

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

1.1 Opening of the session

The first session of CIMO Expert Team on Upgrading the Global Radiosonde Network will be opened on Monday, 3 November 2003, at 10:00 a.m. at the WMO Headquarters, Geneva.

2.2 Adoption of the agenda

The Meeting will be invited to consider the Provisional Agenda with a view to its adoption.

3.3 Working arrangements for the session

The Meeting will agree on details concerning the organization of its work including working hours. The documentation will be available in English only, and the Meeting will be held in English.

2. REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN

The chairman of the ET will brief the participants on the purpose and scope of the ET based on the Terms of Reference of the ET, as approved by CIMO-XIII and the CIMO Management Group. He will also submit a report on the activities carried out by the ET since its establishment and a summary of reference radiosonde activities.

3. DISCUSSIONS AND MEMBER PRESENTATIONS ON HIGH PRIORITY ISSUES

Meeting will discuss the high priority issues, such as the status of reference sondes; satellite calibration using radiosondes; how to solicit agreement on BUFR code table and descriptors for international use; how to monitor and integrate AMDAR measurements into upper-air database; and how to determine the quality and consistency of data processing radiosonde algorithms for TEMP messages.

ET Members will also brief the Meeting on current national upper-air activities. In addition, Members may provide information on other issues not listed above, which they feel Meeting may consider for the ET Work Plan activities, such as procedures to improve, correct and validate different radiosondes; and reference humidity measuring methods.

Invited experts will provide information on the status of the GUAN network and on the status of the radiosonde EUMETNET.

4. WORK PLAN

The ET Meeting will be invited to develop and adopt the Work Plan for the period 2003-2006.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Members of ET will brief participants on other activities related to the work of the ET, such as the information on the Water Vapour Project (LAUTLOS-WAVVAP) in Sodankyla (Finland) in February 2004 and information on the radiofrequency issues.

6. DRAFT REPORT OF THE SESSION

The Meeting will agree on the draft Report of the First Session. Members of ET are expected to provide their written inputs for the Final Report to the chair of the ET.

7. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

It is expected to close the meeting on Friday, 7 November 2003, late afternoon.