also supported by the **DELEGATES OF ARGENTINA, COLOMBIA, EGYPT, NEW ZEALAND, NIGERIA and TUNISIA**.

In view of the support expressed for the second alternative text, the **PRESIDENT** requested Members to delete the first alternative text in paragraph 4.3.2.

It was so agreed.

The **DELEGATE OF SUDAN**, referring to paragraph 4.3.5, first sentence, pointed out that Committee A had agreed to include the *Guide to Climatological Practices* (WMO-No. 100) in Arabic. He therefore requested that that be reflected in the text. Referring to paragraph 4.3.6, fourth sentence, he suggested that the last sentence should be deleted as there had been no agreement to ask the Secretary-General to discuss the preparation of other language editions, especially Arabic and Chinese.

MR SEN ROY, the chairperson of Committee A, agreed that paragraph 4.3.5 should be amended accordingly.

The **DELEGATE OF CHINA** said it was appropriate to maintain the reference to Chinese language editions in paragraph 4.3.6.

The **DELEGATE OF EGYPT** wished to retain the entire sentence.

The **DELEGATE OF SUDAN** informed Congress that he wished to remove the reference to Arabic because it might lead to the wrong publication of certain publications or to a delay in publication in Arabic, as was currently occurring.

After consultation with the delegate of Egypt, the delegate of Sudan agreed to retain the existing sentence, without amendment.

The **DELEGATE OF JORDAN**, referring to the third sentence of paragraph 4.3.6, noted that there was some discrepancy between the different translations in relation to the number of new language editions of mandatory publications. The Arabic version referred to eight new language editions while the English version referred to 10.

Clarifying the issue on behalf of the Secretariat, the **DIRECTOR OF THE LANGUAGES, PUBLICATIONS AND CONFERENCES DEPARTMENT** said the figure should be amended to 12 since the original figure had been calculated on the basis of the number of technical commissions. However, the Secretariat had omitted to add an additional extraordinary session of CBS.

The **DELEGATE OF FRANCE** noted that the French translation referred to publications in 12 different languages instead of 12 different editions. The French would have to be aligned to the English version.

It was so agreed.

The draft text for inclusion in the general summary, contained in Appendix A to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 4.3, as amended, was approved.

69. Office automation and information technology support (agenda item 4.4) (Cg-XIII/PINK 4.4)

The **PRESIDENT** submitted Document Cg-XIII/PINK 4.4 on behalf of Mr Sen Roy (chairperson of Committee A).

The **DELEGATE OF JAPAN** drew attention to paragraph 4.4.2, last sentence, and expressed the opinion that forecast and warning activity was mainly performed by NMHSs and not by WMO. He requested that the last sentence be deleted.

The **DELEGATE OF NEW ZEALAND** pointed out that the proposal was to link directly from the WMO Web site to the official forecasts and warnings on NMHS websites with no intention of having the actual forecasts themselves on the WMO Web site. He proposed modifying the text by adding the word "link" between the words "mechanism to" and "to official forecasts" and the words "and contained on their websites" between the words "NMHSs" and "within".

The **DELEGATE OF JAPAN** accepted the amendment.

The **DELEGATE OF NIGERIA** supported New Zealand's proposal.

The **DELEGATE OF FRANCE** said there was no difficulty in principle but there was some concern that the WMO Web site might become an operational tool to disseminate forecasts and warnings.

The **DELEGATES OF CANADA and FRANCE** found the construction confusing. What was intended was to emphasize the links. They proposed that the text be amended to read "the establishment on the site of direct links to official forecasts and warnings".

The **DELEGATES OF ARGENTINA, COLOMBIA and VENEZUELA** felt there was general agreement on the paragraph

but stressed the need to align the other language versions with the English version.

The **DELEGATE OF NIGERIA** referred to paragraph 4.4.4, third sentence, and requested that the word “other” be inserted between “and” and “multimedia”.

It was so agreed.

The draft text for inclusion in the general summary, contained in the appendix to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 4.4, as amended, was approved.

70. Role and operation of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (agenda item 7.2)
(Cg-XIII/PINK 7.2)

The **PRESIDENT** submitted Document Cg-XIII/PINK 7.2 on behalf of Mr Sen Roy (chairperson of Committee A) and pointed out that in the first line of the Geneva Declaration (Appendix C), the number of countries should be 170.

The **DELEGATE OF BOTSWANA** proposed that in the Geneva Declaration, first line, the word “countires” be replaced with “Member countries”.

The **DELEGATE OF CHINA** felt it would be more appropriate to use the word “Members”.

The **PRESIDENT** proposed the words “WMO Member States and Territories”.

It was so agreed.

The **DELEGATE OF CANADA** requested an explanation on the intended use of the Declaration.

The Geneva Declaration, contained in Appendix C to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 7.2, as amended, was approved.

The **DELEGATE OF MALI** pointed out that in draft Resolution 7.2/1 (Cg-XIII), second **RECOGNIZING**, the French wording was ambiguous and proposed deletion of the words “que l’on avait fait valoir”. He requested that the French version be aligned to the English version.

The **DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL** suggested a more literal, word-for-word translation of the English into French which was acceptable to the delegate of Mali and to Congress.

Draft Resolution 7.2/1 (Cg-XIII), contained in Appendix B to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 7.2, as amended in the French version, was adopted.

Regarding paragraph 7.2.27, last sentence, the **DELEGATE OF INDIA** proposed to replace the words “that underpin” with the word “of”.

It was so agreed.

The **DELEGATE OF SWEDEN** pointed out a discrepancy in the titles of agenda item 7.2 and the draft Resolution.

The **SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL** explained to Congress that that resolution did specifically refer only to the role and operation of NMSs in relation to alternative service delivery, while the general summary text referred to the role and operation of NMHSs. A similar approach would later be adopted for National Hydrological Services.

The **DELEGATE OF FRANCE** proposed that in paragraph 7.2.30, second sentence, the word “Members” be replaced with

“all Members concerned”. He pointed out that the words “full range” (“éventail”) were missing in the French text. He therefore requested that the French version be aligned to the English version.

It was so agreed.

The **DELEGATE OF CHINA** echoed Canada’s query as to the purpose of the Geneva Declaration. He proposed that a paragraph be added in agenda item 7.2, referring to Congress’s adoption of the Geneva Declaration and requesting the Secretary-General to inform the Governments of all Members.

The **PRESIDENT** pointed out that such text already existed at the very end of paragraph 7.2.14.

The draft text for inclusion in the general summary, contained in Appendix A to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 7.2, as amended, was approved.

At the President’s invitation, there followed general discussion about the Geneva Declaration. The **DELEGATE OF CANADA** said the Declaration was quite important as NMHSs found themselves under pressure from their Governments as they dealt with priorities. Meteorological Services were often taken for granted or thought of as simply being there. It was important how the Declaration was communicated. If it was circulated, as had been suggested, the key question was how it was to be used and who was targeted: should it be aimed at the highest level of Government or, for instance, at the ministry responsible for the National Weather Service? The delegate believed that the higher the level at which the Declaration was communicated to the Government, the more impact it would have.

The **PRESIDENT** thought the Declaration might be attached to a media release that was to go out at the end of the Congress and that the Secretary-General, in following up the request made to him, would direct the text to Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Member States and Territories saying that Congress wished it to be drawn to the attention of all Governments. It could be used and quoted in a range of other WMO publications, particularly in the forewords to guidelines on NMSs or their management. He invited views on how the Declaration might be used.

The **DELEGATE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM** said he would have a problem with the notion of the Secretary-General arranging for the circulation to Governments. As his Government’s representative to Congress, it was therefore his responsibility to report back to his Government which would view it strangely to receive such a communication from the Secretariat rather than from him. Despite that, he agreed that the Declaration should be given the widest possible circulation; perhaps the approved paragraph 7.2.14 did not spell that out in sufficient detail.

The **PRESIDENT** remarked that timing was important: the permanent representatives and delegates to WMO would pass on the Declaration before it arrived through the Foreign Affairs channel.

The **DELEGATE OF ARGENTINA** commented that countries and Meteorological Services were organizationally very different. The Secretariat should first send the text to the permanent representatives who could then send it, with their

own comments, to their Governments. After a lapse of time, the Secretariat could send it to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs. So the Declaration should go by both routes, since the timing would be different.

The **PRESIDENT** said he was certain there were quite wide differences of opinion: some permanent representatives would clearly prefer to pass the document to their Governments, some would prefer their Governments not to see it at all and some would prefer that it went to their Governments from a source other than them so it appeared to be more official. There was indeed a range of positions and he thought it necessary to sense what was the best way of handling a document which was potentially sensitive on all those fronts.

The **DELEGATE OF MONGOLIA** supported the delegate of the United Kingdom: the permanent representatives were best placed to introduce the document to their Governments.

The **DELEGATE OF GERMANY** commented that if WMO were already as visible as one would want, a press conference should already have been arranged to brief the press and make the Declaration public. Other Congresses had done so in the past.

The **DELEGATE OF NIGER** said the resolution was important, particularly for developing countries in Africa. He failed to see where the problem lay with the official distribution of the Declaration. That would help the Meteorological Services to improve their image or their visibility. Some countries might not need it. They would be able to explain to their Governments that the resolution was not addressed to them because their Meteorological Service was in a better situation. There was no difficulty in distributing the resolution which surely more than half of Members present would welcome.

The **DELEGATE OF MALI** felt there was no major contradiction between the two approaches. All delegates would take home the Declaration. Those who did not wish to use it would not use it. Later the Secretariat would officially inform Members of the decisions of Congress and the Executive Council. By which time some permanent representatives would already have informed their Government of what had transpired. But there would be no contradiction, on the contrary what the Government would receive later would simply be a confirmation of what they heard from their own permanent representative.

The **DELEGATE OF FRANCE** said once a document was approved by Congress it was known to all representatives of Government sitting in the room. Of course, the document would be distributed within each Government's administration — that was an internal matter. The Secretariat would also distribute it but that would be an administrative matter.

The **DELEGATE OF KENYA** felt that the proposal put forward that the Declaration be circulated through the Ministries of Foreign Affairs could really be of assistance to some Members who sometimes had enormous difficulty in making their Governments understand the value of Meteorological Services.

The **DELEGATE OF UGANDA** seconded that view, adding that Governments would be encouraged to listen if many

voices were heard on the matter. Certain compromises had been made to reach consensus on the Declaration but the text had been approved. The Secretariat was urged to circulate it to the highest level of Government.

The **DELEGATE OF CHINA** echoed the comment of the delegate of Mali that there was no contradiction. In addition, the Declaration should be published widely in the media. That would be done in China so as to give greater importance to the Declaration *vis-à-vis* also the general public.

The **DELEGATE OF BOTSWANA** expressed approval for having the Declaration sent through the established communication channels to give it more weight.

The **DELEGATE OF CÔTE D'IVOIRE** commented that Congress had provided guidelines to NMSs to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century. The responsibilities of the Meteorological Services would be greater. In countries such as his, they did not yet have the visibility. Such a statement was very important as far as they were concerned and should be addressed to their Governments by the most official channels.

The **DELEGATE OF SUDAN** said that sending the Declaration through official channels, via Ministries of Foreign Affairs, would certainly be helpful.

In conclusion, the **DELEGATE OF CANADA** thanked the President for allowing Congress the time to express views on that important issue. It was clear that there were some parts of the Declaration where delegates themselves (for example, himself representing Canada) were empowered to take action but others where, as government officials, they were not empowered. That was an important distinction: different decision makers in Government would take on different roles. There was a dual purpose: individual delegates had a responsibility to inform their Governments, particularly of those actions that they could undertake as a consequence of being signatory to the Declaration. And secondly there were some benefits to those other decision makers to whom delegates typically only had sporadic access. It would be very helpful for those decision makers to hear that there were 170 Member States and Territories that shared the same perspectives on the importance of their Organization.

The **DELEGATE OF SOUTH AFRICA** asked if there was consensus on a press statement.

It was agreed that the Declaration might be attached to a press release.

The **PRESIDENT** asked the delegate of the United Kingdom if he would be opposed to that.

The **DELEGATE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM** would welcome wide publicity for the Declaration but asked the Secretariat to be sensitive to the different needs of delegates in dealing with their own Governments.

71. Proportional contributions of Members (agenda item 10.2) (Cg-XIII/PINK 10.2)

The **PRESIDENT** submitted Document Cg-XIII/PINK 10.2 on behalf of Mr Bwango-Apuuli (vice-chairperson of Committee A) and noted that the document represented an issue on which there had been much debate leading to constructive compromise between differing perspectives.

The **DELEGATE OF CYPRUS** proposed that in draft Resolution 10.2/2 (Cg-XIII), **DECIDES** (1), the word “following” should be deleted.

The **DELEGATE OF CANADA** proposed that in draft Resolution 10.2/1 (Cg-XIII), **AUTHORIZES** the Secretary-General, the words “and to inform the Executive Council of any such arrangements” should be inserted at the end of the paragraph.

It was so agreed.

The **DELEGATE OF BOTSWANA** queried the dates in the footnote to Table 1 of the annex to draft Resolution 10.2/1 (Cg-XIII).

On behalf of the Secretariat, the **DIRECTOR OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT** noted that the dates should be changed from “2000 to 2003” to “2001 to 2003”.

It was so agreed.

Draft Resolution 10.2/2 (Cg-XIII), contained in Appendix D to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 10.2, as amended, was adopted.

Draft Resolution 10.2/1 (Cg-XIII), contained in Appendix C to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 10.2, as amended, was adopted.

The **DELEGATE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION** requested that the following statement be reflected in the minutes:

We welcome the decision automatically to apply the United Nations scale in this Organization as from 2001. As for the scale set for 2000, it does not correspond to the decision of Cg-XII to transfer to the United Nations scale. The WMO scale applies the so-called “system of limits” (maximum rate-minimum rate system) which, in comparison with the previous system, reduces possible fluctuations in the contributions of Member States. That effectively undermines the principle whereby ability to pay is taken into consideration when determining the Members’ contributions. This scale will be unjustifiably advantageous to one group of countries and detrimental to the interests of another. Its adoption will establish a precedent for amending the United Nations scale, which serves as the basis for calculating contributions in all the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, on the sole premise that certain countries are dissatisfied with the very scale that they themselves adopted at the United Nations General Assembly. That will have negative consequences for the entire United Nations system.

The WMO scale for 2000, which has been calculated applying the “maximum rate-minimum rate system”, shifts the financial burden from one group of countries to another, and first and foremost on those countries which are facing serious economic and financial difficulties and are already in arrears in their contributions to the Organization. We should like to point out that neither Congress nor the Executive Council discussed or took any decision concerning the

use of the maximum rate-minimum rate system when the scale of assessment was drawn up.

The adoption of a scale which does not reflect the ability of the Organization’s Members to pay is not conducive to strengthening the Organization’s financial position and to ensuring the timely payment of contributions.

The **DELEGATE OF JAPAN** expressed surprise at the statement made by the delegate of the Russian Federation. The Japanese delegation had appreciated the spirit of compromise demonstrated by Russia on proportional contribution in the working committees. It was precisely because the delegate of the Russian Federation had pointed out in the subcommittee session that if Japan was not ready to contribute anything other Members would have to bear the cost, that the committee had decided to settle for a compromise. Japan had decided to deviate from its principle of proportional representation to increase its contribution by 20 per cent. Japan had made a big compromise towards proportional contribution on behalf of other countries. The Japanese delegation had been sorry to hear the statement made by the delegate of the Russian Federation.

The **PRESIDENT** thanked the Japanese delegation and noted that everyone present appreciated the spirit of compromise in which that issue had been approached.

The **DELEGATE OF MALAYSIA** agreed with the statement made by the delegate of Japan. In view of the spirit of compromise at the committee level, his delegation had also been surprised by the strong statement made by the delegate of the Russian Federation.

The **DELEGATE OF ARGENTINA** said that his delegation had also been surprised by the Russian statement, which did not reflect the spirit of consensus achieved through the work of the Committee. Furthermore, Argentina had also agreed to an increase of 20 per cent on its contribution in order to come to an agreement. Contrary to the claim of injustice, an adjustment had already been made. The aim had been to provide a stepping stone for the year 2000. The contributions agreed corresponded more closely to the financial contributions made by the countries in the past than would otherwise have been the case.

The **DELEGATE OF CANADA** proposed that in paragraph 10.2.2, last sentence, the words “it is” be replaced by “Congress”.

It was so agreed.

The draft text for inclusion in the general summary, contained in Document Cg-XIII/PINK 10.2, as amended, was approved.

72. Review of the previous resolutions of Congress (agenda item 11.4) (Cg-XIII/PINK 11.4)

The **PRESIDENT** submitted Document Cg-XIII/PINK 11.4 on behalf of Mr G. C. Schulze (Rapporteur on Previous Resolutions).

MR G. C. SCHULZE noted that in draft Resolution 11.4/1 (Cg-XIII), **DECIDES** (2), the number “29” should be inserted before “Resolutions 31”. He explained that that reference referred to a resolution on the Fourth WMO Long-term Plan.

It was so agreed.

Draft Resolution 11.4/1 (Cg-XIII), contained in Appendix B to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 11.4, as amended, was adopted.

The draft text for inclusion in the general summary, contained in Appendix A to Document Cg-XIII/PINK 11.4, was approved.

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE FIFTEENTH PLENARY MEETING

26 May 1999 at 2.30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 2.30 p.m.

73. Revision of the General Regulations (agenda item 11.3) (Cg-XIII/PINK 11.3(5))

MR BWANGO-APUULI (vice-chairperson of Committee A) submitted Cg-XIII/PINK 11.3(5). In light of the difficulties encountered by Working Committee A in reaching consensus on the appropriateness of the application of General Regulation 193 at the twelfth session of the CAeM, and the good faith in which the Commission proceeded to conduct its elections for president and vice-president, a proposed alternative text to the draft text in Cg-XIII/PINK 11.3(5) was presented to Congress. That text had been drafted by an informal group chaired by Mr Lambergeon. The alternative text was approved and the President thanked the delegates for their spirit of cooperation and compromise and extended special thanks to Mr Lambergeon for convening the informal group that had drafted the alternative text.

The draft text for inclusion in the general summary, contained in the proposed alternative text of the draft text to Document Cg-XIII/Pink 11.3(5), was approved.

74. Approval of the minutes (agenda item 1.6) (Cg-XIII/MIN. 1 and Cg-XIII/MIN. 2)

Congress having agreed to waive the 48-hour rule for the approval of minutes, the **PRESIDENT** invited comments on Documents Cg-XIII/MIN. 1 and Cg-XIII/MIN. 2. The **DELEGATES OF ARGENTINA, DOMINICA** and **MOZAMBIQUE** stated that their names should be added to the list of participants at both the first and second plenary meetings. With respect to the French version of Document Cg-XIII/MIN. 1, the **DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL**, in response to a query by the **DELEGATE OF FRANCE**, said that "Liste reprise de la MIN. 2" should be deleted on page 3. Also with respect to the French version, the **DELEGATE OF MADAGASCAR** pointed out that the spelling of the name of Mr C. M. A. Rasononay should be consistent throughout paragraph 1.9. Turning to paragraph 1.15, the **DELEGATE OF BENIN** pointed out that the French version should be aligned with the English version by replacing "président" with "directeur général" in the first line.

The provisional minutes of the first and second plenary meetings contained in Documents Cg-XIII/MIN. 1 and Cg-XIII/MIN. 2, respectively, as amended, were approved.

75. Closure of the session (agenda item 15) (Cg-XIII/PINK 15)

Subject to the insertion of the time of closure of the session, the text for inclusion in the general summary,

contained in the appendix to Document Cg-XIII;/PINK 15, was approved.

Speaking on behalf of the delegation of the United Republic of Tanzania and the members of Regional Association I, the **PRESIDENT OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATION I** wished to bid farewell to Messrs Berridge and Sen Roy. They had performed excellent work for the Organization during their years of service and had made many fine and wise decisions in that time. He would remember especially Mr Berridge's courage and humour and Mr Sen Roy's warmth. He looked forward to meeting them again in the future and wished them a happy retirement.

The **PRESIDENT OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATION II**, on his own behalf and that of the Delegation of Mongolia and all the members of Regional Association II, wished to congratulate the President and Secretary-General as well as all the staff of the Secretariat for the excellent arrangements for Thirteenth Congress. Thanks were also due to the interpreters and others behind the scene. He thanked all delegates for their cooperation and tolerance during discussions on what were at times very difficult and complicated issues related to finance. He joined others in expressing appreciation and best wishes to those who would be leaving WMO, particularly Messrs Berridge and Sen Roy, who had been, *inter alia*, exemplary chairpersons of WMO committees. He wished all good health and much success.

The **DELEGATE OF ARGENTINA (ACTING VICE-PRESIDENT OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATION III)** congratulated all Members of Congress, especially the new Members for the spirit they had shown in enabling Congress to reach agreements; that would not have been possible without proper guidance. The President had demonstrated efficient leadership with patience and concern. The Delegation of Argentina offered its thanks to the staff of the Secretariat without whose active participation the work of Congress would never have been completed in time. Congratulations were also due to the Secretary-General and he wished to associate the Delegation of Argentina with other delegations in saying farewell to Messrs Berridge and Sen Roy. They had been excellent teachers and everyone had learned a lot from them. He wished to thank them for their participation, collaboration and teachings.

On his own behalf and on behalf of the members of Regional Association IV and the delegation of the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba, the **PRESIDENT OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATION IV** thanked the Secretary-General, the entire Secretariat and all the delegations who had contributed to the excellent performance of Congress. He especially wished to thank the President who had demonstrated unique leadership abilities. As a unique member of the United Nations family,

the Organization had shown an excellent spirit of wisdom and cooperation in reaching solutions to difficult issues. It had been a pleasure to attend Congress and he wished all those in WMO health, strength and wisdom during the next four years. In addition, he wished those who would be retiring all the best, in particular Messrs Berridge and Sen Roy, and wished all participants a safe journey.

The **DELEGATE OF INDONESIA** offered apologies from the Indonesian Permanent Representative to WMO and vice-president of Regional Association V, who regretted his inability to be present. However, he wished that she conveyed, on behalf of Regional Association V, appreciation to the President for guiding Thirteenth Congress to a successful conclusion and congratulations on his well-deserved re-election. Gratitude also went to the chairpersons of committees and subcommittees. The Secretary-General and the Secretariat also deserved special thanks for the smooth running of Congress. Thanks were also due to the interpreters who had performed a marvellous job.

The **PRESIDENT OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATION VI** offered the Delegation of Italy's appreciation as well as those of the members of Regional Association VI to Messrs Berridge and Sen Roy for their valuable service to WMO. Their contribution was useful not only for the work of Congress but also for creating a particular atmosphere of cooperation. Thanks were also offered to the President, the chairpersons of committees and subcommittees and the Secretary-General and staff of the Secretariat for the successful completion of Thirteenth Congress.

On behalf of his delegation, the **DELEGATE OF EGYPT** presented sincere appreciation, thanks and congratulations to the President for his wisdom in leading Thirteenth Congress. He also thanked the Secretary-General, his staff and the interpreters for facilitating the work of Congress during the session. He wished all participants of Thirteenth Congress great success in all their future endeavours.

The **DELEGATE OF CAMEROON** expressed satisfaction with the way in which the work of Congress was conducted, adding that Cameroon's participation at Congress would be more regular in the future. He praised the convivial atmosphere of Thirteenth Congress, and reiterated his congratulations to the Organization's new leadership team. He also wished to thank the Secretary-General and the Government of the United Kingdom for their tireless efforts to improve the meteorological infrastructure of Cameroon, especially for the assistance provided through WMO's VCP. He said Thirteenth Congress was historic because it was the last of the century. He called on Members to remember the damage that Hurricane *Mitch* had caused in Central America, and challenged the meteorology community to better forecast such disasters.

On behalf of his Government, the **DELEGATE OF TONGA** expressed gratitude at being invited to attend Congress, especially so as it would be his last. His delegation was pleased with the re-appointment of the Secretary-General and the re-election of the President, and wished to congratulate them as well as the three new Vice-Presidents. He praised the President, chairmen as well as the participants for their effective contributions and conduct during Congress. The tremendous assistance offered by the staff of the Secretariat

was greatly appreciated by his delegation and he wished good luck and bon voyage to all participants of Thirteenth Congress.

The **DELEGATE OF VENEZUELA**, on behalf of his country and his own, thanked the organizers of Thirteenth Congress, especially the Secretary-General, the President and the three Vice-Presidents and the Secretariat. He also thanked those who had placed their confidence in him by electing him as a member of the Executive Council. He called WMO a very united family where everyone was welcomed into the same forum, and that helped spread the word of meteorology to all corners of the world. He also wished the best of luck to those who were retiring, in particular Mr Berridge.

The **DELEGATE OF BOTSWANA** congratulated the President on completion of Thirteenth Congress, which she said was a success thanks to his leadership and guidance, especially with respect to the difficult issues. She said her delegation was looking forward to implementation of the decisions of Congress, especially in Regional Association I. She said that with the President's able leadership, she had confidence that solutions to many of her country's and her Region's problems would be found. She congratulated her senior colleagues who were retiring, Messrs Berridge and Sen Roy, and called it a great challenge to live up to their example. She thanked them for their guidance and wisdom in helping younger meteorologists learn from them. She also wished a happy retirement to all the other colleagues who would be retiring, and wished bon voyage to all the participants.

The **DELEGATE OF MAURITANIA** congratulated the Secretary-General, the President, the new Vice-Presidents and the new Executive Council, who had been elected to guide the Organization through the next four years. Mauritania, with an area of 1 085 000 square kilometres and a population of approximately two million people, had acceded to the WMO Convention in 1962 and the delegation was therefore very pleased to be attending Congress for the first time. He was very pleased with the atmosphere and spirit of compromise which prevailed throughout Congress that made it possible to solve financial and constitutional problems, even though there had been some tension. He wished to avail himself of the opportunity to express his gratitude and appreciation to France, the United Kingdom, the European Union, China, Japan and the United States for helping create a satellite system, which allowed his country to have access to regional and international data that it could not have acquired on its own. Lastly, he thanked the WMO Secretariat, the interpreters and the drivers.

The **DELEGATE OF NEPAL**, on behalf of the Government of Nepal, his delegation and himself, expressed pleasure that Thirteenth Congress was able to come together in harmony and friendliness. He expressed the hope that during the thirteenth financial period meteorology, including climatology and hydrology and water resources, would benefit from Congress' work, especially in developing countries. He thanked WMO staff and organizers for the success of Congress. WMO had, of course, considered the plans and programmes related to operational hydrology and water resources as well, and he called for even greater priority to be placed on operational hydrology. He had observed, both from previous and present participation at Congress, that WMO had established that participants could work in harmony and

unison, and was greatly pleased to note that WMO had encouraged both men and women equally to work in a cooperative spirit. Lastly, he congratulated all those elected to leadership positions for the upcoming financial period.

Wishing to be associated with the thanks and the good wishes extended to Messrs Berridge and Sen Roy, the **DELEGATE OF NIGER** also wished to extend his welcome and congratulations to the three new Vice-Presidents. In addition, he congratulated the Secretary-General and the President and wished them the best of luck in leading the Organization down the right path for the next four years.

The **DELEGATE OF THE BRITISH CARIBBEAN TERRITORIES**, on behalf of his delegation and the Caribbean Meteorological Organization, congratulated all Members on the successful conclusion of Congress. He congratulated the President for his excellent leadership over the past four years in guiding the Organization and especially on his re-election, congratulating also the new Vice-Presidents on their election. In congratulating the Secretary-General on his re-appointment, he added that he had enjoyed working with him at the Secretariat for many years and looked forward to further cooperation in his role as Permanent Representative. He paid special tribute to the outgoing First and Second Vice-Presidents, Messrs Berridge and Sen Roy, for their outstanding contributions over the years, calling Mr Berridge a close friend and mentor. Finally, having worked with the Secretariat staff over the years, he was aware of their diligence and wished to congratulate the staff for the dedicated efforts and hard work during Congress.

The **DELEGATE OF SAUDIA ARABIA** thanked the President and all those who had contributed to the success of Thirteenth Congress. He wished the President, the Vice-Presidents and the Secretary-General much success in the upcoming financial period. His delegation also wished the two retiring Vice-Presidents, Messrs Berridge and Sen Roy, every success in their upcoming years, and wished them a safe journey home.

On behalf of his delegation, the **DELEGATE OF TUNISIA** wished to congratulate the President for the exemplary way in which he conducted the work of Thirteenth Congress. He thanked the Secretary-General and his staff for their work, and reiterated his congratulations to all those elected to the Executive Council and wished them every success.

The **DELEGATE OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO** expressed the satisfaction of his Government, which was grateful to WMO for its efforts in re-launching meteorological activities in his country, particularly through the TCO Programme. He also pledged his country's commitment to making sure those efforts would continue, so that the central part of Africa could actively contribute to and participate in the meteorological system. He offered his congratulations to the President on his re-election and the three Vice-Presidents on their election, as well as to the Secretary-General on his re-appointment.

Reiterating his comments made during his inaugural statement, the **OBSERVER FROM KIRIBATI** said he hoped his country would soon become a full Member of WMO, as Kiribati and WMO shared the common objectives of addressing real-time weather conditions and monitoring long-term climate change. He said it was difficult for the Kiribati

Meteorological Service to convince his country's Government that meteorology played a vital role in policy-making and planning. Consequently, he had relayed the wishes to become a Member of WMO so that the issues, especially sea-level rise, could be more confidently addressed through the Organization. His country was comprised of low-lying islands and, as the delegate of Samoa had previously pointed out, was therefore at the disposal of the sea. He said that by becoming a Member, his country's Meteorological Service would be better able to work in tandem with the Government to resolve those issues. He said that even though his country was not a WMO Member, the Meteorological Service had a long record of climate data, dating back to 1947. He thanked New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States for their assistance to his country. Lastly, he wished to congratulate the President, the Secretary-General and the Secretariat for the work they had done in the previous four years, and expressed the hope that they would continue their good work in the upcoming four years. He wished prosperity and peace to all participants.

Expressing her pleasure at participating in Congress, the **OBSERVER FROM THE INTERNATIONAL ASTRONAUTICAL FEDERATION (IAF)** called WMO a special organization in which the common interest prevailed over individual interests. She said that the IAF — a non-governmental organization founded in 1951 with 168 members from governments, publications, private agencies, space agencies, satellite constructors and operators, academics, scientists, technicians and others — had many common interests with WMO. She said her organization closely followed the operations of components of the WWW, the GOS, GTS and GDPS. Those components together with the objectives of the Organization contained in Article 2 were shared by the IAF, as they were recurrent themes at the yearly IAF congress. She said that climate affected almost all human activity, including safety and even survival. Therefore, her organization considered that the conclusions reached at Thirteenth Congress, as well as all preceding WMO Congresses, were tremendously relevant for all countries and territories of the world. She made a tentative invitation to WMO to attend an international United Nations conference on space to be held in Vienna, Austria 19–30 July, 1999. She believed it could be beneficial as one of the workshops would deal with meteorology.

The **SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT** said Thirteenth Congress was the end of an historic session of Congress. Many important decisions had been made by working in harmony and with consensus, the new Headquarters building, a shining example of the work done by the Organization, had been inaugurated, and Thirteenth Congress would launch WMO into a new century with all its opportunities and challenges. Convergence in meteorological activities was not always appreciated, but at Congress, convergence was welcomed and Congress had not been disappointed in that respect. The participants had worked together over the past few weeks and had made new friends and enriched themselves by sharing the experience of others. All good things had to end and although Thirteenth Congress was his last, he had a sense of fulfilment as the best persons to lead WMO had been elected. In stating that working for WMO over the years had been a rewarding and exciting experience, he added that he owed everyone a deep debt of gratitude and he wished to express his thanks for

all the kind words that had been said about him over the past weeks and would remember them for the rest of his life.

The **FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT** wished to express his sincere thanks for the kind and generous words that had been said on his behalf. Special thanks were due to those Members, as well as the WMO Secretariat, who had offered their assistance over many years to the Caribbean Meteorological Organization where he worked. His association with WMO and the meteorological community, including those of directors of the Caribbean Meteorological Services, had been his good fortune. It had enabled him to enjoy being exposed to a great number of cultures, to have experienced, discussed, observed and debated by agreeing to disagree, while continuing to be united in a common bond, thus proving the uniqueness of the Organization. He was leaving Congress convinced that WMO was in safe hands as was the Caribbean Meteorological Organization. Never having set out to be a meteorologist, he looked back at his over 52 years of service with fondness, as his pursuit of happiness as a way of life had persisted on the job as well. Special thanks were due to the WMO staff for their tolerance and support, as well as to the interpreters who had to interpret his unique speaking style. Hoping that those he had worked with would remember him as a fair man, he would miss and always treasure the memories of those he had met during his career. In expressing his thanks to his friends and colleagues, in particular Mr Sen Roy who was also attending his last Congress, he extended an invitation that they should contact him if every they were to visit the island of Trinidad.

The **SECRETARY-GENERAL** congratulated Congress on the timely completion of its work. It had been unique in several ways: the opening took place in the new WMO Headquarters building; it was addressed by a Head of State; and the Secretary-General of the United Nations had addressed it for the first time in 25 years. Furthermore, it was the shortest session ever; attended by the largest number of delegations ever to attend Congress — 170 Member countries and territories. A record number of exhibitors were also present during METEOHYDEX.

Congress witnessed further evidence of the commitment of its Members to the ideals of the Organization: the prevailing goodwill and cooperation among all Members, the growing synergy among the organizations within the United Nations system and improved collaboration with the private sector. It was gratifying to note a consensus on a wide range of complex issues, reached through mutual understanding in the overall interests of the Organization. That cooperative spirit had become the hallmark and the overriding strength of WMO. Thanks were due to all who had served in various capacities for the hard work which had ensured the success of Congress. The success was also due to the able manner in which the President had conducted the session.

Deliberations had focused on a number of crucial issues which included: the adoption of the Fifth WMO Long-term Plan, confirming Congress's determination to pursue activities relevant to sustainable socio-economic development throughout the world; agreement on the programmes and the budget for the next financial period; consolidation of Resolution 40 (Cg-XII), which had served as a blueprint for exchange of meteorological and climatological data and

products; and the effective coordination of efforts between IOC of UNESCO and WMO through the establishment of JCOMM.

During the President's first term of office, the Secretary-General had worked closely with him. He reiterated his appreciation of the President's continued advice and support and he looked forward to continuing that work in promoting WMO and its many programmes during the thirteenth financial period. Initiatives had been taken in major areas such as the role and operation of national Meteorological and Hydrological Services, alternative service delivery, the consolidation of Resolution 40 (Cg-XII) on international data exchange, and the development of related policies on climate and hydrological data and products.

He thanked the Vice-Presidents, Messrs Berridge, Sen Roy and Beysson, as well as members of the Executive Council who had worked tirelessly for the success of the Organization. He particularly appreciated the help of Mr Berridge who was always fair-minded and committed, and who had never failed to insist that all Members should be treated as equal partners. He spoke frankly and was forthright in his proposals. As chairperson, he dealt with controversial issues fairly and impartially in the best interest of the Organization. Mr Sen Roy, who displayed many of the attributes of Mr Berridge, would be most remembered for the preparation of the Fifth WMO Long-term Plan and his objective views on many issues addressed by the Organization. The Secretary-General wished them both every success in their new endeavours.

The Secretary-General also extended his warmest congratulations to the three newly elected Vice-Presidents, Messrs Beysson, Noorian and Sonzini, First, Second and Third Vice-Presidents, respectively. He was certain that as part of the Bureau they would serve the Organization in a commendable manner, and he looked forward to working closely with them.

He also welcomed the 26 newly elected members of the Executive Council and thanked them for offering their services to the Organization. He had no doubt the experience of the re-elected members in addition to the new perspectives and impetus the new members brought to the deliberations of the new Council which would be highly representative of the overall membership and aspirations of the Organization. With a cooperative spirit prevailing, all members would be able to work together to ensure that the Organization met new challenges in a highly effective and successful manner.

The Secretary-General assured Congress of his commitment to uphold the ideals of the Organization, and of working closely with the President, Vice-Presidents and the Executive Council in the overall interests of WMO to consolidate the achievements of the Organization over the next four years.

Appreciation was also owed to the staff of the Secretariat who had worked with dedication to meet the expectations and responsibilities placed upon them by Congress, and he paid special tribute to Messrs D. Kraemer, Director, Hydrology and Water Resources Department, and V. G. Boldirev, Director, World Climate Programme Department, both of whom had retired since the last session of the Executive Council. He also took the opportunity to express his appreciation to Messrs M. Husain, Director, Resource

Management Department, for his 30 years of service to WMO, who would be retiring in summer 1999, and H. Grassl, Director, World Climate Research Programme, who would also leave the Secretariat at the same time. He thanked all who had complimented the Secretariat and himself in the course of Congress. Their thanks were appreciated and served as encouragement for their greater commitment to the Organization in the future. In that connection, he wished to thank the interpreters and other support staff who had ensured success of Thirteenth Congress.

Thanking the Swiss and Geneva authorities for their continued support in providing Congress with excellent facilities at the International Conference Centre, he reiterated his thanks for the confidence Congress had shown in him by re-appointing him Secretary-General. In closing, he wished a safe and pleasant journey to all participants travelling home and looked forward to meeting them again.

The **PRESIDENT**, in noting that Thirteenth Congress had set a course for the Organization over the next four years, felt it was important to replay the strongest messages that should be passed on to those who would be guiding the work of the Organization until the next Congress.

While the non-political character of WMO and the concept of the Executive Council as 36 individuals elected to serve in a personal capacity on behalf of all the Members of WMO had been protected, it was made clear that Members sought better interaction on major issues. The new Executive Council should consider carefully how to strengthen dialogue through regional presidents and in other ways.

Congress wanted the Executive Council to ensure that WMO's Long-term Planning process took a strategic and integrated view. While there was no doubt of the importance of WMO's basic purposes or that the existence of the Organization was essential, there was nevertheless a need to think through how best to anticipate the implications of rapid changes over the next decade.

There was a need to review the overall structure and functioning of WMO in the context of the Sixth WMO Long-term Plan, with the main objective of "enabling the Organization to respond more effectively to the evolving needs of Members and of society as a whole", taking into account all internal and external influences and interactions, including the implications of developments in the private sector. Meanwhile, a special effort should be made to ensure even closer cooperation and coordination between the technical commissions in their leadership of the scientific and technical programmes of the Organization, as well as stronger and more streamlined interaction between them and the regional associations.

Congress was virtually unanimous in believing that reshaping and reinforcing the role of NMHSs would be one of the greatest challenges facing global meteorological and hydrological communities over the next few years. Concern at the potential damage that could be done through mishandling of those critically important issues was sufficient to alert the Organization to issue what may be the first-ever "Declaration" from a WMO Congress. The issues involved were extremely complex and WMO must be extremely sensitive to diverse national interests and the need to respect national sovereignty. The President sensed that Congress would like the Executive

Council to give high priority to those issues and to providing information and guidance for Members, and believed that would be one of the largest challenges it would face.

Coupled with Congress's concern over the future role and operation of NMHSs was its concern to find new ways of improving technical assistance to NMHSs in developing countries through education and training of staff, fellowships and other activities that would help build a stronger base of support for the role of the Services. He believed that Congress wanted the Executive Council to give priority to those efforts within WMO activities as well as finding new sources of international funding and support by creating greater understanding, in United Nations and other forums, of the enormous benefits to all nations of effectively operating NMHSs.

It was a tribute to all involved that Congress not only reinforced the WMO commitment to the spirit and letter of Resolution 40 (Cg-XII) but had, without controversy, adopted an almost parallel resolution on the international exchange of hydrological data and products. While it was clear that while Congress wanted the Executive Council to instil the spirit of those resolutions into the future operations of WMO, many Members were seeking answers to many difficult questions involving the immediate practical implementation of those resolutions. Congress would expect the Executive Council to give that subject high priority, and concentrate its future work on both the long-term and short-term issues associated with data exchange.

There was a consensus that the Executive Council and the Secretary-General should seek new ways of enhancing the visibility and status of WMO and NMHSs, not just for their own sake but as a basis for helping to reinforce the commitment of Members' Governments to support the vital information and services which had the potential of bringing great benefit to national communities. Thought might be given to including a high-level Ministerial segment in future Congresses to issue Declarations.

Congress expected the Executive Council to give increasing priority to the special challenge of assisting NMSs in the development and implementation of their public weather services, including such vital areas as severe weather and flood warnings and natural disaster reduction, at a time of rapid global communications and trade in services.

The widespread view that Congress wanted a more progressive and better coordinated WMO approach to climate was clearly seen in the various documents on climate and environmental issues. It wanted GCOS to progress from planning to implementation; CLIPS to develop into an effective and widely accepted international framework for the provision of a full range of climate information and prediction services at the national level; a fresh look at how best to coordinate and make progress on the international climate agenda; and careful consideration to be given to the pros and cons of WMO taking the lead in convening a third World Climate Conference. He believed Congress expected the Executive Council to provide high-level leadership and coordination in WMO on climate and environmental issues and the Secretary-General to give high priority to finding ways of providing more support for work on the climate agenda.

The final strategic message from the deliberations and decisions, the President believed, was that Members wanted WMO to reach out and interact with other disciplines, agencies and programmes while remaining sensitive to the implications for inter-agency and interdisciplinary relationships at the national level. Congress endorsed much closer coordination with IOC through its approval of the WMO/IOC JCOMM and there was also a strong groundswell for closer links with the wider hydrological community. It favoured dialogue with the environmental satellite operating community and would look to the Executive Council for follow-up.

Some difficult and unresolved clashes of priorities had been created by the decisions at Congress which added to the challenges that the Executive Council and the Secretary-General would have to confront in the next four years. The administrative workload on the Secretariat had increased on many fronts, through increased language and publication requirements and in other, all individually commendable, ways. At the same time, Congress had made clear its wish to reduce administration costs and grant priority to programme activities. Congress could derive satisfaction from the strength of its commitment to all the competing objectives, but it must also recognize that there was a limit to what could be expected of the Executive Council and the Secretariat within the resources available.

The President recalled Thirteenth Congress that the French Minister for Foreign Affairs at First Congress had challenged his successors to watch over the unity of meteorology and of WMO. That Congress in 1951 was attended by 135 delegates from 59 Member States and Territories. It considered about 250 documents and worked for "40 days and 40 nights", including 36 plenary meetings over a period of six weeks. It had: established the WMO General Regulations, the Financial Regulations and the Staff Regulations; negotiated agreements with the United Nations and several Specialized Agencies; determined the general policies of WMO and approved a programme and budget for the first financial period; established the technical commissions and elected their presidents; created the Secretariat and appointed a WMO Secretary-General. The President wished to return to the theme of unity by drawing on the closing remarks of the President of the First Congress, Sir Nelson Johnson of the United Kingdom, who observed:

We have had our arguments during this session of Congress, and I feel that one of the most refreshing things is that many of us are getting to understand each other better than when we met and I hope that state of affairs will continue. In spite of the arguments and battles, I feel confident that Congress

can break up, certain that no ill feeling rests. That is an enormous achievement in itself and I offer you my congratulations.

By contrast, Thirteenth Congress was attended by some 630 delegates from 170 countries. It was almost trite to observe that the Organization was much larger and more diverse now. The pace of debates had been more intense with delegates from every corner of the globe and virtually every school of thought. The increasing diversity would forge increasing unity and mutual trust within the WMO community. That achievement was even greater than those of the First Congress and it was an achievement of which every delegation could feel proud.

Reiterating the numerous comments of appreciation that had been expressed, the President wished to add his sincere thanks to all whose careful preparation and hard work had enabled Congress to go so smoothly: the Secretary-General and the Secretariat staff, especially the Deputy Secretary-General and Assistant Secretary-General, the secretaries to the Committees and all the programme experts who from time to time were seen on the rostrum; the Conference staff and all those who had worked behind the scenes to ensure that Congress documents responded to discussions in all the languages. Special mention should also be made of the interpreters, who had enabled Congress to surmount language barriers. In addition to the 58 interpreters and the team of staff at the reception desk, he thought it important to point out that there were less visible staff who had also worked relentlessly in the new WMO Headquarters building, often until 3 or 4 a.m.: 34 translators, 12 editors and desktop publishing staff, and 61 typists, proofreaders and printing staff. It was an amazingly disciplined and efficient logistic operation and Congress was indebted to them all.

He joined the Secretary-General in thanking the Geneva authorities for their hospitality and for the use of their facilities. Finally, and most importantly, he thanked all of those who had contributed to the work of the Congress through ideas and interventions and through, inter alia, chairing of the many committees and sub-committees. Special thanks were due also to the members of the outgoing Executive Council who had worked extremely hard over the past four years, and pre-eminently to the Vice Presidents, Messrs Berridge, Sen Roy and Beysson. In closing, to honour the lifelong contribution of the First and Second Vice-Presidents to meteorology and to WMO, the President invited Messrs Berridge and Sen Roy to bring down the gavel to close Thirteenth Congress.

The President declared the Thirteenth World Meteorological Congress closed at 4.20 p.m.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACC	United Nations Administrative Committee on Coordination
ACMAD	African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development
ACSAD	Arab Centre for Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands
AGRHYMET	Regional Training Centre for Agrometeorology and Operational Hydrology and their Applications
AIJ	Activities Implemented Jointly
AMDAR	Aircraft Meteorological Delay Relay
ANSEP	Air Navigation Services Economics Panel
AOC-HYCOS	West and Central Africa Hydrological Cycle Observing System
AOPC	Atmospheric Observation Panel for Climate
APELL	Awareness and Preparedness for Emergencies at Local Level
APT	Asia-Pacific Telecommunity
APT	Automatic Picture Transmission
ARCHISS	Archival Climatic History Survey Project
AREP	Atmospheric Research and Environment Programme
ARGO	Array for Real-time Geostrophic Oceanography
ASC	Area Support Centre
ASEAN	Association of South-East Asian Nations
ASECNA	Agency for Air Safety in Africa and Madagascar
ASMC	ASEAN Specialized Meteorological Centre
ATCM	Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting
ATEAM	Advanced Techniques Applied to Aeronautical Meteorology
AWARE	Air, Water and Related Environment Centre
AWG	Advisory Working Group
CAeM	Commission for Aeronautical Meteorology
CAGM	Commission for Agricultural Meteorology
CAEA	Climate and Atmospheric Environment Activities
CAL	Computer-aided Learning
CAS	Commission for Atmospheric Sciences
CAT	Computer-assisted Translation
CBS	Commission for Basic Systems
CCAQ	Consultative Committee on Administrative Questions
CCI	Commission for Climatology
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CDMS	Climate Database Management System
CEOS	Committee on Earth Observation Satellites
CEPT	European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations
CGMS	Coordination Group for Meteorological Satellites
CHy	Commission for Hydrology
CHR	International Commission for the Hydrology of the Rhine Basin
CICG	Geneva International Conference Centre
CIMO	Commission for Instruments and Methods of Observation
CITEL	Inter-American Telecommunication Commission
CLICOM	Climate Computing
CLIMAG	Climate Prediction for Agriculture
CLIPS	Climate Information and Prediction Services
CLIVAR	Climate Variability and Predictability
CMM	Commission for Marine Meteorology
COMET	Cooperative Programme for Operational Meteorology Education and Training
COP	Conference of the Parties
COSNA	Composite Observing System for the North Atlantic
CRASH	Comprehensive Risk Assessment
CRIA	Agency for Climate and Related Environmental Issues
CRSP	Collaborative Research Support Programme

CSD	United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development
CSM	Climate System Monitoring
CTA	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation
CTBTO	Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization
DARE	Data Rescue
DBCP	Data Buoy Cooperation Panel
DCP	Data Collection Platform
DDB	Distributed Databases
DHA	Department of Humanitarian Affairs
DM	Data Management
DMC	Drought Monitoring Centre
EC	Executive Council
EC/AGE	Executive Council Advisory Group on the Exchange of Meteorological and Related Data and Products
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
ECMWF	European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
EMEP	Cooperative Programme for the Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe
EMWIN	Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
ENSO	<i>El Niño</i> /Southern Oscillation
EPS	European Polar System
ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ETR	Education and Training
EUCOS	European Composite Observing System
EUMETSAT	European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites
5LTP	Fifth WMO Long-term Plan
4LTP	Fourth WMO Long-term Plan
FAM	Foundation for Applied Meteorology
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCGOS	Future Composite Global Observing System
FINAC	Financial Advisory Committee
FINNIDA	Finnish International Development Agency
G3OS	Interagency Sponsors Group for the Three Global Observing Systems
GARP	Global Atmospheric Research Programme
GAW	Global Atmosphere Watch
GCIP	GEWEX Continental-scale International Project
GCOS	Global Climate Observing System
GCOS-SC	GCOS Steering Committee
GDPS	Global Data-processing System
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEWEX	Global Energy and Water Cycle Experiment
GMDSS	Global Maritime Distress and Safety System
GODAE	Global Ocean Data Assimilation Experiment
GOOS	Global Ocean Observing System
GOS	Global Observing System
GOSSP	Global Observing Systems Space Panel
GPS	Global Positioning System
GRDC	Global Runoff Data Centre
GSN	GCOS Surface Network
GTOS	Global Terrestrial Observing System
GTS	Global Telecommunication System
GUAN	GCOS Upper-air Network
GURME	GAW Urban Research Meteorological Environment Project
GWP	Global Warming Potential

HELP	Hydrology for Environment, Life and Policy
HiRID	High Resolution Imager Data
HOMS	Hydrological Operational Multipurpose System
HRIT	High Rate Information Transmission
HWRP	Hydrology and Water Resources Programme
HYCOS	Hydrological Cycle Observing System
HYNET	Intercomparison of Operational Hydrological Network Design Techniques
IACCA	Inter-agency Committee on the Climate Agenda
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IAF	International Astronautical Federation
IAHS	International Association of Hydrological Sciences
IAI	Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research
IAIS	Internal Audit and Investigation Service
IATA	International Air Transport Association
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ICARDA	International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas
ICCD	International Convention to Combat Desertification
ICSPRO	Inter-Secretariat Committee on Scientific Programmes Relating to Oceanography
ICSU	International Council for Science
ICWE	International Conference on Water and the Environment
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IDNDR	International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IGAC	International Global Atmospheric Chemistry Programme
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IGBP	International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme
I-GOOS	Intergovernmental Committee for the Global Ocean Observing System
IGOS	Integrated Global Observing Strategy
IGOSS	Integrated Global Ocean Services System
IHDP	International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change
IHP	International Hydrological Programme
IITA	International Institute for Tropical Agriculture
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IMO	International Meteorological Organization
IMOP	Instruments and Methods of Observation Programme
INFOCLIMA	World Climate Data Information Referral Service
INFOHYDRO	Hydrological Information Referral Service
INMARSAT	International Maritime Satellite System
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
IODE	International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange
IOS	Initial Operational System
IPA	Information and Public Affairs
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IRI	International Research Institute for Climate Prediction
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ISSC	International Social Science Council
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
ITU-R	ITU Radiocommunication Sector
IUGG	International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics
IYO	International Year of the Oceans
JCOMM	Joint WMO/IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology
JI	Joint Implementation
JIU	Joint Inspection Unit
JRC	Joint Research Centre
JSC	Joint Scientific Committee
JSTC	Joint Scientific and Technical Committee

KNMI	Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute
LAS	League of Arab States
LRIT	Low Rate Information Transmission
LRPT	Low Rate Picture Transmission
MAP	Mesoscale Alpine Programme
MCSS	Marine Climatological Summaries Scheme
MDD	Meteorological Data Distribution
MED-HYCOS	Mediterranean Hydrological Cycle Observing System
METEOREX	Exhibition of Meteorological Instruments, Equipment and Services
MPERSS	Marine Pollution Emergency Response Support System
MSG	Meteosat Second Generation
MTN	Main Telecommunication Network
NAOS	North Atlantic Ocean Stations
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NCAR	National Center for Atmospheric Research
NCDC	National Climatic Data Center
NESDIS	National Environmental Satellite, Data and Information Service
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NHS	National Hydrological Service
NMC	National Meteorological Centre
NMHS	National Meteorological and Hydrological Service
NMS	National Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Service
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NWP	Numerical Weather Prediction
OAS	Office Automation System
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OIS	Operational Information Service
OOPC	Ocean Observation Panel for Climate
OPAG	Open Programme Area Group
PATU	Pan-African Telecommunications Union
PHARE	Operation "PHARE" — Poland and Hungary: Assistance for Economic Restructuring
PROMET	Provision of Meteorological Information Required Before and During Flight (former title)
PROMET	Provision of Meteorological Information Required by Civil Aviation (new title)
PWS	Public Weather Services
RA	Regional Association
RADIUS	Risk Assessment Tools for Diagnosis of Urban Areas Against Seismic Disasters
RAFC	Regional Area Forecast Centre
RBSN	Regional Basic Synoptic Network
READER	Reference Antarctic Data for Environmental Research
RIC	Regional Instrument Centre
RMDCN	Regional Meteorological Data Communication Network
RMTC	Regional Meteorological Training Centre
RMTN	Regional Meteorological Telecommunication Network
RSMC	Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre
RTH	Regional Telecommunication Hub
6LTP	Sixth WMO Long-term Plan
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SADC-HYCOS	SADC Hydrological Cycle Observing System
SANREM	Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management
SARCOF	Southern Africa Regional Climate Outlook
SATCC	South African Transport and Communications Commission
SBSTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

SCAR	Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research
SCHOTI	Standing Conference of Heads of Training Institutions of National Meteorological Services
SCOPE	Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment
SDUS	Small-scale Data Utilization Station
SEACAMP	South-East Asian Centre for Atmospheric and Marine Prediction
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SOLAS	International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea
SOO	Ship of Opportunity
SPARC	Stratospheric Processes and their Role in Climate
SPREP	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
SSA	System Support Activity
START	System for Analysis, Research and Training
STEND	System for Technology Exchange for Natural Disasters
TACIS	Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States
TCDC	Technical Cooperation Among Developing Countries
TCO	Technical Cooperation
TCP	Tropical Cyclone Programme
TCP/IP	Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol
TECO	Technical Conference
TMRP	Tropical Meteorology Research Programme
TOGA	Tropical Ocean and Global Atmosphere Programme
TOPC	Terrestrial Observation Panel for Climate
TREND	Working Group on Training, the Environment and New Developments in Aeronautical Meteorology
TRUCE	Tropical Urban Climate Experiment
UN	United Nations
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UN/ECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFIP	United Nations Fund for International Partnership
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UN/OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNU	United Nations University
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
VCP	Voluntary Cooperation Programme
VCP(ES)	Voluntary Cooperation Equipment and Services
VCP(F)	Voluntary Cooperation Fund
VOS	Voluntary Observing Ship
WAFC	World Area Forecast Centre
WAFS	World Area Forecast System
WCASP	World Climate Applications and Services Programme
WCDMP	World Climate Data and Monitoring Programme
WCIRP	World Climate Impact Assessment and Response Strategies Programme
WCP	World Climate Programme
WCRP	World Climate Research Programme
WDC	World Data Centre
WEFAX	Weather Facsimile
WGH	Working Group on Hydrology
WHO	World Health Organization
WHYCOS	World Hydrological Cycle Observing System

WIAG	WHYCOS International Advisory Group
WIOMAP	Western Indian Ocean Marine Applications Project
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WMOSA	World Meteorological Organization Satellite Activities
WOCE	World Ocean Circulation Experiment
WO ₃ DC	World Ozone Data Centre
WWRP	World Weather Research Programme
WWW	World Weather Watch
WWWDM	WWW Data Management
Y2K	Year 2000 Problem
