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| REPORT OF MEETING OF PRESIDENTS OF TECHNICAL COMMISSIONS |
| (GENEVA, 11 AUGUST 2016) |
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**MEETING of PRESIDENTS OF TECHNICAL COMMISSIONS**

**(GENEVA, 11 August 2016)**

The meeting of the Presidents of Technical Commissions (PTCs) was held on 11 August 2016, in the form of a video conference coordinated from Geneva. The meeting was moderated by Ms Elena Manaenkova ( ASG). The President of WMO participated. P/CAeM could follow the conference conversation but his audio failed to come through. He sent his comments by email. P/CIMO was not able to log into the video conference. Co-President of J/COMM, sent his apologies. The full list of participants is attached as Annex 1. The Agenda of the meeting is Annex 2.

The aim of the meeting was to discuss how PTCs would contribute to the deliberations of the EC Subgroup on Structure, Planning and Budget.

**Main outcomes:**

1. PTCs will focus on developing a white paper with which PTCs will engage the EC Subgroup on Structure, Planning and Budget in the spring of 2017. Relevant issues emanating from past PTC meetings will also be considered.
2. P/CHy, Harry Lins and P/CAS, Oystein Hov will represent PTCs at the teleconference of the EC Subgroup on Structure, Planning and Budget which will take place on 7 September 2016. In this regard, PTCs will prepare key messages to communicate to the meeting.
3. PTCs will take advantage of the 16th session of the Commission for Basic Systems (CBS-16) and use this opportunity to work though some issues, as well as talk to Members who will be at the Session about their expectations. P/CAeM indicated that he would try to be available for the side meeting in Guangzhou.
4. A side meeting will be organized during the CBS Session in China to discuss how CBS could be improved and made more efficient in collaborating with other commissions and RAs. Presidents not attending the session could join in through video Teleconference.
5. If it happens, the Secretariat will capitalize on the presence of multiple presidents of commissions in Geneva to organize short meetings to discuss this issue.
6. The Secretariat will share with PTCs, the outcomes of discussions of WG SOP that lead to the establishment of the EC Sub-group on Governance, and further reports of the subgroup. Here is the link to the report

<http://www.wmo.int/pages/about/linkedfiles/2016_ECWGSOP_recommendations-1.docx>

1. It was noted that in the chronology of the TC structures sent out before the meeting, one could notice that there is a classification of TCs into "Basic" and "Applications" since Congress 6 and this is still the case (see General Regulations Annex 111 of Basic Documents No. 1, see link below).

<http://library.wmo.int/pmb_ged/wmo_15-2015_en.pdf>

**Discussions:**

1. PTCs will consider how commissions could make WMO value chain more vigorous. Service delivery elements must be dynamic and be underpinned by research and user involvement. Commissions will assess how they interact with the value chain at present and see how such interaction could be optimized.
2. There could be value in establishing a scientific and strategic advisory board made up of world renowned scientists with a primary aim to look beyond the next four years at science, technological and geopolitical dimensions impacting on our business. These people should be recruited broadly from in and outside of the NMHSs, and they should interact with the WMO Secretariat staff and TC presidents and other experts. For the value chains to develop in a dynamic way, there must be a continuous feedback from user experience and from academic research.
3. There is a need for clear consideration of certain unique constituencies such as Hydrology. It should be appreciated that, in the United Nations, WMO is the only entity that represents Hydrology. WMO should handle any eventual change that could affect such constituencies with great care.
4. There should be careful consideration regarding restructuring a commission such as CAgM and probably focus on administration rather than restructuring. Existence of CAgM is very important to the community of volunteer partners of WMO in developing tailor-made services, ensuring the visibility of NMHSs to users and continuity of WMO outreach programmes. Any restructuring should take this fact into consideration so as not to harm the status quo.
5. PTCs should build on the work that has already been done by the EC Working Group on Strategic Planning (WG/SOP) while considering Big Issues.
6. The regulatory function of the commissions such as development of technical regulations and how commissions support core outcomes of WMO will be important and this is a piece of work to do, so as to put core elements into perspective. Specifically, there are important regulatory frameworks that need to be developed to support NMHSs consolidate their official -voice status, in the areas of delivery of climate services, agricultural meteorology services, DRR etc. There should be conversation by PTCs as to what commission will lead what work and how would commissions share groups and experts. This conversation should provide an important outcome for discussion with the Sub-group.
7. PTCs will ensure that their proposals provide balance of responsibilities across commissions so that one commission does not get to be responsible for doing too much work, to a point where other commissions are negatively affected. Care should be taken not to make rapid, drastic changes that would disrupt commissions and render them ineffective.
8. One important guiding principal in considering change is “do no harm”. There should be an assessment of structures (commissions, regional associations etc.) to understand what they do, is it required by Congress?, why and how they do what they do. Whatever processes are working well should be retained and capitalized on while those that do not work well should be fixed or discarded.
9. WMO has a facilitating role for its Members which has resulted in a bottom-up approach in determining structures. What presidents will be trying to do now is to track this approach with a top-down view. If the view reveals parallel programmes and activities, then the situation should be changed. In considering change, it is important to assess the status quo and see what future structures could be proposed that would ensure that service delivery is underpinned by strong value chains. At the same time we need to be careful so that what works well. Continues to work well.
10. In assessing what works well, it is important for the EC sub-group on Structure, Planning and Budget to look at EC task teams and see how they are interacting with commissions and regional associations.
11. It may well be that certain activities such as seasonal forecasting, QMS, research are being duplicated.
12. The Secretariat has conducted an analysis of WMO programmes for the last 65 years as well as TCs working structures for past 12 years, including the number of experts, who have served in commissions. This information could be an important input to assessing commissions.
13. In certain instances, inter-commission bodies have been looked at negatively yet they have proved very useful in helping commissions focus on specific problems e.g. WIS and WIGOS, while attaining efficiencies and avoiding duplication by commissions working together. Involving Members of EC by making them focal points of inter-commission bodies has also proved useful for effective linkage of commissions to EC. The number of ICGs is growing which indicates more need to work across TCs on numerous areas.
14. The role of some commissions in linking WMO to other organizations for the necessary collaboration e.g. the role played by JCOMM in engaging with IOC, and that of AeM as interface with ICAO. This is an important aspect that needs to be taken into account. However, other commissions could play a greater role in linking WMO with other organizations and their constituencies.
15. There is a need to assess the roles of regional associations some of which, at regional level, are doing technical work that would be best handled by commissions.
16. Areas where things are currently not working well for commissions should be brought out and clarification be sought at governance level. These include, for example, attaining quorum at TC sessions, TC membership and election by correspondence.
17. DRR and climate services have a strong linkage at the level of service delivery. Assessing how well WMO is doing in both of them can help us understand how effective we are, and how effective we can be, as well as what mechanism could help advance these services, much like was done for WIGOS whereby an ICG was put in place. (not that an ICG for DRR or Climate services is necessarily being suggested here).
18. Despite the fact that the WMO Strategy for Service Delivery was developed (under CBS) WMO, however, does not have a governance structure for service delivery overall and in many service areas. A governance structure needs to be looked at including how it links to DRR, GFCS and other areas where service delivery is a function, how to include relevant experts from other fields such as economists and social scientists, as well as how research could be integrated.

**Progress in effecting actions agreed at the 2016 PTC Meeting (19 – 20 January 2016)**

1. The meeting was informed that inclusion of more information on service delivery in the CHy publication titled “Guidelines on the Role, Operation and Management of National Hydrological Services” would be completed in December 2016.
2. Regarding the action for the presidents of TCs to agree on the proposals for a coordinated plan for updating and enhancing of the WMO technical regulations framework by Cg-18 in 2019, it was noted that EC-68 had approved a plan and commissions needed to implement it. The Secretariat will conduct another training session for TCs and those who did not attend in November 2015 workshop.

**Next Meeting (video conference)**

The next video conference will be 90 minutes long. The Doodle poll will be employed in the organization of future such meetings. Presidents will choose their topics for discussion.

Annex 1

MEETING OF PRESIDENTS OF TECHNICAL COMMISSIONS (PTC)

(GENEVA, 11 AUGUST 2016)

**Present**

David Grimes P/WMO

LEE Byong-lyol P/CAgM

Oystein HOV P/CAS

Frederick R. BRANSKI P/CBS

Thomas C. PETERSON P/CCl

Harry F. LINS P/CHy

Chi-ming SHUN P/CAeM

**Secretariat**

Elena Manaenkova ASG

William Nyakwada SPO

Johannes Cullmann D/CLW

Abdoulaye Harou C/GDPS

Wenjiang Zang D/OBS

Terblanche Deon D/ARE

Samuel Muchemi SO/PWS, Secretary

Greg Brock AEM

Edgard Cabrera C/MMO

Kumar Kolli C/WCAS

Alasdair Hainsworth C/DRR

Annex 2

**VIDEO CONFERENCE FOR PRESIDENTS OF TECHNICAL COMMISSIONS**

**Geneva, 9 August 2016 (15h00)**

**AGENDA**

1. **Evaluation of the present WMO structures**

Presidents will discuss conducting of an evaluation of WMO structures including TCs, RAs and other structures formed under the EC and RAs with a view to recommending necessary changes to improve the overall effectiveness and efficiencies of WMO. The aim will be to finally develop a proposal for discussion with the Subgroup on Structure, Planning and Budget of the ECWG/SOP. The proposal should be a major outcome of the 2017 PTC Meeting.

1. **Progress in effecting actions agreed at the 2016 PTC Meeting (19 – 20 January 2016)**

The actions that need to be considered are on pages 25-26 of the Meeting Report (attached). The ones that still require action are:

1. To update the CHy “Guidelines on the Role, Operation and Management of National Hydrological Services (2006)” and include Service Delivery in the publication.

**Action:** D/CLPA, P/CHy

1. PTCs to agree on the proposals for a coordinated plan for updating and enhancing WMO technical regulations framework by Cg-18 in 2019.

**Action:** All PTCs

1. To designate experts from each TC as focal points on the technical regulations.

**Action:** All PTCs

1. **Any Other Matters**