

**CONSIDERATION OF DECISIONS OF FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
REQUIRING URGENT ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

NATURAL DISASTER PREVENTION AND MITIGATION PROGRAMME

SUMMARY

ISSUETS TO BE DISCUSSED:

To consider the decisions of Cg-XV related to the Natural Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Programme particularly related to changing the name of WMO "Natural Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Programme" to WMO "Disaster Risk Reduction" Programme.

ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL IMPLICATION:

None

DECISIONS/ACTIONS REQUIRED:

- (a) Adoption of draft text for inclusion in the general summary of EC-LIX contained in Appendix A

REFERENCE:

1. Cg-XV/PINK 3.9 – Natural Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Programme
2. EC AG DPM 2 / Doc.4 – Report of the Second Session of the Executive Council Advisory Group on DPM: http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/dpm/documents/Doc04_ECAGDPM_Outcome_document.pdf.

CONTENT OF DOCUMENT:

Appendix for inclusion in the final report:

- A. Draft text for inclusion in the general summary of EC-LIX

DRAFT TEXT FOR INCLUSION IN THE GENERAL SUMMARY OF EC-LIX

3.2 CONSIDERATION OF DECISIONS OF FIFTEENTH CONGRESS REQUIRING URGENT ACTION BY THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

NATURAL DISASTER PREVENTION AND MITIGATION PROGRAMME (*agenda item 3.9*)

3.2.1 The Executive Council (the Council) recalled the recommendations of the second session of the EC Advisory Group on Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (EC – AG DPM) (29-31 January 2007), reviewed during Congress XV, and noted that Congress requested the Council to consider these issues for adoption and/or implementation as appropriate. The Council further recalled the decision of Congress XV to adopt the WMO strategic goals in disaster risk reduction and their reflection in the WMO Strategic Plan.

3.2.2 The Council adopted the Vision Statement of WMO in disaster risk reduction as considered by Congress XV,

"To enhance the contributions of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, in a more cost-effective, systematic and sustainable manner, towards the protection of lives, livelihoods and property, through strengthening of capabilities and cooperation in the field of disaster risk reduction at national to international levels."

3.2.3 The Executive Council recalled the recommendations of the EC – AG DPM regarding changing the name of the WMO Natural Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Programme and noted that Congress XV considered that this name did not adequately reflect, (i) complete scope of WMO and NMHSs in all components of disaster risk reduction including, prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and reconstruction, and (ii) the scope of the Programme. The Council further noted that this name may not be in alignment with the international terminology and developments, as the term "natural disaster" implied that disasters happen naturally rather than being caused by natural hazards, and the term "disaster risk reduction" was the standard terminology used in the Hyogo Framework for Action and adopted by international community and agencies. The Council decided to change the name of the Programme to WMO "Disaster Risk Reduction Programme" and requested that this decision be henceforth reflected in all future documentation and references to the Programme.