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| WEATHER CLIMATE WATER | **World Meteorological Organization****COMMISSION FOR OBSERVATION, INFRASTRUCTURE AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS****Second Session**24 to 28 October 2022, Geneva | **INFCOM-2/Doc. 7.9** |
| Submitted by:President of INFCOM20.IX.2022**DRAFT 1** |

**AGENDA ITEM 7: PROCEDURAL AND COORDINATION ASPECTS**

**AGENDA ITEM 7.9: Engagement with the regional associations**

# Engagement with the regional associations

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| **Summary** |
| **Document presented by:** the President of INFCOM to address Resolution 8 (Cg-Ext(2021)) on the comprehensive review of the WMO regional concept and approaches as well as Decision 12 (INFCOM-1) on engagement with the Regional Associations in the INFCOM work programme.**Strategic objective 2020–2023:** 5.1 – Optimize the WMO constituent body structure for more effective decision-making, in relation to INFCOM leadership with regard to Strategic Objectives 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3.**Financial and administrative implications:** It is within the parameters of the Strategic and Operational Plans 2020–2023, and will be reflected in the Strategic and Operational Plans 2024–2027.**Key implementers:** INFCOM in consultation and collaboration with the regional associations.**Time frame:** 2023–2027**Action expected:** To review and adopt the proposed draft decision. |

# DRAFT DECISION

## Draft Decision 7.9/1 (INFCOM-2)

### Engagement with the regional associations in the INFCOM work programme

**The Commission for Observation, Infrastructure and Information Systems decides:**

1. To approve the consultative mechanism put in place by the President of INFCOM as described in the [annex](#_Annex_to_draft) to this Decision;
2. To request the President of INFCOM, in consultation with the Management Group, to undertake, promote and guide the activities highlighted in the consultative mechanism in the annex;
3. To invite the presidents of Regional Associations with the support of the Secretariat to facilitate the participation of regional experts serving in their substructures in the substructures of INFCOM;
4. To request the Secretariat to facilitate the implementation of this decision;
5. To urge the President of INFCOM to consider participating in the Regional Association sessions, and whenever physical participation is not possible, to consider remote participation;

See the [annex](#_Annex_to_draft) to the present decision.

This decision replaces [Decision 12 (INFCOM-1)](https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=11197#page=208), which is no longer in force.

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**Decision justification:** [Resolution 8 (Cg-Ext(2021))](https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=11113#page=201) requested, inter alia, the technical commissions, to actively support the implementation of the decisions included in the resolution. Such decisions included in particular, strengthening the interaction of the regional associations, technical commissions, and Research Board through improved working arrangements and communication, including consultations and sharing of their workplans, participation of the presidents and chair of each body in the sessions of other bodies, and participation of experts serving under the substructure of the regional associations in the work of the technical commissions and the Research Board. INFCOM-1 also adopted [Decision 12 (INFCOM-1)](https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=11197#page=208) - Engagement with the regional associations in the INFCOM work programme, which requested the president of INFCOM to establish a consultative mechanism involving the management groups of the technical commissions, regional associations and the Research Board to facilitate coordination during the intersessional period on technical and operational matters. A number of actions have been undertaken to respond to this decision, including (i) establishment of a Coordinator of Engagement and Partnership (regional associations, private sector, academia) with regard to infrastructure matters (C-ENG) as established per [Resolution 2 (INFCOM-1)](https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=11197#page=41); (ii) organizing regional workshops and training activities, including regional technical conferences focusing on the WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS)/WMO Information System (WIS)/ Global Data-processing and Forecasting System (GDPFS); (iii) promoting capacity development projects in the regions where INFCOM is providing technical support including for the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF); (iv) promoting the establishment of Regional WIGOS Centres and providing the related training activities; and (v) addressing the lessons learned from the above engagement. Accordingly, the consultative mechanism for INFCOM engagement with the regional associations is proposed.

## Annex to draft Decision 7.9/1 (INFCOM-2)

## Consultative mechanism for INFCOM engagement with the regional associations

The consultative mechanism for INFCOM engagement with the regional associations consists of the following activities to facilitate coordination during the intersessional period on technical and operational matters:

1. Activities of the Coordinator of engagement and partnership (regional associations, private sector, academia) with regard to infrastructure matters (C-ENG) as established per [Resolution 2 (INFCOM-1)](https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=11197#page=41) and its Terms of Reference defined in the annex to [Resolution 8 (INFCOM-1)](https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=11197#page=149); [note: Yoshiaki Sato (Japan) was appointed in that role through [Resolution 9 (INFCOM-1)](https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=11197#page=151)];
2. The sharing of the draft INFCOM workplan, before its approval, with the presidents of the regional associations to ensure that it is aligned with the needs and priorities of the regional associations and to ensure that the requirements for implementation are considered in regional planning;
3. The review of the regional association operating plans, before their approval, to ensure that they are aligned with the INFCOM work programme;
4. Informal discussions between INFCOM and the Commission for Weather, Climate, Water and Related Environmental Services and Applications (SERCOM) presidents and with the Chair of the Research Board on engagement with the regional associations;
5. Participation of the INFCOM president at all regional association sessions, as well as at meetings of their management groups; and the Technical Coordination Committee;
6. Inviting the presidents of the regional associations and the Chair of the Research Board to INFCOM sessions to improve relationships, interactions and working mechanisms between their respective bodies;
7. Ensuring the active participation of regional representatives, including representatives from regional centres, in the subsidiary bodies of the commission, including through ad hoc participation at Management Group, standing committee, study group and expert team meetings, if necessary;
8. Ensuring appropriate engagement of national hydrological services, regional hydrological advisers and hydrological advisers in INFCOM activities, in consultation with the Permanent Representatives of Members. This is done in particular through consultation with the Hydrological Coordination Panel (HCP), to ensure that invitations to INFCOM sessions are extended to these advisers;
9. Ensuring engagement of the Regional Technical Coordinators in the regional offices for RA I, RA III/RA IV and RA II/RA V with the regional association working structure and with the INFCOM management group and Standing Committees;
10. Ensuring engagement of INFCOM experts in response to requests for support from the regional associations concerning issues relevant to Strategic Goal 2 and in line with WMO priorities and available resources (this can include for example the contribution of INFCOM experts to regional conferences);
11. Including a standing agenda item on evaluating the effectiveness of the working mechanisms and coordination with the other WMO constituent bodies, identifying improvements and informing the Executive Council as needed;
12. Providing support to the regional association working groups on infrastructure regarding the design and implementation of the Regional Basic Observing Network (RBON); and
13. Developing a mapping of the infrastructure related activities in the regions, and making it available via the INFCOM governance webpages.

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