

## **Res. 11.9/5 (Cg-XVI)**

### **INTERNATIONAL POLAR DECADE INITIATIVE**

#### **THE CONGRESS,**

##### **Noting:**

- (1) Resolution 36 (Cg-XV) – International Polar Year 2007-2008,
- (2) Resolution 11 (EC-LXII) - Executive Council Panel of Experts on Polar Observations, Research and Services (EC-PORS),
- (3) The Report of the Workshop on an International Polar Decade (IPD) initiative, St. Petersburg, 14-15 April 2011, the first international stakeholder consultation, organized in accordance with the guidance by the sixty-second session of the Executive Council (June, 2010),
- (4) The Nuuk Declaration on the occasion of the Seventh Ministerial Meeting of the Arctic Council, 12 May 2011,

##### **Considering:**

- (1) That the preliminary results of the IPY 2007-2008 confirmed the global significance of polar processes and the role of the Polar Regions as drivers of change in global weather and climate, extreme events, global carbon cycle, and sea-level rise,
- (2) The urgent need to observe, understand and predict the extremely rapid and significant environmental changes occurring in high latitudes,
- (3) That substantial research investments made by many countries in IPY have resulted in new scientific knowledge and infrastructure, including new technologies for observations and analysis and improved models for prediction of all Earth System components,
- (4) The substantial societal benefit to be gained by capitalizing on these IPY investments by improving services including better predicting and assessment capabilities, for example, in securing shipping routes, managing risks related to resource mapping, exploration and development, protecting the fragile polar environment and improving welfare of indigenous and other northern communities,
- (5) That some governments are continuing to make added commitments, particularly in the Arctic, and that the Arctic Council countries have produced or are preparing strategies for economic development, environmental stewardship and support to indigenous communities to adapt to changes in polar environment,

##### **Recognizing:**

- (1) That the first international stakeholder consultation on the International Polar Decade (IPD) supported an IPD initiative and recommended that the IPD would start beyond 2015 to align to a set of agreed decadal scale polar initiatives,
- (2) That WMO polar initiatives such as Global Integrated Polar Prediction System and Global Cryosphere Watch would provide, if implemented, a substantial contribution to an IPD, and would strongly benefit from contributions by partner organizations;

**Approves** the WMO participation in the International Polar Decade should this initiative be endorsed by relevant international organizations as key stakeholders to build on the solid foundation that IPY has established;

**Invites** relevant international organizations and programmes, such as Arctic Council (AC), Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM), the International Council for Science (ICSU), International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research (SCAR), the International Association of Cryospheric Sciences (IACS) and other relevant associations of IUGG, UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Arctic Council Indigenous Peoples, Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programmes (COMNAP), Forum of Arctic Research Operators (FARO), European Commission, European Science Foundation, European Environment Agency, Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP), International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA), Association of Polar Early Career Scientists (APECS), and others to participate in the IPD consultative process and identify their role and commitments to the IPD;

**Requests** the Executive Council through its Panel on Polar Observations, Research and Services:

- (1) To secure the WMO representation in a steering group that would be established to lead the IPD consultative process and prepare a draft IPD Concept Document for submission to the Montreal 2012 IPY Conference "From Knowledge to Action" (22-27 April 2012);
- (2) To consult with the relevant international organizations to define the framework, objectives, resource requirements, timing, and organizational structure of an IPD;
- (3) To coordinate the role and participation of WMO in the relevant initiatives that would be conducted under the auspices of an IPD;
- (4) To review and approve the IPD Concept Document at its sixty-fourth session with a view of determining modalities and the level of WMO participation in the initiative;

**Requests** the Secretary-General to bring this resolution to the attention of all concerned.

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Note: This resolution replaces Resolution 36 (Cg-XV), which is no longer in force.