

**World Meteorological Organization**

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**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Submitted by:

Chair, of PR-A Meeting,  
President of RA II, Mr V.  
Chub

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**REPORT OF THE 2010 MEETING OF PRESIDENTS OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

**SUMMARY**

**CONTENT OF DOCUMENT:**

Summary report of the 2010 Meeting of Presidents of Regional Associations

## **1. OPENING**

1.1 The 2010 Meeting of Presidents of Regional Associations was opened on Saturday 5 June 2010 at 10:00 in the Press Room at the WMO Headquarters by Dr M. L. Bah, President of RA I and chair of the Meeting who welcomed all the participants, particularly those presidents of RAs who are participating for the first time. He informed the meeting of the organization and the outcomes of the First Conference of Ministers responsible for Meteorology in Africa held in April 2010 in Kenya and requested the Secretary-General to make a few opening remarks. The list of participants is given in Annex I.

1.2 Mr Michel Jarraud, the Secretary-General of WMO welcomed the presidents of Regional Associations (RAs) to the meeting and extended his congratulations to the recently elected Presidents of RA V and RA VI. He stated that the presidents of RAs have a special role to play in the Executive Council and the Financial Advisory Committee (FINAC) as they represent the views of Members of their respective regions. In this connection, this meeting would form an important part of the preparations for the sixty-second session of the Executive Council starting on 7 June 2010 which is the last EC session before the next WMO Congress and therefore will deal with, among other things, the Budget for the sixteenth financial period 2012-2015.

1.3 He recalled some of the high level events that have taken place since the last year meeting of the presidents of RAs in June 2009, including the World Climate Conference-3 (WCC-3), Geneva, 31 August - 4 September 2009, resulting in the establishment of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) which will be instrumental to the future of the Organization for decades to come. He also recalled the and the very successful First Conference of Ministers responsible for Meteorology in Africa, Nairobi, Kenya, 12 – 16 April 2010 with the establishment of the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET) that could serve as a good practice for other Regions. Mr Jarraud underscored the importance of the agenda items of the Meeting of presidents of RAs, particularly the Budget matters, GFCS, WMO Strategic Plan with regional priorities, and the preparation for the Joint meeting of presidents of RAs and presidents of Technical Commissions (TCs). He wished the meeting successful deliberations.

## **2. ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON**

2.1 In accordance with Resolution 1 (EC-LX), Prof. V. Chub, the President of RA II was elected as Chairperson of the Meeting of Presidents of RAs.

2.2 Prof. V. Chub expressed his thanks to his colleagues and chaired the meeting.

## **3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

3.1 The meeting adopted the Agenda as given in Annex II and a work plan.

## **4. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL ISSUES**

4.1 Mr Joachim Muller (D/REM) briefed the Meeting on financial matters to be considered by EC-LXII. He stated that the current financial situation of WMO was sound (in terms of cash flow) and arrears in Members' contributions have considerably declined.

4.2 It was noted that for 2011 there is a decrease in the scale of assessed contributions of a few Members and an increase for some other Members. The scale of assessments of proportional contributions of Members for year 2011 has been based on the UN scale, and adjusted for difference in membership between the UN and WMO.

4.3 The meeting expressed its concern about the situation of developing countries emerging from conflicts and their ability to meet their financial contributions to WMO and also the potential impact of the global financial crisis on the financial situation of WMO.

4.4 Concerning the perspectives of the budget for the sixteenth Financial Period 2012-2015, the meeting considered:

- The implication of zero nominal growth (ZNG) during the last 16 years for governance, programme delivery and support activities;
- The non anticipation of any surplus funding;
- The Secretary-General's proposed budget including the options of ZNG and zero real growth (ZRG);
- The new approach on the category of anticipated additional pledged resources to support essential emerging major requirements allowing potential donors to earmark contributions; and
- The four top priorities to be reflected: GFCS, Capacity Building, WMO Integrated Observations and Information Systems, and Disaster Risk Reduction.

4.5. The meeting noted that some governments, as they become aware of the impacts of natural hazards and climate variability and change, would strive to support NMHSs, but stressed the need for additional resources for basic infrastructure, and for coordination, capacity building and support activities for which staff added value is critical.

4.6. Considering that the maximum use has been made of benefits derived from increasing effectiveness and efficiency measures in WMO to develop and implement fundamental programmes, including DRR, WMO Space Programme and oversight of the Organization, the presidents of RAs agreed on the need to strongly support the Secretary-General's proposed budget for 2012-2015 in the interest of most of the Members in their respective Regions.

## **5. WMO STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS**

5.1 The Deputy Secretary-General (DSG), Mr J. Lengoasa, made a presentation on WMO Strategic Planning. He recalled the guidance and directives by Congress and the Executive Council for the preparation of the next Strategic Plan and that the process ensures strong linkages between Strategic Plan (SP), Operating Plan (OP), Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and Result Based Budget (RBB). He highlighted the progress made in the development of WMO SP and OP 2012-2015.

5.2 The meeting recognized that contributions of RAs and TCs were essential in ensuring that the SP and OP represent the shared strategic direction and efficient implementation of the SP.

5.3 It was noted that the RAs and TCs were experiencing challenges related to the:

- Difficulty to identify only one ER of highest interest for the region; and
- Difficulty to identify activities contributing to ERs other than those included in the Budget.

5.4 The presidents of RAs supported the specific recommendations from 2010 Meeting of PTC on actions by TCs, RAs and the Secretariat on strategic planning.

5.5 Noting that the RAs and TCs were provided with a template to submit inputs for WMO Operating Plan (OP), the Presidents of RAs agreed to take further steps as required to provide inputs for inclusion into WMO-wide OP. The meeting agreed that WMO SP/OP be aligned with SOP of RAs/TCs.

## **6. REGIONAL ASPECTS OF THE GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR CLIMATE SERVICES (GFCS)**

**6.1** Mr Avinash Tyagi (D/CLW) and Dr Geoff Love (D/WDS) made presentations on various aspects and regional implications of WCC-3 and GFCS.

**6.2** The meeting noted the steps taken in the preparation of a Position Paper articulating how WMO Programmes should become core elements of the GFCS, the evolving role of NMHSs and Capacity building, among other things. The meeting further noted the progress of the High-Level Taskforce in completing its work.

**6.3** The presidents of RAs expressed their full support to the GFCS process and their expectation that its benefits would be felt at regional and national level.

**6.4** The meeting stressed the need to identify additional resources for the GFCS implementation through various funding mechanisms, including the Adaptation Fund. In this regard efforts should be made to refer to GFCS in national and regional declarations

**6.5** The meeting considered that RAs and TCs should jointly address the GFCS matters, including RCCs and partnership.

## **7. PREPARATION FOR THE 2010 JOINT MEETING OF PRESIDENTS OF RAs AND PRESIDENTS OF TECHNICAL COMMISSIONS (TCs)**

### **Coordination mechanism and cooperation with TCs**

**7.1** Mr Kaliba Konaré (D/LDCR) made a presentation on the coordination and cooperation between RAs and TCs, particularly the existing mechanisms, their weaknesses and related challenges.

**7.2** The meeting recalled that the Executive Council approved the formalization of the Joint Meeting of Presidents of RAs and Presidents of TCs through Resolution 2 (EC-LX) in order to enhance a closer cooperation and a stronger coordination mechanism between regional associations and technical commissions for a more responsive and proactive implementation of WMO Programmes, in particular at regional level.

**7.3** The meeting recognized that it was very beneficial for the presidents of regional associations to attend the PTC meeting and recommended that this should be continued.

**7.4** Considering various aspects of cooperation and coordination with TCs, the meeting reviewed some of the means and mechanisms which have been established to strengthen communication and collaboration between RAs and TCs and reiterated its recommendation for the extension of best practices, including the use of relevant databases, e-forum discussions, the establishment of Task Teams or equivalent structures in a number of RAs for effective coordination with TCs such as CAeM, the attendance of RA sessions by Presidents of TCs as beneficially experienced by the President of CBS.

**7.5** The meeting noted the concern expressed by the Presidents of TCs about the diversification of RAs structures, as the new structures, which are not programme based, may have an impact on the functional relationships between RAs and TCs, including the difficulty to identify focal points for TCs activities. In this regard, the Meeting considered the recommendation made by PTC for the establishment of relevant long term standing structures which can facilitate proactive interaction between RAs themselves and with TCs.

7.6 The meeting agreed with the 2010 PTC on the need to improve the coordination between RAs, TCs and the relevant Secretariat Departments through the following:

- Definition of regional requirements and implementation priorities by RAs
- Organization of activities by TCs to meet the regional requirements
- Identification of joint activity areas by TCs and RAs
- Definition and implementation of the process and corresponding means on a case-by-case basis.
- Identification of appropriate regional programmatic focal points within each regional management structure

7.7 The meeting recognized that coordination has a lot of benefits for the proactive implementation of programme activities but it requires resources in terms of funding and staff which should then be considered as seed investment.

### **Provisional Agenda of the 2010 Joint Meeting PRA-PTC**

7.8 The presidents of RAs agreed that the following proposals be made for the Informal PTC meeting during EC so as to select only two agenda items for substantive discussions in the 2010 Joint Meeting of presidents of RAs and presidents of TCs to be held on 15 June from 17:30 to 18:30.

- (a). GFCS and RCCs
- (b). RAs and TCs Operating Plans
- (c). Pilot/ Demonstration Projects
- (d). Structure changes/ Mutual representation in events

## **8. IMPROVEMENT OF THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF RAs**

### **Structure and working mechanism of RAs; and Voluntarism in the work of RAs**

8.1 Dr Tokiyoshi Toya (D/RAP) made a presentation on the Structure and Working Mechanism of Regional Associations, focusing on the examples of RAs II, IV, VI and V which have held their sessions after the introduction of RBM in WMO. Mr Kuniyuki Shida (Programme Manager, RAP) made a presentation on the activities of four RA II working groups and five pilot projects as a case study.

8.2 The meeting noted that there was diversity in the structures and working mechanisms of the Regional Associations. Some presidents of RAs felt that the structures should be adjusted to reflect the ER of the WMO Strategic Plan and to better focus available funding on priority activities of the Region. While the meeting agreed that RAs should be free to define appropriate structures based on their priorities and requirements so as to increase their efficiency and effectiveness in the implementation of the RBM, it recognized that the newly adopted structures and working mechanisms can be broadly classified into two categories or combination of these categories as follows:

a) Comprehensive type with

- Fixed Management Group and Working Groups and core members + Pilot Projects
- Organized by discipline/topic
- TOR with key issues
- 4 year life and usually one meeting
- Rapporteurs/Theme Leaders

b) Flexible type with

- Fixed Management Groups
- Task Teams organized to complete tasks within limited time
- Multi-disciplinary ad hoc membership
- Meeting only as needed
- Focal Points to address linkages

8.3 The meeting stressed the need to pay attention to the difference between RAs with many more developing countries than developed countries and the other RAs.

#### **Volunteerism in the work of RAs**

8.4 The meeting recalled the general consensus to award recognition to the experts who volunteered to devote their time to the activities of technical commissions and regional associations and reiterated the EC request to the Secretary-General to propose a common scheme for such awarding.

8.5 The meeting requested the presidents of RAs to take the necessary actions towards the implementation of the recommendations on the Volunteerism in the work of Regional Associations (Annex III).

#### **Role and operation of WMO Offices in the Regions**

8.6 A presentation was made by Dr T. Toya on the role and operation of operation of Field Offices and the corresponding functioning of the Secretariat, particularly the Development and Regional Activities Department.

8.7 The presidents of RAs referred to their own experiences and underscored the beneficial role of the WMO Field Offices in:

- Serving as WMO Secretariat focal point and information/ liaison centre;
- Making closer contact with Members and regional institutions/ bodies;
- Increasing WMO presence and visibility;
- Supporting regional events;
- Developing and implementing technical cooperation projects and WMO emergency response and assistance;

8.8 The meeting recognized the stringent need to strengthen the existing WMO Field Offices in the regions and to create additional Offices in some specific sub regions which are currently not covered by WMO field offices in order to cover hydrology issues, to support GFCS, to offer meteorological, climatological and hydrological expertise to UN Country Teams since WMO is a non-resident Agency.

8.9 The meeting recommended that EC, Congress and the Secretary-General encourage secondment/ attachment of technical staff by Members and cooperation with hydrological centres out of the WMO system.

8.10 The presidents of RAs were pleased to note the good experience and the advantages resulting from the pilot project for the relocation of the Regional Office for the Americas in the field, in Paraguay, including cost savings and increased effectiveness. The Meeting also noted that the benefits of this pilot activity might be applicable in some ways for other regions and that a more complete discussion would be prepared for the Congress. The Meeting also noted that the benefits of this pilot activity might be applicable in some ways for other regions and that a more complete discussion would be prepared for the Congress.

## **Management of WMO Regional Training Centres (RTCs)**

8.11 Mr Jeffrey Wilson (D/ETR) made a comprehensive presentation on the current status of WMO Regional Training Centres (RTCs) and proposed changes to the EC Criteria for the Recognition and Reconfirmation of RTCs.

8.12 The meeting recalled that there are currently 23 RTCs and a further four proposals for RTCs (Indonesia, Peru, Qatar and South Africa) currently in progress.

8.13 The meeting recognized the increasing value of RTCs and commented that in future the RTCs would be expected to play a major role in the provision of education and training opportunities to support the Global Framework for Climate Services.

8.14 The presidents of RAs agreed to work closely with the Education and Training Office to monitor and support Regional Training Centres in their Regions.

## **9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

9.1 The Meeting agreed that the Secretariat prepares a draft report of the meeting and circulate it to participants for comments. Thereafter, the report would be approved by the Chairman.

9.2 The meeting was informed by the President of RA II of the proposal he wished to submit to EC for increasing the EC membership from 37 to 38 (EC-LXII/ Doc.9.2 (3)). Most of the presidents of RAs agreed on the background of this proposal and indicated their support.

9.3 The president of RA VI drew the attention of the meeting on the discussions in the EC Working Group on SOP on roles of the TC and RA in the implementation of the Strategic and Operating Plans for 2012-2015 ( EC-LXII/Doc.7.2(01)ADD1). He proposed that next meeting of President of RAs should review the functions of the RAs as defined in the WMO Basic Documents trying to incorporate explicitly the crucial role of the RAs in coordinating the implementation by Members of the various WMO programmes and activities. The meeting was also informed of the creation by the WG-SOP of a Task Group to prepare a report on the options for WMO reform to best implement the Strategic and Operating Plans that would consider, inter alia, the working arrangements, roles and responsibilities of the Technical Commissions and Regional Associations.

## **10. CLOSING**

9.1 The Chairperson expressed his thanks to the participants for their valuable contribution and to the Secretariat for the support provided.

9.2 The meeting was closed on Saturday, 5 June 2010 at 17:15.

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**2010 MEETING OF PRESIDENTS OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS  
GENEVA, 5 June 2010**

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

**Presidents of Regional Associations**

Mr Mamadou L. BAH	(RA I)
Mr Victor E. CHUB	(RA II)
Mr Sergei V. MYAGKOV	(Advisor, President RA II)
Mr Ramón Jesús VIÑAS GARCÍA	(RA III)
Mr Arthur ROLLE	(RA IV)
Mrs Sri Woro B. HARIJONO	(RA V)
Mr Edvin ALDRIAN	(Advisor, President RA V)
Mr Ivan CACIC	(RA VI)

**WMO Secretariat**

Mr Michel JARRAUD	(SG)
Mr Jerry LENGOASA	(DSG)
Mr Joachim MULLER	(D/REM)
Ms Elena MANAENKOVA	(D/CER)
Mr Robert O. MASTERS	(D/DRA)
Mr Kaliba KONARÉ	(D/LDCR)
Ms Mary POWER	(D/RMO)
Mr Jeffrey WILSON	(D/ETR)
Mr Alioune NDIAYE	(D/RAF)
Dr Tokiyoshi. TOYA	(D/RAP)
Mr Miguel RABIOLO	(D/RAM)
Dr Geoffrey LOVE	(D/WDS)
Dr Wenjian ZHANG	(D/OBS)
Mr Ghassem ASRAR	(D/RES)
Mr Avinash TYAGI	(D/CLW)
Ms Barbara RYAN	(D/SAT)
Mr Peiliang SHI	(D/WIS)
Mr Christian BLONDIN	(SERO)
Mr William NYAKWADA	(C/PLA)
Mr Dimitar IVANOV	(Rep. EUR)
Mr Kuniyuki SHIDA	(PM/RAP)
Mr Felix HOUNTON	(PM/RAF)
Mr Andres ORIAS	(PO/RAM)



**WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION**

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**2010 MEETING OF PRESIDENTS OF REGIONAL  
ASSOCIATIONS**

**Item: 3**

**Original: ENGLISH**

**GENEVA, 5 JUNE 2010**

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

- 1. OPENING**
- 2. ELECTION OF THE CHAIR**
- 3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**
- 4. BUDGET AND FINANCIAL ISSUES**
  - 4.1 Critical financial issues
  - 4.2 Budget for the Sixteenth Financial Period 2012-2015
- 5. WMO STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS**
  - 5.1. Preparation of the WMO Strategic Plan
  - 5.2. Regional Associations (RAs) contributions to WMO Strategic Plan and the Operating Plans
  - 5.3. Linkages between WMO Strategic Plan and the Regional Strategic Plans
- 6. REGIONAL ASPECTS OF GFCS**
- 7. PREPARATION FOR THE 2010 JOINT MEETING OF PRESIDENTS OF RAs AND  
PRESIDENTS OF TECHNICAL COMMISSIONS (TCs)**
  - 7.1 Coordination mechanism and cooperation with TCs
  - 7.2 Provisional Agenda of the 2010 Joint Meeting
- 8. IMPROVEMENT OF THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF RAs**
  - 8.1 Structure and working mechanism
  - 8.2 Volunteerism in the work of RAs
  - 8.3 Role and Operation of WMO Offices in the Regions
  - 8.4 Management of WMO Regional Training Centres (RTCs)
- 9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
- 10. CLOSING**

## Annex III

### **VOLUNTEERISM IN THE WORK OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATION**

#### **General**

It is recognized that commitment and volunteerism, with the required support from Members, plays an important role in the subsidiary bodies of the regional association.

#### **Recommendations**

The following is recommended as per nominations, performance monitoring and recognition in order to improve the current situation with volunteerism, especially the declining number of volunteers:

##### Nominations:

1. That the work of WMO be better advertised and promoted within National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and other weather, climate, water and environment communities, in order to ensure contributions from a wide spectra of expertise and appropriate geographic coverage;
2. That prospective candidate experts and their Permanent Representatives should be aware of responsibilities and commitments, especially as far as coordination and participation are concerned;
3. That in seeking nomination for membership in the subsidiary bodies of regional associations, especially prior to a constituent body session, for the procedure to ensure that the commitment of the Permanent Representatives and the proposed experts are confirmed, as well as the availability of the professional profile, through a brief curriculum vitae of the latter, to help ascertain their specific expertise, and willingness to contribute; and that nomination committees are established early to allow sufficient time to examine all experts' personal information prior to a constituent body session;
4. That working group and task team members and theme leaders be chosen in such a way that their volunteer work corresponds to their daily activities in their home institutions;
5. That an indication of time commitment, for example in terms of minimum percentage of overall activity or time slots, might be useful for the agreement of the Permanent Representative to secure the necessary time for WMO work;
6. That Permanent Representatives should provide complete and up-to-date expert details, especially working e-mail addresses, to facilitate establishing subsidiary bodies;
7. That candidate experts not selected by nomination committees should be informed, thanked and encouraged to apply again to some other WMO work.

##### Performance monitoring:

1. That the WMO Secretariat manages the organization of subsidiary body meetings as early as possible within the intersessional period, in order to finalize action plans drafted following e-mail communication or teleconferences, and that the budget is set up accordingly, in order to have work assigned appropriately;
2. That evaluation of each subsidiary body and involved experts be conducted by the chairperson of the working group according to the rules of results-based management, in particular to decide on the continuation of the membership of experts, taking into consideration the need for a balance between continuity and new activities and experts.

3. This evaluation is also important for the experts involved, especially for the recognition of their work by their Permanent Representatives;
4. That should an expert not contribute at the expected level, or in case of a totally silent expert, the president of the Association will consider his/her replacement, for example after one year of insufficient contribution;
5. That peer-reviewed reports produced should be published as soon as possible, at least on subsidiary body websites, preferably in appropriate publication series with the names of contributors, for monitoring purposes and in order to recognize the work of the authors.

Recognition:

That Permanent Representatives should give recognition to their staff of work conducted for WMO activities. As in most National Meteorological and Hydrological Services an individual evaluation procedure is in place for rating staff members, the contribution to WMO work should be included in the list of criteria used.

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