WMO Data Conference

Report from Theme 1 Preparatory Workshop and relevant Stakeholder Consultations

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Key points from Theme 1 Workshop: Changing Landscape of Weather, Climate and Water Data

• Strong support for single unified WMO data policy
  – Importance of engaging stakeholders in developing policy
  – Clear and actionable approach
  – Close gaps (coverage, implementation) from Res 40

• Enhanced economic contribution of open data policy
  – Meteorological data ‘high value’

• Quid pro quo
  – Free and unrestricted exchange of data and of the products that ensue
  – Research and operational data exchange

• Global community
  – Share and support for the benefit of the whole

• Data -> Knowledge -> Decisions -> Action
Satellite Data Stakeholder Workshop – Perspectives relevant to Theme 1

• Policy reform is an opportunity
  – Rethink how we define critical data, and what is ‘essential’
  – Reflect whole Earth-system and whole value chain, from observing to understanding to delivering societal value

• Draw on capabilities of public & private sectors
  – Mechanisms to deliver public benefits and preserve commercial value

• Open satellite data is enabler
  – For research & innovation
  – Amplifies value of data
  – Shorten time to new user uptake

• Non-linear growth in data volumes
  – Policy/practice must evolve to match opportunities and demand
Hydrological Data Stakeholder Workshop – Perspectives relevant to Theme 1

• Solid support for unified policy
  – Simplify dialogue with multiple stakeholders, including within country
  – Promote benefits (esp. economic) of improved services to help address obstacles to sharing eg national & institutional data policies
  – Right data policy, with related funding, ahead of technical issues
  – Policy should address all data providers, including non-government

• Transboundary data exchange highest priority
  – But recognise global needs for Earth-system approach
  – Successful thematic programmes (eg Arctic Hycos) and more national/regional products -> value of collaboration and sharing data

• Data with high societal impact to be prioritized
  – Both (near) real-time (eg for flood forecast) and quality-assured data (for climate models) needed but historical data more readily shared
  – Establishment of basic reference network would stimulate sharing
  – Sharing forecast products can be a key motivator
Commitment to open and FAIR data
- Especially for publicly-funded data
- Preference for licenses, with minimal restrictions and emphasis on attribution
- Facilitates science; maximises value of data, efficiency, capability, equity

New data policy shaped by Earth-systems approach
- Key to defining ‘essential’ and ‘additional’
- Removal of barriers to interdisciplinary reuse, integration, interoperability
- Potential to harness emerging technologies and data types

Reflect two-way (but different) dependency between research and operations
- Benefits flow both ways, R2O and O2R -> policy must enable and remove barriers
- Operational reliance on research data (esp. oceans, GAW, cryosphere), but latency of research data can also be limitation (eg data assimilation)
Common elements

• Unified data policy

• Data policy is an enabler, not an end in itself
  – Consult, clarify, communicate, collaborate -> codify
  – Implement, regulate, monitor, review, evolve
  – Respect stakeholder-specific mandates while recognizing common public goods
  – Support with technical underpinnings and sharing/building capability

• Global community, global models need global data
Thank you
Merci