

Capacity Development Panel (*Virtual Session*), 14-15 February 2022

Cg-Ext. (2021)/Doc 4.3 and INF. 4.3(2)
WMO Response to Global Crises

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Earlier contributions by Ian Lisk, SERCOM President and Michel Jean, INFCOM
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World Meteorological Organization
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COVID-19 pandemic : *an eye-opener*

Members started to report difficulties and concerns in maintaining their operations and sustaining their service delivery shortly after the pandemic global development

WMO SG's survey was launched in April 2020 and received responses by more than 150 services of Members,

- **Constraints by international and national pandemic containment measures :**
- **travel and movement restrictions, confinement, reduction of staff in the office, health recommendations in the office space**
- **Teleworking challenges : hardware availability, network connectivity, software suitability and IT security**
- **Human resource management**

- **NO critical issues reported though thanks to Members efforts in adapting to the situation**

Can we be satisfied ?

or

Should we take the opportunity to consider areas where a structured approach could facilitate overall business continuity in the eventuality of potential other large scale crisis development ?

EC-73, Decision 5

{The Executive Council ...}

Having considered the report on COVID-19, **decides :**

- (11) to request the Secretary General to submit to the seventy-fourth session of the Executive Council (EC-74) for its consideration:

(d) Guidance for the Members on how to maintain the operation and maintenance of systems, in line with health and safety protocols which could help members sustain the quality performance of the system.

Cg-Ext (2021) draft Document 4.3 and INF 4.3

The INF document provides :

- some background information,
- A short review of challenges identified under the pandemic situation
- A summary of existing practices and arrangements already in place that support business continuity and contingency planning

Cg-Ext (2021) draft Document 4.3 and INF 4.3

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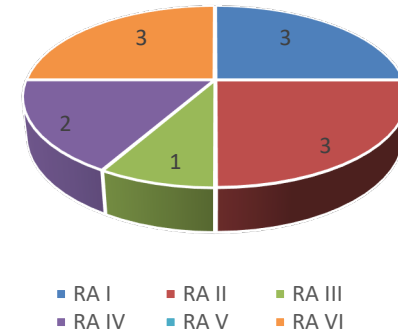
The document 4.3 :

- Recognizes national responsibilities together with the role of Regional Associations;
- Decides to review aspects of business continuity and contingency planning that would facilitate a more structured and coordinated WMO approach for preparing for, responding to and recovering from major crises;
- Requests the Technical Commissions to lead this review and develop a WMO business continuity and contingency planning framework, based on Members' needs and including proposals for implementation activities;
- Invites capacity development partners to include business continuity and contingency planning in their project plans and activities.

Current status with Members

A survey was issued in November, asking for case studies of Business Continuity and Contingency Planning NMHS of Members:

- 12 contributions received
(RA I :3, RA II : 3, RA III 1, RA IV : 2, RA VI : 3)
- Different levels of details (classified information)
- several refer to the measures adopted in the COVID-19 pandemic
- Some are more generic



First hints and remarks

- Activity prioritization
- Back up systems or even centers
- Limited staff onsite, teleworking
- Training and drills
- Management key role
- Several members indicate they are now working on establishing BCPs

Way forward

A small group combining expertise from infrastructures and services areas will analyse the available material, develop proposals for EC-75 un June 2022

- A significant rise in interest was noted after the Tonga eruption
- Several members indicate they are now working on establishing BCPs



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**Thank you
Merci**