

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

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REGIONAL ASSOCIATION II  
(ASIA)

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ITEM 4

ENGLISH ONLY

**WORKING GROUP ON PLANNING AND  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WWW IN REGION II  
FOURTH SESSION**

MOSCOW, 10-13 SEPTEMBER 2003

**CONSIDERATION OF THE DECISIONS OF THE ELEVENTH SESSION OF RA II,  
CBS EXTRAORDINARY SESSION (2002), FOURTEENTH CONGRESS AND EC-LV,  
INCLUDING REQUIREMENTS FOR WWW SUPPORT TO THE OTHER PROGRAMMES**

**WMO Space Programme**

*(Submitted by the Secretariat)*

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**Summary and purpose of document**

The purpose of this document is to inform participants of the working group of activities that have occurred at the Fourteenth WMO Congress with regard to the establishment of the WMO Space Programme and WMO Consultative Meetings on High-level Policy on Satellite Matters.

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**ACTION PROPOSED**

The group is invited to review the above decisions of Cg-XIV and consider the necessary follow-up actions applicable to RA II, if required.

## DISCUSSION

### ***WMO Space Programme***

1. The Fourteenth WMO Congress noted that in response to the momentous expansion and in recognition of the increase in responsibilities for WMO, the fifty-fourth session of the Executive Council had agreed to establish a WMO Space Programme as a matter of priority. The scope, goals and objectives of the new WMO Space Programme should respond to the tremendous growth in the utilization of environmental satellite data, product and services within the expanded space-based component of the GOS that now included appropriate R&D environmental satellite missions. Congress supported the WMO Space Programme Long-term Strategy, reviewed at the third session of the Consultative Meetings on High-level Policy on Satellite Matters. Congress agreed that the WMO Space Programme Long-term Strategy provided an excellent balance to the 6LTP and the programme and budget for 2004-2007.

2. Congress agreed that the main thrust of the WMO Space Programme Long-term Strategy should be:

“To make an increasing contribution to the development of the WWW GOS, as well as to the other WMO-supported Programmes and associated observing systems (such as AREP’s GAW, GCOS, WCRP, HWR’s WHYCOS and JCOMM’s implementation of GOOS) through the provision of continuously improved data, products and services, from both operational and R&D satellites, and to facilitate and promote their wider availability and meaningful utilization around the globe.”

3. The main elements of the WMO Space Programme Long-term Strategy were as follows :

- (a) Increased involvement of space agencies contributing, or with the potential to contribute to, the space-based component of the GOS;
- (b) Promotion of a wider awareness of the availability and utilization of data, products – and their importance at levels 1, 2, 3 or 4 - and services, including those from R & D satellites;
- (c) Considerably more attention to be paid to the crucial problems connected with the assimilation of R&D and new operational data streams in nowcasting, numerical weather prediction systems, reanalysis projects, monitoring climate change, chemical composition of the atmosphere, as well as the dominance of satellite data in some cases;
- (d) Closer and more effective cooperation with relevant international bodies;
- (e) Additional and continuing emphasis on education and training;
- (f) Facilitation of the transition from research to operational systems;
- (g) Improved integration of the space component of the various observing systems throughout WMO Programmes and WMO-supported Programmes;

- (h) Increased cooperation amongst WMO Members to develop common basic tools for utilization of research, development and operational remote sensing systems.

***WMO Consultative Meetings on High Level Policy on Satellite Matters***

4. The Fourteenth WMO Congress also considered the progress and results from the sessions of the Consultative Meetings on High-level Policy on Satellite Matters. Congress recalled that it had agreed to build a new and closer partnership under the auspices of WMO between the meteorological and hydrological services and environmental satellite communities. It had agreed that a mechanism for such discussions should be provided through the convening of Consultative Meetings on High-level Policy on Satellite Matters. Congress was convinced that the now established dialogue between WMO and the environmental satellite communities in the sessions of the Consultative Meetings had matured rapidly to the great benefit of all and that they should be continued and institutionalized. Thus Congress considered it appropriate to institutionalize the sessions as WMO Consultative Meetings on High-level Policy on Satellite Matters in order to establish more formally the dialogue and participation of environmental satellite agencies in WMO matters. It urged close cooperation with the IOC and other related international organizations to ensure a coordinated and integrated approach to space-based Earth observations.

5. Congress was unanimous that the WMO user community should be represented at the highest level at the sessions and that the space agencies should also be represented by their Directors. Future sessions of the Consultative Meetings on High-level Policy on Satellite Matters should be chaired by the President of WMO as had been the case for the first three sessions. The Consultative Meetings would continue to provide advice and guidance on policy-related matters and would maintain a high level overview of the WMO Space Programme. Congress agreed that CBS should continue the lead role in full consultation with the other technical commissions for the new WMO Space Programme.

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