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| Submitted by: Arkadi Koldaev  23.03.2018 |

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**Focal Point**

Report of the CIMO Focal Point for the Executive Council Panel of Experts on Polar and High Mountain Observations, Research and Services (EC-PHORS)

(Submitted by Arkadi Koldaev)

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| **Summary and purpose of document**  This document provides information on the current activity of the EC-PHORS with the purpose to discuss the practical possibility for the CIMO to be involved in the development of Polar and High Mountain Observations. |

**Action proposed**

The Meeting is invited to consider the status of CIMO activity to meet EC-PHORS requirements to the instruments and methods of observations.

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**Appendix:**I “CIMO CONTRIBUTION TO THE OBSERVATIONAL FRAMEWORK”

EC-PHORS-7/Doc.3.1(2)

**Report of the CIMO Focal Point for the Executive Council Panel of Experts on Polar and High Mountain Observations, Research and Services (EC-PHORS)**

1. **INTRODUCTION**

WMO activities in Polar and High Mountain Regions are now codified as one of the seven key priorities of WMO in the WMO Strategic Plan for 2016-2019.Executive Council Panel of Experts on Polar and High Mountain Observations, Research and Services (EC-PHORS) is the main reporting body for the WMO Congress

Since CIMO Session #16 in St.Petersburg in 2014, it has been conducted two EC-PHORS sessions. Summary of the Session #6 was described in the CIMO document № CIMO/MG-14/Doc. 4.4(2) (30.III.2016). Current report is intended to highlight the Summary of EC-PHORS Session#7.

**2 MAIN TOPICS OF SEVENTH SESSION OF EC-PHORS**

2.1 The seventh (most recent except last one) session of the EC-PHORS was held in Ushuaia, Argentina, 21-24 March 2017. The Secretariat has presented CIMO document to EC-PORS-7 (The text is attached in the **Appendix I).**

2.2 Instead of seven main direction of EC-PHORS activity discussed on Session # 6 (see CIMO/MG-14/Doc. 4.4(2) (30.III.2016), the seventh session was focused on 5 key initiatives. Among them are:

(i) the Antarctic Observing Network (AntON),

(ii) the Polar Regional Climate Centers and Polar Regional Outlook Forums,

(iii) the Global Cryosphere Watch (GCW),

(iv) High Mountain regions activities, and

(v) the Global Integrated Polar Prediction System (GIPPS), including the World Weather

Research Programme (WWRP) Polar Prediction Project and YOPP, and the WCRP

Polar Climate Predictability Initiative (PCPI) under the Climate and Cryosphere (CliC)

project.

2.3 In particular, noting the excellent developments with regard to developing the Arctic PRCC

Network, the Panel agreed that a roadmap for the Antarctic and Third Pole needs to be

developed by EC 70 in 2018 learning from the experience of the Arctic PRCC.

2.4 The Panel also agreed on the definition of high mountains (“Third Pole”) as follows:

***“Mountain areas, where seasonal or perennial cryosphere is present and poses potential and serious risks to society related to water security and disaster resilience”.***

**3. PROBLEMS AND PROPOSALS**

* 1. The EC-PHORS Focal Point current role of watching EC-PHORS activities from afar and commenting where necessary is not effective unless good communication lines with EC-PHORS are established. Unfortunately, communication with EC-PHORS in this CIMO session was not effective including lack of appropriate access to documents for discussion and timely notification of EC-PHORS meetings. As a result, there was little time to comment and contribute to some EC-PHORS items.
  2. If a Focal Point role is not effective given a number of factors including ineffective communications, there is little justification in continuing these types of role with the CIMO-MG. It might be more effective if communicating matters can be left to the CIMO President or their delegate advice through the internal WMO Secretariat communication channels.

1. **RECOMMENDATIONS - DECISIONS EXPECTED FROM CIMO-MG**

* 1. It is recommended to CIMO-MG-15 to decide: should we continue the current mechanism related to EC-PHORS or should we delete the Focal Point EC-PHORS position in next session of CIMO.
  2. In case of acceptance of the second decision when advice from CIMO on EC-PHORS matters the President can seek expert advice and the Secretariat communicate it to EC-PHORS. The vacancy of Focal Point position could be re-focused on relations with HMEI, which is more pragmatic for CIMO.
  3. In case of decision to continue the Focal Point for EC-PHORS, mechanisms to

1. improve communications with EC-PORS through the CIMO Secretariat.
2. fund an appropriate CIMO expert to represent CIMO at future EC-PHORS meetings.