

Decides:

- (1) To define the scope of the WMO Flood Forecasting Initiative to include all the hydrological forecasting activities, such as those related to flash floods and riverine floods, including seasonal forecasts and coastal flooding due to storm surges;
- (2) To establish the WMO Flood Forecasting Initiative Advisory Group (FFI-AG) with terms of reference as per the annex to this resolution;

Requests the Secretary-General, as appropriate and within the available budgetary resources, to take all necessary actions to support the establishment of the WMO FFI-AG and its activities;

Requests the president of the Commission for Hydrology to report periodically to the Executive Council on the progress of the activities of the WMO FFI-AG;

Invites Members:

- (1) To actively support the tasks of the Advisory Group, including by facilitating the participation of dedicated experts in sessions of the Group;
- (2) To ensure that National Meteorological Services and National Hydrological Services work in close collaboration in the provision of critical inputs to the Group;
- (3) To promote recommendations of the Group on a national basis;
- (4) To contribute to the Voluntary Cooperation Programme Fund and the Hydrology and Water Resources Trust Fund in support of the implementation of activities recommended by the Group.

Annex to Resolution 15 (Cg-XVI)**FLOOD FORECASTING INITIATIVE ADVISORY GROUP
TERMS OF REFERENCE AND COMPOSITION****Background**

Developed in 2003, the WMO Flood Forecasting Initiative (FFI) is based on an analysis of the weaknesses of current forecasting systems, with a view to enhancing the ability of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) to cooperate in an effective manner to provide improved flood forecasting services.

The Fifteenth World Meteorological Congress in 2007 endorsed the Strategy and Action Plan for the Enhancement of Cooperation between National Meteorological and National Hydrological Services for Improved Flood Forecasting. At its thirteenth session in 2008, the Commission for Hydrology (CHy) recognized a range of other initiatives associated with the FFI, such as the Flash Flood Guidance System (Resolution 3 (CHy-XIII) – Hydrological forecasting and flood management). Subsequently the Coastal Inundation Forecasting Demonstration Project (CIFDP) was initiated jointly by CHy and the Joint WMO/IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM). Seasonal hydrological flow forecasting based on regional climate outlooks has also been initiated by CHy and the Commission for Climatology.

Both Resolution 3 (CHy-XIII) – Hydrological forecasting and flood management and Resolution 21 (Cg-XV) – Strategy for the Enhancement of Cooperation between National Meteorological and National Hydrological Services for Improved Flood Forecasting called on the president of CHy to establish an appropriate management mechanism in connection with these initiatives. Considering the cross-cutting nature of the guidance required for providing technical oversight, it is proposed to establish an overarching Advisory Group for the Flood Forecasting Initiative (FFI-AG) to advise on the hydrological forecasting elements of these initiatives.

Terms of reference

The WMO Flood Forecasting Initiative Advisory Group (WMO FFI-AG) shall:

1. Consider and advise on the concept, objectives, expected benefits/costs, strategy, action plan and future development of the WMO FFI;
2. Review and assess the status of the WMO FFI and progress towards its objectives, and propose strategies for any necessary remedial action;
3. Review and assess the progress of specific WMO FFI projects upon request;
4. Advise on standards (including, but not limited to, methodologies, techniques, technologies, and so forth) for the robust and sustainable implementation of the WMO FFI;
5. Review the relationship of the WMO FFI with other relevant international programmes, particularly from the point of view of coordination and avoidance of overlap, and propose any necessary actions;
6. Identify and evaluate constraints on, and potential risks to, the future implementation and sustainability of the WMO FFI, and propose strategies to minimize those risks. Risks include, inter alia, those of a financial, technical, operational and institutional/political nature;
7. Consider and propose plans for effective advocacy of the WMO FFI (as appropriate), and ways and means to assure its future sustainability and appropriate expansion;
8. Promote awareness about raising the social and economic benefits and value of flood forecasting systems, including a community development approach;
9. Review and advise on its terms of reference and composition.

Composition

The WMO FFI Advisory Group shall be composed of:

1. The president of the WMO Commission for Hydrology (chair);
2. One representative with flood forecasting experience from CHy, and representatives of other WMO technical commissions as and when needed;
3. One representative from each active financial partner involved in the WMO FFI projects.

Observers

1. Representatives from WMO FFI operational projects invited on an ad hoc basis;

2. Representatives from relevant WMO Programmes as required;
3. Regional Hydrological Advisers and/or representatives of regional association working groups on hydrology;
4. Representatives of potential financial partners that could contribute to the WMO FFI.

The Director of the Climate and Water Department of the WMO Secretariat shall act as secretary to the WMO FFI-AG.

Resolution 16 (Cg-XVI)

CLIMATE DATA REQUIREMENTS

THE CONGRESS,

Noting:

- (1) Resolution 12 (Cg-XV) – World Climate Data and Monitoring Programme and the decisions taken and adopted by the Fifteenth World Meteorological Congress and by the subsequent Executive Council sessions relevant to climate data management, data rescue and climate monitoring,
- (2) The priorities set by the Commission for Climatology (CCI) during its fifteenth session for climate data and climate monitoring and assessment,
- (3) The development of the WMO Information System (WIS), which provides modern architecture and standards for data discovery, retrieval and exchange and for interoperability with other data systems,
- (4) The progress made in providing guidance and guidelines on best practices and principles through a series of WMO and Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) publications and reports covering climate observations, climate data management, data rescue and climate indices, among other things,

Recognizing:

- (1) That climate as a resource needs to be exploited optimally based on a best use of climate data to support sustainable development and the well-being of societies,
- (2) The increased needs for high-quality, timely and accessible climate data for climate monitoring, research, applications and climate change adaptation,
- (3) The new and evolving requirements for high-quality climate products and services within the Global Framework for Climate Services,
- (4) The need for quality assurance and traceability of climate data to ensure robust and authoritative climate monitoring and assessment at global, regional and national levels,
- (5) The need for utilizing climate data from all possible sources encompassing land and marine data and including in situ, space-based and model reanalysis data,