

WMO Data policy resolutions in the rearview mirror: Weather (40), Water (25) and Climate (60)

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WMO OMM

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Weather: Resolution 40 (Cg-XII, 1995)

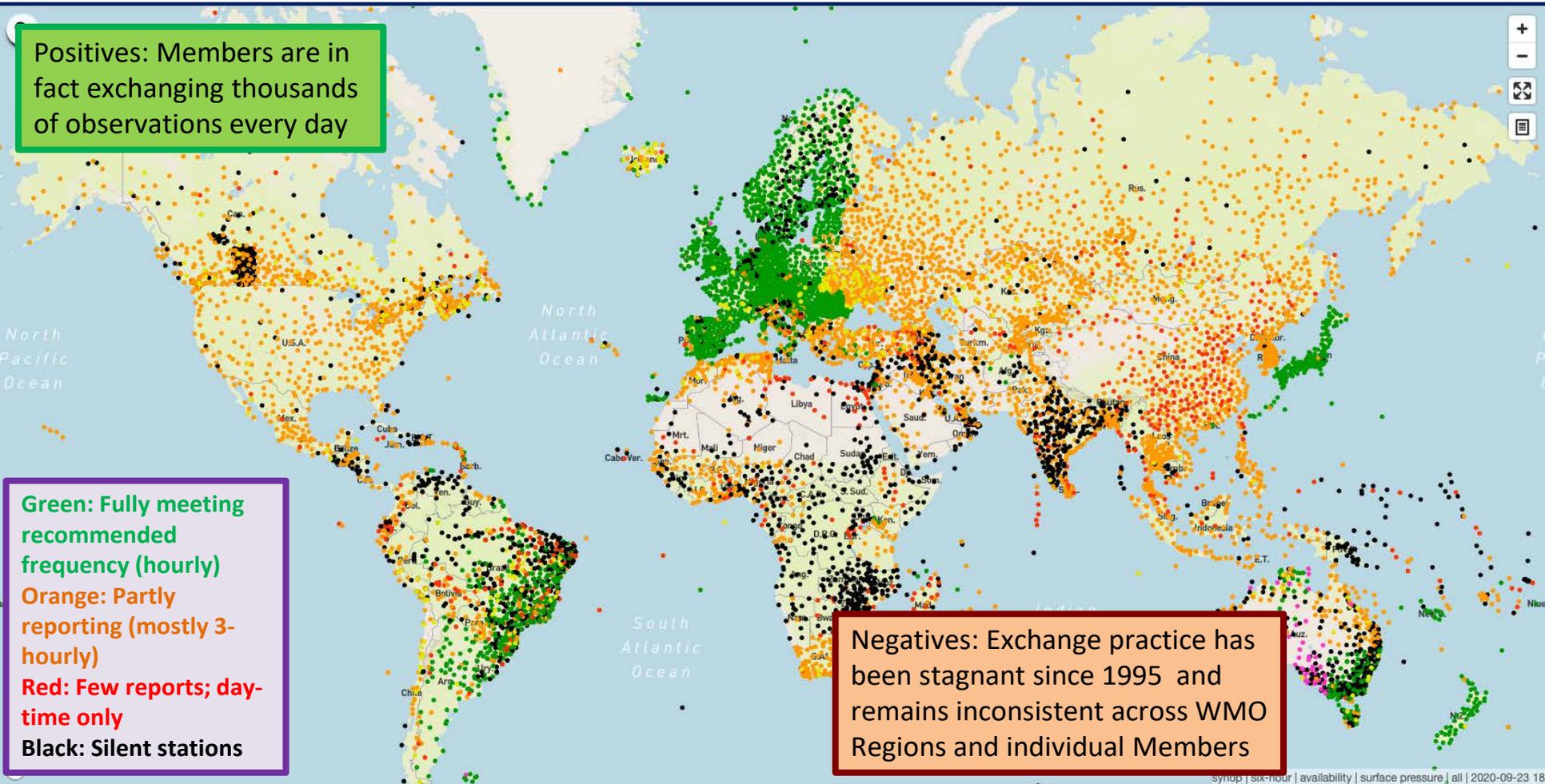
- **Res. 40 preamble is building on firm ground:** Article 2 of the WMO Convention (purposes of the organization);
- **Resolution 40 is prescriptive:** *Annex I* lists specific datatypes as “essential”, with an obligation for Members to exchange;
- **This is a strength:** Res. 40 is embedded in the DNA of WMO, it has become an inextricable part of our brand, and it has worked!
- **... and a weakness:** Congress resolutions rarely contain enough detail for Members to consistently implement them (regulatory material should);
 - *Annex I* in particular severely out of date; lists observation types that are obsolete, missing essential observations that did not exist in 1995;
- Text includes call for subsequent implementation steps; somewhat generic, and follow-up activities have tended to decline over the years;



Impact of Resolution 40

(One measure: International exchange of surface pressure observations for global NWP)

Positives: Members are in fact exchanging thousands of observations every day



Surface pressure observations received by global NWP Centers on Sep 23 2020, 18Z)



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Water: Resolution 25 (Cg-XIII, 1999)

- **Res. 25 preamble** references *significance* and *requirements*, rather than existing agreements;
- **Res. 25 is inclusive and non-prescriptive:** The resolution “adopts a stand of committing to broadening and enhancing, whenever possible, the free and unrestricted international exchange of hydrological data and products {...}”
 - No definition of this, e.g. in terms of essential and additional data;
 - Little detail on subsequent implementation steps (e.g. in terms of regulatory material), beyond a request to EC to “keep under review”;
- Monitoring and measuring the impact of Res. 25 is therefore more difficult than it is for Res. 40;



Climate: Resolution 60 (Cg-17, 2015)

- **Res. 60** preamble references *significance* and *requirements*, rather than existing agreements;
 - (Paris Agreement came after adoption of Res. 60);
 - Extensive reference to GFCS and its various bodies, some of which no longer exist;
- In its action section, Res. 60 refers to its predecessors, Res 40 and 25, deciding “*to adopt the policies and practices, including the guidelines, of Resolution 40 (Cg-XII) and Resolution 25 (Cg-XIII) for the exchange of GFCS relevant data {...}*”
- **Res. 60 is highly inclusive and non-prescriptive**; no specific datatypes listed; term is “GFCS relevant data”, open to a wide range of interpretation;
- Little specific detail on implementation steps;
- Similar to Res. 25, monitoring and measuring the impact of Res. 60 is also rather difficult;



Final remarks

- Current WMO data policy resolutions each have their strengths and weaknesses;
- Taken together, they encompass a broad range of disciplines, but not necessarily in a cohesive way that exploits the synergy between them;
- Opportunity to strengthen the impact and increase the visibility of WMO Data Policy by properly unifying it under an Earth system monitoring and prediction approach, and aim to
 - Build on our experience with the impact of past resolutions, re-use the best parts of them, and address their individual weakness
 - “Future-proof” text where we can; via implementation update processes;
- How would we do all of this?

– As ever, the answer is “42”