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| WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATIONCOMMISSION FOR BASIC SYSTEMS OPAG on DPFSIMPLEMENTATION COORDINATION TEAM Geneva, Switzerland, 12 – 16 February 2018 |  | CBS-DPFS/ICT/Doc. 4.4.2  (3.II.2018)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Agenda item : 4.4  ENGLISH ONLY |

**Report of the co-chairperson**

**Expert Team on Emergency Response Activities (ET-ERA)**

**Non-nuclear ERA**

*(Submitted by René Servranckx, Canada)*

##### Summary and purpose of document

This document contains the report of the co-chairperson of the CBS DPFS Expert Team on Emergency Response Activities (ET-ERA) with regard to non-nuclear ERA. The report for nuclear activities from the chairperson is in document 4.4.1.

##### Action proposed

The meeting is invited to note the information provided, discuss the issues and make appropriate proposal and recommendations.

## 1. Background

1.1 The goal of the Emergency Response Activities (ERA) programme is to assist NMHSs, with other relevant agencies of Member States and in cooperation with relevant international organizations, to respond effectively to environmental emergencies. The programme was primarily focused on emergencies caused by nuclear accidents and radiological incidents until CBS-XIII created, in 2005, an Expert Team to develop the non-nuclear aspects.

1.2 In September 2012, CBS-XV restructured the OPAG on DPFS leading to the creation of the Expert Team on Emergency Response Activities (ET-ERA) consisting of two teams to deal respectively with operational procedures for nuclear and non-nuclear ERA. As a result of an overlap in the membership of the teams/activities and in order to increase efficiency, the ET-ERA began covering both topics in combined meetings in 2013.

1.3 The chairperson of the ET-ERA is Anton Muscat (UK) who leads the nuclear component and the co-chairperson is Mr. René Servranckx (Canada), who leads the non-nuclear aspects. The last ET-ERA meetings were held before the last ICT meeting, in October 2013 (College Park, USA) and November 2015 (Buenos Aires, Argentina).

**2. ACTIVITIES since May 2016 ICT meeting**

**2.1 Designation of non-nuclear ERA RSMCs**

2.1.1 In March 2017, the ET reviewed the applications from France and Germany for designation of their centres (Toulouse and Offenbach) as RSMC for non-nuclear ERA. France had already expressed formally its interest in getting such designation at CBS-16.

2.2.2 The ET was impressed by the capabilities demonstrated by both centres and had no doubt that they have the scientific, technical and operational capabilities to fulfil the requirements of the RSMC designation. It was also noted that additional information was still needed to complete the evaluation, such as providing examples of specific products to demonstrate compliance with the non-nuclear ERA sections in the Manual on the GDPFS, which was under review at the time. Unfortunately, there was not sufficient time to complete this in time for EC-69.

2.2.3 The additional information is being prepared by France and Germany. It will be submitted to the ET by the end of February 2018. The team will review it and make, as needed, recommendations to the President of CBS in March 2018, then on to the President of Regional Association VI and finally to EC-70 in June 2018.

2.2.4 A few other centres have expressed their interest in applying for a non-nuclear ERA RSMC designation and are preparing the required documentation for review by the ET.

**2.2 Designation of atmospheric sandstorm and duststorm forecasts (ASDF) RSMCs**

2.2.1 The WMO Executive Council approved, at its sixty-ninth session in May 2017, the recommendation from CBS-16 for the formal designation of RSMCs Barcelona and Beijing as ASDF centres.

**2.3 Non-nuclear ERA—Manual on the GDPFS**

2.3.1 The text for non-nuclear ERA was checked by the Messrs. Muscat and Servranckx in November 2017 before its inclusion in the soon to be released revised Manual on the GDPFS (dated 2016).

2.3.2 The text will be checked again when the Manual is published and the WMO secretariat informed if any issues are found. There are, however, no amendments proposed by the ET.

**3. PRIORITIES BEFORE THE NEXT ET-ERA MEETING**

3.1 The next meeting of the ET-ERA will likely be held in October 2018. The priorities in the coming months are to:

3.1.1 Develop the non-nuclear aspects of [*WMO Technical Note No. 778—Documentation on RSMC Support for Environmental Emergency Response*](http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/DPFSERA/td778.html). As always, this is somewhat conditional on the availability of funding and manpower.

3.1.2 Complete successfully the non-nuclear RSMC designation process for Offenbach and Toulouse.

3.1.3 Review requests of new non-nuclear RSMC designations if/when received.