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| WEATHER CLIMATE WATER | **World Meteorological Organization**  **WORLD METEOROLOGICAL CONGRESS**  **Nineteenth Session** 22 May to 2 June 2023, Geneva | **Cg-19/Doc. 1** |
| Submitted by: Chair of Plenary  2.VI.2023  **APPROVED** |

**AGENDA ITEM 1: AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION**

# GENERAL SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE SESSION

1. The nineteenth session of the World Meteorological Congress (Cg-19) was opened by the WMO President, Professor G. Adrian, on Monday 22 May 2023 at 9 a.m. in the International Conference Centre Geneva. The President recalled the achievements of the governance reform despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. He also noted the importance of the extraordinary session of Congress held in 2021, which adopted the WMO unified data policy, the Global Basic Observing Network and a revitalized agenda for operational hydrology. In inviting the President of the Swiss Confederation, Mr Alain Berset, to take the floor, the President thanked Switzerland for their continuing support to the Organization.

2. The President of the Swiss Confederation, Mr Alain Berset, addressed Congress emphasizing the central role played by the 150 year old WMO/IMO in combating climate change and providing early warning of extreme events. He underscored that weather, climate and the water cycles are oblivious to national borders, and therefore global international cooperation in the domains of meteorology, climatology and operational hydrology is crucial to mitigate the consequences of natural disasters and climate change. Comprising 187 Members, WMO provides the institutional framework for these efforts within the United Nations system. The constant refinement of weather, water and climate data from national meteorological and hydrological services enables to cope increasingly well with the impacts of extreme events such as droughts, floods and storms. President Berset noted that in light of the “Early Warnings for All” Initiative, launched by the United Nations Secretary-General to ensure that everyone on Earth is protected by early warning systems by 2027, it is necessary for humanitarian organizations to rely on weather and climate data as accurate as possible to reduce the negative impacts of extreme events by means of targeted preventive measures. WMO is therefore in the process of improving the access that the United Nations system and other humanitarian organizations have to this critical information. To this end, the Federal Office for Meteorology and Climatology (MeteoSwiss), which represents Switzerland within WMO, is playing a key role in the Weather4UN pilot project. This initiative, supported by the Swiss Federal Council, enables humanitarian organizations to take early action and so reduce the effects of extreme weather events on populations.

3. The Secretary-General, Professor P. Taalas, also welcomed all delegates, especially those who were attending Congress for the first time. He thanked Switzerland for the support to WMO, both at the headquarters and on the ground through projects*.* The Secretary-General recalled that the challenges of climate change and extreme weather were recognized by the United Nations Secretary-General, who called on WMO to prepare an executive action plan for the “Early Warnings for All” Initiative, which was endorsed by the twenty-seventh Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP 27). Among the other initiatives recently promoted by WMO, he underscored the WMO-coordinated Global Greenhouse Gas Monitoring Infrastructure, endorsed by the scientific community, and the downscaling of global and regional climate models to a 1 km scale. In concluding his opening remarks, the Secretary-General recalled the efficiencies brought about by the governance reform, the engagement of the hydrological community, the involvement of the private sector and the development of tools to evaluate the socioeconomic benefits of weather, climate and hydrological services.

2. Congress approved the agenda as provided in [Appendix 1](#_Appendix_1_to).

3. Congress established the following committees:

(a) Credentials Committee:

Chair: Norway

Members: principal delegates of Brazil, British Caribbean Territories, Cook Islands, Kazakhstan, Nigeria

(b) Nomination Committee:

Chair: Jamaica

Members: principal delegates of Belgium, Chile, Ethiopia, Hong Kong, China, Mozambique, New Zealand, Oman, Romania, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay

(c) Coordination Committee:

Chair: President

Members: Vice-presidents, Secretary-General, Secretaries of plenary sessions, Conference Officer

(d) WMO Hydrological Assembly (Committee on Hydrology):

Chair: Jan Daňhelka (Czech Republic)

Vice-Chair: Mohamed Ibrahim Housseini (Niger)

Members: open

(e) Committee on budget 2024–2027:

Chair: Principal Delegate of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Members: open

4. Congress took the following procedural decisions on the organization of the session:

(a) Agreed on the programme of work of the session and on the working hours of the meetings from 9 a.m. to noon and from 2 to 5 p.m. CEST,

(b) Adopted methods of work reflected in Resolution 1 ([Cg-19/Doc. 1.3](https://meetings.wmo.int/Cg-19/English/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2FCg%2D19%2FEnglish%2F1%2E%20DRAFTS%20FOR%20DISCUSSION&FolderCTID=0x012000B201DF88DD6A2A41AD96184E1530A358&View=%7BA5F5A1D9%2DCDFC%2D4E69%2DB3FB%2D35146C93ECAB%7D)),

(c) Noted [General Regulation 95](https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=11187#page=68) (*Basic Documents No. 1* (WMO-No. 15)) concerning session records and minutes.

5. Congress noted the reports of the President of WMO ([Cg-19/INF. 2.1](https://meetings.wmo.int/Cg-19/InformationDocuments/Forms/AllItems.aspx)), the Secretary-General ([Cg-19/INF. 2.2](https://meetings.wmo.int/Cg-19/InformationDocuments/Forms/AllItems.aspx)), presidents of regional associations ([Cg-19/INF. 2.3](https://meetings.wmo.int/Cg-19/InformationDocuments/Forms/AllItems.aspx)), presidents [P/SERCOM] of technical commissions and the Chair of the Research Board (Cg-19/[INF. 2.4(1)](https://meetings.wmo.int/Cg-19/InformationDocuments/Forms/AllItems.aspx), [Cg-19/2.4(2)](https://meetings.wmo.int/Cg-19/InformationDocuments/Forms/AllItems.aspx), [Cg-19/2.4(3)](https://meetings.wmo.int/Cg-19/InformationDocuments/Forms/AllItems.aspx)) and other reports highlighting progress in the implementation of Congress decisions by the constituent and additional bodies of the Organization and the Secretariat since the last session of Congress. Congress approved the reports of the Credentials Committee and noted the report of the Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the reports of the External Auditor, the WMO Audit and Oversight Committee and the Internal Oversight Office, and other bodies.

6. Congress took note of the interventions made at the High-Level Dialogue “Early Warnings for All: Accelerating and Scaling up Action at the Country Level”, organized on 22 May 2023. The event illustrated requirements, engagements and additional commitments of WMO Members,[[1]](#footnote-2) the United Nations system,[[2]](#footnote-3) other international organizations[[3]](#footnote-4) and financial institutions[[4]](#footnote-5) towards advancing the implementation of the EW4All Initiative. With no region of the planet being spared from the consequences of extreme meteorological events, the High-Level Dialogue emphasized the importance of ensuring political support, accelerating action for in-country implementation, and scaling up financial assistance to reach by 2027 global protection from hazardous weather, water or climate events through a core level of capacity for effective, people-centered multi-hazard early warning systems. Such ambitious effort entails ensuring synergies among the different initiatives contributing to build early warning systems on the ground, among which the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) initiative and the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) led by WMO. The event provided an opportunity to present some of the first thirty countries that will be part of the roll out of EW4All in 2023, with a focus on Small Island Developing States, Least Developed Countries and Landlocked Developing Countries.

7. Congress thanked Dr Sue Barrell, laureate of the sixty-seventh IMO Prize, for her lecture and requested the Secretary-General to arrange for the appropriate publication in the *WMO Bulletin* series.

8. The session adopted *[63]* resolutions given in Appendix 2.

9. The full statement made by Japan under agenda item 4.2 will be included in Part II of the abridged final report of Cg-19. [Japan]

10. The full statement made by the Russian Federation under agenda item 4.2 will be included in Part II of the abridged final report of Cg-19. [Russian Federation]

11. The joint statement by 46 Members made by Ukraine under agenda item 4.4 will be included in Part II of the abridged final report of Cg-19. [Ukraine]

12. The list of participants is given in Appendix 3. Out of a total of *1322* participants, *850* were men, i.e. *64*%, and *472* were women, i.e. *36*%.

13. Congress agreed that the twentieth ordinary session would be held from 3 to 14 May 2027.

14. Congress further agreed to hold an extraordinary session from 16 to 20 June 2025 as specified in [draft Resolution 9/1 (Cg-19)](https://meetings.wmo.int/CG-19/English/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2FCg%2D19%2FEnglish%2F1%2E%20DRAFTS%20FOR%20DISCUSSION&FolderCTID=0x012000B201DF88DD6A2A41AD96184E1530A358&View=%7BA5F5A1D9%2DCDFC%2D4E69%2DB3FB%2D35146C93ECAB%7D).

15. The nineteenth session of the World Meteorological Congress closed at 1547 [Secretariat] on Friday, 2 June 2023.

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## Appendix 1 to the General Summary of the Work of the Session

**AGENDA**

**1. Agenda and organization of the session**

1.1 Opening of the session

1.2 Adoption of the agenda

1.3 Programme and methods of work

1.4 Establishment of committees

1.5 Records

**2. Reports**

2.1 Report by the President of the Organization

2.2 Report by the Secretary-General

2.3 Reports by presidents of regional associations

2.4 Reports by presidents of technical commissions and Chair of the Research Board

2.5 Report of the Chair of the Financial Advisory Committee

2.6 Report of the Chair of the Hydrological Assembly

2.7 Report by the Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

2.8 Report of the Chair of the Scientific Advisory Panel

**3. Strategic plan and budget 2024–2027**

3.1 Strategic plan and budget 2024–2027

3.2 Strategic initiatives

**4. Technical strategies supporting long-term goals**

4.1 Services for societal needs

4.2 Earth system observations and predictions

4.3 Targeted research

4.4 Capacity development

4.5 Equal, effective and inclusive participation

**5. Governance reform evaluation and constituent body structures**

**6. General, legal, policy, regulatory, financial and administrative matters**

6.1 Amendments to the General, Financial and Staff Regulations *(*[*Basic Documents No. 1*](https://library.wmo.int/index.php?lvl=notice_display&id=14206)(WMO-No. 15)); and the Technical Regulations, *(*[*Technical Regulations Volume I: General Meteorological Standards and Recommended Practices*](https://library.wmo.int/index.php?lvl=notice_display&id=14073)(WMO-No. 49))

6.2 General matters

6.3 Financial matters

6.4 Legal and administrative matters

6.5 Oversight

**7. Elections and appointments**

7.1 Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Organization

7.2 Election of members of the Executive Council

7.3 Appointment of the Secretary-General

**8. Review of previous resolutions of Congress**

**9. Date and place of the next Congress**

**10. Closure of the session**

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1. Barbados, China, Curaçao and Sint Maarten, Ethiopia, France, Kenya, Madagascar, Monaco, Mozambique, Niger, Switzerland, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and United States of America. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. United Nations, International Telecommunication Union and United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Green Climate Fund and Nordic Development Fund. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)