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**ISSUES RELEVANT TO CBS ARISING FROM
FOURTEENTH CONGRESS,
THE FIFTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, AND
THE 2003 MEETING OF THE PRESIDENTS OF TECHNICAL COMMISSIONS**

Aspects Related to Renaming CBS

(Submitted by the Secretariat)

Summary and purpose of document

This document describes aspects relevant to the on-going discussion on renaming CBS. Having noted the views and decisions made by Cg-XIV and EC-LV, the Management Group is invited to consider how to proceed from here.

DISCUSSION

Aspects Related to Renaming CBS

1. EC-54 requested the president of CBS to consider a proposal to rename CBS to reflect more clearly the services aspect of the work of CBS, particularly in connection with its responsibility for the Public Weather Service Programme.

2. CBS-Ext(02) noted that a number of delegations was in favour of the proposal to rename the Commission as "Commission for Basic Systems and Services", and a number of delegations was in favour of renaming the Commission as "Commission for Basic Services and Systems". The implications of such changes were discussed and it was felt that the latter option might impinge on responsibilities of existing application commissions that also provided basic application services. It was noted that a change of name of the Commission might or might not require a revision of the terms of reference of CBS. Other delegations were not in favour of changing the name of the Commission at the present time. CBS-Ext(02) requested the CBS Management Group to study further the issue and to develop a proposal for consideration by the next session of the Commission.

3. In its consideration of the PWS programme, Cg-XIV agreed that the PWS programme was gaining increased importance among Members in view of the close relationship between the performance of NMSs in delivering public weather services and how Governments view the value of their NMSs. That was particularly so in the case of Members with developing NMSs who needed assistance in delivering useful and understandable services to their communities. It therefore was of the view that the Programme needed to have more visibility within the WMO structure and noted the view expressed by several delegations concerning actions that should be taken to this effect. Congress suggested that this issue be kept in view when discussions on any changes to the present structure of WMO take place. Congress also considered that there could be merit in oversight at the Executive Council level of the PWS Programme in close coordination with the related new programme on natural disaster prevention and mitigation.

4. When discussing the evolving WMO structure, Fourteenth Congress agreed that the basic structure of the WMO constituent bodies, involving the Executive Council, technical commissions and regional associations, should be supported and, in general, maintained at the present time. It was emphasized that joint activities of various bodies to deal with cross-cutting issues should be further encouraged. Congress also noted that, given the limited available resources, the Organization should avoid overlapping and duplication of effort, while ensuring the implementation of the high priority programme activities of WMO.

5. Fourteenth Congress requested the Executive Council to continue addressing these issues. EC-LV decided to set up an ad hoc group to establish a firm foundation on which the Council could conduct an in-depth discussion on the evolving role of WMO. The group, in particular, should:

- (a) *Identify areas of concern relating to the evolving role of WMO, as well as its structure, mode of operation and Convention;*
- (b) *Collate the relevant data, information and other work already undertaken on that subject;*
- (c) *Analyze the relevant issues that need to be addressed;*

- (d) *Prepare a discussion paper that will form the basis of EC-LVI's discussion on this matter which should lead to specific decisions for the realization of Congress decisions. This should provide recommendations on the way ahead, including specific recommendations that could be adopted by EC-LVI and lead to changes by Cg-XV, if deemed advisable by the Council. The possible establishment of any subsidiary body or bodies that may be necessary should also be addressed.*

The Council agreed that this group should consult as widely as possible with Members and their NMHSs, regional associations and technical commissions. For that purpose, an electronic mailbox should be set up.
