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| WEATHER CLIMATE WATER | **World Meteorological Organization**  **COMMISSION FOR OBSERVATION, INFRASTRUCTURE AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS**  **Third Session** 15 to 19 April 2024, Geneva | **INFCOM-3/Doc. 8.1(6)** |
| Submitted by: Chair SC-ON  27.II.2024  **DRAFT 1** |

**AGENDA ITEM 8: TECHNICAL DECISIONS**

**AGENDA ITEM 8.1: WMO Integrated Global Observing System - networks**

# decision on the report on the wmo global HyDRological data centres

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| **Summary** |
| **Document presented by:** Chair of the Standing Committee on Earth Observing Systems and Monitoring Networks (SC-ON).  **Strategic objective 2024–2027:** 2.1: Optimize the acquisition of Earth system observation data through the WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS).  **Financial and administrative implications:** within the parameters of the Strategic and Operating Plans 2024–2027.  **Key implementers:** INFCOM, WMO Global Hydrological Data Centres and Members.  **Time frame:** 2024–2027.  **Action expected:** review and approve the proposed draft decision. |

# GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

The three WMO Global Hydrological Data Centres, together with the Global Precipitation Climatology Centre (GPCC) are supporting WMO efforts in hydrological cycle observing systems. Their contributions are focused on liaising with data providers, hosting database systems, providing easy data access to the users, offering data rescue possibilities, among other duties such as standardization for data management, capacity building and expertise through dedicated projects. The centres are:

* The Global Runoff Data Centre (GRDC) is hosted by the Federal Institute of Hydrology (BfG), Koblenz, Germany,
* The International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC) is a foundation under Dutch law and a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Category 2 centre,
* The International Data Centre on Hydrology of Lakes and Reservoirs (HYDROLARE) is hosted in the State Hydrological Institute, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation. HYDROLARE – with the support of the Laboratoire d’Etudes en Géophysique et Océanographie Spatiales (LEGOS),
* GPCC is hosted by the Deutscher Wetterdienst (DWD), Offenbach, Germany.

The fifteenth session of the Commission for Hydrology (CHy-15) in 2016 already acknowledged the significant contribution provided by the data centres to the availability of hydrological data sets to the global hydrological community, but also recognized that new and increased demands are now being placed on global data centres, in particular in support of the global assessment and management of the world’s water resources in the context of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the Global Framework for Climate Services

The need for an in-depth assessment of the evolving role of these centres, also in light of the technology evolution and the impact of the Internet on the accessibility of data, was eventually recognized by Cg-Ext(2021) that included the development of a draft statement or white paper in the Plan of Action for Hydrology 2022–20230 that it adopted.

**Expected action**

Based on the above, INFCOM may wish to adopt a decision to develop a detailed workplan with the goal of defining a path for registering these centres as WMO centres.

# DRAFT DECISION

## Draft Decision 8.1(6)/1 (INFCOM-3)

## Decision on the report on the WMO Global Hydrological Data Centres

THE COMMISSION FOR OBSERVATION, INFRASTRUCTURE AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS,

**Recognizing** the importance of including reliable hydrological observations and data in the WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS) and the WMO Information System (WIS),

**Acknowledging** the progress achieved in the development and expansion of the WMO Hydrological Observing System,

**Having noted** the report “Assessment and future roles of WMO Global Hydrological Data Centres[” (See INFCOM-3/INF. 8.1(6))](https://meetings.wmo.int/INFCOM-3/InformationDocuments/Forms/AllItems.aspx) and its recommendations,

**Decides:**

(1) To develop, in cooperation with the WMO Global Hydrological Data Centres (the Global Runoff Data Centre (GRDC), the International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC), the International Data Centre on Hydrology of Lakes and Reservoirs (HYDROLARE) and the Global Precipitation Climatology Centre (GPCC)), a detailed workplan, based on the report “Assessment and future roles of WMO Hydrological Global Data Centres” (INFCOM-3/INF. 8.1(6)).

Priority will be given to the following objectives:

(a) Improving interoperability and integration between data set and product, to allow an integrated water-cycle approach;

(b) Acting as data backup for those NHSs and other organizations that do not yet have their own data backup system in place;

(c) Collaborating with the Global Environmental Monitoring System (GEMS) Water Programme to allow an integrated water quality/water quantity approach to global data collection and product dissemination;

(d) Providing input to HydroSOS and to the State of Global Water Resources reports;

(e) Support the WMO training programme on data collection, management, and QA/QC.

The draft plan will be submitted to the Commission for approval at its fourth session in 2026;

(2) To foster Members’ regular submission of historical and, when feasible, near-real time data to these centres through the development of necessary technical standards.

See [INFCOM-3/INF. 8.1(6)](https://meetings.wmo.int/INFCOM-3/InformationDocuments/Forms/AllItems.aspx) for more information.

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Decision justification: The report “Assessment and future roles of the WMO Global Hydrological Data Centre” (See [INFCOM-3/INF. 8.1(6)](https://meetings.wmo.int/INFCOM-3/InformationDocuments/Forms/AllItems.aspx)) provides detailed information on the current status and future role of the WMO Global Hydrological Data Centre, together with the recommendations on how to achieve that. It serves as a basis to develop a detailed workplan with the goal of

defining a path for registering these centres as WMO centres (WIGOS and/or WIS). The draft plan will review the recommendation and proposed functionalities included in the report, assess their feasibility and indicate concrete steps and action for their achievement, in particular the development of a unified process detailing how Members may provide the data to the centres. The unified process would then be promoted by WMO amongst its Members.

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