



2. PROGRESS REPORTING

2.3 REPORT FROM CONGRESS 17 (MAY-JUNE 2015) AND FROM THE MEETINGS OF THE PRESIDENTS OF TECHNICAL COMMISSIONS AND REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS, JANUARY 2016 (PTCs AND PRAs)

- a. The full report from WMO Cg17 is found in
https://www.wmo.int/aemp/sites/default/files/wmo_1157_en.pdf

Of particular relevance to CAS are:

- ch 4.3 on research (pp 142-159) and the accompanying resolutions 44-49 (pp 507-519)
- ch 8 on GFCS pp 192-204 with accompanying resolutions 60-64 (pp545-555)
- ch 10 WMO Strategic Plan 2016-2020 published as resolution 69, pp 561-576.

These documents form the working mandate for CAS between Cg17 and Cg18 (2019).

- b. The Meeting of the presidents of the technical commissions was held in Geneva, from 19 to 20 January 2016

The Secretary-General, Petteri Taalas, took part and outlined some of his priorities: Disaster risk reduction, GFCS, WIGOS, Aviation services, polar and high mountains regions, capacity (WMO as a catalyst more than a primary executor of capacity building), and governance (internal issue). These priorities are in line with the WMO Strategic plan 2016-2019. Furthermore he emphasized the need for user orientation in the service provision, and to open a dialogue with the private sector.

"Big data" was discussed at length (see resolution 65 Cg17). It was agreed that each technical commission should provide the Secretary-General with an essay on big data. These essays are now discussed further with the aim to prepare guidance to the CBS-led review (to serve as the basis for a guidance document for WMO Members) of the challenges and risks, opportunities and benefits, related to big data, crowd-sourced data, social media as well as emerging and future data sources, and their impact on Members. This work is carried further through the Executive Council Task Team on Data Policy and Emerging Issues (EC-TT-DPEI) which held its first meeting in Geneva, from 17 to 18 May 2016. The President of the Commission for Atmospheric Sciences (CAS) is a member EC-TT-DPEI, and was represented by WMO staff at the first meeting. The Big Data issue is growing as both an opportunity and a threat to the traditional operations and R&D of NMHSs. The issue is also related to how high power computing (HPC), high power storage and superfast interconnect are interdependent requirements for the advancement of NWP, earth system modelling, the assimilation of observational data and the analysis of very large and complex data.

In the joint meeting of the presidents of the technical commissions and the presidents of the regional associations, a focus was on the support to GFCS from the technical commissions and the regional associations. For CAS it is particularly urgent to provide good communications channels to GFCS from the high impact weather project, the subseasonal to seasonal prediction project, and from Global Atmospheric Watch (GAW) for the quantification and assessment of amounts and trends in radiative forcing agents, and for the development

and implementation of the Integrated global greenhouse gas information system (IG3IS). With the renewed interest in mitigation after the Paris COP meeting towards the end of 2015, the combating of climate change through a combination of adaptation and mitigation is on a more sound track than before. The capabilities provided by GAW are very important and unique in a global context.