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| WEATHER CLIMATE WATER | **World Meteorological Organization**  **COMMISSION FOR WEATHER, CLIMATE, WATER AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AND APPLICATIONS**  **Second Session** 17 to 21 October 2022, Geneva | **SERCOM-2/Doc. 5.10(2)** |
| Submitted by: Chair  20.X.2022  **APPROVED** |

**AGENDA ITEM 5: TECHNICAL REGULATIONS AND OTHER TECHNICAL MATTERS**

**AGENDA ITEM 5.10: Integrated health services**

# ADDRESSING INFECTIOUS DISEASE RESEARCH AND PRODUCTS



# DRAFT DECISION

## Draft Decision 5.10(2)/1 (SERCOM-2)

### Addressing Infectious Disease Research and Products

**The Commission for Weather, Climate, Water and Related Environmental Services and Applications decides:**

(1) To take note of the work of the COVID-19 and Meteorological and Air Quality (MAQ) Factors Task Team (June 2020 – March 2022) established by the WMO Research Board (RB) to monitor the state of knowledge on COVID-19 and linkages to air quality, UV radiation, weather and climatic conditions; and the importance to continue identifying means to support infectious disease research and related services under the remit of the SERCOM Study Group on Integrated Health Services (SG-HEA);

(2) To request SG-HEA to further explore requirements for the routine use of climate, meteorological, hydrological and air quality information for infectious disease management and research; and to identify mechanisms and actions to prevent and respond to infectious disease outbreaks and other concurrent emergencies at various levels;

(3) To take note of the Briefing Note of the RB COVID 19 Task Team entitled [Meteorological and Air Quality (MAQ) Services for COVID-19 Risk Reduction and Management / Recommendations for National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS),](https://library.wmo.int/index.php?lvl=notice_display&id=22088#.Ytp4F3ZBzb0) recognizing lessons learned from the COVID-19 global pandemic and recommending how National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) can support health authorities to detect and manage future infectious disease epidemics or pandemics. Highlighting in particular, to encourage Members to recognize:

(a) The leading role of the health sector in the early detection, risk assessment, control, and public health response to infectious diseases. Noting, the Sendai Framework and the State Party Annual Reporting Tool for the International Health Regulations put emphasis on early warning for biological and other hazards as a key function for managing the risks of emergencies;

(b) The priority mandate of the health sector to facilitate access to specific, interoperable, historical and often real-time meteorological and environmental data, computing resources, and integrated climate and health surveillance systems to detect, monitor, prevent and control infectious diseases of public health importance;

(c) The importance, in advance of emergencies, of developing appropriate contacts and working relations with health and other relevant authorities, through instruments such as working groups, focal points, Memorandums of Understanding, and protocols and institutional arrangements that can facilitate the use of climate, meteorological, hydrological and air quality information for risk assessments, prevention, early warning, and emergency operations;

(4) To recognize as available good practices guidance the WHO Publication jointly prepared with the UK Met Office and WMO, [Quality criteria for the evaluation of climate-informed early warning systems for infectious diseases](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240036147) (2021) and [A framework for research linking weather, climate and COVID-19](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-020-19546-7%20%C2%A0) (2021) from the RB COVID-TT.

See for more information:

[COVID-19 Task Team Briefing Note](https://library.wmo.int/index.php?lvl=notice_display&id=22088" \l ".YuJ-9nZBzb1)

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Decision justification:

(1) [Resolution 33 (Cg-18)](https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=9827#page=115) – Advancing Integrated Health Services*,*

(2) The WHO-WMO Framework Agreement on Health, Environment, and Climate (2018) specifies the common goal of WHO and WMO to promote the generation and application of scientific evidence,

(3) The RB COVID-Task Team [Terms of Reference](https://community.wmo.int/activity-areas/health/Task-Team/TOR) to “advise and inform on good practices and minimum standards for integrated infectious disease modelling considering environmental determinants; and to recommend to WMO leadership how coronavirus – climate – weather-air quality nexus research and information delivery should be implemented in future WMO activities”,

(4) The Terms of Reference of SERCOM Study Group on Integrated Health Services (SG-HEA) to raise awareness of needs and requirements for health-related science and services.

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