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## **REPORT BY THE CHAIR OF THE TECHNICAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE**

### **Membership**

1. The Technical Coordination Committee (TCC) was established by the Executive Council in 2018 through [Resolution 35 \(EC-70\)](#) - WMO Executive Council structures. Its membership includes the presidents and co-vice-presidents of technical commissions (TCs), the presidents of regional associations (RAs), the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Research Board (RB), the chairs or co-chairs of the Joint WMO-IOC Collaborative Board (JCB), Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP), Policy Advisory Committee (PAC), Climate Coordination Panel (CCP), Hydrological Coordination Panel (HCP), Panel on Polar and High-mountain Observations, Research and Services (PHORS) and Capacity Development Panel (CDP). The TCC is chaired by the Second Vice-President.

### **Sessions**

2. Following the seventy-third session of the Executive Council (EC-73), the TCC held two sessions:
  - (a) Videoconference, 1–3 February 2022
  - (b) Geneva, 26–27 April 2022
3. The lists of participants are provided in [ANNEX 1](#).

### **Matters considered at the sessions**

4. [Resolution 35 \(EC-70\)](#) establishes that the TCC shall ensure the coordination among the technical bodies of the Organization and between those and the RAs and shall provide the necessary analytical information to inform EC decisions on technical matters, ensuring that the technical work of the Organization is properly guided by the needs and priorities identified by Members.
5. Therefore, to execute its mandate, at its sessions the TCC considered the following matters:
  - (a) Technical regulatory framework:
    - (i) Case studies from RAs III and IV on the compliance with the requirements of the WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS) and the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) and on the implementation of Multi-hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS)
    - (ii) Verification of the development of the technical regulatory framework by the TCs in a consistent manner with the support of a dedicated group within the Secretariat

- (b) Coordination among WMO bodies:
  - (i) General aspects of coordination between TCs and RAs as a result of the constituent bodies' reform;
  - (ii) Initiatives developed by bodies represented on the TCC to implement the strategic objectives that require the collaboration of other bodies and related coordination;
  - (iii) Common concerns of RAs that may affect the implementation of the Strategic Plan.
- (c) Methods and procedures:
  - (i) General direction of the Committee
  - (ii) Consolidation of Congress and EC resolutions and decisions on technical matters
- (d) Review of draft documents being submitted to EC-75:
  - (i) Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) Strategy and Measures for Enhanced Visibility, Effectiveness and Implementation ([EC-75/Doc. 3.1\(1\)](#))
  - (ii) Proposed Approaches to the Business Continuity Plan ([EC-75/Doc. 3.1\(3\)](#))
  - (iii) Accelerated Collection of Climatological Standard Normals 1991–2020 ([EC-75/Doc. 3.2\(2\)](#))
  - (iv) Amendments to the rules of procedure for technical commissions ([EC-75/Doc. 5.3\(1\)](#))
  - (v) Concept note on the designation of technical commissions for approval of non-regulatory publications ([EC-75/Doc. 5.3\(2\)](#))
- (e) Progress reports:
  - (i) Report on the activities of the CDP and progress with the revision of the Capacity Development Strategy

### **Technical regulatory framework**

#### *Compliance with the current technical regulatory framework*

6. The TCC received with great appreciation the case studies on the implementation of IGOS, CAP and MHEWS in RA III and RA IV as the first examples of a regular regional reporting on compliance with the current technical regulatory framework.

7. The TCC noted the efforts made by the Members of RA III and RA IV in implementing the requirements of WIGOS as a priority as well as the inability of some Members to update their metadata in OSCAR/Surface and utilize the WIGOS Data Quality Monitoring System (WDQMS) webtool. Concerning WIGOS Regional Centres, the TCC took note of the need of RA III and RA IV to: (i) ensure consistent capacity development efforts, including specific training in Spanish and horizontal cooperation activities; (ii) identify experts and train potential trainers in the region; and (iii) increase coordination among technical experts to provide technical assistance to Members.

8. The TCC also noted the urgent need to: (i) ensure consistent capacity-building to implement the CAP in Latin America through project-based initiatives, (ii) raise awareness on the usefulness of the tool and carry out regional activities coordinated with other partners such as the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), (iii) encourage intraregional cooperation for the training of trainers and (iv) complete the international Register of Alerting Authorities.

9. The TCC further noted initiatives implemented in RA IV in developing MHEWS that provide early and actionable information to protect lives, assets and livelihoods and are a critical requirement for dealing with shocks caused by hydrometeorological, seismic, environmental or health-related events.

#### *Consistent development of the technical regulatory framework*

10. The TCC expressed appreciation for the establishment of a Secretariat Technical Regulations Coordination Group that will assist the presidents of technical commissions in ensuring that the technical regulatory framework is developed in a consistent way. In particular, the Group will ensure that technical regulations and related amendments:

- (a) Are developed in conformity with the relevant decisions of Congress, Executive Council and the Technical Commission;
- (b) Have been subject to the agreed consultation processes; and
- (c) Are of a format, style, content and quality that is consistent with other WMO regulatory material. The Group will regularly update the TCC on their activities.

#### **Coordination among WMO bodies**

##### *General aspects*

11. The TCC considered that a significant amount of coordination among bodies takes place on a regular basis through periodic meetings and cross-representation, for example among the TCs and the RB and RAs or with regional representation in the RB, PHORS and other EC panels.

12. The TCC agreed that the coordination to be facilitated by the Committee should not replace the one already taking place among bodies, through meetings and cross-representation, and by the Secretariat, and agreed on the following approach:

- (a) The TCC, given its broad representation and responsibility towards the EC, should focus on the added value of coordination on higher-level and cross-cutting issues;
- (b) Each panel and the JCB should report to the TCC on their activities and interactions with partners, so that opportunities and issues of common concern could be identified and addressed with the facilitation of the Committee, including submissions of proposals, also jointly with partners, to the EC;
- (c) With regard to research, the TCC could support the RB in eliciting more information on how regions are impacted by research programmes, so as to better reflect their needs and orient research plans.

*Issues requiring coordination*

13. Based on inputs by the different technical and regional bodies, the TCC considered a number of selected ongoing initiatives led by one or more of the bodies that require the collaboration of other bodies, such as: decision-support systems for risk and impact-based forecasting, the GFCS, seasonal forecasts and regional climate products, the Unified Data Policy, the Global Basic Observing System (GBON), the Global Data-processing and Forecasting System (GDPFS), education and training products and a focus on polar and high-mountain regions.

14. The TCC could also review implementation of the Strategic Plan and technical strategies such as the Capacity Development Strategy, the WMO-IOC Collaborative Strategy and the WMO Vision and Strategy for Hydrology and its associated Plan of Action.

15. The analysis, provided in ANNEX 2, shows that most initiatives entail a high degree of collaboration and coordination that should be factored in their co-design, planning and implementation.

16. Taken as an ensemble, the initiatives generally display a good coverage of the strategic objectives of the Strategic Plan and a good engagement of the RAs for the identification of needs and requirements; however, additional efforts may be needed to enhance their involvement in relation to the strategic objectives of Long-Term Goals 3 and 4.

*Common concerns of regional associations*

17. The presidents of RAs highlighted common concerns that may affect the implementation of Congress and EC decisions in their regions:

- (a) The plans of TCs, the RB and other technical bodies should reflect and be aligned with the needs and priorities detailed in the plans and strategies of RAs; to this end, TCs and RAs should share information about ongoing and future activities and a systematic review process should be put in place;
- (b) In implementation of the above, strengthened coordination at the level of experts and chairs of subsidiary bodies of TCs and RAs is needed, with the support of the technical coordinators of regional offices and reciprocity of invitations to meetings of the management groups;
- (c) In the context of increased coordination between TCs and RAs, the presidents of TCs should consult with the presidents of RAs on the balance of TC experts across WMO regions;
- (d) The Members represented on the TCs currently are less than 55% of the whole membership of the Organization. The RAs, with the support of the regional offices, should promote among the Members of their regions the association to the TCs and the nomination of experts who may be selected to contribute to the technical work;
- (e) In some regions, language barriers may prevent equal opportunities for experts to fully participate in activities of TCs; therefore, translation of documents and interpretation of meetings should be assured as needed. The WMO mandatory publication and distribution policy ([Resolution 81 \(Cg-18\)](#) - WMO Mandatory Publications and Distribution Policy for the Eighteenth Financial Period) establishes release of all official publications in all official languages; however, the policy is not uniformly applied and full application should be assured to facilitate implementation of technical resolutions;

- (f) The number of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) capable to produce global data and forecasting products is limited and access to such products should be facilitated, including through the [Global Data Processing and Forecasting System \(GDPFS\) Web Portal](#).
- (g) To facilitate coordination among RAs on issues of common concern a forum of the presidents of regional associations should be established;
- (h) Overall coordination can be strengthened between the technical departments in the WMO Headquarters and the regional offices, through the regional coordinators for infrastructure, services and research, as well as between the Secretariat and the TCs;
- (i) In addition, approaches and tools could be established for Members to better report on compliance with technical regulations and to assess impacts and risks associated with the introduction of new standards.

### **Methods and procedures**

#### *General direction of the Committee*

18. Based on the conclusions and recommendations of a brainstorming held on 6 and 7 December 2021 by the Officers of the Organizations and the P/TCs concerning the functioning of the committees and panels of the EC and possible ways to enhance their roles, the TCC agreed on the following areas for improvement:

- (a) Focus on added value tasks — measuring compliance with existing regulations, assessing risks associated with new regulations, facilitating coordination among bodies, through alignment of workplans, while reducing the effort on document review;
- (b) Composition — it should be consistent with the technical coordination mandate and may involve the invitation of technical experts from the bodies represented in the Committee;
- (c) Format of the sessions — more frequent and shorter meetings to consider proposals as they are available, flexible attendance depending on the subjects on the agenda and sharing of planned activities by bodies, in particular EC panels.

#### *Consolidation of past resolutions*

19. In response to [Resolution 33 \(EC-73\)](#) - Review of previous resolutions and decisions of the Executive Council, the TCC agreed to recommend to EC-75 the approach to consolidate Congress and EC resolutions and decisions on technical matters in force around key clusters (e.g. multi-hazard approach and impact-based forecasts, GFCS, floods, service delivery, long-term observing stations, climate data, GDPFS, regional training centres etc.) and according to a model of structured resolution. Following the demonstration of this approach, the list of clusters can be expanded for a final recommendation on EC-76 and then Congress.

## **Recommendations**

20. The TCC makes to EC the following recommendations.

### ***Draft documents being submitted to EC-75***

- (a) To adopt with debate the following draft documents:
  - (i) Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) Strategy and Measures for Enhanced Visibility, Effectiveness and Implementation ([EC-75/Doc. 3.1\(1\)](#)), which requests updates to technical and strategic documents underpinning the GFCS Implementation Plan;
  - (ii) Accelerated Collection of Climatological Standard Normals 1991–2020 ([EC-75/Doc. 3.2\(2\)](#)), expanded with additional information clarifying the difference between differing applications of climate change baseline and 30-year climate normal statistics. A circular letter from the Secretary-General to Members will also be prepared to inform them on the new deadline for submission and further clarification on the collection process and infrastructure;
  - (iii) Proposed Approaches to the Business Continuity Plan ([EC-75/Doc. 3.1\(3\)](#)), which invites NMHSs to assess their current practices and challenges related to business continuity and requests the TCs and other bodies to develop guidance material for Members;
  - (iv) Amendments to the rules of procedure for technical commissions ([EC-75/Doc. 5.3\(1\)](#)), which align the terms of the officers and their re-election with Regulation 10 and extend the term of membership of experts in subsidiary bodies to the next ordinary session of the TC following the ordinary session of Congress;
  - (v) Concept note on the designation of technical commissions for approval of non-regulatory publications ([EC-75/Doc. 5.3\(2\)](#)), which concerns the approval by TCs of practices, procedures and specifications (of a non-regulatory nature) under various titles (guidelines, compendium, nomenclature, etc.).

### ***Other recommendations***

- (b) To ensure the translation and active dissemination of language versions of the mandatory publications in accordance with [Resolution 81 \(Cg-18\)](#) - WMO Mandatory Publications and Distribution Policy for the Eighteenth Financial Period;
  - (c) To encourage Members that have not yet done so to exert their right to be represented on the TCs;
  - (d) To support the establishment of a periodic forum of the presidents of RAs to discuss issues of common concern.
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## **ANNEX 1**

### **Participants**

#### ***First session, videoconference, 1–3 February 2021***

##### *Members*

Chair (A. Martis), P/INFCOM (M. Jean), VP/INFCOM (B. Forgan), P/SERCOM (I. Lisk), VP/SERCOM (M. Brunet), P/RA I (D. Konate), P/RA II (A. Al Mandous), P/RA III (Y. González), P/RA IV (E. Thompson), P/RA VI (K. Radics), C/RB (A. Lynch), CC/JCB (A. Martis), C/PAC (G. Adrian), C/CCP (G. Adrian), C/HCP (J. Danhelka), CC/PHORS (S. Barrell), C/CDP (A. Kijazi)

##### *Invited experts*

First Vice-President (C. Saulo)

#### ***Second session, Geneva, 26–27 April 2022***

##### *Members*

Chair (A. Martis), P/INFCOM (M. Jean), VP/INFCOM (B. Forgan), P/SERCOM (I. Lisk), VP/SERCOM (M. Brunet), P/RA I (D. Konate), P/RA II (A. Al Mandous), P/RA III (Y. González), P/RA IV (E. Thompson), P/RA V (O. Fa'anunu), VP/RA V (T. Atalifo), P/RA VI (K. Radics), CC/JCB (A. Martis), C/PAC (G. Adrian), C/CCP (G. Adrian), C/HCP (J. Danhelka), CC/PHORS (S. Barrell), C/CDP (A. Kijazi)

##### *Invited experts*

First Vice-President (C. Saulo)

##### *Observers*

United Kingdom (N. Pinder, F. Woods)

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## ANNEX 2

### Selected key initiatives of bodies represented on the TCC requiring coordination and coverage of Strategic Objectives

SO		Initiative	INFCOM	SERCOM	RB	JCB	RA I	RA II	RA III	RA IV	RA V	RA VI	PAC	CCP	HCP	PHORS	CDP
1.1	MHEWS	[RA VI GMAS & MHEWSs]															
1.2	Climate	GFCS															
1.2	Climate	Seasonal forecasts & tailored sub-regional products															
1.3	Hydrology	Plan of Action for Hydrology															
1.4	Weather	Risk- and impact-based forecasting DSS															
2.1	Observation	GBON															
2.2	Data	Unified Data Policy															
2.3	Forecasting	GDPFS requirements															
3.1	Sc. knowledge	[RA I research needs] [RA VI R&D Strategy]															
3.2	Sc. services																
3.3	Sc. policy																
4.1	Needs	Capacity Development Strategy															
4.2	Ed. & Training	Revision of Basic Instruction Package															
4.2	Ed. & Training	[RA I CD climate science, maritime weather, hydr.]															
4.3	Partnerships																
5.1	Governance	Strategic Plan															
	Crosscutting	WMO-IOC Collaborative Strategy															
	Crosscutting	Polar and High-Mountain focus															
5.2	Programmes																
5.3	Inclusiveness	Expanded involvement of experts from RAs															
5.3	Inclusiveness	Interpretation at meetings; translation of documents															

■ Lead/requester   ■ Contributing/requested of contribution   □ Requested of review

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