



WMO PROGRAMME FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (LDCs)

SUMMARY

ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED:

Implementation status and planned activities of the WMO Programme for the Least Developed Countries.

DECISIONS/ACTIONS REQUIRED:

- (a) To review the progress of implementation of the WMO Programme for the LDCs and provide guidance for enhancing its effectiveness, taking into account the outcomes of the midterm comprehensive global review of the Brussels Programme of Action for the LDCs for the decade 2001-2010;
- (b) To approve the draft text to be included in the general summary as given in Appendix A.

REFERENCES:

1. *Abridged Final Report with Resolutions of the Fourteenth World Meteorological Congress* (WMO-No. 960)
2. *Abridged Final Report with Resolutions of the Fifty-sixth Session of the Executive Council* (WMO-No. 977)
3. *Abridged Final Report with Resolutions of the Fifty-seventh Session of the Executive Council* (WMO- No. 988)
4. *Abridged Final Report with Resolutions of the Fifty-eighth Session of the Executive Council* (WMO-No. 1007)
5. Final Report of the Meeting on the WMO Programme for the LDCs, April 2005

CONTENT OF DOCUMENT:

Appendix for inclusion in the final report:

Draft text for inclusion in the general summary of Cg-XV

Appendix for information:

Cg-XV/Rep. 7.3: Progress/Activity Report

DRAFT TEXT FOR INCLUSION IN THE GENERAL SUMMARY OF Cg-XV

7.3 WMO PROGRAMME FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (LDCs) (*agenda item 7.3*)

7.3.1 Congress recalled that, in the Millennium Declaration, Heads of State pledged to address the special needs of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and that such countries are characterized by extreme poverty which is pervasive throughout society, long-term impediments to adequate economic growth, low levels of human resources development and weak institutional capacity. This category of countries, defined on the basis of criteria established by the United Nations system, constitutes the weakest segment of the international community and their economic and social development represents a major challenge for themselves as well as for the rest of the international community.

7.3.2 Congress further recalled that in order to contribute to the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action (BPoA) for the LDCs for the Decade 2001-2010, the Fourteenth World Meteorological Congress in May 2003 established the WMO Programme for the LDCs with the main objective of enhancing and strengthening the capacities of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) to contribute effectively and in a timely manner to the sustainable development of these countries.

7.3.3 Congress was informed that the WMO Trust Fund for the NMHSs of the LDCs had been established and thanked the Members which had contributed cash and in kind. Considering that additional resources were required to enhance the capacities of the NMHSs to participate actively in the development agenda of the LDCs, especially the BPoA for the LDCs, Congress called upon Members, bilateral and multilateral funding agencies, including the World Bank, regional development banks, NGOs and the private sector to contribute to the special WMO Trust Fund for the LDCs.

7.3.4 Congress acknowledged, with the Executive Council, the cross-cutting nature of the WMO Programme for the LDCs and stressed the need to adopt an integrated but country-specific strategic approach when implementing it, in particular when addressing the special needs and requirements of the NMHSs for a recognition of their contribution to poverty reduction and sustained economic growth in the respective LDCs.

7.3.5 Congress noted that a Strategic Action Plan was developed for the Programme and a number of activities were carried out to provide assistance to the NMHSs of most of the 50 LDCs. Congress further noted that, as requested by the Executive Council and in response to a call on the UN system organizations, the Secretary-General had established an appropriate structure within the Secretariat as focal point for the Programme of Action for the LDCs and that WMO participated actively in regional and global meetings related to the LDCs. It recognized that such activities would further enhance the image and increase the visibility of the Organization and contribute to raise awareness of other UN system agencies, governments and cooperating partners on WMO's mandate and related support to the LDCs.

7.3.6 Congress recalled that the Heads of State and Government adopted a Declaration at the high-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the midterm comprehensive global review of the Programme of Action for the LDCs for the decade 2001-2010 in which they recommitted themselves to meeting the special needs of the LDCs as set out in the BPoA for the LDCs and called upon the United Nations system and its agencies to continue to assist in the implementation of the Programme of Action taking into account the conclusions of the midterm comprehensive global review.

7.3.7 Congress stressed that additional efforts were required to enhance the effectiveness of the WMO Programme for the LDCs through the implementation of specific value-added and

dedicated actions, in addition to the special attention which should continue to be given to the LDCs by various scientific and technical programmes. In this regard, it referred to the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan developed in 2005 and innovative ways of mobilizing resources to address critical issues facing the NMHSs of the LDCs to be of utmost importance.

7.3.8 Congress underscored that additional resources, including extrabudgetary resources would be required to ensure the successful implementation of the WMO Programme for the LDCs. In this connection, Congress urged Members and the Secretary-General to assist NMHSs concerned in the following:

- (a) Enhancing development and modernization plans of NMHSs of LDCs, including projects that are of relevance to and consistent with national development strategies and programmes and of high impact value to the relevant commitments enshrined in the BPoA for the LDCs and the Millennium Declaration;
- (b) Demonstrating to governments, cooperating partners and various user sectors how meteorological and hydrological and related environmental information, products and services contribute to the sustainable development of the LDCs, and the value of the relating socio-economic benefits to Society, especially in the areas of poverty alleviation, disaster risk reduction, environmental protection, food security, health, energy and water resources management, and empowering women among others;
- (c) Establishing links and strategic partnerships in order to benefit from funding opportunities with regional/subregional organizations and economic groupings, UN Country Teams, cooperating partners, national development and aid funding agencies, World Bank and Regional Development Banks, bilateral and multilateral Funds, including the LDCs Fund and the Adaptation Fund under the UNFCCC, the GCOS Regional Action Plans and the private sector as appropriate;
- (d) Organizing innovative capacity building activities for senior and middle level staff of NMHSs of LDCs, including in management, strategic planning, resource mobilization, marketing and communication.

7.3.9 Congress further requested Members and the Secretary-General to provide, as appropriate, integrated assistance to the LDCs in the formulation and implementation of demonstration and pilot projects based on, among other things, best practices and success stories in the provision and beneficial use of weather, climate and water products and services to support national and community efforts towards strengthening productive capacities, reducing vulnerability to natural disasters, protecting the environment and adaptation to climate change, as such activities would help to enhance the profile and visibility of NMHSs of LDCs in the development arena and attract additional political support and funding.

7.3.10 Congress noted that the Secretary-General had successfully organized a WMO Special event on the LDCs at the United Nations headquarters, as part of the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the BPoA for the LDCs. It requested the Secretary-General to organize similar events at national and regional levels to assist NMHSs of LDCs sensitize government officials, and other stakeholders on the need for increased resource allocations to improve and sustain the delivery of weather, climate and water services, including timely advice and early warnings, to development programmes of concern to the respective countries.

7.3.11 Congress recognized with EC that the WMO Programme for the LDCs offers opportunities to better position the Organization and enhance its image and role in addressing the internationally agreed development goals, including those within the Millennium Declaration. In this connection, Congress requested the Secretary-General to ensure that WMO fully participates

in the activities related to the implementation and review of the BPoA for the LDCs at all levels, in collaboration and coordination with other UN system-wide agencies and cooperating partners as appropriate.

7.3.12 Noting that the Secretary-General had taken steps towards the creation of a new consolidated WMO Country Profile Database, Congress urged Members, especially the LDCs and SIDS to contribute efficiently to the implementation of this project.

World Meteorological Organization

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

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Secretary-General

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WMO PROGRAMME FOR THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (LDCs)

PROGRESS/ACTIVITY REPORT

SUMMARY

Reference: Cg-XV/Doc. 7.3

CONTENT OF DOCUMENT:

Appendix:

- Progress/Activity Report for the period July 2003-January 2007

PROGRESS/ACTIVITY REPORT FOR THE PERIOD JULY 2003–JANUARY 2007

1. Activities were carried out at the Secretariat level and at LDCs level to mainstream WMO's support to the NMHSs into the Brussels Programme of Action for the LDCs for the decade 2001-2010, in particular some of its seven commitments which are the following:

- Commitment 1: Fostering a people-centred policy framework;
- Commitment 2: Good governance at national and international levels;
- Commitment 3: Building human and institutional capacities;
- Commitment 4: Building productive capacities to make globalization work for LDCs;
- Commitment 5: Enhancing the role of trade in development;
- Commitment 6: Reducing vulnerability and protecting the environment;
- Commitment 7: Mobilizing financial resources.

2. A few Members contributed to the Trust Fund for the NMHSs of the LDCs, in particular Australia, Colombia, Egypt, Hong Kong, Pakistan and Turkey, in cash and in kind of training, fellowships, Internet connectivity, among others.

3. Support and assistance were provided to LDCs by various Scientific and Technical Departments under their respective Programmes, including:

- (a) Development of Community approach to Flood Management, implementation of HYCOS projects, and organization of workshops on groundwater management;
- (b) Development and implementation of projects on website development for NMHSs of LDCs initiated in cooperation with the Hong Kong Observatory;
- (c) Organization of workshops on Public Weather Services, instrumentation, aviation and cost recovery;
- (d) Provision of climate data rescue equipment to 23 LDCs;
- (e) Support for the development of GAW stations;
- (f) Award of high priority fellowships;
- (g) Support for the participation of experts from LDCs in WMO and other related meetings, and
- (h) Development of projects to support NMHSs of LDCs affected by the December 2004, Indian Ocean Tsunami.

4. A national awareness raising workshop on the creation and development of the NMHS in Djibouti was organized in December 2005. One of the outputs of the workshop was a project proposal for enhancing meteorological services in the country.

5. Assistance was provided to the Central African Republic in organizing a seminar for women in meteorology, hydrology and related sciences which has enhanced the activities of the Association of Female Meteorologists and Hydrologists (OFMHYCA) and the visibility of the NMHS.

6. WMO missions were carried out to a number of LDCs using VCP and WMO Trust Fund for the LDCs to sensitize and raise Government awareness on the role and function of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in sustainable development in Burundi, Eritrea,

Liberia, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Zambia, Haiti, Kiribati, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Projects proposals were consequently developed for enhancing the capacities of NMHSs and resources need to be mobilized accordingly.

7. A meeting on the WMO Programme for the LDCs was organized in Geneva, Switzerland, in April 2005 with the active participation of representatives of LDCs leading to the development of a Strategic Action Plan for enhancing the contribution of the NMHSs of the LDCs to socio-economic development. The fifty-seventh session of the Executive Council in June 2005 endorsed the Strategic Action Plan, as well as the specific recommendations of the meeting.

8. A workshop on the Malian good practices on the beneficial and effective use of meteorological information and products by rural communities was organized in January 2006 in Bamako, Mali to share experiences with seven other LDCs (Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, Gambia, Guinea, Mauritania and Senegal).

9. Internet connection projects were implemented in the NMHSs of Sierra Leone and Zambia to facilitate the dissemination of early warning information and products to the user community and the case of Guinea Bissau is underway.

10. The Senior Staff of NMHSs of several LDCs participated actively in a series of workshops on socio-economic benefits of meteorological and related services to society organized in Bamako, Mali in May 2006; Nairobi, Kenya in August 2006; Manila, Philippines in November 2005 and Kuwait City, Kuwait in November 2006. The objective of the workshops was to start a process for evaluating socio-economic benefits of meteorological and hydrological services in the respective countries with a view to increasing the visibility of and allocation of resources to the respective NMHSs and to contribute to the 2007 Madrid Conference "Secure and sustainable living: social and economic benefits of Weather, Climate and Water Resources". Several pilot projects are foreseen to be implemented in selected LDCs as follow-up actions.

11. Representatives from NMHSs and end-users sectors of four LDCs (Ethiopia, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia) participated in a project development workshop, which was organized in Livingstone, Zambia, 22–24 January 2007 in the framework of the Finland Trust Fund to enhance the capabilities of NMHSs in seven African countries.

12. WMO participated in inter-agency consultation meetings on the preparation of the midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action (BPoA) for the Least Developed Countries for the decade 2001-2010. It also participated in the Regional Preparatory Meeting of the African LDCs in UNECA, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, February 2006, and in the Ministerial Conference of all the LDCs for the Midterm Comprehensive Global Review of the BPoA, Cotonou, Benin, June 2006. The outcomes of those meetings were a better coordination with other UN agencies and the adoption of the African LDCs' Strategy Paper and the Cotonou Strategy for the further implementation of the BPoA. The United Nations General Assembly, during its sixty-first session in 2006, welcomed the Cotonou Strategy as an initiative owned and led by the LDCs.

13. As part of the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Brussels Plan of Action (BPoA) for the Least Developed Countries for the decade 2001-2010, WMO on 13 September 2006 organized a WMO Special Event entitled "Weather, Climate and Water Services for Development and Disaster Mitigation in LDCs" at the UN Headquarters in New York with the effective participation of high level officials from LDCs. WMO also participated in the High-level Meeting of the 61st session of the UN General Assembly on 18 and 19 September 2006 where the World Leaders adopted a Declaration in which they noted that while the Programme of Action has registered some progress in its implementation, the overall socio-economic situation of

the LDCs remains precarious. They recommitted themselves to meeting the special needs of the LDCs as set out in the BPoA for the LDCs for the decade 2001-2010, sketched out directions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action over the remaining five years and recognized that the efforts of the LDCs need to be reinforced with substantial support from the international community.

14. A leaflet on “Weather, Climate and Water Services for the Least Developed Countries” was published in 2006 and distributed as appropriate.

15. A WMO Country Profile Database project was initiated in order to promote synergies between Members, Secretariat, Cooperating partners, funding agencies and other stakeholders. A project management team involving all Secretariat departments concerned was established to assure the project planning, risks and resources assessment and execution.
