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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. 4.5(2)** |
| Submitted by: Secretary-General  28.IV.2023  **DRAFT 1** |

**AGENDA ITEM 4: TECHNICAL STRATEGIES SUPPORTING LONG-TERM GOALS**

**AGENDA ITEM 4.5: Equal, effective and inclusive participation**

# Equal, effective and inclusive participation

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| **Summary** |
| **Document presented by:** Secretary-General  **Strategic objective 2020–2023:** 5.1 Optimize WMO constituent body structure for more effective decision-making, 5.3 Advance equal, effective and inclusive participation in governance, scientific cooperation and decision-making  **Financial and administrative implications:** will be reflected in the Strategic and Operational Plans 2024–2027  **Key implementers:** technical commissions, Executive Council  **Time frame:** 2024–2027  **Action expected:** adopt [draft Resolution 4.5(2)/1](#_Draft_Resolution_4.5(2)/1) |

# GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

### Introduction

1. This document, submitted by the Secretary-General, proposes a series of measures to improve WMO governance and decision-making processes in response to recent and past directives of the Executive Council and Congress on three related aspects: (a) equal, effective and inclusive participation in the activities of the technical commissions; (b) full involvement of Members and transparency of governance and decision-making processes; and (c) greening of WMO meetings. Detailed information is provided in [Cg-19/INF. 4.5(2a)](https://meetings.wmo.int/Cg-19/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=%7bD52E76EE-5163-459C-912C-F9C4EC5621BC%7d&file=Cg-19-INF04-5(2a)-EQUAL-EFFECTIVE-INCLUSIVE-PARTICIPATION_en.docx&action=default) and [4.5(2b)](https://meetings.wmo.int/Cg-19/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/Cg-19/InformationDocuments/Cg-19-INF04-5(2b)-FACE-TO-FACE-AND-VIRTUAL-SESSIONS_en.docx&action=default).

### Equal, effective and inclusive participation in the activities of the technical commissions

1. Based on recent decisions and recommendations of the technical commissions, considered and acted upon by the Executive Council[[1]](#footnote-2), the Council is requested by Congress to amend the [*Rules of Procedure for Technical Commissions*](https://library.wmo.int/index.php?lvl=notice_display&id=21534) (WMO-No. 1240) to facilitate more balanced regional, Member and gender representation in the leadership positions of the technical commissions. In addition, the technical commissions are requested to introduce good practices to facilitate such balance in the experts serving in their subsidiary bodies and activities.

### Open and transparent governance and decision-making

1. Discussions and decisions affecting all Members take place in sessions of bodies of the Organization other than Congress, which, however, do not have the universal representation existing in it. Therefore, the use of existing processes and mechanisms is recommended together with additional measures to facilitate the engagement of the whole membership of the Organization in governance and decision-making through the highest level of transparency and efficient information dissemination.

### Green meetings

1. The objective of environmental sustainability embraced by WMO for all the processes of the Organization, including meetings[[2]](#footnote-3), requires common guidance and consistent implementation at the level of all bodies. Based on a recent decision of the Executive Council[[3]](#footnote-4), principles for the organization of physical and virtual sessions are recommended for use by all constituent bodies, additional bodies and subsidiary bodies together with clear indications by the Council on the physical sessions that should be resourced.

### Expected action

1. Based on the above, Congress is invited to adopt [draft Resolution 4.5(2)/1](#_Draft_Resolution_4.5(2)/1).

# DRAFT RESOLUTION

## Draft Resolution 4.5(2)/1 (Cg-19)

## Measures to Foster Inclusive, Transparent and Environmentally Sustainable Governance

THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL CONGRESS,

**Recalling**:

(1) Article 19 of the Convention establishing that Members of the Organization have the right to be represented on the technical commissions,

(2) Objective 5.3 of the WMO Strategic Plan 2024–2027 to advance equal, effective and inclusive participation in all governance structures, scientific cooperation and decision‑making,

(3) [Draft Resolution 5(2)/1 (Cg-19)](https://meetings.wmo.int/Cg-19/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=%7b2951A163-5329-4174-9F75-8CBEFDDDACC6%7d&file=Cg-19-d05(2)-CONSTITUENT-BODY-STRUCTURES-FP-19-draft1_en.docx&action=default) – WMO technical commissions and additional bodies for the nineteenth financial period, to the effect that it concerns ensuring regional and gender balance and inclusiveness in all working substructures and work plans,

(4) [Regulation 99](https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=11187#page=69) of the General Regulations *Basic Documents No. 1* (WMO-No. 15) establishing that the meetings of constituent bodies shall be held in public, unless otherwise decided by the constituent bodies concerned,

(5) [Resolution 40 (Cg-XVI)](https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=3429#page=312) – Increased transparency and involvement of Members in governance issues of WMO between Congresses, and its subsequent incorporation in the [*Rules of Procedure for the Executive Council*](https://library.wmo.int/index.php?lvl=notice_display&id=21829#.ZDlR-3ZBw2w) (WMO-No. 1256),

(6) [Annex IV – WMO Bureau (paragraph 7.4.56 of the general summary)](https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=5225#page=281) of the *Abridged Final Report of the* *Fifteenth World Meteorological Congress* (WMO-No. 1026),

(7) Objective 5.4 of the WMO Strategic Plan 2024–2027 on environmental sustainability to the effect that its focus for 2024–2027 is on green WMO, including green travel,

**Resolved** to ensure the equitable engagement of Members in governance issues, decision‑making and scientific and technical matters, the highest level of transparency and efficient information dissemination and the greening of the Organization,

**Having examined** documents [Cg-19/INF. 4.5(2a)](https://meetings.wmo.int/Cg-19/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=%7bD52E76EE-5163-459C-912C-F9C4EC5621BC%7d&file=Cg-19-INF04-5(2a)-EQUAL-EFFECTIVE-INCLUSIVE-PARTICIPATION_en.docx&action=default) and [Cg-19/INF. 4.5(2b)](https://meetings.wmo.int/Cg-19/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/Cg-19/InformationDocuments/Cg-19-INF04-5(2b)-FACE-TO-FACE-AND-VIRTUAL-SESSIONS_en.docx&action=default),

**Equal, effective and inclusive participation**

**Considering** Recalling (1), (2) and (3),

**Decides** that the right of Members to be represented on the technical commissions should be pursued through a combination of revised procedures, good practices and support measures to ensure the inclusion and active contribution of experts from developing countries, including but not limited to:

(1) Establishing that the officers should come from different regions, taking into account the different levels of development of Members;

(2) Providing for each subsidiary body a minimum number of experts selected from each region and representing different levels of technical capacity, as well as ensuring that the co-chairs consist of individuals from both developed and developing Members; and

(3) Expanding participation in sessions of subsidiary bodies to associate experts, in addition to the core experts, through virtual means or physical presence, subject to the resources made available by the Executive Council in accordance with [Regulation 31](https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=11187#page=51);

**Endorses** the guidance provided in document [Cg-19/INF. 4.5(2a)](https://meetings.wmo.int/Cg-19/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=%7bD52E76EE-5163-459C-912C-F9C4EC5621BC%7d&file=Cg-19-INF04-5(2a)-EQUAL-EFFECTIVE-INCLUSIVE-PARTICIPATION_en.docx&action=default) concerning revised procedures to ensure regional diversity and expanded representation functions in the offices of the co-vice-presidents of the technical commissions thereby avoiding the cumulation of functions in the office of the president;

**Requests**:

(1) The Executive Council to revise the rules of procedure of the technical commissions, as suggested, to facilitate more balanced representation at the regional, gender as well as developmental level in leadership positions of the technical commissions;

(2) The technical commissions to adopt good practices, as per the guidance contained in document [Cg-19/INF. 4.5(2a)](https://meetings.wmo.int/Cg-19/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=%7bD52E76EE-5163-459C-912C-F9C4EC5621BC%7d&file=Cg-19-INF04-5(2a)-EQUAL-EFFECTIVE-INCLUSIVE-PARTICIPATION_en.docx&action=default), to promote and facilitate a balanced representation in leadership roles and technical experts at the regional, gender as well as developmental level in their subsidiary bodies and activities;

**Urges** Members that are represented in the technical commissions to submit profiles of candidates for the common Expert Network in order to facilitate the selection of adequate experts from a wide number of Members;

**Open and transparent governance and decision-making**

**Considering** Recalling (4), (5) and (6),

**Decides**:

(1) That open and transparent governance and decision-making of the Organization can be further enhanced by making use of mechanisms and processes previously agreed to by Congress and additional measures, as described in document [Cg-19/INF. 4.5(2a)](https://meetings.wmo.int/Cg-19/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=%7bD52E76EE-5163-459C-912C-F9C4EC5621BC%7d&file=Cg-19-INF04-5(2a)-EQUAL-EFFECTIVE-INCLUSIVE-PARTICIPATION_en.docx&action=default);

(2) That the WMO Bureau, consisting of the President, the three Vice-Presidents and the Secretary-General, should continue as a consultative mechanism, as defined in [Annex IV](https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=5225) to the *Abridged Final Report of the* *Fifteenth World Meteorological Congress* (WMO‑No. 1026), with primary, though not exclusive, focus on the preparation of sessions of the Executive Council and Congress, functioning in a transparent manner and with its deliberations communicated to Members;

**Requests**:

(1) The Executive Council:

(a) To identify its relevant subsidiary bodies dealing with governance, strategic planning, programme and budget matters in which Members could participate in line with conditions for attendance established in the [*Rules of Procedure for the Executive Council*](https://library.wmo.int/index.php?lvl=notice_display&id=21829#.ZDlR-3ZBw2w) (WMO-No. 1256);

(b) To develop procedures for the live streaming to the public of sessions of constituent bodies, ensuring alignment with the practice of United Nations system organizations;

(c) To pilot live streaming from 2024;

(d) To formulate, based on lessons learned, common principles and include them in the relevant rules of procedure;

(2) The presidents of technical commissions and the Chair of the Research Board to ensure the availability of adequate conditions for the inclusion by virtual means of the experts nominated in the Expert Network in sessions and activities of their subsidiary bodies and technical/scientific events. Such practice is intended to facilitate broader engagement of Members' and institutional experts and representation of different levels of technical capacity and capacity development in the work of the commissions;

(3) The Secretary-General:

(a) To ensure Members are informed, through the WMO website, circular letters or physical and virtual briefings of: (i) the outcomes, including reports, of sessions of constituent bodies and additional bodies; (ii) proposals for amending the Technical, General, Financial and Staff Regulations for consideration of Congress; and (iii) related scheduled sessions, agendas and documentation;

(b) To ensure the presidents/chairs of constituent and other bodies are informed of the activities and recommendations of other constituent bodies and relevant United Nations' and other international organizations;

**Green meetings**

**Considering** Recalling (7),

**Decides**:

(1) That a combination of physical and virtual sessions should be pursued to maximize participation of Members in sessions of constituent bodies and members in sessions of additional bodies and subsidiary bodies, while reducing the carbon footprint of the Organization; and

(2) That the principles for the organization of physical and virtual sessions adopted by the Executive Council (as presented in document [Cg-19/INF. 4.5(2b)](https://meetings.wmo.int/Cg-19/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/Cg-19/InformationDocuments/Cg-19-INF04-5(2b)-FACE-TO-FACE-AND-VIRTUAL-SESSIONS_en.docx&action=default)) should be applied by all constituent bodies, additional bodies and subsidiary bodies and implemented with due regard to respective terms of reference and rules of procedure;

**Requests**:

(1) The Executive Council to: (a) keep under review, and revise as necessary, the principles for the organization of physical and virtual sessions; and (b) continue overseeing the planning and allocation of resources for the organization of sessions of constituent bodies, additional bodies and subsidiary bodies in accordance with the *General Regulations* and the relevant rules of procedure;

(2) The Secretary-General to reflect the directives of the Executive Council as to the organization of sessions in the WMO Operating Plan.

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1. [Decision 2 (SERCOM-2)](https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=11528#page=86) – Consideration of reports; [Recommendation 25 (SERCOM-2)](https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=11528#page=378) – Recommended amendments to the *Rules of Procedure for Technical Commissions* (WMO-No. 1240), supported by the Infrastructure Commission in [Decision 15 (INFCOM-2)](https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=11575#page=233) – Recommended amendments to the rules of procedure for technical commissions; [Resolution 7.1(3)/1 (EC-76)](https://meetings.wmo.int/EC-76/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/EC-76/English/2.%20PROVISIONAL%20REPORT%20(Approved%20documents)/EC-76-d07-1(3)-AMENDMENTS-RULES-OF-PROCEDURE-TC-approved_en.docx&action=default) – Amendments to the *Rules of Procedure for Technical Commissions* (WMO-No. 1240). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. [Draft Resolution 3.1(1)/1 (Cg-19)](https://meetings.wmo.int/Cg-19/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=%7b4F26F339-1DAD-4762-B2C2-56471A1101BE%7d&file=Cg-19-d03-1(1)-STRATEGIC-PLAN-draft1_en.docx&action=default) – WMO Strategic Plan 2024–2027. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. [Decision 10/1 (EC-76)](https://meetings.wmo.int/EC-76/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/EC-76/English/2.%20PROVISIONAL%20REPORT%20(Approved%20documents)/EC-76-d10-DATE-PLACE-NEXT-EC-CBs-SESSIONS-approved_en.docx&action=default) – Date and place of the next sessions of the Executive Council and programme of sessions of constituent bodies. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)