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**COMMISSION FOR BASIC SYSTEMS**

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**MANAGEMENT GROUP**

***Fourth Session***

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ITEM: 2

Langen, Germany, 13-16 October 2003

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**ISSUES RELEVANT TO CBS ARISING FROM  
CONGRESS, EXECUTIVE COUNCIL,  
AND THE  
2003 MEETING OF THE PRESIDENTS OF TECHNICAL COMMISSIONS**

***WMO Quality Management Framework***

*(Submitted by the Secretariat)*

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**Summary and purpose of document**

This document summarizes the decisions of EC-LV on the WMO Quality Management Framework. The Management Group is invited to consider possible activities of CBS, including how to prepare the input on the subject of the acting president of CBS to EC-LVI and other activities, if any, prior to CBS-XIII.

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### **WMO Quality Management Framework**

The Fifty-fifth session of the Executive Council (EC-LV) noted that Fourteenth Congress (Cg-XIV) decided that WMO should work towards a Quality Management Framework (QMF) for NMSs that would eventually include and develop the following distinct though related elements, which could be addressed, possibly on a phased basis:

- (a) WMO technical standards;
- (b) Quality management system(s), including quality control; and
- (c) Certification procedure(s);

while recognizing that the cost associated with the development of such a framework had yet to be assessed.

The development of a WMO Quality Management Framework should enable the provision of early and continuing relevant advice to Members on developing their quality management system; and that the first priority was to consolidate the available pertinent technical standards to enable easy access and reference in the WMO QMF.

The EC recalled that Cg had requested the EC to:

- (a) take the lead in this matter, with the help of the technical commissions, making use of the already developed comprehensive system of WMO procedures and practices documented in the Technical Regulations, Manuals, Guides, Guidelines and Technical Publications; and considering the need for possible adaptation of existing systems and procedures, especially relevant WMO regulatory material, that would assist NMSs to meet increasing expectations of users/customers for more effective and efficient service delivery;
- (b) guide the development of the QMF, including the early availability of broad guidelines for Members, especially their NMSs; and
- (c) establish the appropriate mechanism for ensuring that this work is carried out.

The Council requested the technical commissions to assist in the provision of technical guidance, advice, review and assessment, as appropriate; and the regional associations to provide advice and feedback on that matter.

Members were encouraged to share relevant experience and cooperate with one another in progressing work in that area, including providing assistance to Members with specific needs on that matter, as appropriate.

The Council also requested the Secretary-General to provide support and take appropriate initiatives for the implementation of relevant actions. In particular, the Secretary-General was requested by the Council to assist in arrangements for a wide-ranging discussion on this topic during EC-LVI. The Secretary-General was further requested to take into account of the work of the task group/<sup>1</sup>/ as well as the relevant experiences of Members in that area. The preparatory activities were expected to facilitate the identification by the Council of further steps to be taken.

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<sup>1</sup> The Task Group was established by the Presidents of Technical Commissions Meeting in 2002 and is chaired by the acting president of CBS.