**WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION**

**INTER-COMMISSION COORDINATION GROUP ON WIGOS**

**(ICG-WIGOS)**

**WIGOS Editorial Board (WEdB)**

**SECOND SESSION**

***Geneva, Switzerland, 31 October - 3 November 2017***

**FINAL REPORT**



DISCLAIMER

**Regulation 42**

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**Executive Summary**

The Second session of the ICG-WIGOS/WIGOS Editorial Board (WEdB-2) was held at the WMO Secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland, from 31 October to 3 November 2017. The session was chaired by Mr Russell Stringer, chair, WEdB.

WEdB recognized that the Agenda was too broad for all aspects to be tackled in detail in a four-day meeting, hence several items were prioritised for attention and further items would be tackled following the meeting. Most attention was given to the draft update of the Technical Regulations (WMO-No. 49), Volume I, PART I – WIGOS, and draft Regional Basic Observing network (RBON) related provisions to be part of the Manual on WIGOS (WMO-No. 1160).

WEdB agreed on a schedule of WebEx teleconferences (once per week) until the end of 2017. The WIGOS-PO was requested to update the timeline for further development of the WIGOS Regulatory Material, taking into account the Plan for the WIGOS Pre-operational Phase (PWPP); the draft timeline is presented in [Appendix III](#Appendix_V).

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**General summary**

**1.** **ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION**

**1.1 Opening of the session**

1.1.1 The Second session of the ICG-WIGOS/WIGOS Editorial Board (WEdB) was held at the WMO Secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland, from 31 October to 3 November 2017. The session was chaired by Mr Russell Stringer, chair, WEdB. The Chair welcomed the participants to the session.

1.1.2 On behalf of the Secretary-General of WMO and the Director of the Observing and Information Systems Department (OBS), Dr L. P. Riishojgaard, PM/WIGOS opened the session and welcomed the participants to Geneva.

1.1.3 The list of participants is given in [Appendix I](#Appendix_I).

**1.2 Adoption of the agenda**

The session adopted the [Agenda](#AGENDA) for the meeting, which is reproduced at the beginning of this report.

**1.3 Working arrangements**

1.3.1 The session agreed on its working hours and adopted a tentative work plan for consideration of the individual Agenda Items.

1. **REPORT BY CHAIR**
   1. Mr R. Stringer set the scene for the work to be done during the session. He referred to the Terms of Reference of the WEdB (see [Appendix II](#Appendix_II)) approved by the ICG-WIGOS. He recalled that:
      * WIGOS regulatory material had originally been developed during the WIGOS implementation phase and approved by Congress in 2015,
      * Important steps for WIGOS regulatory material during the pre-operational phase include development of guidance material to assist Members to understand and comply with the WIGOS regulations, and transition of the remaining content from the Manual on the GOS (WMO-No. 544) into the Manual on WIGOS (WMO-No. 1160),
      * At the first meeting WEdB-1, the initial version of the Guide to WIGOS (WMO-No. 1165) had been compiled,
      * A significant element of the transition of the remaining content from the Manual on the GOS is to adopt the concept of the Regional Basic Observing network (RBON). The report of the RBON Workshop (May 2016) clarified the concept and identified three key benefits for Members,
      * There are several ongoing areas of active development of new regulatory and guidance material including data partnerships, data quality monitoring, and terminology used to classify different types of marine stations/platforms.
2. **REVIEW OF OUTCOMES FROM ICG-WIGOS-6 and EC-69**
   1. The Secretariat, briefed the session on the outcomes from ICG-WIGOS-6 and EC-69.
   2. ICG-WIGOS agreed with the recommendations from the Chair, WEdB of a) the scope of WEdB and its Terms of Reference should include the Guide to WIGOS, not just the “initial version”; b) all new and updated WIGOS regulatory and guidance material should be reviewed by WEdB before being submitted to any WMO constituent body session for approval. WEdB does not prepare the content of regulatory and guidance material, but it provides a place where materials from many different sources can be reviewed and cross-checked for to ensure consistency and avoidance of repetition or gaps, to guide the work of authors and the Secretariat
   3. ICG-WIGOS agreed that any draft material should be submitted to WEdB to ensure consistency and avoidance of repetition or gaps, to guide the work of authors and the Secretariat.
   4. EC-69 adopted the updated Appendix 2.4 and the attachment to Appendix 2.4 and the updated Section 8 of the Manual on the WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WMO-No. 1160), with effect from 1 January 2018.
   5. The Council further decided that the attachment to Appendix 2.4 will be extracted from the Manual and be processed separately as a stand-alone attachment in order to facilitate frequent updating of its technical content, and that the code tables from the current annex to the attachment to Appendix 2.4 be removed and included in the Manual on Codes (WMO-No. 306).
   6. The Council decided to adopt the initial version of the Guide to the WMO Integrated Global Observing System with effect from 1 July 2018; EC-69 requested the Inter-Commission Coordination Group on WIGOS to finalize the initial version of the Guide with additional guidance material.
   7. The Council requested the ICG-WIGOS to further develop and enhance the Guide with additional material as it becomes available in accordance with Resolution 2 (EC-68).
3. **WMO TECHNICAL REGULATIONS AND GUIDANCE MATERIAL RELEVANT TO WIGOS**
   1. The session was briefed by I. Zahumensky, WIGOS-PO, on the latest status and foreseen updates of WIGOS relevant regulatory material, specifically Technical Regulations (WMO-No. 49), Volume I, Part I – WIGOS, Manual on the WIGOS (WMO-No. 1160), and the transition of the Manual on the GOS (WMO-No. 544) to the manual on WIGOS.
   2. The session reviewed the draft updates for the Technical Regulations (WMO-No. 49), Volume I, Part I – WIGOS developed by WIGOS-PO. The reviewed version is available at: <http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/www/WIGOS-WIS/meetings/WEdB-2/WEdB-2.html>. This draft may be developed further after other WIGOS regulatory and guidance material is completed and reviewed.
   3. WEdB agreed on the following considerations:
      * A definitive explanation of Level I – III data which is current and widely agreed is needed. WEdB requested WIGOS-PO to pursue this with wide collaboration across the Secretariat. It may subsequently be necessary to review the current simple definition of observations as Level II data;
      * While quality management was emphasised in the WIGOS Technical regulations, further evolution of the material is needed. Once available, material from the Task Team on WIGOS Data Quality Monitoring will be very helpful in this regard;
      * Technical regulations and guidance should be improved in the area of WIGOS related education, training and competencies. The Guide to the Implementation of Education and Training Standards in Meteorology and Hydrology (WMO-No. 1083), Volume I – Meteorology could be used as the starting point. It may be proposed to ICG-WIGOS-7 that future attention be given to this issue.
   4. Extensive attention was paid to the draft RBON provisions, specifically to details on frequency of observations depending on the observing system and type of the observation and defining target and minimum requirements. Several different approaches were discussed and further work was planned to complete the draft. It was noted that these details are needed in the Manual to assist Members, individually and together in Regional Associations, to clearly understand their basic obligations for the frequency and content of observations to be shared through WMO systems. This provides a practical link from the technology-agnostic observational data requirements which may be found in their full complexity in the OSCAR database, to the technology-specific operational activities that will address those requirements at least to a basic level. Such details have been provided in the past in the Manual on the GOS for individual elements of the GOS; however it is more challenging to specify these details for a composite observing system drawing on all the elements.
   5. The need for national RBON focal points was discussed. WEdB was informed of the many existing Focal Points relating to WIGOS observing systems and agreed that a good approach would be to expand the terms of reference of a suitable existing FP. WEdB-2 was not able to quickly obtain all the relevant TORs for FPs, so it was agreed to report on this issue to ICG-WIGOS-7.
   6. WEdB made further progress in reviewing the draft for transition of the current Manual on GOS (WMO-No. 544) that was prepared by WIGOS-PO. WEdB had been tackling this review in Webex sessions prior to WEdB-2. Part III, sections 2.3.1, 2.3.2 were reviewed. WEdB requested WIGOS-PO, in collaboration with OSD, to complete the review of 2.3.3 (reflecting decisions of JCOMM-5).
   7. WEdB noted that WIGOS-PO had collaborated with OSD-IMO in partially drafting the transition of Part III section 3 (Equipment and Methods of Observation). WEdB reviewed the sections 3.1 - 3.3 (up to 3.3.2.6) on Equipment and Methods of Observation and requested WIGOS-PO to collaborate further with OSD-IMO to complete the draft for transition of section 3.
   8. The Chair noted how important it is to have CIMO engagement and ownership of the WIGOS regulatory and guidance material, in joint leadership with CBS. He recalled that the CIMO Guide contained a lot of material suitable for promotion to regulatory status in the Manual and that the idea of initiating a CIMO Manual had been put aside in favour of promoting such regulations to the new Manual on WIGOS. Sections 2.3 and 3.3 of the WIGOS Manual are now the most specific reflection of CIMO engagement, however these are in urgent need of update for inclusion in the next (2019) edition of the Manual. Also, CIMO views on the further promotion of additional material to regulatory status would be very keenly sought.
   9. WEdB was briefed on the forthcoming meeting of the CIMO Editorial Board (CIMO-EdB), tentatively planned either in Dec. 2017 or Jan. 2018. In this regard, the Chair requested that the Secretariat ensure he had an opportunity to convey a paper to CIMO-EdB for consideration. WEdB also agreed that the CIMO-EdB would be invited to consider the draft update to the Manual to WIGOS once drafted.
   10. The other sections of the Manual on GOS will be reviewed by WEdB during the scheduled WebEx sessions.
   11. WEdB briefly considered the Manual on the Global Observing System, Volume II – Regional Aspects. It noted that this has the status of guidance material and contains mostly common provisions for all the Regional Associations. WEdB agreed to propose to ICG-WIGOS that this material be condensed into a single body of still-relevant material for inclusion in the WIGOS Guide.
4. **guidance material RELEVANT TO WIGOS**
   1. The WEdB was informed that the progress towards publication of the Guide to WIGOS (WMO-NO. 1165) was as follows: the English and Arabic versions are now available on the WMO website and translation to the other four official languages is underway.
   2. The session was briefed on the latest development of the Guidance on WIGOS Data Partnerships, being developed by TT-WDP. The newest version should be provided to WEdB by the end of November for its review.
   3. The session was briefed on progress of the work of TT-WDQM which is not yet ready for review or to be referenced in detail in other WIGOS material. However it is likely to be ready in time for Congress in 2019 and hence should be referenced the greatest extent possible in other WIGOS regulatory and guidance material that is to be considered by Congress in 2019.
   4. The WEdB was informed that the draft Guide to GOS (WMO-No. 488) approved by EC-69 has been under the finalization process for publication by the Secretariat. While that is underway the earlier 2013 edition remains available on the WMO website in five of the official languages, excluding Arabic. The same process has been undertaken for the new Guide to Aircraft-Based Observations which is not yet available on the WMO website.
5. **timeline for the further development of the WIGOS Regulatory Material complemented with necessary guidance material for the Guide to WIGOS**
   1. The WIGOS-PO was requested to update the timeline for further development of the WIGOS Regulatory Material. The draft timeline is presented in [Appendix III](#Appendix_V).
6. **FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME AND ACTION PLAN OF WEdB**
   1. WEdB agreed on a schedule of the WebEx teleconferences (the dates and times) by the end of 2017.
7. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
   1. There was no other business issue raised by the participants.
8. **CLOSURE OF THE SESSION** 
   1. The session closed on Friday, 3 November 2017, at 17:00 hours.

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**Appendix I**

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

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**Appendix II**

**Terms of Reference for WIGOS Editorial Board (WEdB)**

Terms of Reference for the ICG-WIGOS/WIGOS Editorial Board (WEdB) are as follows:

1) Coordinate activities for the updating of the WMO *Technical Regulations* (WMO-No. 49), the Volume I, Part I – WIGOS, and the Manual on WIGOS (WMO-No. 1160), in close collaboration with the WMO Secretariat (WIGOS-PO), namely:

1. Identify areas to be updated, revised or completely rewritten and advise the ICG-WIGOS;
2. Provide draft updates in a form of track changes for consideration by the ICG-WIGOS;
3. Review proposals for new text developed by relevant constituent bodies (ICG-WIGOS task teams, TCs expert teams/groups) and the WMO Secretariat and submit them to ICG-WIGOS for consideration;

2) Review proposals for guidance material for an initial version and subsequent versions of the Guide to WIGOS developed by relevant constituent bodies (ICG-WIGOS task teams, TCs expert teams/groups).

3) Coordinate with the ICG-WIGOS as needed and report annually to the ICG-WIGOS on the progress.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_****Appendix III**

**Draft timeline for further development of the WIGOS Regulatory Material and the guidance material for the Guide to WIGOS**

(Note: this timeline was updated by the WIGOS-PO for the purpose of the Final Report)

| **Time** | **Manual on WIGOS** | **Guide to WIGOS** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 4th Q 2017 | Draft Manual and Vol. I, Part I | Draft Guidance on WIGOS Data Partnerships |
| ICG-WIGOS-7  (15-17.1.18) | Status Draft Manual and Vol. I, Part I considered by ICG-WIGOS for recommendations; | All available drafts guidance material for feedback; |
| March 2018 | Draft Vol. I, Part I and Manual submitted to P-TCs for the “technical” review by all TCs |  |
| June 2018 | Feedback from TCs incorporated | Feedback from TCs incorporated |
| June 2018  (EC-70) | Status (the draft as INF) submitted (for guidance/recommendations) | Draft Guidance on WIGOS Data Partnerships submitted for approval |
| June-Aug 2018 | Draft Vol. I, Part I and Manual translated to all WMO languages |  |
| Sept 2018 | Draft Vol. I, Part I and Manual submitted to WMO Members for review (by 30 Nov 17) |  |
| 1st Q 2019  ICG-WIGOS-8 | Draft Vol. I, Part I and Manual approved by ICG-WIGOS | Draft approved by ICG-WIGOS |
| 1st Q 2019 | New versions submitted for approval by Cg-18 | Guide to WIGOS submitted for approval by Cg-18 |

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