

EC-LVII GENERAL SUMMARY

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

3.9.1 The Executive Council noted the significant contributions of WMO to the successful preparation and outcomes of WCDR. The Council recognized the benefits of that proactive participation as a result of effective coordination through cross-cutting activities of DPM. The Council acknowledged the WCDR outcomes reflected in the Hyogo Declaration and Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters to provide a vehicle to expand the international recognition of the importance of hydrometeorological information and services to disaster risk reduction. The Council confirmed that that should lead to enhance recognition and opportunities for the NMHSs as a critical component of disaster risk reduction infrastructure at the national and regional levels. The Council noted that the Framework for Action called for an integrated, multi-hazard approach to disaster risk reduction, providing five high priority action areas, including:

- (a) Ensure that disaster risk reduction was a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation;
- (b) Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warnings;
- (c) Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels;
- (d) Reduce the underlying risk factors;
- (e) Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels.

The Council acknowledged that WMO and NMHSs were in an excellent position to take a leadership role in the international to national levels, respectively, particularly in the second high priority action area, while also contributing to the other four areas. The Council stressed the need for WMO and NMHSs to respond proactively to the Hyogo Framework for Action.

3.9.2 The Council noted the Secretariat's efforts to organize the First Meeting of the Executive Council Advisory Group on Natural Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (EC-AGDPM) (18-19 March 2005), as a critical follow up action to WCDR. The Council noted that recommendations of the EC-AGDPM were critical for the development of clear strategic direction and related actions for WMO's DPM Programme. The Council noted the report of the chairperson of the EC-AGDPM. The Council particularly noted the EC-AGDPM recommendations, including:

- (a) Revision of the DPM Implementation Plan by building on the DPM Implementation Plan approved by the fifty-sixth session of the Executive Council in accordance with the recommendations of EC-AGDPM;
- (b) Identify and develop strategic partnerships at the regional and international levels and assist the NMHSs to identify partnerships at the national level; (c) Within a "multi-hazard" framework, facilitate a comprehensive survey and mapping of regional and national capabilities, factoring in the requirements of the disaster risk management community; (d) A matrix of DPM-related activities of all WMO major Programmes to determine scope, synergies, gaps and redundancies and related budget;
- (e) Identify concrete regional and subregional projects to be implemented with a systematic coordinated approach building on WMO's Programme activities and addressing regional and national priorities;
- (f) Identify, document and share "best practices" when appropriate linkages between the NMHSs and the risk management community had been achieved and benefits of their services were realized. That should be carried out in collaboration with WMO Programmes, NMHSs, regional associations, technical commissions and other key partners; (g) Build a catalogue of weather-, water-, climate-related and other hazards around the world, as well as an annual yearbook of hazards; furthermore, enhance disaster databases such as that of the Center for Research on the

Epidemiology of Disasters by adding user-friendly analysis tools and interfaces with other key disaster databases;

(h) The critical need to develop the Educational and Public Outreach Programme of the NMHSs targeted at their stakeholders (disaster risk management authorities, media and general public, etc.) to be carried out in collaboration with the PWS Programme and other relevant WMO Programmes;

(i) Strong support of WMO's contribution to the development of the Tsunami Early Warning System in the Indian Ocean and other regions at risk, within a multi-hazard framework;

(j) Identify and implement mechanisms to incorporate the input of the user community on international, regional and national levels for development of relevant and useful products and services by NMHSs;

(k) The input of the user community on the international, regional and national levels was critical for the development of relevant and useful products and services by the NMHSs. However, effective mechanisms to incorporate users' input and requirements needed to be considered;

(l) NMHSs should proactively establish the linkages with the risk management and emergency authorities;

(m) Participate proactively in the Third International Conference on Early Warning, sponsored by the Government of Germany, in March 2006;

(n) Develop effective communication and knowledge management mechanisms building on the WMO DPM Website to facilitate cross-cutting activities;

(o) Develop and implement a proactive advocacy plan for promoting a culture of prevention and role of NMHSs and WMO in disaster risk reduction;

(p) Determine and demonstrate the most effective mechanisms for working within the existing WMO structures, including the potential for strengthening the existing initiatives, in particular with respect to meeting the need of the DPM stakeholders;

(q) The need for additional professional and administrative staffing and other resources to the DPM Programme Office to coordinate and execute DPM Programme activities effectively as a high priority area for WMO.

3.9.3 The Council acknowledged:

(a) The timely response of WMO in identifying and offering its relevant core capabilities to the development of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Early Warning System;

(b) The coordinated efforts of WMO with UNESCO and its IOC and the ISDR Secretariat;

(c) The proactive response of WMO and the recognition within the international community as one of the leading organizations contributing to the establishment of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Early Warning System.

The Council noted that that had been achieved through coordination activities of the DPM Programme with WMO Programmes to develop a clear strategy, identify relevant areas of contributions, and develop three concrete plans of action. The Council particularly acknowledged that the plans for GTS upgrades to support tsunami-related information and warnings were not only a critical contribution to the Indian Ocean Tsunami Early Warning System but also to the strengthening of the GTS, which further enhanced the Members capacity as a whole. The Council stressed the need for continued WMO collaboration with the United Nations Special Envoy on Tsunami Recovery, former President Clinton of the United States, in promoting that tsunami early warning systems should be developed within a multi-hazard approach and for all regions at risk. The Council requested the Secretary-General for continued contributions in the Indian Ocean and other regions at risk, within the cross-cutting framework of DPM.

3.9.4 The Council noted the critical need for WMO's strategic partnerships with other organizations at the regional and international levels. The Council acknowledged that WMO established a

partnership with UN/ESCAP in hosting the typhoon committee in the Asia Pacific over the last four decades. The Typhoon Committee had promoted effective partnership among NMHSs and DPM agencies at the national and regional levels. Such experiences could be used in formulating the DPM Programme. The Council further noted the WMO initiative with UNESCO related to flood forecasting and impacts as an example of important partnerships to be built upon. The Council stressed that also new partnerships should be developed based on the complementary roles and activities of the organizations, their value added towards advancing DPM goals as well as contributions to the area of disaster risk reduction as a whole. The Council supported the efforts of the Secretariat's systematic approach to identifying and evaluating potential partners through the ISDR Interagency Task Force for Disaster Reduction, conferences, and bilateral and multilateral meetings. The Council urged that the NMHSs seek targeted partnerships at the national level and through participation in the emerging National Disaster Reduction Platforms. The Council stressed the need for the Secretariat to support the NMHSs, particularly those in the developing and least developed countries and SIDS, in their efforts to establish their partnerships at the national level.

3.9.5 The Council acknowledged the important follow up actions of the Secretariat to revise the WMO DPM Implementation Plan by building on the Implementation Plan approved during its fifty-sixth session and including the recommendations of the EC-AGDPM. The Council noted the momentum generated by the WCDR; the tragic 26 December 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami disaster; the Conference on Small Island Developing States (Mauritius, January 2005); and GEO. The Council stressed that those presented a window of opportunity and that WMO should proceed proactively and as a matter of priority with the activities outlined in the Revised Implementation Plan of the DPM Programme presented in Annex IV to this report.

3.9.6 The Council stressed that within a multi-hazard framework, regional and national survey of capabilities (strength and weaknesses), gaps and needs of WMO's core areas of activities related to DPM—including, technical capabilities, capacity-building and training, educational and public outreach programmes of the NMHSs and the linkages of the NMHSs with risk management and emergency structures— should be carried out as a high priority activity of the DPM Programme.

3.9.7 The Council stressed the leading role of WMO in participating in: (a) the Global Survey of the Early Warning Systems requested by the United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, in his report to the General Assembly (In Larger Freedom: Towards Development, Security and Human Rights for All, A/59/2005, 21 March 2005); and (b) the third International Conference on Early Warning, to be held in March 2006. The Council requested the Secretary-General to take appropriate actions to ensure WMO's proactive contributions to those events.

3.9.8 The Council underlined the necessity to develop a standard methodology for the collection of information about hazardous hydrometeorological events causing damages and, where possible and available, the estimate of damages caused by those events. The Council urged that based on such methodology, that statistical information should be delivered by NMHSs to the WMO Secretariat on a regular basis (once a year) to be further summarized for information purposes. That information should also be submitted to the United Nations for further use.

3.9.9 The Council recognized that within the high priority activities of the DPM Programme, three areas should be considered as highest priority:

(a) facilitation of strategic partnerships;

(b) integration of cross-cutting DPM activities of WMO Programmes; and (c) hazard mapping and risk assessment capabilities for hydrometeorological hazards.

3.9.10 The Council noted that performance measures to assess WMO DPM activities were essential to ascertain success. Those measures should be visible, measurable, quantifiable and actionable. To that end, the Council recommended to the Secretariat and interested Members to develop specific performance measures. The Council further suggested that the DPM performance measures could be used to assist in setting future priorities and to ensure that the cross-cutting activities WMO Programmes addressed those priorities in a sustainable and effective manner.

3.9.11 The Council recognized the benefits of the DPM cross-cutting Programme and the Secretary-General's initiatives and deep commitment to enhancing WMO's contributions to its Members through enhanced capabilities and contributions of the NMHSs to disaster risk reduction. The Council also recognized that the implementation of DPM activities of NMHSs required their strong cooperation with various disaster prevention, mitigation and emergency authorities of the countries.

3.9.12 The Council noted that access to expertise within the areas, including aspects for integration of hydrological and meteorological services and disaster risk assessment and management, would be critical to the development of the DPM Programme. The Council urged the Members to consider secondments to the DPM Programme Office as a means of providing needed expertise.

3.9.13 The Council recognized that in light of the demonstrated benefits of the cross-cutting activities of the DPM Programme, there was a need for strengthening the DPM Programme to ensure effective implementation of the DPM Strategy. In that respect, the Council adopted Resolution 9 (EC-LVII).

RESOLUTION 9 (EC-LVII)
NATURAL DISASTER PREVENTION AND MITIGATION
ABRIDGED FINAL REPORT OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE
COUNCIL

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL,

NOTING:

- (1) Resolution 29 (Cg-XIV) — Natural Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Programme,
- (2) The Abridged Final Report with Resolutions of the Fourteenth World Meteorological Congress (WMO-No. 960), general summary paragraphs 7.4.1 to 7.4.21 and 3.4.1.23,
- (3) Resolution 5 (EC-LVI) — Executive Council Advisory Group on Natural Disaster Prevention and Mitigation,
- (4) The Abridged Final Report with Resolutions of the Fifty-sixth Session of the Executive Council (WMO-No. 977), general summary paragraphs 11.1 to 11.13,
- (5) The outcome documents of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, 18-22 January 2005), including the Hyogo Declaration and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,
- (6) That several NMHSs have established partnerships with disaster risk management agencies at the national and regional levels and their experience would be valuable for the formulation of the DPM Programme,
- (7) The outcomes of the first meeting of the Executive Council Advisory Group on Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (Geneva, 18-19 March 2005),
- (8) The Revised Implementation Plan of the DPM Programme,

RECOGNIZING:

- (1) That the impacts of weather-, climate- and water-related hazards account for near 90 per cent of loss of life and that nearly 65 per cent of economic loss are due to all natural disasters,
- (2) The increasing concern of the international community on issues relating to disaster risk reductions and subsequent activities at the international, regional and national levels in response to the Hyogo Framework for Action,

(3) The various efforts made by the WMO Secretariat to establish an effective programme for implementing cross-cutting national disaster prevention and mitigation involving WMO and its Members, through the NMHSs, and strategic targeted partnerships at the international, regional and national levels,

(4) The critical role of WMO and NMHSs in the area of disaster reduction and the responsibility that lies on WMO and NMHSs to ensure that the core technical and scientific capabilities are most effectively integrated in the disaster reduction decision processes at the international, regional and national levels. This is necessary to reduce loss of life, impacts on quality of life, economic set back and environmental degradation caused by hazards of hydrometeorological origin,

DECIDES:

(1) To endorse the recommendations set forth in the Report of the Executive Council Advisory Group on Disaster Prevention and Mitigation as outlined in general summary paragraph 3.9.2;

(2) To adopt the Revised Implementation Plan of the DPM Programme;

REQUESTS:

(1) The Secretary-General to bring the Hyogo Framework to the attention of Members to urge their Governments to adopt and implement the recommendations;

(2) The Secretary-General to proceed with the activities outlined in the Revised Implementation Plan of the DPM Programme as a matter of high priority;

(3) The Secretary-General to enhance the capacity of the DPM Programme Office to coordinate and execute the Revised Implementation Plan of the DPM Programme, through increased resources for the DPM Programme Office;

(4) The NMHSs to participate actively in the DPM Programme under close cooperation with various disaster prevention, mitigation, and emergency authorities in their countries;

(5) The Members to consider secondment to the DPM Programme Office as a means of providing needed expertise.