

World Meteorological Organization

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

SIXTY-FIFTH SESSION

Geneva, 15 to 23 May 2013

EXTRACT FROM AGENDA ITEM 4.1: SERVICE DELIVERY (EC-65/DOC. 4.1(2))

PUBLIC WEATHER SERVICES

Social, Economic and Policy Impacts of Weather, Climate and Water Services

4.1(2).5 The Council reiterated the importance of the demonstration of the socio-economic benefits of the services provided by NMHSs, particularly in developing countries in relation to the safety of life, livelihood and property as enshrined in the WMO Convention. In this connection, it recalled its request to the Secretary-General, through Resolution 7 (EC-64) - Social, Economic and Policy Impacts of Weather, Climate and Water Services, to prepare, in collaboration with the World Bank, an authoritative publication on methodologies for assessment of the benefits of services provided by NMHSs. In addition, the Council strongly supported that NMHSs be assisted in communicating the social and economic benefits of their services to their governments and to other decision-makers and welcomed plans by the PWS Programme to prepare relevant guidance material for this purpose. The Council was highly appreciative that in response to the request of EC-64, the PWS Programme, partnering with the WMO Regional Office for Europe (ROE), organized an expert meeting with representatives from a number of NMHSs and user sectors, economists from the World Bank, and social scientists, in April 2013, under the auspices of the "WMO Forum: Social and Economic Applications and Benefits of Weather, Climate and Services". The experts began work on preparation of this joint publication and agreed that the methodologies should be tested through demonstration projects in a few NMHSs. The Council underlined the importance of the development of an authoritative WMO-World Bank document on methodologies for the assessment of the socio-economic benefits of NMHSs activities. The Council requested that a report on the progress of the project be presented to EC-66.

4.1(2).6 The Council noted the strong support of the ECWG/SOP for the joint WMO-World Bank Project, while highlighting the close synergy between provision and delivery of quality services by NMHSs and the valuation of those services. The Council supported the need to stress the value of underlying infrastructure at NMHSs that make the delivery of authoritative quality services possible and emphasized that in a policy dimension, the authoritative nature of those services had itself a core value. The Council recognized the value in holding a follow-up conference to the Madrid Conference (Madrid plus X) as an opportunity to raise the profile of NMHSs as providers of high quality services to users. In this regard, the Council requested that the ECWG-SD undertake an analysis of conducting this follow-up Conference with the result of the analysis to be presented to EC-66. This analysis should consider whether the funds for

such a conference might be better spent on implementation of socio-economic studies for NMHSs, especially in developing, least developed countries and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).