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| WEATHER CLIMATE WATER | A picture containing text, clipart, ceramic ware, porcelain  Description automatically generated**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(1)** |
| Submitted by: Chair  21.X.2022  **APPROVED** |

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

**AGENDA ITEM 5.10: Integrated health services**

# WMO ACTIVITIES ON EXTREME HEAT AND HEALTH



## DRAFT DECISION

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

**Strengthening of activities in heat and health *[USA]***

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

**Recalling** recent IPCC findings and the cascading risks associated with rising temperatures, including heatwaves, wildfires, poor air and water *[Russian Federation]* quality, solar radiation, droughts, and storms across all timescales,

**Noting** the accelerating risks relating to the socio-economic and health impacts of extreme heat,

**Aware of** initiatives being undertaken by bodies and institutions in the public, academic and private sectors to implement heatwave naming at the local and regional level,

**Acknowledges with appreciation *[USA]***, the content of the Technical Brief on “Considerations regarding the Naming of Heatwaves” (See [SERCOM-2/INF. 5.10(1a)](https://meetings.wmo.int/SERCOM-2/InformationDocuments/Forms/AllItems.aspx)),

**Urges** the president of the Commission, in consultation with NMHSs *[Egypt]* WMO and international bodies, to coordinate and strengthen activities on extreme heat across the WMO to support Members in meeting the increasing needs for scientifically supported impact-based heat warning system guidance. *[USA]*;

**Requests *[Islamic Republic of Iran]*** the president of the Commission, to arrange for the update of extreme heat-related guidance, strengthen health relevant heat forecasting including duration and characterization, foster research including on impacts and effectiveness, enhance communications, and build sustainable partnerships. *[USA]*;

**Further *[Islamic Republic of Iran]* urges** the president of the commission and the SERCOM Management Group, in consultation with the relevant WMO and international bodies, to consider the appropriate subsidiary body structure within SERCOM to ensure productive engagement and coordination with relevant bodies to advance heat and health initiatives. *[USA]*

See [SERCOM-2/INF. 5.10(1a)](https://meetings.wmo.int/SERCOM-2/InformationDocuments/Forms/AllItems.aspx) – Technical Brief on Considerations regarding the “Naming of Heatwaves”

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Decision justification:

The emerging practice to name heatwave events at urban scale, may impact risk communication with the public, and present challenges to nationally designated alerting authorities for extreme heat advisory as well as public health and emergency response authorities.

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**GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Extreme heat events are the deadliest of extreme weather events worldwide. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) findings indicate that due to climate change population exposures to longer, hotter, and more frequent extreme heat events are observed to be rapidly increasing every year.

Extreme heat amplifies risks of drought, fire, air quality, water quality, and damages to infrastructure, agriculture, and human and animal health.

IPCC recently found with high confidence that adaptation options for future extreme heat risks include heat action plans that incorporate early warning and response systems for urban and non-urban settings; tried, tested, and iteratively updated response strategies targeting both the general population and vulnerable groups such as older adults or outside workers; and effective stakeholder communication plans.

[Recommendation 5.10(3) (SERCOM-2)](https://meetings.wmo.int/SERCOM-2/English/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2FSERCOM%2D2%2FEnglish%2F1%2E%20DRAFTS%20FOR%20DISCUSSION&FolderCTID=0x012000A60A2C5B5006AA41980F5F2A7BA92166&View=%7B1EB384EC%2D8FE1%2D4B79%2DB8F9%2DA0AEB19C9F87%7D) - the Implementation Plan for Advancing Integrated Climate and Health Science and Services 2023–2033 notably calls for enhanced understanding, early warning, and risk management of the climate related cascading risks of extreme heat, wildfire, and air quality related health risks in urban areas.

Since 2015, requirements identified in the following WMO expert workshops are not being addressed through current WMO bodies and programmes, including: [Workshop on the Development of Climate Information Systems for Heat Health Early Warning](https://cpo.noaa.gov/News/News-Article/ArtMID/6226/ArticleID/1035/Workshop-on-the-Development-of-Climate-Information-Systems-for-Heat-Health-Early-Warning-Assessing-Knowledge-Needs-and-the-Path-Forward): Assessing Knowledge, Needs, and the Path Forward (Chicago, 2015); [First South Asia Climate Services Forum for Health](https://community.wmo.int/meetings/1st-south-asia-climate-services-forum-health-csf-health) (Colombo 2016); [First Global Forum on Heat and Health](https://community.wmo.int/meetings/first-global-forum-heat-and-health) (Hong Kong, 2018); and [South Asia Heat Health Summit](https://ghhin.org/news/south-asia-heat-health-summit/) (Pune, 2020).

Opportunities are available for current WMO programming to better support the understanding, prediction, and warnings related to the dynamic changes in extreme heat risks to populations; such as enhancing coverage of heat Early Warning System (EWS), increasing capacity for heat health impact-based forecasting, capitalizing on urban heat island and air quality research, supporting platforms for heatwave event and impact registry, advancing sub-seasonal predictions, and good practices in partnerships and risk communication.

The Commission is invited to adopt [draft Decision 5.10(1)/1 (SERCOM-2)](#ddecision) and [draft Recommendation 5.10(1)/1 (SERCOM-2)](#drec).

## DRAFT RECOMMENDATION

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

**WMO activities on extreme heat and health**

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

**Recalling**, [Resolution 33 (Cg-18)](https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=9827#page=115) - Advancing Integrated Health Services, endorsement of the WHO-WMO Master Plan (2019–2023) fast tracks activities for extreme heat and health and established targets for collaborative work to address extreme weather-related risks,

**Reaffirming** [Resolution 12 (SERCOM-1)](https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=10767#page=95) - Global Heat Health Information Network,

**Having considered** the Operational Guidelines of Global Heat Health Information Network ([SERCOM-2/INF. 5.10(1b)](https://meetings.wmo.int/SERCOM-2/InformationDocuments/Forms/AllItems.aspx)),

**Recommends** to Executive Council the approval of co-sponsorship if the Global Heat Health Information Network by WMO, throughthe draft resolution provided in the [annex](#Annextodraftrec) to the present Recommendation.

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[Annex: 1](#Annextodraftrec)

## Annex to draft Recommendation 5.10(1)/1 (SERCOM-2)

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

**WMO activities on extreme heat and health**

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL,

**Recalling**, [Resolution 33 (Cg-18)](https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=9827#page=115) - Advancing Integrated Health Services, endorsement of the WHO-WMO Master Plan (2019–2023) fast tracks activities for extreme heat and health and established targets for collaborative work to address extreme weather-related risks,

**Reaffirming** [Resolution 12 (SERCOM-1)](https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=10767#page=95) - Global Heat Health Information Network,

**Taking note** of [SERCOM-2 Recommendation 5.10(3)](https://meetings.wmo.int/SERCOM-2/English/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2FSERCOM%2D2%2FEnglish%2F1%2E%20DRAFTS%20FOR%20DISCUSSION&FolderCTID=0x012000A60A2C5B5006AA41980F5F2A7BA92166&View=%7B1EB384EC%2D8FE1%2D4B79%2DB8F9%2DA0AEB19C9F87%7D) - the Implementation Plan for Advancing for Integrated Climate and Health Science and Services 2023–2033, that notably calls for enhanced understanding, early warning, and risk management of the climate related cascading risks amplified by extreme heat, such as wildfire and air quality related health risks in urban areas,

**Requests** the Secretary-General to take appropriate steps to scope the needs and opportunities to further enhance coordination of extreme heat related science and services across relevant bodies and WMO programmes including the World Weather Research Programme (WWRP), the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP), the GAW Urban Research Meteorology and Environment (GURME), the Global Multi-hazard Alert System (GMAS), the Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP), the Climate Services Information System (CSIS), the Global Data-processing and Forecasting System (GDPFS), the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS)) in order to inform a roadmap for enhanced extreme heat risk management,

**Approves** that WMO co-sponsors the Global Heat Health Information Network (GHHIN), as an implementing mechanism for capacity building and co-delivering integrated climate and health science and services, alongside the World Health Organization (WHO) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for the 2022–2027 period, noting available extrabudgetary resources during 2022–2027,

**Encourages** Members to enhance coordination with health and relevant authorities to develop integrated heat health early warning systems, impact-based advisories, and plans which address heat risks across timescales and monitor heat related mortality and impacts.

See [SERCOM-2/INF. 5.10(1b)](https://meetings.wmo.int/SERCOM-2/InformationDocuments/Forms/AllItems.aspx) for more information.

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