

fifty-eighth session and the priority areas were still valid, and taking into consideration the needs of Members for the support to capacity-building activities addressing the implementation of the Quality Management System at national and regional levels, the Council approved an addition of “Support to capacity-building for the Quality Management System” to the list of VCP coordinated programmes for 2007–2008.

3.3 The Council noted that in 2006 the VCP(F) was used mainly for expert services, short-term fellowships and training activities, Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries activities, and high-priority programmes, in particular for support to upper-air and surface observing stations, for the improvement of telecommunication systems including the Internet capabilities, support to the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development, and mitigation of natural disasters and emergency assistance activities, in accordance with the guidelines approved by the Council at its fifty-eighth session, and approved the allocations of the VCP(F) for 2007, based on estimated income of approximately US\$ 190 000 as given in [Annex II to the present report](#). The Council authorized the Secretary-General to implement the projects as funds became available.

Natural Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Programme

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

3.5 The Council adopted the Vision Statement of WMO in disaster risk reduction as considered by Fifteenth Congress:

“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 the national to international levels.”

3.6 The Executive Council recalled the recommendations of the Advisory Group regarding changing the name of the WMO Natural Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Programme and noted that Fifteenth Congress considered that the name did not adequately reflect: (i) the complete scope of WMO and National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (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 the name might not be in alignment with the international terminology and developments, as the term “natural disaster” implied that disasters happened 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 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, and adopted by the international community and agencies. The Council decided to change the name of the Programme to WMO “Disaster Risk Reduction Programme” and requested that the decision be henceforth reflected in all future documentation and references to the Programme.

Follow-up to the International Conference on Secure and Sustainable Living: Social and Economic Benefits of Weather, Climate and Water Services (Madrid, Spain, 19–22 March 2007)

3.7 The Council recalled that the International Conference on Secure and Sustainable Living: Social and Economic Benefits of Weather, Climate and Water Services, held in Madrid, Spain, from 19 to 22 March 2007, was a major activity aimed at promoting the recognition of the social and economic benefits of weather, climate and water services and products. It further recalled that Fifteenth Congress requested that an appropriate mechanism be put in place with the aim of ensuring effective and sustained follow-up to the conference.

3.8 To promote concerted actions that would duly reflect the outcome of the conference, the Council recognized the Madrid Action Plan (see *Abridged Final Report with Resolutions of the Fifteenth World Meteorological Congress* (WMO-No. 1026), general summary, paragraphs 7.4.39 to 7.4.46) as a basis for the developing follow-up programme and activities. Consequently, the Council concluded that the follow-up programme and activities should give priority to:

- (a) Enhancing the WMO capability to respond to the changing needs of its Members and society in general;
- (b) Assembling authoritative feedback from the users of the services provided by NMHSs;
- (c) Furthering development and strengthening of techniques and methods to increase the utility and the socio-economic benefits of services NMHSs provided in all user sectors;
- (d) Promoting, at the national and international levels, closer dialogue, partnerships and multidisciplinary understanding between providers and users of weather, climate and water services.

3.9 The Council urged the Secretary-General to encourage National Meteorological and Hydrological Services to take the initiative at the national level, through outreach workshops and in other ways. In that regard, it stressed the need to develop guidance materials that would enable the Services in establishing improved consultation and partnership arrangements with their major user community groups and other stakeholders. That should lead to further appreciation that resources provided for the development and/or improvement of weather, climate and water services should not be regarded as expenditures, but rather as investments.

3.10 Recalling that Fifteenth Congress emphasized the importance of addressing social and economic benefits resulting from the provision of meteorological, hydrological and related services, the Council further urged the Secretary-General to take the following actions as a way of giving due attention to related issues arising from the Madrid conference:

- (a) Publication of materials arising from the conference;
- (b) Develop a programme to take into consideration relevant aspects of the Madrid Action Plan that would ensure closer and effective collaboration with users;
- (c) Coordinate, as appropriate, follow-up activities with regional associations and technical commissions;
- (d) Work with appropriate partners in ensuring delivery of activities;
- (e) Allocate adequate resources for implementation within the approved budget for the fifteenth financial period, as well as from extrabudgetary sources.

3.11 The Council requested the Secretary-General to report to its sixtieth session on progress made on the implementation of the Madrid Action Plan, taking into account the results of the mechanism established by the Council in that connection.

4. REPORTS OF SESSIONS OF CONSTITUENT BODIES (*agenda item 4*)

Report of the fourteenth session of the Commission for Instruments and Methods of Observation

4.1 The Executive Council noted with appreciation the report submitted by Mr John Nash (United Kingdom), the president of CIMO, who had been elected by acclamation at the fourteenth session of the Commission. The Council also congratulated Mr Rainer Dombrowsky (United States) on his election as vice-president of CIMO. It furthermore expressed its appreciation to Mr Ray Canterford for his outstanding leadership of the Commission, and for his considerable contribution to CIMO and the Instruments and Methods of Observation Programme.

- (2) To invite relevant funding and development agencies including the World Bank and European Commission to participate in the work of the working group;
- (3) To invite Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States of America to designate experts in capacity-building to participate in the work of the working group and attend sessions of the working group at their own expense;

Authorizes the working group to establish sub-groups and task teams as and when required;

Requests the Secretary-General to take relevant actions to support the activities of the working group.

Note: This resolution replaces Resolution 1 (EC-LV), which is no longer in force.

Resolution 5 (EC-LIX)

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WORKING GROUP ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION [AND SERVICE DELIVERY]

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL,

Noting:

- (1) Resolution 25 (Cg-XV) – Natural Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Programme,
- (2) Resolution 16 (Cg-XV) – Public Weather Services Programme,
- (3) Resolution 18 (Cg-XV) – Aeronautical Meteorology Programme,
- (4) Resolution 19 (Cg-XV) – Marine Meteorology and Oceanography Programme,
- (5) Madrid Action Plan (*Abridged Final Report with Resolutions of the Fifteenth World Meteorological Congress* (WMO-No. 1026), Annex III),

Decides to establish an Executive Council Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction [and Service Delivery] with the following terms of reference:

To provide guidance on the cross-cutting Disaster Risk Reduction Programme, in particular with respect to:

- (a) Further development and implementation of the Programme's activities in alignment with the WMO Strategic Plan and Fifteenth Congress decisions;
- (b) The development of a coordination framework for the WMO Disaster Risk Reduction Programme involving all WMO Programmes, technical commissions and regional associations, Members and external partners, such as United Nations bodies and other international organizations, particularly related to the role and responsibilities of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in:
 - (i) Multi-hazard early warning systems;
 - (ii) Hazard analysis and risk assessment;

- (iii) Cooperation with civil protection and disaster risk management authorities;
- (iv) Service delivery to disaster risk reduction community under a multi-hazard framework;
- (v) Capacity-building and public education;
- (c) Provide recommendations regarding alignment of the WMO Disaster Risk Reduction Programme with the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, and strengthened International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) System, and the outcomes related to Actions 1 to 5, 7 and 11 of the Madrid Action Plan;
- (d) Ensure effective coordination with other relevant Executive Council subsidiary bodies on issues pertaining to disaster risk reduction;
- (e) Invite relevant ISDR-system agencies to participate in the work of the working group;
- (f) Any other matters relating to disaster risk reduction that the Executive Council may specifically request;

Requests the chairperson of the working group, in consultation with members of the Group, the presidents of the technical commissions, and the Secretary-General, to refine the terms of reference of the Group, and to take the agreed revised terms of reference into account when confirming the title of the working group;

Authorizes the working group to establish sub-groups and task teams as and when required.

Resolution 6 (EC-LIX)

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ADVISORY PANEL OF EXPERTS ON GENDER MAINSTREAMING

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL,

Noting:

- (1) Resolution 33 (Cg-XIV) – Equal opportunities for the participation of women in meteorology and hydrology,
- (2) Resolution 34 (Cg-XV) – Gender mainstreaming,
- (3) WMO Policy on Gender Mainstreaming,
- (4) Results of the Expert Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming (Geneva, 26–29 March 2007),

Considering:

- (1) The Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995) and its recognition of the importance of women and their contributions to science,
- (2) The United Nations Millennium Development Goal to promote gender equality and empower women,
- (3) That WMO is one of the last United Nations agencies to have adopted a policy on gender mainstreaming,