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# 7.4 Regional WIGOS CenteRs

(Submitted by A.D. Moura, First Vice-President of WMO)

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| **Summary and purpose of document**  The document provides a draft Concept Note for Regional WIGOS Centers (RWCs). |

**Action proposed**

The session will be invited to consider the Concept Note and recommend how to develop it further for consideration by EC-68.

**References:**

[Final Report from ICG-WIGOS Task Team on Planning for the WIGOS Pre-Operational Phase, Second Session, Geneva, 15-17 September 2015](http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/WIGOS-WIS/reports.html)

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**7.4. REGIONAL WIGOS CENTERS (WIGOS Regional Facilities)**

**I. Introduction**

* + 1. It has become a common practice to propose the creation of new centers as part of the implementation strategy of most WMO major initiatives. This has led to a proliferation of centers in the WMO Regions, a number of which remains far from reaching the proposed objectives.
    2. While the WMO Regions are not homogeneous in terms of resources and infrastructure, the proposals to create new centers, in general, do not take into account such differences between Regions.
    3. For some types of initiatives, this is a correct approach, like in the WIS case, a fully operational system, with clear and individual responsibilities of each member. GTS infrastructure and centers already existed around the world.
    4. In the case of “WIGOS Centers”, several activities will imply regional coordination and guidance to another Member, beyond operational activities, such as design of networks, quality control, etc., which would require adequate technical and human resources from designated centers.
    5. In general, the process of selection and designation of centers in WMO Regions combines a mix of technical capabilities and political willingness, many times leading to inadequate choices. This type of situation should be avoided in the process of implementation and operation of WIGOS, mainly to optimize existing resources.

**II. Comments and Suggestions**

* + 1. The second meeting of the Task Team on the Plan for the WIGOS Pre-Operational Phase (TT-PWPP-2) requested the Secretariat to develop a short Concept Note for the Regional WIGOS Centers.
    2. While the Concept Note “would focus exclusively on the expected tasks and responsibilities of the RWCs, without going into detail regarding the process for proposing, approving, establishing and reviewing such Centers”, all aspects must be considered together as this latter part is the most difficult to be addressed.
    3. The Concept Note was not yet made available by the Secretariat when this document was concluded, so the conclusions here are independent and go beyond the responsibilities and tasks of Regional Centers for WIGOS.
    4. In general, WMO should avoid the creation of new centers, where existing centers could carry out the new activities, thus ensuring optimization of technical and human resources.
    5. WIGOS is an ideal candidate for the implementation of this approach. This document suggests the adoption of some principles concerning the concept and implementation of **WIGOS Regional facilities**, broadly called WIGOS Regional Centers:
* Regional WIGOS Centers, based on the traditional WMO center concepts to be created only if absolutely necessary and decided by a concerned Region. The concept of one solution fits all should be avoided;
* Tasks and responsibilities, or functions, of potential WIGOS Centers should be clearly identified and approved; and
* To optimize existing resources and avoid proliferation of centers, the Regions, individually, would delegate “WIGOS Center” functions to capable existing centers in the Region. This task could be delegated to one or more Members, each performing specific the activities, which they are able to make best contributions in a coordinated fashion.

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