AGENDA ITEM 1.3: APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA FOR SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

SUMMARY

DECISIONS/ACTIONS REQUIRED:

Congress is invited to approve the Provisional Agenda for the Seventeenth Congress.

CONTENT OF DOCUMENT:

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APPENDIX:

PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA FOR SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

1. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

1.1 Opening of the session

The formal opening of the Seventeenth World Meteorological Congress will take place at 10:00 a.m. on 25 May 2015 at the International Conference Centre of Geneva (CICG).

1.2 Establishment of the Credentials Committee

In accordance with Regulation 23 of the General Regulations, and immediately following completion of opening formalities, the Congress will be invited to establish a Credentials Committee for the duration of the session. The Credentials Committee shall examine the credentials of delegates and observers as well as any observation, which may be submitted to it by the representative of the Secretary-General.

Prior to a session of a constituent body other than the Executive Council, each Member should, if possible, communicate to the Secretary-General the names of the persons composing its delegation to that body, indicating which of these shall be regarded as its principal delegate.

Besides this communication, a letter giving these particulars and otherwise conforming with the provisions of the Convention and of these Regulations and signed by, or on behalf of, an appropriate governmental authority of the Member shall be sent to the Secretary-General or handed to his representative at the session and shall be regarded as appropriate credentials for the participation of the individuals named therein in all activities of the constituent body.

The same procedure shall apply as regards the credentials of observers representing non-Member countries.

The credentials of observers representing international organizations shall be signed by the competent authority of the organization concerned.

A list of representatives attending the session will be based upon the credentials received by the Secretary-General before the session and on those handed to his representative at the session.

It is desirable that Members communicate to the Secretariat names and addresses of the persons who will constitute the delegations as much in advance as possible. This information may accompany the credentials required under Regulation 21 of the General Regulations.

1.3 Approval of the agenda

In accordance with Regulation 139 of the General Regulations, the provisional agenda shall be submitted for approval by Congress. The agenda may be amended by Congress at any time.

1.4 Report of the Credentials Committee

The Credentials Committee will report to the Congress as soon as possible after its establishment, and subsequently as required.
1.5 Establishment of other Working Committees

In accordance with Regulation 25 of the General Regulations the Congress may establish, for the duration of its session, a Nomination Committee, a Drafting Committee, a Coordination Committee and such other committees as it deems necessary.

It is normal practice to set up a Nomination Committee. The composition and the role of the Nomination Committee are indicated in Regulations 26 and 27 of the General Regulations. This Committee shall consist of twelve principal delegates, each Region being represented. It shall prepare and submit to Congress a list of nominees for each office or place for which an election is to be held.

Regulation 28 of the General Regulations defines the role of the Drafting Committee. With the exception of First Congress, previous Congresses have not set up such a Committee. Experience has shown that, at past sessions of Congress, the most expedient method to use is for each committee or sub-committee to establish its own arrangements for drafting its report to Plenary. Therefore, in accordance with Regulation 30 of the General Regulations, a number of open subcommittees will be set up for detailed review of specific matters.

According to practice established over an 8-year period and used at sessions of the Executive Council, regional associations and technical commissions, Congress will be invited to work entirely in Plenary. In keeping with the successful experience gained at Executive Council meetings, the establishment of four plenaries G, A, B and C, chaired by the President, and the three Vice-Presidents respectively, will be proposed to Congress to carry its work forward. In this way, Congress will be able to take decisions at any time, and use as quickly as possible any input from the committees, as may be established, for detailed consideration of specific documents as required.

To ensure the proper coordination of the activities of the session, it is usual practice to set up a Coordination Committee, according to Regulation 29. The Coordination Committee shall consist of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Organization, the Secretary-General or his representative, and the chairpersons of the committees of the Congress, other than those of the Credentials and Nominations Committees.

In accordance with Regulation 31 of the General Regulations, with the exception of the Coordination Committee, the chairperson of which is the President of WMO, each committee or subcommittee shall elect its own chairperson and, whenever necessary, other officers. The president of the body establishing it shall preside at its meetings until it has elected its chairperson.

1.6 Programme of work

The Congress will decide on the working hours, which normally are:

- Monday to Friday: from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and from 2.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.
- Saturdays: from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

The tentative work plan provides an indication of the meetings and agenda items to be taken up each day. The actual programme of work will be adjusted by the Coordination Committee, as necessary, during the session, and will be provided through the on-line session calendars and in the daily order of business.

Regulation 110 states that any document intended for consideration in a plenary meeting shall be distributed to participants in the session at least eighteen hours before the opening of the plenary meeting at which it will be discussed. Due to time limitation, and modern working methods of sessions including electronic access to documents, Regulation 110 was waived by all of constituent
bodies since Fourteenth Congress. Congress may decide that eight hours will suffice for distribution before the opening of the plenary meeting at which a document will be discussed.

1.7 Approval of the minutes

At sessions of a constituent body the substance of the discussion and the decisions arrived at for each agenda item shall be recorded in the general summary of the work of the session.

Summarized minutes of the discussion at plenary meetings of constituent bodies shall be prepared by the Secretariat only where there is a specific request from the plenary.

Audio recordings of plenary meetings shall be made and retained for record purposes.

All information documents and progress reports shall also be published.

2. HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT AND REPORTS

2.1 Report by the President of the Organization

In accordance with Regulation 138, the report by the President shall include:

(a) A résumé of the activities of the Organization, its constituent bodies (particularly the Executive Council) and the Secretariat since the last session of Congress;

(b) Matters which are required to be reported to Congress under the provisions of Regulation 9 (6);

(c) Any other matters affecting the Organization or its constituent bodies.

2.2 Report by the Secretary-General

The report of the Secretary-General under this item shall summarize achievements in the implementation of the WMO Strategic Plan during the sixteenth financial period. Detailed reports will be submitted under the respective agenda items. The Secretary-General will also submit the Financial Report under agenda item 11.1 in accordance with Regulation 136 (11) of the General Regulations.

2.3 Report of the Chair of the Financial Advisory Committee

In accordance with Resolution 29 (Cg-X), the Chairperson of the Financial Advisory Committee (FINAC) will submit a report to advise Congress on: (a) the budget for the seventeenth financial period; (b) the modifications to the Financial Regulations; and (c) all the other financial and budgetary questions including proportional contributions.

2.4 Reports by presidents of regional associations

Under this agenda item, the presidents of regional associations will present regional highlights from the last four years and their perspectives on the priorities and vision for the next financial period, and improved collaboration and coordination between regional associations and technical commissions to assist Regions and Members in implementing key programmes and projects. Reports of the meetings of the presidents of regional associations as well as joint meetings of the presidents of regional associations and technical commissions will also be considered. Further consideration of regional issues will be taken up under agenda item 5.4 – Regional Programme, including cooperation with regional bodies and as part of other agenda items when appropriate.
2.5 Reports by presidents of technical commissions

Under this agenda item, the presidents of technical commissions will present highlights from the last four years and their perspectives on the priorities and vision for the next financial period.

2.6 Report by the Chair of the Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services

The Congress will be provided with a progress report on the implementation of the GFCS and major issues which need to be assessed to enhance the effectiveness of implementation.

3. IMPROVING SERVICE QUALITY AND SERVICE DELIVERY

3.1 Service Delivery

Enhanced capabilities of Members to deliver and improve access to high-quality weather, climate, water and related environmental predictions, information, warnings and services in response to users’ needs, and to enable their use in decision-making by relevant societal sectors (ER 1)

3.1.1 WMO Strategy for Service Delivery

Congress will be invited to consider the report of the Secretary-General on the development of the WMO Strategy for Service Delivery and its Implementation Plan which was published in March 2014. Various activities undertaken to implement the Strategy and progress made in this regard, as well as the future plans, will be presented to Congress for its consideration and guidance.

3.1.2 Aeronautical Meteorology – Priority

Congress will review of the implementation of Cg-XVI decisions and provide guidance on future developments in the field of aeronautical meteorological service, in particular: a global review of attained level of implementation of the ICAO and WMO requirements for establishment of a quality management system (QMS) and resolution of related deficiencies; status of implementation of the WMO standards on the competency of aeronautical meteorological personnel; issues related to SIGMET service, volcanic ash, institutional arrangements including cost recovery, etc.

3.1.3 Public Weather Services

Congress will be invited to consider the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Public Weather Services Programme in line with the WMO Strategic Plan, since Cg-XVI. Congress will provide guidance on future development of the PWS Programme, including: building and promoting the concept of service delivery through various national and regional projects and capacity development activities; assisting NMHSs in the provision of weather and related services that incorporate user needs and performance metrics based on the implementation of the WMO Strategy for Service Delivery; sharing better practices and exchanging information in engaging users and measuring outcomes as a means of capacity-building; the implementation of the WMO Strategy for Service Delivery by NMHSs; assisting Members with measuring and demonstrating the socioeconomic benefits of meteorological and hydrological services, following the publication of the joint WMO-World Bank book on the assessment methodologies of those services. Congress will also be invited to approve the Competency Framework developed for PWS forecasters and advisors following the request of Cg-XVI, noting that these competencies have been endorsed by CBS.

3.1.4 Tropical Cyclone Coordination and Services
Congress will be invited to review the implementation of the activities by Sixteenth Congress under the Tropical Cyclone Programme, and provide guidance on future developments and improvements of the Programme, in compliance with the Programme’s strategic objectives. Of particular importance are: (a) to expand and consolidate further the regionally coordinated systems to cover all Members prone to tropical cyclones; (b) to enhance the capacities of Members to provide more accurate forecasting and warning services which are impact-based and in multi-hazard approach; (c) to improve forecasting and warning capabilities of Members through advances in sciences and technologies, and capacity development; and (d) to reduce damage and loss of lives through the above institutionalized activities and arrangements, and in step with the developmental goals of the UN post-2015 framework.

3.1.5 Marine Meteorology and Oceanography

Congress will be invited to consider the report of the co-president of JCOMM and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme. Congress will be also invited to provide guidance on the proposed actions for future development of the Programme, including emerging issues, and on cooperative programmes and projects with the IOC of UNESCO, IMO, IHO and other United Nations agencies and programmes with major marine interests, in order to assist Members and address more efficiently their requirements in the development of their regional and national marine activities. Congress will be also invited to consider a concept including the user perspectives and requirements for the delivery of information regarding marine environmental emergency responses and the Marine Weather Forecaster (MWF) Competence Standards framework.

3.1.6 Agricultural Meteorology

Congress will be invited to comment on, and guide, a range of activities under the Agricultural Meteorology Programme, including the activities of the Commission for Agricultural Meteorology and the contribution from the Agricultural Meteorology Programme to the GFCS.

3.1.7 Quality Management in service delivery – current status and future development

Congress will review the progress achieved in implementing quality management system for the provision of aeronautical meteorological services. Further requirements for quality management, as part of service delivery strategy, will be considered and Congress will be invited to provide guidance on developing respective capacity development actions in support of the expansion of quality management over different service delivery areas.

3.2 WMO Disaster Risk Reduction Services (DRR) – Priority

Enhanced capabilities of Members to reduce risks and potential impacts of hazards caused by weather, climate, water and related environmental elements (ER 2)

Under this agenda item, Congress will be invited to consider the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made with implementation of the DRR Programme including training modules and knowledge products, demonstrated through national capacity development projects with regional cooperation frameworks, and the work and status of the DRR User-Interface Expert Advisory Groups (UI-EAGs). Congress will consider the integrated and holistic way for DRR service delivery to Members through WMO cross-cutting activities including demonstration in the Regions. Congress will also be invited to consider the WMO DRR roadmap. This roadmap considers the opportunities and requirements for WMO DRR related to the post-2015 frameworks for disaster risk reduction, sustainable development, and climate change.

Congress will be informed of the outcomes of the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR-III), held from 14 to 18 March 2015 in Sendai, Miyagi, Japan and
WMO activities and contributions. Congress will be invited to consider the major outcome of the WCDRR-III, namely the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction that builds substantively on the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005–2015. The outcomes provide opportunities and guidance for WMO to update and improve its current operational capacities, network, and products and services in order to meet the changing requirements of the disaster risk reduction user community.

4. ADVANCING SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND APPLICATION, AS WELL AS DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF TECHNOLOGY

4.1 Data-processing and forecasting: weather, climate and water

*Enhanced capabilities of Members to produce better weather, climate, water and related environmental information, predictions and warnings to support in particular disaster risk reduction and climate impact and adaptation strategies (ER 3)*

4.1.1 Seamless data-processing and forecasting

Users of weather services are becoming more and more sophisticated with their needs which are increasingly varied. Forecast is required for all time scales and new non-conventional data and information need to be incorporated into weather information to respond to user needs. Congress will be apprised of the drivers for change of the GDPFS to make it more agile, adaptable and responsive to user needs. It will also be invited to consider recommendations on seamless data processing and forecasting as a way to address the issue.

4.1.2 Weather

Congress will review the progress achieved by the GDPFS and will consider recommendations, respectively on a 2025 Vision for the GDPFS and related strategies, including seamless data processing and production. The Congress will be invited to provide guidance for consolidation of SWFDP into global sustainable operations so to respond to demands for expansion of this programme.

4.1.3 Environmental related issues

Congress will be appraised of progress made in the area of non-conventional predictions such as air quality, atmospheric sand and dust storms, wild fire, road and rail transportation and will its provide guidance on the future developments for the provision of services to these areas.

4.1.4 Climate, including the Climate Services Information System (CSIS) and User Interface Platform (UIP) of GFCS

Congress will be requested to comment on, guide and resolve future directions of the Climate Applications and Prediction Programme with respect to climate monitoring (including climate statements and climate extremes), the Climate Services Information System (CSIS) (including the developments in Regional Climate Centres (RCCs) and Regional Climate Outlook Forums (RCOFs)), the User Interface Platform (UIP) of the GFCS, climate information for adaptation and risk management (including drought management) and support to climate initiatives and activities at the national level. Cg-17 will also consider a renewed resolution on WCP restructuring to integrate PROVIA combining Resolution 18 (Cg-XVI) and Resolution 6 (EC-65) decisions. [moved from 4.3]
4.1.5 Water

Congress will be informed of the outcomes of implementation of resolutions from Cg-XVI, in particular with respect to the Flood Forecasting Initiative – Advisory Group (FFI-AG) and the review of the World Hydrological Cycle Observing System (WHYCOS). Congress will further be requested to comment on and guide a number of water-related activities being addressed within the Hydrology and Water Resources Programme, including the adoption of WaterML 2.0 as a standard for water data transfer, the Quality Management Framework – Hydrology, the Global Flood Partnership and the Hydrology and Water Resources Programme contributions to the GFCS.

4.2 WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS) and WMO Information System (WIS) – Priority

*Enhanced capabilities of Members to access, develop, implement and use integrated and interoperable Earth- and space-based observation systems for weather, climate and hydrological observations, as well as related environmental and space weather observations, based on world standards set by WMO (ER 4)*

4.2.1 World Weather Watch Programme

The Congress will be invited to provide guidance on further development of the WWW Programme and will be requested to consider recommendations from CBS-Ext.(2014), including the amendment of Technical Regulations managed by CBS.

4.2.2 WMO Integrated Global Observing System - WIGOS

The Congress will discuss, consider and decide on the further implementation of the WIGOS endorsed by Resolution 50 (Cg-XVI) with particular attention paid to the draft of Volume I, Part I – WIGOS, of the *WMO Technical Regulations* (WMO-No. 49), the draft *Manual on WIGOS*, and the Implementation Plan for a Pre-operational Phase of WIGOS (2016-2019).

Congress will be also be invited to provide guidance on the key role of WIGOS in the implementation of the observation and monitoring component of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and other relevant WMO Programmes and activities.

Congress will apprised of the progress of WIGOS component systems: including the Global Observing System (GOS) of the World Weather Watch; observing component of the Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW); observing component of the Global Cryosphere Watch (GCW) and the WMO hydrological observing systems.

The Congress will be requested to consider the revised version of the *Manual on the Global Observing System, Volume I – Global Aspects* (WMO-No. 544).

The Congress will be requested to update Resolution 4 (Cg-XV) to reflect the continued importance of radio frequency coordination in the seventeenth financial period, and to adopt the Guide to National Meteorological and Hydrological Services participation in radio frequency coordination.

The Congress will be requested to consider further expansion of the aircraft-based observations through the Regional Implementation Plans for the expansion and enhancement of the AMDAR observing system so as to improve upper-air data coverage.

The Congress will be requested to consider establishment of the new WMO-IOC Regional Marine Instrument Centre (RMIC) for Regional Association I.
The Congress will be invited to provide guidance on the further implementation of the Instruments and Methods of Observation Programme to ensure that its activities will provide effective support to WIGOS, GFCS and other relevant WMO priorities. Guidance will be requested, in particular, on standardization activities, collaboration with ISO, instrument intercomparisons, competencies, development of a fully revised International Cloud Atlas (WMO-No. 407), use of mercury and techniques needed to modernize Members’ observing systems, and on promotion and support to metrology to ensure traceability of measurements to international standards, including for remote-sensing techniques.

4.2.3 WMO Information System – WIS

Congress will review the progress of WIS implementation; provide directions on operational management and further development of WIS as the pillar of the WMO strategy for managing and moving weather, climate and water information. Congress will provide guidance on standardization of WMO data management practices and strategy for WIS implementation at regional and national level. Congress will consider and adopt recommendations from CBS and CAeM on amendments to WIS related technical standards.

Climate Data Management and Applications – Congress will review the progress made in Climate Data Management initiatives, including Climate Data Management Systems (CDMSs), Climate Data Rescue initiatives and the Marine Climate Data Management. Congress will decide on the proposed plans by the concerned Commissions. In particular, Congress will decide on the CCI initiative supported by CBS on a High Quality Global Data Management Framework for Climate and the JCOMM Initiative of Marine Climate Data System.

Congress will be also invited to provide guidance on the key role of WIS in the implementation of the Climate Service Information System (CSIS) component of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS), Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and other relevant WMO Programmes and activities.

4.2.4 WMO Space Programme

The Congress will be invited to adopt a resolution on user preparedness for the transition to new operational satellite systems, as recommended by the Commission for Basic Systems.

The Congress will be informed on the implementation of the space-based component of WIGOS in response to the Vision for the Global Observing System in 2025, including the plans to ensure continuity of polar orbiting satellites in early morning orbit.

An update will be provided on the development of the Architecture for Climate Monitoring from Space in an end-to-end perspective, from climate user needs and applications to high-level satellite plans and coordination mechanisms, as a key contribution to the observation and monitoring component of GFCS.

The Congress will be invited to approve a four-year plan for WMO coordination of space weather activities, taking into account the evolving service-oriented nature of space weather services and user needs, including the services to aviation, in order to articulate the activities of space weather providers with the applicable WMO programme areas, and increase the awareness of Members in this respect.

4.2.5 Global Climate Observing System - GCOS
Congress will be informed on GCOS’s next assessment cycle, which will support the normative work of GCOS in defining guidelines and setting principles.

Members will be invited to engage in the review process of the next GCOS Implementation Plan, as the actions identified will have to address many of the needs for climate observations in support of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), recognizing that observations and monitoring constitute one of the essential pillars of the GFCS.

Congress will be invited to adopt a resolution which will update the existing one, and take into account evolving Earth observation programmes and new developments of climate services programmes.

4.2.6 WMO Polar and High Mountain Activities related to observations

Congress will be requested to consider: (a) the revised version of the Manual on the Global Observing System, Volume II – Regional Aspects – The Antarctic (WMO-No. 544); (b) the revised list of the Antarctic Observing Network (AntON); (c) further implementation and development of the Global Cryosphere Watch (GCW), including the GCW Implementation Plan and the establishment of a core standardized network - CryoNet; and (d) the revised scope of the WMO Polar and High Mountain Activities.

4.3 Research

Enhanced capabilities of Members to contribute to and draw benefits from the global research capacity for weather, climate, water and the related environmental science and technology development (ER 5)

4.3.1 An integrated WMO approach in support of seamless services

[moved to 4.3.5] Congress will be informed of the complementary research roles of WCRP, WWRP and GAW in developing seamless services across weather, climate, water and related environmental areas. Congress will also be provided with arguments on why enhanced cooperation between these research programmes will best serve the growing needs of Members for science-based policy advice, accurate weather and environmental forecasts and warnings, and climate predictions.

4.3.2 World Climate Research Programme

Congress will review and make decisions on the WCRP grand challenge research focus areas of sea level rise, changing storm tracks, precipitation, cryospheric change, climate extremes and regional climate information. Congress will discuss changes and improvements in the WCRP projects and project offices and note recent updates and implementations of national host agreements for those project offices. Congress will review WCRP strategic partnerships with paleoclimate, global aerosol and biogeochemical cycling research groups and the role of those partnerships in advancing integrated earth system modelling. Congress will review plans and schedules for the next WCRP climate model intercomparison activity (CMIP6).

4.3.3 World Weather Research Programme

Congress will review progress and decisions to advance the interests of WMO Members through the World Weather Research Programme (WWRP) and its internationally coordinated research and research-to-operations activities that involve nowcasting and mesoscale weather forecasting; data assimilation and observing systems; predictability, dynamics and ensemble forecasting; tropical meteorology; forecast verification; socioeconomic weather impacts and weather modification assessment. Congress will debate the particular emphasis being placed by WWRP on high-impact
weather research and its application to society, the use of new technologies in weather service provision and the fundamental weather research questions as informed by the 2014 World Weather Open Science Conference. Congress will note how the above have been integrated in the WWRP draft implementation plan for the next financial period.

4.3.4 Global Atmosphere Watch Programme

Congress will review progress on and make decisions to advance the implementation of the Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW) Programme to provide global observations and analysis of chemical constituents of the atmosphere and UV radiation. Congress will evaluate how those observations and analysis can help reduce environmental risks to society through products that require integrated observing and prediction systems. Congress will make a note of the GAW draft implementation plan for the next financial period. In particular, action is needed to continue to improve observational systems and data processing to allow near real-time provision of GAW data, to support integration of surface, vertical profile and column datasets from different platforms to provide a unified understanding of aerosol and gas distributions, to minimize gaps in the measurement networks in data-poor regions, and to support the service needs of megacities and large urban complexes. Congress will consider cross-cutting research within GAW addressing several application areas. Decisions to address the increasing role played by WMO Members in applying GAW research to help enable meteorological and environmental services to reduce risks from high-impact weather and air pollution, and to mitigate the impacts of, and adapt to, changing climate will also be made.

4.3.5 WCRP, WWRP and GAW Joint Research Activities

[moved from 4.3.1] Congress will review and make decisions on the joint model comparison and development activities of CAS and WCRP to support seamless weather, climate and environmental services. Congress will debate the joint research on polar predictions and predictability, recognizing how these WWRP and WCRP joint research activities contribute to the Global Integrated Polar Prediction System (GIPPS). Congress will review joint programmes in sub-seasonal to seasonal prediction as a core contribution to the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) and how best to strengthen the links between research and operational services.

4.3.6 Global Programme of Research On climate change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation (PROVIA)

The World Climate Programme (WCP) was restructured by Cg-XVI, followed by the decision of EC-64, to include the Programme of Research On climate change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation (PROVIA) implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as a fourth component of WCP. Cg-17 will consider synergies and potential areas for cooperation by PROVIA with the other three WCP components, namely; (i) Global Climate Observing System (GCOS); (ii) World Climate Research Programme (WCRP); and (iii) World Climate Services Programme (WCSP). [moved to 4.1.4]

5. STRENGTHENING CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Enhanced capabilities of NMHSs, in particular in developing and least developed countries, to fulfil their mandates (ER 6) – PRIORITY

5.1 Capacity Development Strategy

Congress will review the Capacity Development Strategy and associated implementation plan requested by the Sixteenth World Meteorological Congress and subsequently approved by the sixty-fifth and sixty-sixth sessions of the Executive Council. Congress will receive a report on the
implementation of the CDS since its adoption and will provide guidance on Capacity Development implementation priorities for the 2016 to 2019 financial period.

5.2 Education and Training Programme

Congress will review and provide guidance upon the core activities within the WMO Education and Training Programme particularly those aspects related to fellowships and training activities such as use of distance learning, recognition and reconfirmation of WMO Regional Training Centres, and standards and competencies of personnel. Congress will also receive a report regarding progress with the feasibility study authorized by EC-66 into a proposal for a WMO Global Campus. The report will include a recommendation that the feasibility study continues in the 2016 to 2019 financial period for further consideration at the Eighteenth World Meteorological Congress.

5.3 Programme for the Least Developed Countries (and SIDS)

Congress will be informed on the implementation of WMO Programme for LDCs especially as it relates to the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) (May 2011). Congress will also discuss the outcomes of the workshops organized for LDCs in WMO Regional Associations as well as the needs of the NMHSs in those LDCs. Congress also will be informed of the outcomes of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS Conference). WMO plans to contribute to the implementation of the “Samoa Pathway” through the SIDS partnership initiative targeting Weather and Climate services for SIDS, through engagement with the UN Implementation Matrix as well as the future, as implementation plans for the partnership to present to donors will be presented to Congress for its consideration and guidance.

5.4 Regional Programme, including cooperation with regional bodies

Congress will be invited to discuss strengthening of the WMO regional activities and the role of regional offices including recommendations on improving WMO’s visibility and effectiveness at regional and national levels on matters relating to advocacy, advisory services, cooperation with partners, project development and implementation; implementation of the WMO Strategic Plan and Operating Plan through regional strategic/operating plans adopted by the regional associations, and related national plans; follow-up actions from the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET) and organization of similar ministerial meetings in other Regions; and development of the WMO Country Profile Database (CPDB).

5.5 Resource mobilization and development partnerships

Congress will be invited to consider the report of the Secretary-General on Resource Mobilization and Development Partnerships. The scope and contribution of direct extrabudgetary financing and the scope and contribution of leveraged development partnerships to the implementation of WMO priorities as well as the future plans will be presented to Congress for its consideration and guidance.

6. BUILDING AND ENHANCING PARTNERSHIPS AND COOPERATION

New and strengthened partnerships and cooperation activities to improve NMHSs’ performance in delivering services and to increase the value of the contributions of WMO within the United Nations system, relevant international conventions and national strategic issues (ER 7)

6.1 Cooperation with the UN and other international organizations

Congress will be invited to review cooperation with the United Nations system particularly through its inter-agency mechanisms, the support to Conventions and World Summits follow-up. The Congress
will review the recommendations addressed to the Organization by the United Nations and UN Conventions which are related to the WMO mandate. Congress will be invited to review progress and provide guidance on the activities relating to cooperation with international organizations and other partners and stakeholders in the context of global or regional initiatives relevant to the Organization.

6.2 Report of the Chair of the IPCC

The Chair of the IPCC will present the outcome of the Fifth assessment cycle and will inform the Congress about decisions taken and guidance provided by the Panel with respect to the future work of the IPCC. He will further inform the Congress that elections for the next IPCC Bureau will be held in the second half of 2015.

6.3 WMO and GEOSS

Congress will be invited to review progress and provide guidance on the collaboration with the Global Earth Observation System of System (GEOSS)

6.4 Future Earth

Congress will review information and progress of the emerging Future Earth programme and infrastructure. Congress will discuss the emergence of new themes within Future Earth as they relate to WCRP, GFCS and other WMO Programmes. Congress will review the status and identity of historical global change programmes as those programmes merge into Future Earth with a view towards ensuring continued vital connections of those programmes with on-going WMO activities and WCRP.

6.5 International Polar Partnership Initiative (IPPI)

Congress will be informed on the development of the legacy of the International Polar Year (IPY), including the proposal, for an IPPI.

6.6 Other partnerships

Congress will be informed on the development of partnerships.

7. STRENGTHENING GOOD GOVERNANCE

An Effective and Efficient Organization (ER 8)

7.1 Oversight of the Organization

7.1.1 Report of the Audit Committee

The Congress will be provided with the report of the Audit Committee for the intersessional period.

7.1.2 Annual Accountability Report of the Internal Oversight Office

The Congress will be provided with the “Annual Accountability Report” of the Internal Oversight Office summarizing significant oversight findings, recommendations and actions taken in response; and including a status report on the internal control environment of WMO. The report will contain:

(a) IOO’s opinion on status of internal control for 2014;
(b) Summary results of engagements undertaken in 2014;
(c) Status of Implementation of IOO recommendations by the management;

(d) Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme for the Internal Oversight Office.

The Congress will take note of the report and provide guidance to the Secretariat as required.

7.1.3 Implementation of Recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit

The Congress will be provided with a report on the recommendations issued by the Joint Inspection Unit since the Sixteenth Congress relevant to WMO. The report will contain:

(a) Topics and areas covered by the Joint Inspection Unit;

(b) Management response to the recommendations contained in those reports including summary acceptance and implementation rates;

(c) Recommendations addressed to the Legislative Bodies of WMO along with management comments/actions taken.

The Congress will take note of the report and endorse/provide further comments on the actions taken on recommendations addressed to the legislative bodies.

7.2 Monitoring and Evaluation

Congress will be informed of the progress in the implementation WMO Monitoring and Evaluation System. Congress will note the progress and make any recommendations for further improvements in the implementation of the WMO Monitoring and Evaluation System.

7.3 Risk management

Congress will be informed of the progress in the implementation risk management at the Secretariat. Congress will note the progress and make any recommendations for further improvements in the implementation risk management.

7.4 Conference services

Congress will be apprised of the measures undertaken to streamline the organization of meetings and invited to establish the schedule of constituent body sessions for the seventeenth financial period.

7.5 Languages and Publications

Congress will be apprised of the efforts made in promoting multilingualism in the Organization.

Congress will also be apprised of the progress made and the future trends regarding the electronic publication of WMO titles and invited to approve the list of publications to be published in the seventeenth financial period.

7.6 Information technology support

The Information Technology and Common Services (Facilities) Divisions have been consolidated into a single operating division (ITCSD). Congress will be informed on significant developments and proposed strategy in the areas of information technology as well as building and related facilities.
These will include augmented focus on the IT needs of the WMO departments and Member community and the associated opportunities to leverage IT solutions to improve efficiency and effectiveness of WMO activities. In the same context, focus will be placed on the needed investments that are deemed necessary to sustain the WMO headquarters building whilst exploiting opportunities to render the building carbon neutral.

7.7 Continuous improvement of WMO processes and practices

Congress will be informed of the progress in the work of the Executive Council on continuous improvement of WMO processes and practices. Congress will note the progress and make any recommendations for further improvements in WMO processes and practices. The Congress will also be informed on the measures and progress in environmentally sustainable WMO operation.

7.8 Gender Mainstreaming

Congress will examine implementation of the WMO Policy on Gender Mainstreaming, including the results of the 2013 Global Survey on Gender Mainstreaming at WMO, statistics on the participation of women and men in WMO activities, and analysis of WMO performance in the context of the UN-System-wide Action Plan (UN-SWAP). The Congress will be invited to approve updates to the WMO Policy on Gender Mainstreaming and the development of an accompanying implementation plan. The Congress will further review the outcomes of the Conference on the Gender Dimensions of Weather and Climate Services, and provide guidance on the incorporation of the Gender Conference recommendations into the WMO Programmes, and specifically into the Global Framework for Climate Services. The Congress is also expected to identify priority actions on gender mainstreaming for the 2016-2019 financial period.

7.9 Role and Operation of NMHSs - an update on the WMO Statement for Decision Makers

The Congress will be invited to consider the revised statement on the role and operation of NMHSs for policy makers.

8. GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR CLIMATE SERVICES

8.1 WMO contribution to the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS)

Congress will be informed of the WMO contributions to the Global Framework for Climate Services and requested to provide guidance on how best WMO can continue to contribute to the GFCS and its implementation, in particular through its Technical Commissions, Regional Associations and Programmes. Congress will also be asked to discuss and adopt a resolution on the WMO Policy for International Exchange of Climate Data and Products to support the Implementation of the GFCS.

8.2 GFCS partnerships

Congress will be informed on how the implementation of the GFCS has enabled the development of partnerships within and outside the UN system, with national, regional and global entities, and on the various ways in which these partnerships have been formalized and implemented.

9. FUTURE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

9.1 Open data policies and their impact on WMO stakeholders

Congress will be informed of recent advances in data sharing policies and of the increasing access to “big data”. There is widespread recognition that data in themselves only become of value when
they are used to produce services and products that can be used for decisions in support of socioeconomic and environmental benefits. Indeed free and unrestricted access to data can and does facilitate innovation and the discovery of new ways to use, and purposes for, the data. However, the concept of data is also evolving with the ability to, for example, crowd source data, collecting data using mobile phones and other devices. Big data is an all-encompassing term for any collection of datasets so large and complex that it becomes difficult to process using traditional data processing applications. The challenges include analysis, capture, curation, search, sharing, storage, transfer, visualization, and privacy violations. The trend to larger datasets is due to the additional information derivable from analysis of a single large set of related data, as compared to separate smaller sets with the same total amount of data.

9.2 Integrated meteorological services for future air traffic management - WMO response

Congress will be presented with an analysis of the main outcome of the ICAO/WMO Meteorology Divisional Meeting (2014) related to the implementation of the Global Air Navigation Plan and its Aviation System Block Upgrades (ASBU) technology. Special emphasis will be given to the foreseen institutional and business model changes, changes to information management, regionalization of service provision and related impacts on NMHSs and other MET service providers. Development of new services like “space weather” will also be discussed.

9.3 Post-2015 UN Development Agenda

Congress will be informed on the contribution of the WMO in the post-2015 development agenda up to the 69th session of the UN General Assembly (2014), and will be invited to provide guidance of the WMO inputs in the next steps leading to the 70th session of the UN General Assembly (2015). It is planned that a scientific lecture will precede the deliberations on the agenda item (see item 15.2).

9.4 Holistic approach to service provision – concept

This document will discuss developing a holistic approach to service delivery within WMO, throughout various programmes that have service delivery elements, based on agreed sets of attributes and general principles of services and related delivery methodology.

9.5 Building new partnerships

Congress will be informed on WMO initiatives to build new partnerships.

9.6 Future role of the private sector in meteorology

Congress will be informed on the perspective of working with partners and stakeholders, including the private sector, in support of the WMO strategic objectives and mandate.

9.7 Socioeconomic impacts of meteorological and hydrological services and their communication to decision makers and users

Congress will be invited to consider the report of the Secretary-General on the continuing work of WMO to assist Members with the assessment and demonstration of the benefits of the services provided by NMHSs to various user communities and government decision makers as part of the implementation of the Madrid Action Plan.

9.8 Integrated approach to WMO urban activities
Congress, considering the need for integrated weather, climate and related services for the growing urban populations, will review and make decisions on the appropriate mechanisms to facilitate an urban focus across WMO Programmes and activities, including the GFCS.

10. WMO STRATEGIC PLAN AND BUDGET

10.1 WMO Strategic Plan 2016-2019

Congress will consider and approve the WMO Strategic Plan 2016-2019, developed by the Executive Council. Congress will be invited to render views on the linkage of the WMO Strategic Plan 2016-2019 to other related plans such as those of the technical commissions and regional associations. The WMO Strategic Plan provides a high-level statement on the future direction and priorities for the Organization to be achieved in the planning period. Congress will note WMO Operating Plan, which presents time-bound programme activities and projects to implement the Strategic Plan that formed the basis for WMO Results-based Budget.


Congress will be invited to consider the proposal from the Secretary-General and to decide on the budget for the seventeenth financial period (2016-2019).

10.3 Preparation of the Strategic and Operating Plans 2020-2023

Congress will be invited to provide guidance on the strategic planning process and the preparation of the WMO Strategic and Operating Plans 2020-2023 and beyond, on the basis of experiences gained and recommendations of the Executive Council.

11. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

11.1 Financial matters

The Congress will be invited to consider the Secretary-General’s proposals on funding for ASHI liability. The comments of the Financial Advisory Committee and the Executive Council on this issue will also be submitted to Congress. The Secretary-General will also present the financial report for the sixteenth financial period. Congress will be informed on the benefits realized through the implementation of the IPSAS accounting methods adopted by the Organization.

11.2 Proportional contributions of Members

In accordance with Article 24 of the Convention and Article 8 of the Financial Regulations, Congress shall determine the scale of assessment of proportional contributions of Members for the sixteenth financial period. Thirteenth Congress, in Resolution 32, decided that the latest United Nations scales to be approved by the United Nations General Assembly should be adopted as the basis for the calculation of the WMO scale of assessments, duly adjusted for difference in membership. The Secretary-General will submit proposals based on the decision of Thirteenth Congress. The comments of the Financial Advisory Committee on these issues will also be submitted to Congress.

11.3 Staff matters

Congress will be informed of the views of the staff on their conditions of service, and may discuss any other issues related to staff matters.

11.4 Secretary-General’s contract
The present contract of the Secretary-General is contained in Resolution 41 (Cg-XVI). Seventeenth Congress will be required to establish the terms of the contract for the next financial period.

11.5 Amendment to the Staff Regulations

Congress will be invited to approve the amendment to the Staff Regulations related to the retirement age.

12. COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Congress will be invited to review public outreach and media communication activities under the Information and Public Affairs Programme.

13. GENERAL AND LEGAL MATTERS

13.1 Questions concerning the Convention

Congress will be invited to review questions raised by Members and Officers concerning the Convention, including proposal from some presidents of regional associations, with respect to the number of seats in the Executive Council.

13.2 Membership of the Organization

Congress will consider any requests for membership since the last Congress and of their follow-up.

13.3 Revision of the General Regulations

Congress will be invited to review the recommendations the Executive Council for amendments to the General Regulations, including terms of reference of technical commissions, and regarding other arrangements relative to constituent body sessions. Congress will consider the proposal(s) of regional association(s) regarding distribution of seats for the Executive Council.

Congress will be invited to consider a possible change to Regulation 198 on the duration and number of terms of mandate of the Secretary-General.

Congress will be invited to consider changes in the General Regulations which can be proposed by the Chair of the IBCS regarding the terms of reference and the functioning of the technical commissions in consideration of the development and implementation of the GFCS.

13.4 Amendments to the Technical Regulations - Consolidated report

Congress will be informed on amendments to the Technical Regulations approved by the Executive Council in accordance with the authority delegated to it by Sixteenth Congress, as well as on measures to enhance the culture of compliance and reporting, in accordance with WMO regulations.

13.5 Financial Regulations

In accordance with Article 8 (d) of the Convention, which requires Congress to determine the Financial Regulations, proposals regarding amendments to the present Financial Regulations together with comments by the Executive Council will be submitted to Seventeenth Congress.

13.6 Review of previous resolutions of Congress
The Congress will be invited to review its resolutions and approve the list of resolutions to remain in force. In accordance with practice, Congress will appoint a rapporteur on this matter.

14. **ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

14.1 **Appointment of the Secretary-General**

In accordance with Regulation 136(20) and Regulations 197 to 199 of the General Regulations, the Congress will be invited to appoint the Secretary-General and to approve the corresponding contract.

14.2 **Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Organization**

In accordance with Regulation 135(18) and Regulations 79 to 83, 86 and 89 of the General Regulations, the Congress will be called upon to hold separate elections for the offices of President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President and Third Vice-President of the Organization, in that order.

14.3 **Election of members of the Executive Council**

In accordance with Regulation 135(19) and Regulations 79 to 82, and 85 to 89 of the General Regulations, and after the election of the President and the Vice-Presidents of the Organization, the Congress will be called upon to hold an election for the remaining places on the Executive Council, other than those of the Officers of the Organization and presidents of the associations.

15. **SCIENTIFIC LECTURES AND DISCUSSIONS**

15.1 **IMO Lecture and award**

Following the decision of the Executive Council, Dr A.I. Bedritskiy, laureate of the fifty-ninth IMO Prize has been invited to deliver the IMO lecture. It will be preceded by the 60th IMO Prize Award Ceremony.

Details of the arrangements for the IMO lecture and the plans for other scientific lectures during Congress will be announced later.

15.2 **Scientific lecture “Post-2015 UN Sustainable Development Agenda“**

It is planned that an eminent person deeply involved in this matter will inform the Congress on the most recent developments, expected outcomes and possible consequences for the WMO community as the process is unfolding towards the decisions of the UN General Assembly in September 2015.

16. **DATE AND PLACE OF EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**

The Congress will be invited to choose the date and place of its eighteenth session.

17. **CLOSURE OF THE SESSION**

Seventeenth Congress is scheduled to close on 12 June 2015.