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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. 8** |
| Submitted by: Chair  21.X.2022  **APPROVED** |

*[All amendments have been made by Argentina]*

**AGENDA ITEM 8: PROCEDURAL MATTERS**

**AGENDA ITEM 8.1: Rules of procedure for technical commissions**

# RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS TO THE Rules of procedure for technical commissions



# GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

### Introduction

1. This document presents recommended amendments to the [*Rules of Procedure for Technical Commissions*](https://library.wmo.int/index.php?lvl=notice_display&id=21534) (WMO-No. 1240), last amended by [Resolution 5 (EC-75)](https://meetings.wmo.int/EC-75/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/EC-75/English/2.%20PROVISIONAL%20REPORT%20(Approved%20documents)/EC-75-d05-3(1)-AMENDMENTS-ROP-TECHNICAL-COMMISSIONS-approved_en.docx&action=default) - Amendments to the Rules of Procedure for Technical Commissions.

### Proposals for amendments to the Rules of Procedure

2. It is recommended to specify under a new Rule 1.3 that when amendments to the Rules of Procedure are proposed by a commission or the president of a commission the agreement of the other commission or the other president is required.

### Procedure for adopting documents without debate

3. A new Rule 3bis and Annex V are proposed to formally entrust the president together with the co-vice-presidents to recommend documents for adoption without debate.[[1]](#footnote-2)

### Remote Participation Regime

4. It is proposed to lay out in a new Rule 6.8bis and Annex VII general principles for the use of a Remote Participation Regime, to be decided by the president, when exceptional circumstances prevent all or one or more Members to be physically present at a session.

### Review of resolutions of Congress and the Executive Council

5. Given directives are also provided to the commission by Congress, it is proposed to amend Rule 6.10(i) to include the review of Congress resolutions, as well as the review of decisions of the Executive Council, among the items normally included in the agenda of a session.

### Voting

6. Rule 6.14.1 is modified to be less prescriptive concerning the use of consensus for decision-making, in line with the procedures laid out in the [General Regulations](https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=11187#page=33),(*Basic documents No. 1* (WMO-No. 15)).

### Expected action

7. The Commission is invited to adopt draft Recommendation 8/1 (SERCOM-2).

# DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

## Draft Recommendation 8/1 (SERCOM-2)

### Recommended amendments to the *Rules of Procedure for Technical Commissions* (WMO-No. 1240)

THE COMMISSION FOR WEATHER, CLIMATE, WATER AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AND APPLICATIONS,

**Having examined** document [SERCOM-2/Doc. 8](#_Draft_Recommendation_8/1),

**Considering** the need to codify the procedures related to proposals for amendments of the Rules of Procedure, consideration of documents for adoption without debate and remote participation in sessions of the Commission,

**Recommends** to the Executive Council:

(1) The adoption of amendments to the [*Rules of Procedure for Technical Commissions*](https://library.wmo.int/index.php?lvl=notice_display&id=21534) (WMO-No. 1249) throughthe draft resolution provided in the [annex](#_Annex_to_draft_1) to the present recommendation;

(2) To consider further amendments to the *Rules of Procedure for Technical Commissions* to promote and facilitate an adequate representation of developing countries in the leadership positions of the commissions;

**Invites** the Commission for Observation, Infrastructure and Information Systems to agree to the present recommendation.

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## Annex to draft Recommendation 8/1 (SERCOM-2)

**Draft Resolution ##/1 (EC-76)**

### Amendments to the *Rules of Procedure for Technical Commissions* (WMO-No. 1240)

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL,

**Having examined** Recommendation 8/1 (SERCOM-2) and [Decision 7.2/1 (INFCOM-2)](https://meetings.wmo.int/INFCOM-2/_layouts/15/WopiFrame.aspx?sourcedoc=/INFCOM-2/English/1.%20DRAFTS%20FOR%20DISCUSSION/INFCOM-2-d07-2-AMENDMENT-RULES-OF-PROCEDURE-draft1_en.docx&action=default),

**Having considered** the advice of the Technical Coordination Committee included in document EC-76/INF. 2.5,

**Having agreed** Recommendation 8/1 (SERCOM-2),

**Adopts** the amendments to the *Rules of Procedure of Technical Commissions* provided in the [annex](#_Annex_to_draft_3);

**Requests** the Secretary-General to publish the revised *Rules of Procedure;*

**Further requests** the Policy Advisory Committee, in consultation with the presidents of the commissions, to propose to the seventy-seventh session of the Council further amendments to the Rules of Procedure for Technical Commissions to promote and facilitate an adequate representation of developing countries in the leadership positions of the commissions.

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[Annex: 1](#Annex_to_Resolution)

## Annex to draft Resolution xx/1 (EC-76)

**Amendments to the *Rules of Procedure for Technical Commissions* (WMO-No. 1240)**

1. **GENERAL**

1.3 Amendments to these Rules of Procedure proposed by a commission in session or the president of a commission in between sessions shall require the other commission or the president of the other commission to express agreement.

3. **OFFICERS**

3.9 To assist in the exercise of the functions of the president of the commission, he or she may seek assistance of the co-vice-presidents through electronic means. At the invitation of the president, the other members of the Management Group may attend meetings of the officers regarding the preparation and delivery of sessions defined in Annex III(h).

3.10 Matters on which the officers consider it unnecessary to open a debate shall be studied by them based on the criteria provided in Annex V.

The officers shall then transmit to the commission, no later than 7 days before the opening of the session, its recommendations in relation to the required action. This should include a draft decision concerning the adoption without debate of documents containing draft resolutions, decisions or recommendations.

Any Member of the commission may, at the time of the transmission of such a draft decision, request a discussion of any item for which the officers have recommended adoption of documents without debate; in that case, the documents mentioned shall be discussed in full by the commission.

3.11 The officers will propose an agenda to recommend the allocation of time and the order of business for the session of the commission, based on the provisional agenda prepared by the president in consultation with the Secretary-General according to Rule 6.10.5.

5.4.4 **Expert Network**

(a) A data base for a common Expert Network should be established and maintained in a timely manner by the Secretariat, thus ensuring that members can monitor the status of their experts.

5 **SUBSIDIARY BODIES**

5.5 The president of a commission may, between sessions, establish any subsidiary body of the commission that may be deemed necessary for the accomplishment of the tasks in the work programme or to address an urgent issue. Establishment of a new standing committee or study group should be duly coordinated with the Secretariat with regard to the required financial and human resources, and authorization by the Executive Council. The president(s) shall ensure that commission members are informed of subsidiary bodies that are established between commission sessions.

6. **SESSIONS**

6.8bis1 In cases in which the president of a commission determines, based on reliable evidence or the request of one or more Members, the existence of exceptional circumstances, including force majeure, that prevent the convening of a session in person, or the participation in person of one or more Members represented on a commission, the president, in agreement with the Secretary-General, may decide to hold the session, or allow the participation of concerned Members in the session, under the Remote Participation Regime described in Annex VI.

6.8bis2 Upon request of one or more Members, such participation shall include an in-person participation of the principal delegate and/or alternate and/or delegates and the remote participation of other members of the delegation.

6.8bis3 The possibility of participating online for the delegation of one or more Members extends to all the activities that will take place during the session, including in session committees.

6.10 **Agenda**

(i) Review of Congress and ~~the~~ Executive Council resolutions and decisions related to the commission;

6.14 **Voting and quorum**

6.14.1 Decisions of technical commissions~~, including for the election of officers, should be determined preferably by consensus. If consensus cannot be achieved, a vote may be conducted~~ should be made in accordance with Article 19 of the WMO Convention, decisions of Congress and the Executive Council and the General Regulations 40 to ~~61~~91.

6.15 **Types of decisions by sessions**

6.15.4 Recommendations from commissions to the Executive Council or Congress on matters of common interest or entailing the contribution of both commissions shall require the other commission to express agreement, either in session or by correspondence in accordance with General Regulations 48 to 61.

**ANNEX V. CRITERIA FOR THE ADOPTION WITHOUT DEBATE OF DOCUMENTS CONTAINING DRAFT RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS OR RECOMMENDATIONS**

The following matters should normally be debated:

(a) Changes to Technical Regulations (cf. General Regulations 49(c)(i));

(b) Initiatives affecting the work programme (cf. General Regulations 49(c)(ii));

(c) Collaboration with intergovernmental bodies or organizations with which WMO has defined its relations (cf. General Regulations 49(c)(iii));

(d) Initiatives with high impact/risk for Members (cf. General Regulations 49(c)(iv)).

Taking into account the above, the following criteria will be adhered to by the officers of the commission to establish the proposed list of documents to be adopted without debate:

| Type of decision | Criteria for documents to be adopted without debate |
| --- | --- |
| General resolutions/decisions |  It is a matter internal to the commission and   It has low impact and risk for Members and   There are no financial implications (Members, Secretariat) |
| Decisions on the work programme of the commission |  It is a small adjustment to the work programme previously adopted by the commission through a resolution |
| Other decisions of an administrative or procedural nature |  It concerns endorsement of drafts for further development, (re)scheduling of events, or similar matters and   It is accompanied by sufficient background information |
| Recommendations concerning changes to Manuals |  It concerns recommended practices and procedures, not standard practices, notes and attachments to Technical Regulations, or provides editorial or minor changes to Technical Regulations   It concerns changes already adopted by partner organizations with whom WMO has working arrangements |
| Recommendations concerning changes to Guides |  The material has already undergone a review through other intergovernmental mechanisms or by the commission through correspondence and   It concerns editing or minor changes due to changes to Manuals |
| Recommendations not related to technical requirements that entail commitments for Members |  It is accompanied by sufficient background information |
| Other recommendations |  It is an issue that is known to be highly consensual by Members and   Previous consultation with other relevant bodies (e.g. the other commission, regional associations, EC panels, the Research Board) |

Any document proposed for adoption without debate may be opened for debate at the request of a commission Member, if the above criteria are considered as not being met.

**ANNEX VI. REMOTE PARTICIPATION REGIME**

1. Where the president of a commission, in agreement with the Secretary-General, decides, in accordance with Rule 6.8bis, to apply the Remote Participation Regime, a commission may conduct its session — in plenary or committees — remotely by permitting all or only concerned commission Members to exercise their rights by electronic means.

2. The Remote Participation Regime shall ensure that:

(a) Members are able to exercise their rights remotely without impairment, including, in particular, their right to:

(i) Speak in plenary and in committees (cf. General Regulations 78);

(ii) Raise points of order (cf. General Regulations 79);

(iii) Move motions and amendments to motions (cf. General Regulations 80 to 91), including requests for divisions of proposals and separate votes (cf. General Regulations 85);

(iv) Vote (cf. General Regulations 40 to 47, 62 to 65, 67, 69 and 72);

(b) All votes are cast by individual commission Members only, either in-person or through remote electronic voting;

(c) The remote voting system enables commission Members to cast ordinary votes, roll-call votes (cf. General Regulations 43 to 44) and secret ballots (cf. General Regulations 44 to 46 and 64) and to seek verification that their votes are counted as cast;

(d) A uniform voting system is applied for all commission Members, regardless of whether they are physically present or not at the session;

(e) The information technology solutions made available to commission Members are such that no commission Member participating remotely is at a disadvantage;

(f) The participation of commission Members in debates and votes takes place using secure electronic means.

3. When taking the decision referred to in paragraph 1, the session shall determine whether the Remote Participation Regime applies to the exercise of commission Members’ rights in plenary only or also in committees.

4. The president, with the support of the co-vice-presidents, shall determine how rights and practices which are usually exercised with the physical presence of commission Members are adapted for the duration of the Remote Participation Regime. These rights and practices concern, inter alia:

(a) The manner in which attendance at a session or meeting is counted and the naming conventions are defined;

(b) The allocation of speaking time (cf. General Regulations 77);

(c) The scheduling of the order of business (cf. General Regulations, Definitions).

5. For the purposes of the application of General Regulations 147 related to quorum and General Regulations 40 to 47, 62 to 65, 67, 69 and 72 related to voting, commission Members who are participating remotely shall be deemed to be physically present in session, with the Secretariat examining the identities of Members participating remotely.

6. In accordance with General Regulations 95(a), commission Members participating remotely which have not had the opportunity to speak may submit written statements, which shall be appended to the final report.

7. Where the president decides in accordance with paragraph 3 to apply the Remote Participation Regime to committees, paragraph 4 shall apply, mutatis mutandis.

8. The Secretary-General shall adopt measures concerning the operation and security of the electronic means used under the Remote Participation Regime, in accordance with the requirements and standards laid down in paragraph 2.

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1. Since 2020, the Executive Council and the technical commissions have agreed on adopting by consensus without debate documents containing draft resolutions and decisions: [Decision 8 (EC-72)](https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=10504#page=119), [Decision 6 (EC-73)](https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=11008#page=525), [Decision 3 (INFCOM-1)](https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=11197#page=174), [Decision 3 (SERCOM-1)](https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=10767#page=112). For EC, such procedure is based on the recommendation of the Technical Coordination Committee and the Policy Advisory Committee and is reflected in the [*Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council*](https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=11207) (WMO-No. 1256, Rule 2.8). The commissions have used the procedure based on a recommendation of the president in consultation with the Management Group and provisional criteria, derived from the *General Regulations*. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)