

funded by the ACP-EU. The project successfully developed the capacity of ten NMHSs in the English-speaking Caribbean to deliver climate services to agricultural extension officers and the general farming community in their respective countries. These services are delivered through a sustainable user interface mechanism that will be expanded and replicated in future projects. The Council also noted that the project developed and distributed to regional governments a Policy Brief that promoted the development of weather and climate services for food security in the Caribbean region.

## **4.2 Disaster Risk Reduction Programme (agenda item 4.2)**

### ***Progress with the implementation of the WMO Disaster Risk Reduction Programme Work Plan (2012–2015) and related strategic issues***

#### *Systematic engagement of WMO Technical Commissions and Regional Associations in the implementation of the Disaster Risk Reduction Work Plan 2012–2015*

4.2.1 The Council recalled its decision to adopt the two-tier Disaster Risk Reduction Programme Work Plan (2012–2015) (hereafter referred to as the DRR Work Plan). The aim is to facilitate better alignment of the activities of WMO constituent bodies and global operational network as well as strategic partners to assist National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) to implement an integrated approach to develop and deliver weather, hydrological and climate services to the DRR users. The Council was informed that progress is underway to map the roles and relevant activities of technical commissions (TCs) and the regional associations (RAs) and to develop processes for systematic engagement of the TCs and RAs in the implementation of the DRR Work Plan.

4.2.2 In this regard, the Council urged the TCs, with support from the Secretariat to determine opportunities for leveraging the TCs work plans and resources and identify: (1) current activities of the TCs that are directly relevant; (2) those activities that may require stronger inter-commission coordination across the relevant TCs; and (3) new activities that may be considered to be developed over time, particularly in relation to concrete deliverables of the DRR Work Plan;

4.2.3 The Council was informed by the presidents of the RAs that the coordinated approach of the DRR Programme has facilitated institutional partnerships of NMHS with the DRR user community, leading to greater synergies of activities. It was noted that systematic engagement of weather and climate experts from the Regions in the international and regional conferences in risk assessment and risk transfer is shaping the Regions' approach to disaster risk reduction. The Council requested the Secretary-General to: (i) continue work with the DRR user community through this coordinated approach; and (ii) to strengthen resource mobilization efforts taking into account regional priorities and existing projects in the Region, in order to avoid duplication. Furthermore, the Council urged the RAs, with support from the Secretariat, to document lessons learned from the integrated and coordinated approach of the DRR Programme and engagement of the RAs in the implementation of the DRR and adaptation capacity development projects in Southeast Europe, the Caribbean, Southeast Asia and the Early Warning System (EWS) Project in Costa Rica and prepare recommendations for role of RAs and promoting the approach to other WMO Regions.

#### *DRR User-Interface Expert Advisory Groups and linkages to WMO TCs and to GFCS User-Interface Platform (UIP)*

4.2.4 The Council recalled its endorsement of four DRR User-Interface Expert Advisory Groups (UI-EAGs) and mechanisms for the DRR priority thematic areas, including: (1) Hazard/Risk Analysis; (2) Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems; (3) Disaster Risk Financing and Transfer; and (4) Humanitarian Planning and Preparedness. It recalled that these UI-EAGs were established to provide user input and guidance towards the implementation of the DRR Work Plan. It recalled that the membership of these thematic UI-EAGs included leading experts from the DRR user community (public and private sectors), United Nations and other international partner agencies from humanitarian and development communities, academia as well as the NMHSs and DRR focal

points of relevant WMO TCs. The Council stressed that these DRR UI-EAGs serve as coordinated user platforms to:

- (a) Identify and prioritize user needs and requirements for weather, hydrological and climate products and services and as input to the TCs activities pertaining to the development of related guidelines, manuals, and standards;
- (b) Facilitate engagement of the user community in the implementation of DRR and adaptation capacity development projects with WMO TCs, RAs and global operational network (e.g., GDPFS, GTS/WIS, WIGOS) to demonstrate utilization of such products and services in DRR decision-making.

4.2.5 The Council was encouraged to learn of the progress in development of user-interface platforms for operational implementation of the DRR Work Plan including:

- (a) Engagement of CBS and CCI with the UI-EAG Task Team for Humanitarian Planning, Preparedness and Response Planning for development of operational weather and climate services for the international humanitarian user-community, with a design and implementation planning meeting scheduled for July 2013;
- (b) Engagement of the TCs with the UI-EAG on Hazard/Risk Analysis for development of standards for hazard definitions, monitoring, historical databases and metadata and mapping techniques (statistical and forward looking climate analysis) driven by requirements for risk analysis, noting that the first technical workshop planned to be held on 10–14 June 2013, for scoping the activities, priorities and inter-commission cooperation to address this area.

In this regard, the Council requested the Secretary-General to ensure support to the technical commissions to develop these coordinated mechanisms to encourage and where appropriate support the implementation of relevant guidelines and standards.

4.2.6 With consideration for the decisions of the 2012 extraordinary session of the WMO Congress and the EC-64 for the implementation of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), the Council noted that a number of deliverables of the DRR Work Plan directly contributed to the development of the other four components of the GFCS, namely, Climate Services Information System (CSIS), Observations, Research and Capacity Building. In this regard, the Council requested the Executive Council Working Group on Service Delivery (EC-WGSD):

- (a) To establish clear linkages between the WMO DRR Programme UI-EAGs and the GFCS UIPs for DRR, with consideration for DRR UI-EAGs activities for identification of needs and requirements for climate services for DRR (e.g., risk analysis, EWS, disaster risk financing and humanitarian planning) and feedback mechanisms from the user community;
- (b) To formulate, in consultation with the TCs and RAs, concrete recommendations to leverage DRR Work Plan deliverables relevant to strengthening of the other four components of the GFCS (i.e., CSIS, Observations, research and capacity development) for implementation of GFCS for DRR applications.

It requested the Secretariat to provide all necessary support to the EC WG SD in accomplishing its tasks.

#### *Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) (2005–2015) and post-2015 Framework*

4.2.7 The Council recalled that HFA 2005–2015 served as the primary driving force for the development of the DRR capacities nationally, regionally and globally and it underpinned the WMO DRR Programme strategic priorities. The Council was informed that, as HFA was drawing to an end in 2015, global, regional and national consultations were underway to identify priorities of action for a post-2015 Framework. The Council stressed the opportunities for inclusion of critical and strategic issues related to development of weather, hydrological and climate services to support DRR, the building of disaster-resilient communities, and the implementation of GFCS, in

the post-2015 Framework. To achieve this, the Council appreciated the efforts of the Secretary-General in consultation with the Members to develop a document that would highlight such strategic issues from national, regional and global perspectives and ensuring that these are communicated through the upcoming global consultations, such as the fourth Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction (21–23 May 2013, Geneva, Switzerland).

### **4.3 Data-processing and forecasting: weather, climate and water (agenda item 4.3)**

#### ***Weather***

##### *Evolution of the Global Data-processing and Forecasting System (GDPFS)*

4.3.1 The Council recalled that Cg-XVI (2011) adopted the outline for a revised *Manual on the GDPFS* (WMO-No. 485) through Resolution 6 (Cg-XVI), wherein it decided that this Manual is the single source of technical regulations for all operational data-processing and forecasting systems of Members. The Council reinforced that, similarly to the WIGOS and WIS, the GDPFS is an all-encompassing system, including data-processing and forecasting systems coordinated by CBS, jointly with other technical commissions and/or WMO Programmes, as well as with other international organizations. It agreed that the GDPFS is the basis for the operational production of accurate, reliable and timely weather, climate, water and related environmental forecasts and products, and would therefore satisfy, in a cost-effective and sustainable manner, the evolving data-processing and forecasting requirements of WMO Members. Noting that the evolution of the GDPFS goes beyond the data-processing and forecasting systems of the WWW, the Council requested the Secretary-General to develop an amendment for consideration by EC-66 to reflect these aspects in the *WMO Technical Regulations* (WMO-No. 49). The Council approved the amendments to the *Manual on the Global Data-processing and Forecasting System* (WMO-No. 485) through [Resolution 5 \(EC-65\) – Report of the fifteenth session of the Commission for Basic Systems concerning the global data-processing and forecasting system and emergency response activities](#) (for the proposed amendments to the Manual, see [Annex 2 to Resolution 5](#)).

##### *Severe Weather Forecasting Demonstration Project (SWFDP)*

4.3.2 The Council noted that the SWFDP continues to make steady modest progress through five regional projects, either underway or under development. Recalling the decision by Cg-XVI that SWFDP should be an end-to-end cross-programme collaborative activity that engages all WMO Programmes that concern the real-time prediction of hydrometeorological hazards, through their respective technical commissions, the Council was pleased to note that the five regional projects presently involve several WMO global and regional operational centres (e.g. RSMCs), 41 NMHSs of developing countries (29 of which are LDCs/SIDSs), and engage several WMO Programmes (i.e. GDPFS, PWS, TCP, DRR, MMO, AgM, SP, ETR, CD, LDC, RP, and WWRP) and technical commissions (i.e. CBS, CAgM, CHy, JCOMM, and CAS).

4.3.3 The Council noted the potential benefit of an expanded role for Global Centres in the SWFDP, as demonstrated by the United Kingdom Met Office Global Guidance Unit (GGU) in the East Africa SWFDP, in sharing best practices, mentoring, training on forecast guidance and facilitating the establishment of effective severe weather teleconferences between the regional centres and NMHS forecasters.

4.3.4 The Council noted that in preparations for the implementation of the GFCS, there had been close consultation with a wide spectrum of users of hydrometeorological services in support of disaster risk reduction, and adaptation to climate variability and change. These users had, *inter alia*, highlighted the success of services delivered under the umbrella of the SWFDP. In addition to global NWP centres and RSMCs, the Council acknowledged that GPCs for Long-range Forecasts (LRF), RCCs and RCOFs could also have a role in the SWFDP model in support of developing seamless regional early warning systems. It therefore agreed in principle that the SWFDP model could also be applied to prediction at longer-time scales. It also agreed that SWFDP should broaden its scope to targeted applications (e.g. agriculture, marine, aviation, flood forecasting, etc.) for extending the benefits of the SWFDP to other user sectors in society. In this context, the