

World Meteorological Congress

Abridged Final Report of the Eighteenth Session

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-Extract-

Resolution 6 (Cg-18) WMO REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS



WORLD
METEOROLOGICAL
ORGANIZATION

Resolution 6 (Cg-18)

WMO REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL CONGRESS,

Recalling:

- (1) That the Seventeenth Congress requested the Executive Council to provide recommendations to the Eighteenth Congress on constituent body constructs,
- (2) Decision 84 (EC-68) – Governance review and Decision 68 (EC-69) – WMO constituent body reform,

Expressing appreciation for the work carried out by the Executive Council concerning the review of the WMO regional associations,

Expressing further appreciation to the presidents of regional associations and experts who served in the regional associations' subsidiary bodies during and before the eighteenth financial period, for their leadership, commitment and contribution to the work of the Organization,

Having examined Recommendation 24 (EC-70) — Review of the WMO regional associations,

Recognizing that the contributions made by Members in establishing the infrastructure, undertaking scientific activities and providing key services can benefit other Members both regionally and globally,

Recalling the core functions of the regional associations established in Article 18 of the Convention,

[Article 18 (d) states: The functions of the regional associations shall be:

- (i) To promote the execution of the resolutions of Congress and the Executive Council in their respective Regions,*
- (ii) To consider matters brought to their attention by the Executive Council,*
- (iii) To discuss matters of general interest and to coordinate meteorological and related activities in their respective Regions,*
- (iv) To make recommendations to Congress and the Executive Council on matters within the purposes of the Organization,*
- (v) To perform such other functions as may be conferred on them by Congress,]*

Recognizing that the regional associations make recommendations to Congress and the Executive Council on matters within the purposes of the Organization, and particularly in regard with:

- (1) Assessing emerging needs and priorities to inform the Organization-wide strategic and operational planning processes and determining the activities and milestones needed to achieve goals and objectives of the Organization in the respective regions as outlined in WMO Strategic Plan,
- (2) Identifying capacity development needs of its Members to support the fulfilment of their NMHS national mandates and achieve compliance with WMO adopted policies, technical regulations and guidelines,

- (3) Defining regional requirements for modernization of systems and services based on collective needs of their Members,

Recognizing further that the requirements and expertise of regional associations should be better utilized in the establishment of the tasks and plans of the technical commissions as well as other bodies of the Organization,

Acknowledging:

- (1) One of the key roles of regional associations is to encourage its Members' cooperation and collaborative activities that result in more effective regional, inter-regional and sub-regional partnerships,
- (2) The existence of many sub-regional groupings within or across the geographical, political and economic domains of the current regional associations which provide for closer collaboration and cooperation among Members at sub-global and sub-regional levels based on various commonalities (language, technological level, inter-governmental agreements etc.),
- (3) That such cooperative and collaborative approaches should be strongly encouraged and should be more effectively utilized within the current geographical construct of WMO regional associations including through cross-regional cooperation,

Considering the need to improve the working mechanisms, in particular the complementary roles of regional associations and technical commissions in the development and implementation of global regional and national systems and services, including in the capacity development, monitoring and evaluation activities,

Considering further that the effectiveness of regional associations activities and their contribution to the WMO strategic objectives is dependent on the available secretariat support through adequately resourced and properly geographically located WMO regional offices and field (sub-regional offices),

Decides:

- (1) To continue to review the role and functions of regional associations;
- (2) To amend the General terms of reference of the regional associations in Annex II to the General Regulations as provided in the annex;
- (3) That the regional associations should meet as often as necessary, in line with the WMO Congressional meeting and planning cycles, as defined in Annex 2 to Resolution 7, which should be more productive and useful for its Members, aimed at advancing regional priorities and producing clear action-oriented outcomes and inputs to future WMO strategic and operational plans;
- (4) That the regional associations influence and seek to align with all the relevant constituent bodies and structures in supporting the strategic goals of the WMO Strategic Plan. Furthermore, pursuing harmonized structures among all regional associations would promote common approaches and better cross-regional cooperation;

Requests the Executive Council:

- (1) To facilitate effective coordination between technical commissions and regional associations in accordance with Resolution 5 (Cg-18);
- (2) To oversee the continued review of the regional associations, their activities, including cross-regional activities, and relations with other regional organizations and structures, with the aim of making recommendations on their form and function to Cg-19;

(3) To report on the implementation of this resolution at the nineteenth session of Congress;

Requests the presidents of the regional associations, supported by the respective management groups, to lead a comprehensive review of the activities and working mechanisms of their associations and report to the seventy-second session of the Executive Council with recommendations for improved processes and mechanisms for enhanced regional and inter-regional cooperation and partnerships, resource mobilization and plans for resolving existing capacity gaps and deficiencies;

Requests further the presidents of the regional associations:

- (1) To coordinate with the presidents of technical commissions in the selection of experts for technical commissions nominated by the Members in accordance with General Regulation 183 to ensure synergies with the respective regional bodies, better leverage the resources and communicate regional requirements;
- (2) To work with the other relevant bodies and the Secretariat towards establishing and operating an effective performance monitoring and evaluation process that will provide an objective assessment of attained capacity and performance of each Member and also highlight critical deficiencies to be addressed as a matter of urgency;
- (3) In addition to the above, coordinate closely with the presidents of the technical commissions and the Secretariat in conveying regional priorities and requirements to be considered in the work of technical commissions, as well as carrying out scheduled performance monitoring and evaluation of the regional centres and facilities serving Members;
- (4) To strengthen their resource mobilization efforts with regional development agencies, as well as their advocacy role with Members' governments with regard to the needed financial support to the NMHSs as the main providers of vital meteorological, climatological, hydrological and other related environmental information and services;
- (5) To work with WMO other relevant bodies and the corresponding NHMSs of the region in implementing the objectives of the WMO Strategic Plan regionally;
- (6) To promote and facilitate the interaction and integration among research institutions and NHMSs of the region;
- (7) To convene regional meetings or forums during the inter-sessional period as necessary to review the progress of regional priority programmes and activities in alignment with the WMO Strategic Plan;

Invites the Members of the Organization to be proactive in their support and participation in the regional cooperation activities that build the individual and collective capacity to provide high quality services to society, including through bilateral and multilateral agreements for cost-effective service delivery, sharing experience and transfer of knowledge and know-how;

Requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the presidents of regional associations, to take the required steps which will ensure adequate resources required by the regional associations for their effective operation during the eighteenth financial period.

Annex to Resolution 6 (Cg-18)

AMENDMENTS TO THE GENERAL TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS (ANNEX II TO THE GENERAL REGULATIONS)

In carrying out the functions specified in Article 18 (d) of the Convention within the allotted geographical areas defined in this Annex, under the general guidance of Congress and the Executive Council and with support from the Secretariat, each regional association, in close coordination and collaboration with other bodies concerned, shall:

- (1) Coordinate and organize its Members' activities related to the planning, implementation and evaluation of agreed programmes, strategies and activities, at the regional and subregional levels;
 - (2) Ensure that WMO is visible and recognized in its Region, and engage stakeholders in regional initiatives and projects related to the strategic priorities of the Organization; promote visibility and institutional capacity-building of its Members, and identify and address critical deficiencies for long-term sustainable modern services through supporting Members in the development of national strategic plans on meteorological and hydrological services; facilitate the exchange of best practices to communicate the socioeconomic benefits of meteorological and hydrological services;
 - (3) Identify requirements amongst members and regional bodies and communicate them, together with any impediments to the timely implementation of planned programmes and activities, to the technical commissions; collaborate with Members, technical commissions and other bodies, as necessary, to support, monitor and regularly review all the regional centres established by WMO bodies, ensuring excellent performance, sustainable operations and effective services to regional Members; consult with technical commissions on the identification of common experts to assist with the sharing of regional priorities and requirements and the implementation of technical priorities and associated capacity building activities; identify technical gaps and promote training to develop future experts;
 - (4) Promote cooperation and efficiency by establishing regional networks and facilities based upon identified regional needs, in close coordination with the technical commissions concerned; monitor the performance of regional networks and facilities, and the open sharing of data and technical expertise, and require corrective measures, as necessary;
 - (5) Contribute to the WMO operating plan and other implementation plans, as necessary, to reflect agreed strategic priorities from a regional perspective and ensure the engagement of Members in focused activities aimed at achieving the expected results of the WMO Strategic Plan;
 - (6) Structure its work to address regional priorities and make the best use of the expertise of its Members to provide guidance and assistance, in accordance with the needs of the Region;
 - (7) Build and promote cooperation and partnerships with relevant regional organizations, including the United Nations Regional Economic Commissions, other United Nations bodies, subregional organizations, development partners, non-governmental organizations, professional associations and academic and research organizations;
 - (8) Advocate, through its president, with regional political and economic entities, and support Permanent Representatives in advocating with their governments, for the necessary political and financial support to Members' capabilities to ensure provision of and access to vital meteorological, climatological, hydrological and other related environmental information and services.
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