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WMO Framework of Engagement for Member-to- Member (NMHSs) Support

WMO Framework of Engagement for Member-to-Member Support in activities, projects and programmes financed by Voluntary Contributions

*Resource Mobilization and Development Partnerships Unity (RMDP),
Development Partnerships Office (DPO)*

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Executive Summary

To enhance collaboration, knowledge exchange, delivery of support and procedural transparency regarding the engagement of participating National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in activities, projects and programmes funded by Voluntary Contributions, WMO is introducing an Engagement Framework to formalize the selection and engagement process for such arrangements. The framework fosters stronger peer-to-peer collaboration between NMHSs, with WMO serving as a facilitator to match technical expertise available with specific needs identified by its Members and partners.

This structured approach will support capacity building among NMHSs by enabling them to provide technical assistance, coordination, and backstopping support to each other. Through this collective effort, the framework will contribute to WMO's mission of strengthening national and regional capacities in hydrometeorological and climate services, ultimately enhancing global resilience and sustainability.

Definitions

WMO Members – Countries and territory or group of territory who are Members of WMO, in line with Article 3 of the [WMO Convention](#).

Technical/Technic expertise/support – Specialized assistance in weather, water, and climate. It includes scientific advice, training, and operational guidance to help Members and partners improve forecasting, early warning systems, and climate resilience services.

Voluntary Cooperation Programme (VCP) – VCP mobilizes voluntary financial and technical contributions from WMO Member States to support under-resourced meteorological services.

WMO-implemented projects – Projects developed and implemented by WMO, where the Organization mobilizes funding and partnerships to address Members' needs under the framework of a National, Regional or Global project.

Technical Assistance (TA) – In this modality, WMO is contracted to provide technical expertise for projects implemented by other institutions. This ensures that projects not implemented by WMO also benefit from its expertise.

Facilitation of Partnerships – in kind WMO support to empower Members by facilitating partnerships (e.g. with funding institutions, implementing partners, NMHSs). In this modality, WMO is not part of the agreements and activities resulting from its facilitation.

Voluntary Contributions – Pursuant to Article 10, 10.2, of the WMO Financial Regulations, "Voluntary contributions, whether or not in cash, may be accepted by the Secretary-general, provided that the purposes for which the contributions are made are consistent with the policies, aims and activities of the Organization and provided that the acceptance of such contributions that directly or indirectly involve additional financial liability for the Organization shall require the consent of Congress, in case of urgency, of the Executive Council". ([WMO Basic Documents](#))

Member-to-Member Support – Collaborative efforts between National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) from Member States to enhance meteorological, hydrological, and climatological capabilities. This includes knowledge exchange, joint projects, training, and technical assistance, focusing on capacity building, data sharing, and operational improvements. Specific kinds of Member-to-Member support are:

- **South-South and Triangular cooperation** – South-South cooperation aims at fit for purpose and suitable partnerships among NMHSs with similar contexts and challenges, that can learn from each other. Triangular cooperation occurs when such arrangements benefit with the support of third parties such as other NMHSs, WMO or Regional Centres.
- **Twinning arrangement** – Structured collaboration between NMHSs or similar organizations to enhance operational capacities. These arrangements facilitate the exchange of knowledge, expertise, and resources, with a focus on capacity development through south-south, north-south, north-north cooperation. Activities include sharing meteorological services, building regional networks, and supporting mutual mentorship, particularly in developing regions.

Peer-to-Peer Support – Partnerships between peer institutions, not limited to NMHSs. This collaborative approach focuses on capacity development, where knowledge, resources, and expertise are shared. It enhances meteorological, hydrological, and climatological services, promotes south-south development, and facilitates the sharing of best practices and guidance documents for improved service delivery across regions.

Background

Funded through Voluntary Contributions, WMO promotes global meteorological, climatological and hydrological capabilities by implementing activities, projects and programmes. These efforts aim to close capacity gaps along the NMHS value chain in countries as needed, focusing on improving observation, data management, forecasting, service delivery and product dissemination.

Depending on the scope of support, Voluntary Contributions are translated into the enhancement of capabilities through four channels of support:

- (i) Voluntary Cooperation Programme (VCP)
- (ii) WMO-implemented projects
- (iii) Technical Assistance (TA)
- (iv) Facilitation of Partnerships

	Voluntary Cooperation Programme (VCP)	WMO-implemented projects	Technical Assistance (TA)	Facilitation of Partnerships
Purpose	Quick-response, flexible, country-led	Technical and capacity development services	Address strategic needs through short-term but high-value interventions in non-WMO projects.	Connect stakeholders (NMHSs and Partners).
Target	Facilitates small-scale, Member-to-Member support	Multi-year, multi-partner initiatives. Regional and single-country projects in Member countries	Provide technical expertise/collaborate with partners to ensure quality and best practices	empower Members with partnerships

WMO Role	Matchmaking, coordination, and reporting	Implementing partner, fiduciary agent, technical lead	Contracted by MDB/Member to provide technical assistance	Facilitate collaborations between NMHSs and Development Partners WMO does not directly implement these partnerships
Funding	Up to 15-20,000 USD	Up to 30,000,000 CHF	Cost recovery process	No funding

To ensure the success and sustainability of these initiatives, WMO often actively involves NMHSs, and other key stakeholders (including WMO-designated centers) involved in the hydromet value chain from its Members, leveraging their expertise. In that context, the WMO Secretary-General and Members have highlighted the importance of Member-to-Member and Peer-to-Peer collaboration, Twinning Arrangements, South-South and Triangular collaboration.

While the NHMS engagement in all Voluntary Contribution channels of support is a reality that delivers substantial support for Members, it is disproportionately distributed across regions¹, and it does not follow a structured process². **Therefore, this framework has the objective of increasing transparency and diversifying the pool of engaged NMHSs, by providing a structured approach for Member-to-Member support (South-South and Triangular cooperation, Twinning arrangements) in activities, projects and programmes financed by Voluntary Contributions.**

Finally, it is worth mentioning that this framework does not refer to activities performed by the Secretariat or other WMO bodies outside of the scope of the four channels of support.

The Importance of NMHS Collaboration

Collaboration between NMHSs is crucial for capacity-building. In projects, WMO often deploys higher-capacity NMHSs to provide targeted training, on-the-job coaching, technical guidance, technical support to procurement processes, coordination backup, and overall support to leadership and management.

The expertise of high-capacity NMHSs is essential for knowledge transfer, fostering best practices, and enabling a more diverse and inclusive support network. However, a lack of visibility on Member needs and available technical expertise hinders collaboration. As a result, deployment of support remains concentrated to a limited pool of NMHSs.

The WMO Engagement Framework addresses these challenges by providing a structured mechanism to connect NMHSs efficiently.

WMO's Engagement Framework for NMHSs

This framework is designed to promote Member to Member collaboration, and in special promote and facilitate South-South and Triangular cooperation, in Voluntary Contribution

¹ [Add figures of the representation of top NMHSs engaged]

² Contrary to the engagement of consultants through Special Services Agreement (SSA), project managers and technical advisors (WMO HR policy), purchase of equipment (WMO procurement policy).

channels of support. It enhances project design and implementation and facilitates meeting NMHSs needs with technical expertise. It promotes transparency, national ownership, and equitable opportunities for all WMO Members.

The Engagement Framework establishes a systematic process for NMHS participation, ensuring consistency and transparency. It formalizes NMHS contributions and provides a sustainable model for future collaborations.

This document offers a step-by-step guide for NMHSs engaging in activities, projects and programmes financed by Voluntary Contributions; detailing eligibility criteria, roles, and responsibilities. By enhancing collaboration, diversifying Member engagement, optimizing resource use, and ensuring effective project implementation, WMO and its NMHS partners can continue delivering impactful solutions that protect lives and support sustainable development worldwide.

Objectives of the Engagement Framework

- i. **Systematize and Strengthen Engagement:** Establish a structured, transparent process for NMHS participation in WMO activities funded by Voluntary Contributions, enhancing collaboration and aligning technical expertise with country needs.
- ii. **Promote Member-to-Member Cooperation:** Facilitate Member-to-Member cooperation. In special, promote South-South and Triangular cooperation, including twinning arrangements, to foster knowledge exchange, capacity building, and regional solidarity.
- iii. **Institutionalize and Sustain Contributions:** Recognize and formalize Member-provided technical support, ensuring it contributes to the long-term sustainability and resilience of meteorological and hydrological services.

Step-by-Step Engagement Process

The Engagement Framework process is initiated when there is a need to engage a National Meteorological and Hydrological Service (NMHS) to implement a specific activity. Each channel of support within WMO has its own trigger for launching the engagement process:

Voluntary Cooperation Programme (VCP)

Under the VCP, once a request for support is received, the VCP Manager activates the network to identify a suitable partner to deliver the required assistance. With the implementation of the Engagement Framework, this informal network will be formalized and replaced by a structured distribution list, streamlining the engagement process.

WMO-Implemented Projects and Technical Assistance

WMO-implemented projects and technical assistance activities are typically developed through consultations with regional offices, technical departments, and partner countries, in alignment with national priorities and strategic plans. The engagement with NMHSs is triggered during project design or inception phases, when specific technical contributions or in-country implementation partners are identified as essential for successful delivery. The Engagement Framework will provide a standardized approach to identify and engage the appropriate NMHS at the right time.

Facilitation of Partnerships

When a support need is raised – either by a Member or identified through coordination efforts – WMO currently relies on an informal network to seek appropriate partners. This process lacks standardized procedures and can vary in consistency. The Engagement Framework will formalize this process by replacing the informal network with a curated distribution list, ensuring transparent, timely, and coordinated partner engagement.

The engagement will be structured around four steps to ensure that an optimal match between the NMHS requesting support and the NMHS providing support:

Step 0 – Repository of contacts for the distribution list

- In response to a request from the WMO Secretariat, Members wishing to participate in the process, and be considered for a potential supporting role, are invited to designate a Focal Point. The contact details of each designated Focal Point will be maintained by the WMO Development Partnerships Office (DPO) and compiled into a distribution list accessible to the Secretariat.

Step 1 – Call for interest through the Distribution list

- The WMO Secretariat identifies an opportunity for Member-to-Member engagement in one of the Voluntary Contributions four channels of support. In all cases, the Project Manager responsible for the supported activity, project or programme will be responsible for the engagement process, which can start at any point.
- The Associate Partner Coordination Officer is responsible for initiating the engagement process with the distribution list.
- The Project Manager prepares a call for interest, requesting relevant information for the decision process using the Invitation Template (Annex I). The Project Manager can expand on the information requested by the template as needed.
- The Project Manager communicates to the Associate Partner Coordination Officer the call for interest, providing the Invitation Template (Annex I)
- The Associate Partner Coordination Officer send the call for interest to the distribution list. The Project Manager will be included in the communications.

Step 2 – Expression of Interest (EOI) Submission

- EOI Preparation – Interested NMHSs submit an Expression of Interest (EOI), following the Annex II template, including:
 - Their available technical expertise;
 - Language;
 - Details of relevant experience and successes;
 - Details of partnerships with the beneficiary NMHS;
 - Proposed in-kind contributions, such as personnel, equipment, and training;
 - Strategies for collaboration with local NMHSs and stakeholders;
 - Plans for knowledge transfer, capacity building and long-term sustainability.

- **Submission Deadline:** NMHSs must submit their EOI by the specified deadline for consideration. The deadline is to be decided by the Project Manager according to the volume and complexity of information requested. The deadline shall not be less than 5 workdays nor exceed 21 workdays.
- The Associate Partner Coordination Officer compiles the responses and EOI and shares them with the responsible Project Manager, which carries over the process.
- The Associate Partner Coordination Officer is responsible for documenting the process and maintaining all related records.

Step 3 – Member decision

- The Project Manager shares the EOIs with the beneficiary country for evaluation. The Project Manager can also indicate the best matches based on a percentage score using the following criteria:
 - Technical expertise and/or project experience;
 - Availability of human and technical resources;
 - Geographical and language relevance, cultural affinity and ability to operate in similar climates or regions;
 - Approach to capacity building and long-term sustainability.
- The beneficiary country selects an NMHS and formally communicates their choice to WMO, providing justification (Annex III). Given the justification, the beneficiary country can select any of the candidates.

After Step three, the selected NMHS is incorporated, as appropriate, into the activity, project or programme development and implementation where feasible.

Step 4 – Record keeping and transparency

WMO Secretariat will make the request, applications, and rationale for decisions available for the public.

Exemption cases

This framework is intended to guide opportunities for Member-to-Member engagement, with the objective of promoting transparency and equitable treatment among all Members.

However, there are circumstances where its application is not required:

Pre-identified partners within project design – In some cases, the partnership with a specific NMHS is predetermined in the project design phase due to the nature of the activity and/or the source of funding. In such situations, a partner has already been identified as best positioned to deliver the activity, and therefore, the framework does not apply.

Engagement beyond Member-to-Member cooperation – since this framework is specifically designed to govern Member-to-Member support, it does not apply when the engagement involves regional institutions, regional centres not operated by NMHSs, or other partners beyond NMHSs.

Eligibility Criteria for NMHS Participation

To be eligible for participation in activities, projects and programmes financed by Voluntary Contributions, NMHSs must meet the following criteria:

- **Expertise and experience:** Demonstrated capability to execute technical and capacity development activities, particularly in the fields of meteorology, hydrology, climate services, or related areas. To ensure inclusivity, NMHSs with less experience can be engaged through triangular cooperation agreements, allowing them to benefit from peer support and capacity-building opportunities.
- **Resource availability:** Adequate technical and human resources. When possible, in-kind contributions such as personnel, equipment, or training to support project implementation; will also be considered.
- **Geographical knowledge, relevant language skills and context and cultural understanding:** Experience and presence working in regions or climates that align with the project's focus, ensuring an understanding of local conditions and challenges.
- **Commitment to mutual capacity building** – A demonstrated dedication to knowledge exchange and long-term capacity development, not only for strengthening the beneficiary NMHS but also for enhancing the capabilities of the supporting NMHS. In the spirit of twinning and peer-to-peer learning, participating NMHSs should identify areas where they can gain insights from their counterparts, reinforcing the sense of collectivism and community.

Additionally, Supporting NMHSs are encouraged to remain engaged as possible as a peer resource even after the project concludes, fostering long-term resilience in beneficiary countries and strengthening global collaboration within the meteorological community.

Conclusion

The Engagement Mechanism is a critical pathway for fostering meaningful and transparent collaboration between WMO and its Member NMHSs, driving impactful contributions to WMO and partner projects. By offering a structured and transparent process for participation, this framework ensures that NMHSs can effectively provide their technical expertise and capacity-building for the benefit of specific Members and beyond. This approach not only strengthens the implementation and outcomes of WMO and partner initiatives, but also ensures the long-term sustainability of meteorological, climate and hydrological services. Through this collaborative effort, WMO and NMHSs can continue to enhance national, regional and global capacities, delivering improved weather, climate, and water services that protect communities and promote sustainable development.

ANNEX I – INVITATION TEMPLATE

Call for Expression of Interest: Member-to-Member Support for [Project/Activity Name] – [Beneficiary Country]

Dear Members,

WMO invites expressions of interest from Members for the provision of Member-to-Member support within the framework of the project/programme indicated below. This initiative is part of WMO's efforts under the Framework of Engagement for Member-to-Member (NMHSs) Support, promoting peer collaboration, capacity building, and knowledge exchange.

Part I – Summary of the Request

Field	Details
Project/Activity Name	[Insert]
Project/Programme Title	[Insert]
Beneficiary Country	[Insert]
Deadline for EOI Submission	[Insert – e.g., dd/mm/yyyy]
Budget	[Insert or indicate "N/A"]
Funding Agency (if applicable)	[Insert or indicate "N/A"]

PART II – Context of the Request

WMO, in partnership with [Insert funding agency or partner if applicable], is implementing [Brief description of the project/activity/programme] in [Beneficiary Country/Countries]. This support aims to strengthen the capacity of the NMHS in [Insert thematic focus].

Part III – Expected Support and Deliverables

Support Areas Needed [List technical areas]

Expected Deliverables [List deliverables]

Timeline for Delivery [Insert delivery timeframe and/or milestones]

Part IV – Stakeholders Involved

Beneficiary NMHS [Insert name]

Other Partner(s) (if any) [Insert names or "N/A"]

WMO Technical Focal Point [Insert name and contact details]

Part V – Additional Resources

WMO Framework Document [Insert link to the Framework or attach as annex]

Project Document/Concept Note [Insert link or mention if available]

We look forward to your active engagement in this initiative and to your valuable contribution to strengthening Member-to-Member support and global hydrometeorological capacity.

For further information, please contact:

[Associate Partner Coordination Officer Name]
[Email address]

[Project Manager Name]
[Email address]

ANNEX II – APPLICATION TEMPLATE

Expression of Interest (EOI) – Member-to-Member Support

Part I – General Information

Field	Details
Name of Supporting NMHS	[Insert full name of NMHS]
Country	[Insert country name]
Focal Point Name	[Insert name of designated focal point]
Focal Point Position/Title	[Insert title]
Email	[Insert contact email]

Part II – Technical Expertise and Experience

Area	Response
Relevant Technical Expertise	[Briefly describe technical areas of expertise relevant to the request]
Relevant Project/Support Experience	[List recent or similar projects where your NMHS has provided similar support.]
Languages Spoken	[Languages spoken by team members available for the assignment]
Regional and Cultural Familiarity	[Highlight any relevant experience in the region or with similar contexts]

Part III – Proposed Support

Support to be Provided	[Describe how your NMHS proposes to contribute to the request]
Proposed Team (Names/Titles)	[List key personnel and their roles]
In-kind Contributions (if any)	[e.g., time of experts, training materials, travel coverage, etc.]
Availability	[Confirm availability within the requested timeframe]

Part IV – Approach to Capacity Building

Knowledge Transfer Approach	[Outline how your NMHS plans to support long-term capacity development of the beneficiary NMHS]
Follow-up Engagement (if any)	[Willingness to remain involved beyond the initial support – e.g., as peer resource, mentor]

I confirm that the information provided in this Expression of Interest is accurate and that our NMHS is committed to contributing meaningfully to the proposed collaboration.

Name [Insert Name]

Position/Title [Insert Title]

Signature [Digital or scanned signature if needed]

Date [Insert Date]

ANNEX III – REASONING TEMPLATE

Beneficiary NMHS Selection Justification

Part I – General Information

Field	Details
Project/Activity Name	[Insert]
Project/Programme Title	[Insert]
Beneficiary NMHS	[Insert full name and country]
Contact Person (Name & Title)	[Insert]
Email	[Insert]
Date of Submission	[Insert – dd/mm/yyyy]

Part II – Summary of EOIs Received

NMHS Name	Shortlisted (Yes/No)	Notes
[Insert name]	[Yes/No]	[Brief comment – e.g., strong regional fit]
[Insert name]	[Yes/No]	[e.g., limited experience in target area]
[Insert name]	[Yes/No]	[e.g., language match, relevant project]

Part III – Selected Supporting NMHS

Name of Selected NMHS	[Insert full name]
Country	[Insert]
Main Justification	[Summarize why this NMHS was selected]

Part IV – Detailed Reasoning

Please provide a justification for the selection of the supporting NMHS based on the following criteria:

Criterion	Assessment / Justification
Technical expertise and relevant experience	[e.g., Strong track record in seasonal forecasting training and capacity development]
Availability of human and technical resources	[e.g., Team of 3 experts available during proposed timeframe]
Geographical and cultural familiarity / language skills	[e.g., Same regional climate zone, fluency in French and Arabic]
Approach to capacity building and sustainability	[e.g., Emphasis on peer mentoring and long-term collaboration post-project]

Part V – Additional Comments (Optional)

[Use this space for any other relevant remarks, e.g., recommendations for future opportunities, additional support requested, etc.]

We confirm that this selection was made based on the content of submitted EOIs and in alignment with the WMO Framework of Engagement for Member-to-Member Support.

Name	[Insert Name]
Position/Title	[Insert Title]
Signature	[Digital or scanned signature if needed]
Date	[Insert Date]