# (Draft) The Thirteenth World Meteorological Organization Symposium on Education and Training

# (Symposium Statement)

The participants of the Thirteenth World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Symposium on Education and Training (SYMET-13), 29 October – 1 November 2017, Needham’s Point, St. Michael Bridgetown Barbados:

Deliberating on the theme “Education and Training For Human Resource Development in Meteorological and Hydrological Services “;

Noting the various international and national initiatives and commitments to address global issues related to natural disasters, environmental degradation, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the SIDS Accelerated Modality for Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction;

Further noting the major initiatives and issues that are driving change within the WMO community as well as the initiatives and issues that are driving change within the wider education and training sector of the global economy;

Recalling the agreed key thematic areas requiring further development to enable the WMO Education and Training community to address the increasing education and training requirements;

Expressed the following key observations and conclusions:

* The 2017 WMO Education and Training survey on human resources requirements of NMHSs reveals a growing deficit in the capability and numbers of adequately educated and trained staff required to provide meteorological, climatological and hydrological services in many countries and territories.
* Limited staff numbers and capabilities could lead to NMHS’s facing increased competition from alternative providers of weather, climate or water services.
* Rapid advances in scientific innovation and technological developments require corresponding update training of NMHS personnel.
* The research capability of the current and future generations needs to be developed as a critical part of a robust training programme.
* For NMHSs to provide the range of services required to address the sustainable development and DRR goals, increased funding is required to support the initial and ongoing education and training of NMHS personnel.
* Governments, as well as national and international stakeholders, need to made be more aware of the importance of increasing support for formal education and continuous professional development of meteorologists and hydrologists.
* The evolving requirements of users, increasing regulation and resource accountability by national governments and development partners require~~s~~ middle level and senior managers in NMHSs to possess increased planning, communication, legal awareness, advocacy, financial and personnel management skills.
* The development of the WMO competency and qualification frameworks and their inclusion in the WMO Technical Regulations, particularly those related to the provision of aeronautical meteorological services, have raised the importance of, and support for, education and training within the NMHSs.
* NMHS personnel across the globe are increasingly accessing meteorological products, data and education and training opportunities via the Internet. Whilst some countries are still experiencing limited bandwidth and access, the situation is improving and the WMO Education and Training community is continuing to improve its online as well as classroom courses and delivery.
* As the WMO Education and Training community works with students from many countries, language, gender and cultural awareness needs to be addressed across all activities.
* Cooperation between the Universities, NMHS training centres, WMO Regional Training Centres and international education and training partners provides a solid foundation for: increased sharing of teaching and learning resources and approaches; collaboration on development and delivery of education and training opportunities; developing model or common accreditation, certification, evaluation and assessment systems and their underlying quality control systems; and developing shared tools and platforms for developing, delivering and monitoring/ reporting education and training activities.
* The feasibility activities in the WMO Global Campus demonstration show positive progress.

Made the following recommendations:

* The resourcing for infrastructure and personnel of the national and regional educational training institutions needs to be increased to meet the growing demands for meteorological, climatological and hydrological education and training across all societal sectors.
* Management, leadership, communication and advocacy skills need to be introduced into Initial and Continuous Professional Development programmes for meteorological and hydrological professionals.
* The WMO regulatory material setting the standards for initial education and training of meteorological, climatological and hydrological personnel should be regularly reviewed and updated in light of the evolving service requirements.
* The Technical Commissions be requested to examine approaches to assist service providers streamline the workload associated with setting up and maintaining competency systems and assessment.
* The WMO Global Campus concept is further developed by the WMO Education and Training community for operational implementation during the 2020 to 2023 Financial period
* The WMO Secretariat be requested to play an active role in supporting the development and ongoing activities that comprise the WMO Global Campus concept.

SYMET-13 participants call for support and action at national, regional and global levels to support WMO and its National Meteorological and Hydrological Services develop and deliver improved services to the Member States by the provision of adequate facilities and resources for education and training in weather, water and climate related fields.

SYMET-13 participants called upon the World Meteorological Organization, international development partners, authorities of countries and territories, and other stakeholders to take into account recommendations arising from this Symposium in their recurrent and development socio-economic endeavours.

SYMET-13 participants recalled their critical role in following the recommendations themselves as well as influencing their institutional, national and regional authorities to implement the recommendations from this Symposium.

SYMET-13 participants further requested the World Meteorological Organization to publish the outputs of this meeting to enable widespread reference to, and use of, the key issues and recommendations from the Symposium. SYMET-13 participants further noted the potential for the publication of the Symposium outcomes to promote and set the agenda for meteorological, climatological and hydrological education and training for the next decade.

Participants express appreciation to the Government of Barbados for hosing the Symposium, the World Meteorological Organization for organizing the Symposium, the Caribbean Meteorological Organization, the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology for organizing it and the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Weather Service for providing resources that has enabled the delivery of the event.

Bridgetown, Barbados, 1 November 2017.

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