

3.8.2.4 Congress noted that the WMO Office for West Asia, in Manama, Bahrain, became operational in March 2007, and expressed its deep appreciation to the Governments of Bahrain, Costa Rica, Kenya, Nigeria, Paraguay and Samoa for hosting WMO Offices in their countries, and the Governments of Brazil and Mexico for hosting WMO Project Offices.

3.8.2.5 Congress recognized that the WMO Offices in the Regions should be provided with the necessary tools to discharge efficiently their responsibilities in a timely manner, in particular the development and implementation of technical projects, the support to NMHSs in priority areas such as natural disaster prevention and mitigation and climate change and related environmental issues, and the liaison with partners.

3.8.2.6 Recognizing the need to better serve the Regions, Congress requested the Secretary-General to strengthen those Offices, in particular by providing them with adequate human and financial resources within the available budget.

3.8.2.7 Congress stressed that the WMO Regional Offices should promote the priorities as defined in the respective regional association strategic plan. It also encouraged the Secretary-General to facilitate substantive discussions with National Meteorological and Hydrological Services at the regional and subregional levels in order to explore cost-effective approaches to procurement and maintenance of observing systems.

3.8.2.8 Congress noted that, in several regions of the world, the technical and economic context of the provision of meteorological services to air navigation was undergoing various significant developments, depending on the region. It therefore recommended that the regional associations concerned devote particular attention to those issues, so as to give their Members any necessary support under regional activities, within the limits of available resources, and to ensure proper coordination between the WMO Regional Programme and the Aeronautical Meteorology Programme. Congress also requested the Executive Council to follow up such matters in order to advise on any appropriate measures to facilitate interregional coordination with regard to those developments.

3.8.2.9 Congress warmly welcomed the initiative to establish a WMO country profile database to enhance the ability of the whole WMO Secretariat to follow the status of and development needs of the Members. Congress urged the Secretary-General to take immediate action to operationalize such a database and gather there all of the information collected by individual WMO Programmes/Departments. The WMO Country profile database would optimize the number of questionnaires sent to the Members.

3.8.2.10 Congress considered the status of implementation of other aspects of the regional activities under the reports of the presidents of the regional associations and other relevant agenda items.

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

Review of activities during the fourteenth intersessional period

3.9.1 Congress recalled its decision to establish the major WMO cross-cutting Natural Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DPM) Programme, through Resolution 29 (Cg-XIV), and requested the Executive Council to provide the overall guidance and framework for its implementation with the assistance of the technical commissions. Congress reviewed actions undertaken during the fourteenth intersessional period according to the Sixth WMO Long-term Plan and directions provided by Fourteenth Congress.

3.9.2 Congress emphasized that WMO and the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services contributed to all components of disaster risk reduction, including prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and reconstruction. Congress highlighted the need

for strengthening partnerships with the users in that sector with the goal to better understand their requirements for meteorological, hydrological and climate services in support of different components of disaster risk reduction. Congress stressed that the central focus of the Programme was to enhance contributions of NMHSs towards the protection of lives, livelihoods and property through strengthening their capacities and cooperation in disaster risk reduction at the national to international levels. Congress urged National Meteorological and Hydrological Services to take proactive action to further strengthen their collaboration with civil protection and disaster risk management authorities and agencies.

3.9.3 Congress noted with appreciation the progress made for the development of the Programme, such as:

- (a) Establishment of DPM focal points within all programmes, Commissions and working groups of regional associations and their active engagement in the implementation of the Programme;
- (b) Identification of potential partners and concrete areas of joint activity, and convening the multi-agency Symposium on Multi-hazard Early Warning Systems for Integrated Disaster Risk Management held in Geneva on 23 and 24 May 2006, to foster partnerships;
- (c) WMO contributions to the Second World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan from 18 to 22 January 2005, Third International Conference on Early Warning, held in Bonn, Germany, from 27 to 29 March 2006, and the Global Survey of Early Warning Systems requested by the United Nations Secretary-General.

3.9.4 Congress also acknowledged with satisfaction the Secretariat initiatives, following the tragic 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, in cooperation with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO and other partners and generous support from several Members and substantive funds raised through the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Flash Appeal, to coordinate assessments and implementation of Global Telecommunication System upgrades, including related training, in eight countries, where such needs were identified. Congress expressed its appreciation to the Governments of the United States of America and Japan for providing interim tsunami warning services to all the Indian Ocean rim countries, through the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center and the Japan Meteorological Agency, respectively. Congress noted that internationally, the WMO Global Telecommunication System was recognized as the backbone for information exchange in support of multi-hazard early warning systems and requested the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, to support strengthening of tsunami early warning systems, through similar efforts in other regions at risk. Congress urged its partners to address the need for enhanced ocean observations for improved tsunami detection and warning.

Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, and emerging opportunities for WMO and National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in Disaster Risk Reduction

3.9.5 Congress acknowledged with satisfaction the participation of WMO and NMHSs in the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, and recognized that the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters underpinned the WMO framework for implementation of disaster risk reduction at the national to international levels. Congress further noted that the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015 shifted the traditional focus of post-disaster humanitarian response to a more comprehensive approach involving prevention and preparedness measures.

3.9.6 Congress noted that the Secretary-General contributed to the restructuring of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction System and agreed to the participation of WMO in the

ISDR System and advancements of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015. Congress noted that participation in the ISDR Platforms and strengthening of linkages with United Nations Resident Coordinators were effective mechanisms for NMHS cooperation with other agencies in that field and urged the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services to proactively participate in the national Committees and Platforms for disaster risk reduction. Congress requested the Secretary-General to continue his actions with the ISDR System in those forums and processes.

Assessment of Members' and regional capacities, requirements and priorities

3.9.7 Congress noted with satisfaction that major fact-finding surveys, completed at the national and regional scales, analysed systematically Members' capacities, requirements and priorities in disaster risk reduction. Congress expressed its appreciation to the Members for their participation in those WMO initiatives. Those assessments identified common challenges and opportunities among the Members related to governance, organizational, technical and training aspects. Congress agreed that those assessments constituted the basis for the development of WMO integrated capacity development action plans, with particular focus on the developing and least developed countries and small island developing States. Congress suggested future surveys could be used by the Programme to monitor progress towards achieving the expected results.

Natural Disaster Prevision and Mitigation Programme vision, priorities and implementation directions

3.9.8 Congress welcomed that the Executive Council, through its Advisory Group on Natural Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, had progressed key issues such as: (i) vision for the Programme; (ii) DPM strategic goals, (iii) governance; (iv) budget-related aspects; (v) regional and national cross-cutting projects and related implementation aspects; and (vi) naming of the Programme to better reflect its scope. Congress requested the Executive Council to consider those issues for adoption and/or implementation as appropriate.

3.9.9 Congress considered the following DPM strategic goals, derived from the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015. The decision of Congress regarding inclusion of those goals in the WMO Strategic Plan was taken under [agenda item 6.2](#).

- (a) **Strategic Goal 1:** Development, improvement and sustainability of early warning systems, in particular related to scientific and technical infrastructures, systems and capabilities for research, observing, detecting, forecasting and warnings of weather-, water- and climate-related hazards;
- (b) **Strategic Goal 2:** Development, improvement and sustainability of systems, methods, tools and applications of modern technologies, such as geographical information systems for recording, analysing and providing hazard information for risk assessment, sectoral planning and other informed decision-making;
- (c) **Strategic Goal 3:** Development and delivery of warnings, specialized forecasts and other products and services that were timely, understandable to those at risk and driven by requirements of disaster risk reduction decision processes and operations;
- (d) **Strategic Goal 4:** Stimulate a culture of disaster preparedness through strengthening of capacities for better integration of NMHSs' products and services in disaster risk reduction, and continued public education and outreach campaigns;
- (e) **Strategic Goal 5:** Strengthening cooperation and partnerships of WMO and National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in national, regional and international mechanisms and structures for implementation of disaster risk reduction;

3.9.10 Congress was informed that on the basis of assessments and surveys, the Natural Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Programme would lead a sustainable integrated capacity development action plan, which would be built upon some or all of the following major thrusts: (i) modernization of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and observing networks; (ii) implementation of national operational multi-hazard early warning systems; (iii) strengthening of hazard analysis and hydrometeorological risk assessment tools; (iv) strengthening NMHSs' cooperation with civil protection and disaster risk management agencies; and (v) coordinated training and public outreach programmes. Congress agreed that the action plan should focus on priority areas in line with the WMO Strategic Plan and should be implemented through concrete regional and national projects involving relevant Programmes, technical commissions, regional associations and external partner organizations. In that connection, Congress learned with satisfaction that the Secretary-General had already embarked on the implementation of several national and regional cross-cutting projects.

3.9.11 Congress requested the Secretary-General to strengthen resource mobilization for sustainability of national and regional disaster risk reduction capacities.

3.9.12 Recalling the potential increase in hydrometeorological disasters associated with climate variability and change, Congress requested the Secretary-General to ensure effective coordination among WMO climate-related Programmes and the Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Programme, which would be reflected through concrete national and regional projects.

3.9.13 Congress recalled WMO obligations as specified in Article X, Statistical Services, of the agreement between the United Nations and WMO on the "... collection, analysis, publication, standardization, improvement and dissemination of statistics in the field of meteorology and its applications, and for the supply of such statistics to other specialized agencies..." (*Agreements and Working Arrangements with other international organizations* (WMO-No. 60)). Congress requested the Secretary-General to coordinate the collection and dissemination of information on meteorological, hydrological and climate-related hazards and their impacts, when possible and available.

3.9.14 Congress encouraged WMO and its Members to leverage their capacities, in cooperation with other agencies, to support multi-hazard early warning systems to enhance benefits to the Members.

Coordination with other international organizations related to disaster risk reduction of seismic-related hazards

3.9.15 Congress recalled its request to the Executive Council to further address a potential facilitation role of WMO regarding international coordination in the field of seismology. Congress further recalled that the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization operated an advanced global seismological observation network, which had the potential to contribute significantly to the detection of a tsunami threat. Based on consultations with UNESCO, Congress noted that there was no formal intergovernmental framework for coordination in the field of seismology. In the light of the above, Congress requested the Secretary-General to continue collaboration with the Preparatory Commission.

3.9.16 Congress adopted [Resolution 25 \(Cg-XV\) – Natural Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Programme](#).

3.10 WMO SPACE PROGRAMME (agenda item 3.10)

3.10.1 Congress recalled that at Fourteenth Congress it had decided to initiate the WMO Space Programme as a major cross-cutting programme to increase the effectiveness and contributions from satellite systems to WMO Programmes. Congress reviewed the main accomplishments of the WMO Space Programme during 2004–2007 regarding improvement of the

Resolution 25 (Cg-XV)

NATURAL DISASTER PREVENTION AND MITIGATION PROGRAMME

THE CONGRESS,

Noting:

- (1) 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, and Resolution 29 (Cg-XIV) – Natural Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Programme,
- (2) 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, and Resolution 5 (EC-LVI) – Executive Council Advisory Group on Natural Disaster Prevention and Mitigation,
- (3) The *Abridged Final Report with Resolutions of the Fifty-seventh Session of the Executive Council* (WMO-No. 988), general summary, paragraphs 3.9.1 to 3.9.13, Resolution 9 (EC-LVII) – Natural Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, and Annex IV – Natural Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Programme revised Implementation Plan 2005–2007,
- (4) The *Abridged Final Report with Resolutions of the Fifty-eighth Session of the Executive Council* (WMO-No. 1007), general summary, paragraphs 3.9.1 to 3.9.20,
- (5) The Final Report of the Second Session of the Executive Council Advisory Group on Disaster Prevention and Mitigation,
- (6) The outcome documents of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005, including the Hyogo Declaration and the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters,
- (7) The Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change,

Noting further:

- (1) That disasters pose a serious threat to safety, security and sustainable development,
- (2) The increasing concern within the international community on issues relating to disaster risk reduction,
- (3) The significant loss of life and property associated with weather-, water- and climate-related hazards,
- (4) The potential increase in hydrometeorological disasters associated with climate variability and change,
- (5) The critical role of WMO and the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in all components of disaster risk reduction,

Stressing that investment in meteorological, hydrological and climate services is critical to protection of life, livelihood, property and achievement of sustainable development,

Considering:

- (1) That the WMO Natural Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Programme is a cross-cutting Programme spanning WMO Programmes, technical commissions, regional associations and the Secretariat,
- (2) That successful implementation of the Programme requires a clear programmatic focus, effective governance and strong cooperation at the national to international levels,
- (3) That the name WMO Natural Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Programme may not adequately reflect the complete scope of activities of WMO and the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in disaster risk reduction,

Reaffirming that the protection of lives, livelihoods and property is a key strategic thrust of WMO,

Recognizing the strengthened International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction system as the primary collaboration mechanism across the United Nations system and other international and regional agencies and networks involved in disaster risk reduction,

Decides that the implementation of the Natural Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Programme should comply with the WMO Strategic Plan, adopted under Resolution 27 (Cg-XV), with its major contributions focused on the following expected results:

6. Enhanced capabilities of Members in multi-hazard early warning and disaster prevention and preparedness;
7. Enhanced capabilities of Members to provide and use weather, climate, water and environmental applications and services;
8. Broader use of weather, climate and water outputs for decision-making and implementation by Members and partner organizations;
9. Enhanced capabilities of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in developing countries, particularly least developed countries, to fulfil their mandates;

Requests the Executive Council:

- (1) With the assistance of technical commissions and regional associations, to prioritize and provide further guidance for the implementation of the Programme in line with the WMO Strategic Plan, during the intersessional period;
- (2) To re-establish, with updated terms of reference, its Executive Council Advisory Group on Disaster Prevention and Mitigation;

Requests presidents of technical commissions to coordinate inter-commission projects and activities to meet WMO Strategic Goals in disaster risk reduction;

Requests presidents of regional associations to ensure that the regional association strategic plans are aligned with the regional components of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015 and with the WMO Strategic Goals in disaster risk reduction;

Requests the Secretary-General, in reference to the Natural Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Programme vision statement, strategic goals and in response to the requirements and priorities of Members:

- (1) To give high priority to the implementation of the Programme within available budgetary resources;

- (2) To ensure that the Programme is implemented with clear roles and responsibilities among WMO Programmes, technical commissions, regional associations, Members and external partners to better leverage their resources, capacities and expertise for enhanced benefits to the Members;
- (3) To further define and implement a set of prioritized national and regional Natural Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Programme-related projects;
- (4) To assist with strengthening of international cooperation in disaster risk reduction, by facilitating coordination among the bilateral and multilateral capacity development activities of Members and by fostering collaboration with the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction system partners and other relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations;
- (5) To prepare standard methodology for the collection of information from National Meteorological and Hydrological Services on meteorological, hydrological and climate-related hazards and their impacts, when possible and available, and coordinate collection of such information from the Services to prepare statistical reports to inform the United Nations specialized agencies;

Invites the system partners and the Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction to continue strengthening their partnerships with WMO;

Urges Members:

- (1) To implement the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015 at the national level;
- (2) To participate proactively in the planning and decision processes in disaster risk reduction, including through support of related national committees and platforms;
- (3) To strengthen collaboration of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services with the civil protection agencies and disaster risk management authorities.

Resolution 26 (Cg-XV)

PUBLICATIONS PROGRAMME FOR THE FIFTEENTH FINANCIAL PERIOD

THE CONGRESS,

Considering:

- (1) Resolution 22 (Cg-XIV) – Publications Programme for the fourteenth financial period,
- (2) That the accurate and timely production and distribution of publications, as well as efforts towards equal treatment of all WMO languages, are essential to almost all functions of the Organization and that as a matter of general policy, high priority shall be given to the Publications Programme,