

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

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REGIONAL ASSOCIATION II
(ASIA)

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**

(Submitted by the Secretariat)

Summary and purpose of document

This document considers briefly the decisions of the eleventh session of RA II, CBS-Ext.(02), Fourteenth Congress and EC-LV regarding the WWW programme and its interaction with other WMO programmes in Region II.

ACTION PROPOSED

The Working Group is invited to:

- (a) Review the decisions of the constituent bodies;
 - (b) Consider the follow-up actions taken on these decisions;
 - (c) Make recommendations to the thirteenth session of RA II on the necessary follow-up actions.
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DISCUSSION

Decisions and recommendations taken by XII-RA II

1. The Regional Association at its twelfth session (Seoul, September 2000) gave particular attention to Resolution 2 (Cg-XIII) - World Weather Watch Programme, as well as the WWW Programme in the Fifth WMO Long-term Plan, which confirmed that WWW continued to have the highest priority as the basic WMO Programme on which, nearly all other WMO Programmes depended. It also stressed that the Association would continue to play an active role in the implementation and further development of the WWW in Region II to keep the WWW Programme under continuous review and to recommend adjustments in the light of Members' changing requirements, as well as the developments in science and technology. It should also identify deficiencies, propose remedial measures and develop system support projects on a regional scale.
2. When considering the specific activities planned for the thirteenth financial period, the Association agreed that the following issues required particular attention in Region II:
 - Improved coordination and integration of functions and activities of the basic WWW components on the basis of 5LTP;
 - Review the status of the observational networks and activities of the data-processing centres, identification of their deficiencies and development proposals for their improvement, including the use of the AMDAR reports in the Region;
 - Review of the implementation of the telecommunication network in the Region, and evaluate the possibilities for applying new technologies with a view to developing and implementing an improved RMTN on the basis of new telecommunication techniques, including satellite-based telecommunication services.

Decisions and recommendations taken by CBS-Ext.(02)

3. The CBS Extraordinary session (Cairns, December 2002), noted that the Council reiterated the need for strengthening collaboration between the technical commissions and the regional associations, and encouraged arrangements for the involvement of experts from Regions in the activities of the subsidiary bodies of the technical commissions. The Commission was satisfied with its current arrangements, which comprised the regular participation of the chairpersons of the Regional Working Groups on the WWW in sessions of the Commission, the inclusion of the Regional Rapporteurs on the component programmes of the WWW in the corresponding Implementation Coordination Teams as ex-officio members, the regional balance in the composition of the CBS Management Group, the organization of the technical conferences together with sessions of the Commission, and a strong information policy of CBS that reached out to all members in all Regions.

Decisions and recommendations taken by Cg-XIV

4. Fourteenth Congress (Geneva, May 2003), through adoption of Resolution 2 (Cg-XIV) - World Weather Watch Programme for 2004-2007, stressed the role to be played by the regional associations in coordinating the WWW implementation, identifying deficiencies, specifying requirements, and planning system support projects, on a regional scale. In particular, it invited the regional associations:

- (1) To recommend projects and procedures, as necessary, for the coordinated implementation of the WWW Programme in the Regions;
- (2) To recommend systems support and technical cooperation activities needed to assist Members in their implementation and operation of the WWW in accordance with the programme;
- (3) To keep the WWW Programme under continuous review and establish requirements for adjustments in the light of Members' changing requirements and developments in science and technology, bearing in mind the principles and directives laid down in the plan.

5. Congress noted the progress made in the implementation of the regional components of the various WMO technical and scientific programmes, as well as in the strengthening and development of NMHSs in the various Regions. It also noted the concerns reported by the presidents of the regional associations, which among others, are the following:

- (a) Difficulties faced by several Members in maintaining and further developing their basic meteorological and hydrological observing networks, telecommunication facilities and data processing systems;
- (b) Weak forecasting and warning systems in many countries to analyze, interpret, predict, and disseminate timely and accurate warnings on natural disaster, such as tropical cyclones, floods, sand/dust storms, drought, monsoon depressions, forest fires/haze, and other extreme weather events;
- (c) The need to develop and improve seasonal and inter-annual climate prediction capacities in various less developed NMHSs and building capabilities in Member countries for better understanding and assessment of the nature and extent of potential threats from climate change and variability, specially the impacts of sea level rise on low lying islands and countries with extensive coastlines;
- (d) The need to give further attention to the enhancement of human resources development of Members through education and training, particularly through the provision of long-term fellowships, as well as through the use of new technology including distance learning;
- (e) Increasing trend of scarcity of fresh water and high incidents of water pollution in many countries and regions and, therefore, the need to give high priority to accelerate the development and implementation of HYCOS projects in all Regions, in particular, in RAs II and V, to contribute to the efforts of Members to address the critical issue of availability of fresh water;
- (f) The issue of commercialization/cost recovery of meteorological and hydrological services and the international exchange of meteorological and hydrological data and products and new challenges and opportunities faced by NMHSs in those areas;
- (g) The need to further enhance collaboration with relevant regional and subregional organizations, institutions and development partners in all Regions.

6. Congress agreed that the concerns mentioned above could be effectively

addressed through the implementation of the strategies developed in the various Regions to strengthen and improve their basic meteorological and hydrological facilities and services. In that regard, it gave its full support for the implementation of the World Weather Watch Strategic Plan on the Implementation and Improvement of the Basic Systems in RA I (Africa), in collaboration with New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). Congress also agreed to the request to update the Strategic Plan for the Enhancement of NMSs in Asia. It also encouraged other regions to develop and implement similar strategies. In that regard, it noted that one good example of joining forces to solve problems on the regional level is the collaboration among CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) Member States in the framework of the CIS Intergovernmental Council for Hydrometeorology (CIS-ICH). It further noted that the concept of the hydrometeorological safety of CIS Member States which would be adopted in the near future was to define the national security system of CIS Member States ensuring the safety of the lives and property of the population and of the economy of the countries relative to hydrometeorological events. Congress encouraged CIS Member States to continue their efforts in the realization of that concept. Congress requested partners and VCP donors to provide assistance for the implementation of the various regional strategies.

7. Congress agreed to strengthen the various regional specialized centres including ACMAD, ASEAN, CIIFEN, DMCs and others to assist Members in their efforts to improve their climate prediction and early warning capabilities of extreme events, as well as to help them address issues of climate change, related environmental issues and sustainable development.

8. Congress gave its full support to the priorities of regional associations as given in the Sixth Long-term Plan, as well as to their work programme during the fourteenth financial period, as highlighted in the reports of the presidents of the regional associations. It also agreed that the regional associations should give special attention to the improvement of the capacities of NMHSs in seasonal and interannual climate prediction through the enhancement of technical cooperation activities between WMO and the regional organizations and institutions in various Regions.

Decisions and recommendations taken by EC-LV

9. Fifty-fifth session of the WMO Executive Council (Geneva, May 2003), noted with appreciation the *Abridged Final Report with Resolutions and Recommendations of the Extraordinary Session (2002) of the Commission for Basic Systems (WMO-No. 955) (4-12 December 2002, Cairns, Australia)* and the activities of the Commission. Taking into account the views and directives of Fourteenth Congress, the Council considered the recommendations submitted by the extraordinary session (2002) of CBS concerning the review of the *Manual on the GOS (WMO-No. 544)*; amendments to the *Manual on the GTS (WMO-No. 386)*, the *Manual on Codes (WMO-No. 306)*, the *Manual on the GDPS (WMO-No. 485)*, and the broadening of the functions of an RSMC, to include provisions of ultra-violet index forecasts for Europe. The recommendations relating to the Manuals comprised:

- (a) Publication of a revised *Manual on the GOS*;
- (b) Updates to telecommunication functions and procedures;
- (c) Additions to binary code and CREX tables;
- (d) Amendments to alphanumeric codes;
- (e) Ensemble Prediction activities;
- (f) Emergency response procedures;

- (g) Standard Verification System for long-range forecasts;
- (h) Procedures and formats for data quality monitoring of marine, aircraft and satellite data.

10. The Council was pleased to note the progress made in the Public Weather Services programme. Specifically, with respect to the pilot Web sites on severe weather warnings and on city forecasts, it encouraged Members to supply more information to those Web sites, and where possible, to host similar sites in additional language versions. The Council reiterated the importance of achieving positive and collaborative partnerships with the national and international media, while promoting at the same time, the role of the NMSs as the single official source for the issue of warnings and the official source of public forecasts and encouraging the media organizations to attribute the source of their information to the NMSs concerned. The Council also encouraged dialogue with private sector meteorological service providers as a means of promoting mutual understanding of respective roles.

11. Concerning development and implementation of the Future WMO Information System, the Council requested the president of CBS to pursue the further development of the FWIS towards the refinement and consolidation of the concept and then the design and implementation planning phases. In that regard, the comprehensive information exchange requirements of all WMO Programmes as regarded information types and volumes, timeliness, sources and users, security, etc., needed to be taken into account. The Council stressed that the FWIS development should pay special attention to a smooth and coordinated transition. It emphasized that the support and involvement of the regional associations and the technical commissions were needed, as early as possible, in all phases of the FWIS development in order to ensure a full and shared ownership of the project, and its effective implementation.

12. Concerning development and implementation of the strategy for the WMO-wide migration to table-driven code forms, the Council endorsed the migration plan developed by CBS. It highlighted the complexity of the migration process and requested the president of CBS to put in place an effective implementation/coordination mechanism for guiding, assisting and monitoring the migration to TDCF. The Council requested the Secretary-General to organize the relevant training programme, including the use of CAL tools, covering all WMO Regions over the period 2003-2005. It also urged NMHSs to train their staff on computer and information technologies at the local level in order to facilitate and speed up the migration to TDCF, as well as the introduction of computer-based techniques.
