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ON HIGH-LEVEL POLICY ON SATELLITE MATTERS

ITEM: 2.1

TWELFTH SESSION

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 21 JUNE 2014

Original: ENGLISH

**REPORT OF THE EC WORKING GROUP ON CLIMATE AND RELATED
WEATHER, WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS AND
WMO CONTRIBUTION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GFCS**

(Submitted by the Secretariat)

Summary and Purpose of Document

This document contains the report of the December 2013 meeting of the Executive Council Working Group on Climate and related Weather, Water and Environmental Matters (ECWG-CWE) including a proposal for amending the title and Terms of Reference of this group.

ACTION PROPOSED

The twelfth session is invited to note.

World Meteorological Organization

EC-66/Doc. 3.2(2)

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Submitted by: Secretary-General and
Chair of EC WG-CWE

Date: 20.V.2014

SIXTY-SIXTH SESSION

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Status: **DRAFT 1**

EXPECTED RESULT 3

AGENDA ITEM 3.2: WMO CONTRIBUTION TO THE GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR CLIMATE SERVICES (GFCS)

REPORT OF THE EC WORKING GROUP ON CLIMATE AND RELATED WEATHER, WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

AND

WMO CONTRIBUTION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GFCS

SUMMARY

DECISIONS/ACTIONS REQUIRED:

- (a) To note the report of the ECWG-CWE and consider the recommendations;
- (b) To amend the title and Terms of Reference of the Group.

CONTENT OF DOCUMENT:

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APPENDIX A: DRAFT TEXT FOR INCLUSION IN THE GENERAL SUMMARY

3. GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR CLIMATE SERVICES (GFCS) (AGENDA ITEM 3)

3.2 WMO Contribution to the GFCS (agenda item 3.2)

Report of the EC Working Group on Climate and related Weather, Water and Environmental Matters (ECWG-CWE), 10-12 December 2013

3.2(2).1 The Council noted that the EC Working Group on Climate and related Weather, Water and Environmental Matters (ECWG-CWE) considered important overarching issues relevant to the GFCS.

3.2(2).2 The Council noted that at the last ECWG-CWE (Geneva, 10-12 December 2013), the Group reviewed its ongoing work and also deliberated on its future work and has recommended the possible continuation of the Group in the next financial period under a simplified name as "EC Working Group on Climate and Related Matters" (ECWG-CRM) and revised Terms of Reference (see annex to this paragraph). The Council deferred the discussions to EC-67 for further consideration.

3.2(2).3 The Council noted that the ECWG-CWE had emphasized the importance in integrating and coordinating climate relevant activities across the Programmes in WMO. The Council noted with appreciation that the Secretary-General had strengthened such coordination to address relevant climate matters including WMO contributions to the implementation of GFCS.

3.2(2).4 The Council noted the progress report of the programme on Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation (PROVIA) and recommended that the GCOS Secretariat and GCOS Scientific Steering Committee as well as the WCRP Joint Planning Staff and GCOS Joint Scientific Committee should liaise with the PROVIA Secretariat hosted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi and PROVIA Scientific Steering Committee to extend collaboration on joint research interests and share lessons learnt in establishing a fully operational programme under the World Climate Programme (WCP). The Council recognized that close interaction among the four components of the WCP provides a strong basis for contribution to the implementation of the GFCS as well as other initiatives such as the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage Associated with Climate Change Impacts, adopted by COP 19 of the UNFCCC.

3.2(2).5 The Council further noted that, in terms of agreement on a universal definition for "Climate Services", there is some amount of ambiguity in the use of this term as pointed out by the ECWG-CWE. In the WMO framework they are considered to involve the provision of information on the state of the actual and expected future states of the climate system. In the GFCS Implementation Plan, "Climate Services" are characterized to enable society to manage better the risks and opportunities arising from climate variability and change. The Council recognized the need for further clarification on the definition of "Climate Services" to enable a better understanding of the goals of the different activities of all GFCS stakeholders.

WMO Contribution to the Implementation of the GFCS

3.2(2).6 The Council noted and was appreciative of the considerable contributions being made by the WMO to the implementation of the GFCS. The Council noted that technical activities associated with WMO's contribution to the implementation of the GFCS were addressed under agenda item 4 as part of the relevant Expected Results.

Annex to paragraph 3.2(2).2 of the general summary

**PROPOSAL ON FUTURE EC WORKING GROUP ON CLIMATE AND RELATED MATTERS
(ECWG-CRM)**

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL,

Recalling Resolution 3 (EC-64) - Terms of Reference of the Executive Council Working Group on Climate and related Weather, Water and Environmental Matters,

Noting the developments in climate and climate-related activities, particularly with the ongoing implementation of the GFCS,

Noting further:

- (1) The requirement for guiding the activities central to the climate responsibilities of WMO,
- (2) The continued necessity for coordinating climate-related activities among the various WMO Programmes including the four components of the World Climate Programme (WCP),
- (3) The enhanced focus on WMO climate activities and the importance of addressing the emerging needs of the GFCS implementation,
- (4) The report of the Meeting of the Executive Council Working Group on Climate and related Weather, Water and Environmental Matters ECWG-CWE (Geneva, December 2013),

Decides to revise the title of the ECWG-CWE to “EC Working Group on Climate and Related Matters (ECWG-CRM)” and amend its Terms of Reference, as follows:

- (1) Regularly review and comment on the WMO Strategic Plan as it applies to climate and related weather, water and environmental matters and coordinate with EC and appropriate EC subordinate bodies in the formulation of the Plan;
- (2) Provide guidance to the WCP, GAW, WWRP, HWRP & AMP on climate and related weather, water and environmental matters with the aim of strengthening collaboration and coordination with WMO constituent bodies and relevant bodies of other organizations;
- (3) Provide strategic guidance on collaboration with co-sponsored programmes in the context of WCP, GFCS and other climate-related activities;
- (4) Review decisions of other international organizations and UN conventions related to the functioning and activities of all climate-related programmes of WMO and assess the implications and recommend appropriate actions;
- (5) Follow-up on the outcomes of major international conferences dealing with climate-related matters, taking into account the needs of developing and least developed countries and recommend appropriate actions;
- (6) Collaborate with the Executive Council Working Group on Capacity Development and provide advice on mobilization of resources in support of climate services and

related climate change adaptation needs of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, particularly for developing and least developed countries;

- (7) Collaborate with the Executive Council Working Group on Service Delivery with regard to climate services.
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APPENDIX B: PROGRESS REPORT FOR INFORMATION – NOT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE GENERAL SUMMARY

REPORT OF THE EC WORKING GROUP ON CLIMATE AND RELATED WEATHER, WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS (ECWG-CWE)

Reference:

http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/wcp/cca/documents/ECWGCWE-7-Report_270114_Final.pdf

1. The seventh session (since its establishment in its present form in 2007) of the WMO Executive Council Working Group on Climate and related Weather, Water and Environmental Matters (ECWG-CWE), presided by Prof. M. Ostojski and Mr A. Mokssit, co-chairs of the Group, was held at the WMO headquarters, Geneva, from 10 to 12 December 2013.

BRIEF REVIEW OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE GROUP AND PREVIOUS DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

2. The Group reviewed the actions against its Terms of Reference approved by EC-64. The Group decided to conduct a systematic analysis of its work to identify: (i) the 'work achieved'; (ii) important 'remaining issues' to be addressed; and (iii) 'proposals', to draw up more simplified and straightforward Terms of Reference. Based on this analysis, the Group agreed on a revised set of Terms of Reference, and a simplified name as "EC Working Group on Climate and Related Matters" (ECWG-CRM), to be put up for consideration by EC-66, Cg-17 and EC-67.

3. The Group noted that the Secretariat Steering Committee on Climate Activities plays an important role in integrating and coordinating climate relevant activities across the Programmes in the WMO Secretariat. It invited the Secretary-General to re-activate this Steering Committee with revised Terms of Reference to address relevant climate matters including the implementation of the GFCS, and requested that the activities of the Steering Committee be regularly reported to this EC Working Group.

WORLD CLIMATE PROGRAMME, ITS COMPONENTS AND COORDINATION

4. The Group recommended the Secretary-General to send a letter expressing concerns about the current state of the GTOS programme. It was suggested that this letter should be sent to the Director-General of FAO, which is a leading agency and one of the main sponsors of the GTOS programme.

5. The Group recommended that the GCOS Secretariat and GCOS Scientific Steering Committee should liaise with the PROVIA Secretariat and PROVIA Steering Committee to extend collaboration on data issues and share lessons learnt in establishing a fully operational programme.

6. The Group noted that consistency of observations is important, especially for precipitation measurements. It recommended that ICG-WIGOS and CHy continue to work together to address this issue.

7. The Group recommended that in communicating uncertainty to decision-makers, in presenting climate model and other data products and outputs, it would be better that

WCRP considers a standardized language, taking into account the approach the IPCC has been using in its assessment reports. This will facilitate the communication of the uncertainty.

8. The Group recommended that the WCRP Joint Planning Staff and WCRP Joint Scientific Committee should liaise with the PROVIA Secretariat and PROVIA Scientific Steering Committee to extend collaboration on joint research interests and share lessons learnt in establishing a fully operational programme.

9. The Group recommended that the national capacities for climate research in LDCs and developing countries should be enhanced. To this end, there is a need to understand their research needs at the national level and then to translate them into actions. These issues were planned to be considered in the next WCRP Joint Scientific Committee. The Group encouraged the WCRP JSC to continue to address the climate research requirements of NMHSs.

(5) 10. The Group noted with appreciation the progress made by the CCI Expert Team on the Strategy for Capacity Building for Climate Services. The Group further noted the benefit gained by the use of online resources as many people were trained at low cost. The ECWG-CWE recommended that arrangements be made to enhance the use of e-learning for capacity-building.

(6)

(7) 11. The Group noted that WMO is actively pursuing the development of National Climate Outlook Forums (NCOFs), which are also considered to be effective platforms to develop the UIP pillar of the GFCS at the national level. The Group recommended that the Secretariat develop guidance on overarching aspects of NCOFs, based on experience gained by Members to set up and sustain these forums more widely.

12. As regards the WMO contribution to implementation of the GFCS, the Group noted that the Annex on Research Modelling and Prediction to the GFCS Implementation Plan defines the scope of collaboration between WCRP and PROVIA for delivery of research output to decision-makers. It advised the two research programmes to identify joint activities through representation in the relevant Steering Committees.

13. Noting that the PROVIA does not have a national level stakeholders mechanism, the Group recommended that the Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services (IBCS) and its members could be engaged as a platform, as appropriate.

GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR CLIMATE SERVICES (GFCS)

14. The Group noted an ambiguity in the use of the term "Climate Services"¹. In the WMO framework it is considered as the provision of information on the state of the actual and expected future states of the climate system. In the GFCS, climate services are understood to enable society to manage better the risk and opportunities arising from climate variability and change, especially for those who are most vulnerable to climate-related hazards. The Group recommended further clarification to enable a better understanding of the goals of the different activities of GFCS stakeholders.

15. The Group recommended that the identification of contributions of WMO, its substructures including technical commissions, Programmes and co-sponsored Programmes to the GFCS should be made clearer. The Group recommended that the Secretary-General develop a proposal for procedures which guide the involvement of technical commissions,

¹ Definition of Climate Service: Providing climate information in a way that assists decision-making by individuals and organizations. A service requires appropriate engagement along with an effective access mechanism and must respond to user needs. (GFCS Implementation Plan - 2013)

WMO Programmes and WMO co-sponsored Programmes in the implementation of GFCS Services to be considered by the Executive Council.

COLLABORATION BETWEEN TECHNICAL COMMISSIONS ON CLIMATE-RELATED ACTIVITIES AND CO-SPONSORED PROGRAMMES

16. The meeting commended the collaboration of CCI, CAgM and CHy in the context of JEG-CFW and noted that it provided an opportunity to develop relevant pilot projects such as integrated drought monitoring under the GFCS. It also provides a focus for engagement of relevant bodies in CAgM and WCRP to clarify issues on predictability of drought, drought indices and climate prediction indices and initiate a global drought information system.

17. The meeting noted that the HMNDP outcome presented an excellent opportunity for NMHSs to use the Guideline on Drought Management for advice to high level officials in governments at national level and increase their outreach. It recommended that the Guideline be finalized and disseminated as soon as possible.

18. The Group noted that there is a gap in provision of standardized phenological data. It recommended that CAgM, CCI and CBS in collaboration with the WIGOS, GCOS and WCP Secretariats consider establishing a Global phenological observation network (metadata and database).

REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS WITH THE UN CONVENTIONS ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC, UNCCD and UNCBD)

19. The Group noted that the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage Associated with Climate Change Impacts has established an Executive Committee. The Group suggested that WCP consider its potential contribution to the Warsaw International Mechanism and communicate this to the UNFCCC Secretariat.
