

RESOLUTION 17 (XIV-RA VI)

WORKING GROUP ON HYDROLOGY

THE REGIONAL ASSOCIATION VI (EUROPE),

Noting:

- (1) The report of its Working Group on Hydrology,
- (2) Resolution 17 (Cg-XIV) - Hydrology and Water Resources Programme,
- (3) Resolution 37 (Cg-XIII) – Terms of Reference of the Technical Commissions,
- (4) The Sixth WMO Long-term Plan (2004-2011),
- (5) Resolution 19 (XIII-RA VI) – Working Group on Hydrology,

Considering:

- (1) That Regional Association VI plays an important and active role in conducting regional WMO activities relating to the Hydrology and Water Resources Programme (HWRP),
- (2) That HWRP is a priority programme for the Region,
- (3) That the Working Group on Hydrology of RA VI has developed an important work on the framework of its various subgroups, participating actively during the last intersessional period,
- (4) That the Working Group on Hydrology proposed at its tenth session continuing its same activities during the next intersessional period,
- (5) The fruitful cooperation established during the past intersessional period between the WGH and the European Commission in matters concerning the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive.

Decides:

- (1) To re-establish the Working Group on Hydrology with the following terms of reference:
 - (a) To provide assistance and advice to the president of the regional association on all issues relating to the regional aspects of HWRP;
 - (b) To determine the best way to meet the Region's needs in terms of hydrology and water resources;
 - (c) To carry out the HWRP-related activities listed in the annex to the resolution in close cooperation with the CHy experts;
 - (d) To cooperate with CHy and other WMO bodies on projects relating to hydrology and water resources; including at the strategic planning stage whenever possible;
 - (e) To undertake activities in the priority areas described programme of work as given in the annex to this resolution;
- (2) To re-establish the subgroup on Flood Forecasting and Warning composed of experts in hydrology and in meteorology from the region;
- (3) To invited Members in the Region to designate Hydrological Advisers to Permanent Representatives if they have not already done so;
- (4) To invite all Members in the Region to designate experts in hydrology and water resources, preferably including the hydrological advisors to the Permanent Representatives and representatives of the HOMs national reference centers and of other bodies working in the field of water, to participate in the working group on an ongoing

basis and attend its meetings. In selecting such participants, Members should take into account that they will have to devote time and effort to the working group's activities;

(5) To appoint Mr Jan KUBAT (Czech Republic) as Regional Hydrological Advisor and chairperson of the working group and Mr Jean-Michel TANGUY (France) as vice-chairperson of the working group;

(6) To appoint the following experts as core members of the working group:

Mr Ilmar KARRO (Sweden) as Chairman of the Subgroup on Flood Forecasting and Warning;

Mr Marinela SIMOTA (Romania) as expert on Public Relations and Visibility of Hydrological Services

Mr Markku PUUPPONEN (Finland) as expert on Networking for contributions to regional initiatives related to Water

Mr Teemu KOKKONEN (Finland) as expert on Climate and Water

Mr Valerii VUGLINSKY (Russia) as expert on Water Monitoring and Assessment

Dr Bogdan OZGA-ZIELINSKI (Poland) as expert on Potential Extreme Floods

Ms Giuseppina MONACELLI (Italy) as expert on Drought Assessment and Forecasting

Invites the Regional Hydrological Adviser and chairperson of the working group:

(1) To prepare an implementation plan and designate, in consultation with the president of the regional association, appropriate members from the working group to conduct activities on the various aspects of the terms of reference;

(2) To participate in EC sessions, if invited, representing the regional interests in relation to hydrology and water resources and to coordinate the WGH activities with CHy and other regional WGH;

(3) To submit to the president of the regional association an annual report on 31 December every year and a final report no later than six months before the fifteenth session of RA VI;

Requests the Members concerned to give their full support to their country core members so that they may carry out the tasks entrusted to them;

Invites the Secretary-General to provide assistance to hydrological activities in the Region, including seeking sources of finance and implementing the projects that could be prepared as part of the activities of the RA VI Working Group on Hydrology.

ANNEX TO DRAFT RESOLUTION 17 (XIV-RA VI)

PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE WORKING GROUP ON HYDROLOGY

i. Public Relations and Visibility of Hydrological Services

Considering the need to enhance the visibility of the NHSs and the recognition of their role by national authorities, as well as their involvement in the formulation of new international policy tools concerning water:

- (a) To collect, analyze and disseminate information on the activities undertaken by NHSs in the area of public relations, and on tools and approaches used to enhance their visibility and recognition;
- (b) To develop a RA VI Working Group on Hydrology Web site, with a link on the WMO Web site, as an operational tool for the activities of the working group, in particular as concerns the exchange of information, the establishment of an address book, the publication of reports, the provision of links for the hydrological community; including in particular information on the current activities of the NHSs;
- (c) To formulate suggestions for the presentation to the public at large through communication media of daily hydrological bulletins and forecasts for a country or large river basins.

ii. Networking for contributions to regional initiatives related to Water – in particular to the Water Framework Directive.

The objective of this proposal is to ensure relevant hydrological contribution for multidisciplinary regional water related programmes or initiatives. Furthermore, it should help National Hydrological Services to plan and adapt their long-term activities. The main task is to develop working relationships and practices to facilitate this development.

- (a) To define and implement, under the leadership of WMO, the necessary policy actions for NHS participation, e.g. formal cooperation agreements between WMO and EC;
- (b) To develop and activate the network of NHSs to communicate, organize and manage activities;
- (c) To carry out specific projects that are based on NHSs contributions and serve the implementation of the Water Framework Directive;
- (d) To attend or organize workshops involving the key parties for cooperation, and active participation..

iii. Water Monitoring and Assessment (technical aspects)

Considering the present and anticipated responsibilities of the NHSs in the area of monitoring and water assessment in compliance with the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD):

- (a) To evaluate current methods used for the monitoring and assessment of the surface and ground water;
- (b) To prepare a revue of and proposals on:
 - (i) Monitoring programmes in compliance with the WFD (end of 2006);
 - (ii) Methods and criteria for the classification of the state of rivers and groundwater bodies;
- (c) To evaluate the influence of monitoring frequency on the assessment of surface and groundwater quality parameters.

iv. Climate and Water

Considering the potential impacts of climate variability and change on water resources, as well as uncertainties involved in assessing the impacts:

- (a) To study and report how scenarios provided by regional climate models should be presented to hydrologists and end users dealing with water management;
- (b) To study and report how assessments based on environmental simulation models and regional climate scenarios can be condensed and presented to the end-users in a readily comprehensible form;
- (c) To liaise with and receive feedback from those experts of the Association working on assessing the effects of climate change on water.

v. Potential Extreme Floods

Considering the importance of hydrological design data for the safety of people and security of hydraulic structures (e.g. dams and bridges):

- (a) To update a literature review of research carried out on hydrological design data for extreme floods occurrences;
- (b) To continue a survey on best available practices and standards in estimation of hydrological design data for extreme floods occurrences, even in ungauged basins;
- (c) To carry out an investigation of methods of PMP/PMF derivation and other methods for extreme flood estimation;
- (d) To liaise with experts and programmes on climate change and water with respect to their results concerning potential impacts on floods.

vi. Drought Assessment and Forecasting

In consideration of the increase of water-stress during a period of drought and with a view to ensuring the proper management of water resources during such conditions:

- (a) To review and evaluate meteorological and hydrological forecasting systems in RA VI countries with respect to droughts occurrence;
- (b) To assess the use of satellite data in drought monitoring, assessment and forecasting;
- (c) To identify ways of promoting the exchange of data and products, as well as of forecasts and warnings, during low flow situations;
- (d) To propose ways for ensuring effective cooperation with other international and regional bodies involved in drought assessment and mitigation;
- (e) To review and evaluate activities undertaken by end-user, in cooperation with NHSs, to mitigate the impacts of drought.

vii. Subgroup on Flood Forecasting and Warning

The subgroup is considered to be composed from meteorologists and hydrologists with the aim to improve the capability of NMHSs in flood forecasting and warning for different types of floods:

- (a) To study and report the present applications of:
 - (i) The development and operational use of common probabilistic methods;
 - (ii) The development and operational use of ensemble forecasting;
 - (iii) The development and operational use of methods for estimating, calculating the uncertainty in the forecasts;
 - (b) To promote cooperation between meteorologists, hydrologists and end-users, both in operational activities as well as in research and development;
 - (c) To cooperate with relevant actors in the area of flood forecasting and warning, mainly with respective member of CHy AWG on flood forecasting and with EU Expert Circle on Flood Forecasting (EXCIFF) and the European Flood Alert System (EFAS) initiative.
-