

World Meteorological Organization

EC-LXI/Doc. 2.1

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Submitted by: President

Date: 15.V.2009

SIXTY-FIRST SESSION

Original Language: English

Geneva, 3 to 12 June 2009

Agenda Item: 2.1

## REPORT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE ORGANIZATION

### SUMMARY

**ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED:**

The issues raised in the report will be discussed under the relevant agenda items.

**ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL IMPLICATION:**

None

**DECISIONS/ACTIONS REQUIRED:**

To note action taken by the President on behalf of the Executive Council in the intersessional period.

**CONTENT OF DOCUMENT:**

**Appendix for inclusion in the final report:**

Draft text for inclusion in the general summary of EC-LXI

**Appendix for information:**

**EC-LXI/Rep. 2.1:** Progress/Activity Report

**DRAFT TEXT FOR INCLUSION IN THE GENERAL SUMMARY OF EC-LXI**

**2.1 REPORT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE ORGANIZATION** (*agenda item 2.1*)

**2.1.1** The Council noted the decisions made by the President on its behalf since its last session under General Regulation 9(7) (b) and Staff Regulations 9.5.

*[Extension of the appointments of staff beyond the statutory age of separation as reported in EC-LXI/Rep. 2.1, paragraph 25.]*

**2.1.2** The Council took note of the report of the President. It dealt with related issues under the relevant agenda items.

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**REPORT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE ORGANIZATION**

**PROGRESS/ACTIVITY REPORT**

**SUMMARY**

Reference: EC-LXI/Doc. 2.1

**CONTENT OF DOCUMENT:**

**Appendix:**

- Report by the President of the Organization

## **REPORT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE ORGANIZATION**

1. This report, provided in compliance with the Regulation 157 of the General Regulations, covers the period from the close of the sixtieth session of the Executive Council on 27 June 2008 till 31 March 2009. The report provides a brief résumé of the most significant developments since EC-LX. Detailed reports on WMO activities are provided under specific agenda items.

### **Membership of the Organization**

2. The Membership of the Organization remains at 188, comprising 182 States and 6 Territories.

### **Executive Council**

#### ***Membership of the Executive Council***

3. Since the sixtieth session of the Council, two seats become vacant. Mr G.B. Love relinquished his positions as Director of the Bureau of Meteorology and Permanent Representative of Australia with WMO from 28 September 2008. Designation of an acting member was conducted by correspondence, which resulted in the election of Mr Gary Foley, Acting Director of the Bureau of Meteorology and Permanent Representative of Australia with WMO as an acting member of the Council.

4. Dr Byung-Seong Chun was appointed as Administrator of KMA and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea with WMO on 13 February 2009; Mr Kunio Sakurai was appointed as Director-General of JMA and Permanent Representative of Japan with WMO on 9 April 2009; and Mr Francois Jacq was appointed as President and Director-General of Météo France and Permanent Representative of France with WMO on 3 April. Consequently the seats of Mr Soon-Kab Chung, Mr T. Hiraki and Mr P-E. Bisch in the EC became vacant. These vacancies occurred less than 130 days before the forthcoming session of the Council, therefore, the designation of the acting members of the Council will be conducted during EC-LXI.

### ***WMO Bureau***

5. The Bureau held its sixty-first session from 21 to 23 January 2009 in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago at the kind invitation of the Caribbean Meteorological Organization. The Bureau addressed organizational issues on the preparation for EC-LXI. It provided recommendations on the development of the next WMO Strategic Plan and the results-based strategic planning process of the Organization, including policy and strategic guidance to technical commissions; reviewed progress and gave recommendations on the work of EC subsidiary bodies, and considered the experience in participation of Members' representatives in EC-LX.

6. The Bureau reviewed progress in preparation for WCC-3 and appreciated that the WCC-3 has received strong support from Governments that confirms broad recognition of the need for accurate climate forecasting and reliable information. The Bureau discussed possible WMO contribution to the 2009 G8 Summit in Italy the agenda of which included issues closely related to the mandate and expertise of WMO, and especially an Italian initiative in the context of adaptation to climate change "to reinforce the capacity to prevent, prepare for and manage natural disasters, focusing on coastal zones and SIDS". The Bureau further considered the need for establishment of a Policy Advisory Board to engage eminent individuals from amongst prominent politicians, scientists and economists to provide WMO with policy advice and serve as ambassadors of WMO.

7. The Bureau also considered amendments to Regulations 109 and 111 of the General Regulations, JIU recommendations referred to the WMO legislative bodies, and the financial situation of the Organization.

***Subsidiary bodies of the EC***

8. The EC Working Group on Climate and Related Water and Environmental Matters (Geneva, 11 to 13 February 2009) discussed the future of the Climate Agenda including coordination of climate activities within the UN system, and a Global Framework for Climate Services as an expected outcome of WCC-3.

9. The WMO Audit Committee (Geneva, 20-21 October 2008 and 9 March 2009) considered reports of the Internal Oversight Office and the External Auditor and noted continued improvement in strengthening of oversight and internal controls as a notable achievement.

10. The EC Research Task Team on Research Aspects of an Enhanced Climate, Weather, Water and Environmental Prediction Framework was formed in August 2008 and through a teleconference and two meetings (Geneva, 30-31 October 2008 and 9-10 February 2009) developed the report to EC.

11. The EC Working Group on WMO Strategic and Operational Planning (Geneva, 16-18 March 2009) analysed the progress made in the implementation of the Results-based Management system. It rendered guidance towards further development of the WMO Strategic Plan, the Organization-wide Operating Plan for the period 2012-2015, and the WMO Monitoring and Performance Evaluation System. Other developments were the EC Statement on the Role and Operation of NMHSs; concept on alignment of programmes and working mechanisms of constituent bodies to the Strategic Plan; and, questionnaires related to the role and operation of NMHSs. The Group also considered issues relating to socio-economic benefits, the relationship between WMO and the private sector, matters relating to the role of WMO in policy, and the effectiveness of the Organization at policy level.

12. The EC Working Group on Capacity Building (Dubrovnik, Croatia, 18-19 March 2009) addressed the need to develop an advocacy strategy aimed at increasing the political profile of the WMO Community and the awareness of the socio-economic value of the products and services delivered by NMHSs, particularly in support of achievement of the MDGs; improving capacity in LDCs and Small Island Developing States; developing strategic partnerships with external stakeholders; and assisting with donor engagement to enhance the level of externally funded development projects in Member countries.

13. The EC Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction and Service Delivery (Geneva, 19-21 March 2009) developed a set of recommendations, which would provide a new basis for working with the private sector and for dealing with sponsorships, and was developing of draft Key Outcomes for the programmes that contribute to DRR and service delivery.

14. The EC Working Group on WIGOS and WIS (meeting planned in Geneva, 6-8 May 2009) will consider activities related to the WIS Project and Implementation Plan as well as coordination activities between WIGOS and WIS plans, outcomes from the first session of its Subgroup on WIGOS, the status of WIGOS Projects; it updated the WIGOS Concept of Operations and WIGOS Development and Implementation Plan and specified recommendations to EC.

15. The EC Panel of Experts on ETR established the Task Team on Aviation Forecaster Qualifications to examine further the range of possible approaches to the qualification and to amend the current qualifications of meteorologists so that degree standards would be set at a minimum required level yet sufficient for ensuring reliable service.

16. The EC Panel of Experts on Polar Observations, Research and Services membership was established with recommendations from CBS, CAS, WCRP/CliC and IPY Inter-commission Group. It was expected that the Panel would be activated in 2009.

***Other bodies reporting to EC***

17. The ninth session of the WMO Consultative Meetings on High-level Policy on Satellite Matters (Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 24-25 January 2009) discussed progress and plans for the space-based component of the Vision to 2025 of the GOS and the Regional Specialized Satellite Centres for Climate Monitoring. The meeting encouraged a broader and longer-term view of the Vision and supported increased involvement of research agencies in the climate monitoring effort.

18. The Meeting of the Presidents of Technical Commissions (Geneva, 2-4 February 2009) discussed the engagement of technical commissions in WMO strategic and operational planning, result-based management, and addressed selected cross-cutting activities. Actions towards the improvement of efficiency and effectiveness of the commissions and enhancing the Secretariat support to the commissions were reviewed. An alternative way of conducting technical commissions work in the future was discussed.

19. The thirtieth session of the Joint Scientific Committee for the WCRP (Maryland, USA, 6-9 April 2009) focused primarily on future direction and research priorities for the Programme, and on an active dialogue between the sponsors/stakeholders and the WCRP leadership team.

**Activities of the Organization and its constituent bodies**

20. The thirteenth session of the Commission for Hydrology (Geneva, 4-12 November 2008) adopted a Quality Management Framework for Hydrology that has various important consequences for the future of the Hydrology and Water Resources Programme. The Commission placed emphasis on the concerted preparation of guidance material that would assist NMHSs in improving their day-to-day activities, processes, procedures and services. The Commission unanimously re-elected Mr B. Stewart (Australia) as president and Mr J. Wellens-Mensah (Ghana) as vice-president.

21. The fourteenth session of Regional Association II (Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 5-11 December 2008) was preceded by a two day Regional Seminar. The Association adopted the Strategic Plan for the Enhancement of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in Regional Association II (Asia) (2009-2011), which identified a set of action-oriented deliverables categorized under Regional Expected Results in accordance with WMO's set of Expected Results, and established the Management Group and four Working Groups to align the working mechanism of the Association to the Expected Results of the RA II Strategic Plan. The Association unanimously elected Prof. Victor E. Chub (Uzbekistan) as president and Dr Q. Chaudhry (Pakistan) as vice-president.

22. The fourteenth session of the Commission for Basic Systems (Dubrovnik, Croatia, 25 March to 2 April 2009) was preceded by a Technical Conference on WIGOS. CBS-XIV dealt with a Vision for the GOS in 2025, full integration of AMDAR into GOS, CBS leading technical role in the WIGOS, the GTS-WIS communication structure, data representation and metadata development, designation of WIS Centres, Global Producing Centres for Long-Range Forecasts and Regional Climate Centres, radio-frequency and other matters. The Commission elected Mr Frederick Bransky (USA) as president and Mrs Susan Barrell (Australia) as vice-president.

23. The fifteenth session of Regional Association IV will be held in Nassau, Bahamas from 24 April to 1 May 2009, preceded by the RA IV Hurricane Committee meeting from 20 to 24 April 2009.

24. The CAS Management Group began the planning of CAS-XV (Seoul, Republic of Korea, 18-25 November 2009) to be preceded by a technical conference on a topic related to environmental prediction in the next decade. The Group discussed the ongoing review of "Research Aspects of an Enhanced Climate, Weather, Water and Environmental Prediction Framework" and the Joint ICSU/WMO/IOC/IGFA review of the WCRP.

#### **Actions taken by President on behalf of the Executive Council**

25. In accordance with the Regulation 9(7) (b) of the General Regulations and requirements set by Staff Regulation 9.5, the President authorized on behalf of the Executive Council the extension of following appointment beyond the statutory age of retirement:

<b>Name and Nationality</b>	<b>Title, grade and organizational unit</b>	<b>Duration</b>
Prof. Hong YAN (China)	Deputy Secretary-General	a further 8 months to 28 February 2010
SCHIESSL, Mr D.C. (Germany)	Director (D.2), Strategic Planning Office	a further 4 months to 30 April 2009
KORTCHEV, Dr G.I. (Bulgaria)	Special Adviser (D.1), Regional Office for Europe, Development and Regional Activities Department	a further 1.5 months to 19 December 2009
NYENZI, Dr B. (Tanzania)	Director (D.1), Climate Prediction and Adaptation Branch, Director (D.1), WCC-3 Secretariat, (from 1 January 2009), Climate and Water Department	12 months to 31 July 2008 a further 12 months to 31 July 2009
KARPOV, Dr A.V. (Russian Federation)	Acting Director (P.5), Global Climate Observing System Secretariat, Observing and Information Systems Department	a further 6 months to 31 December 2008 a further 3 months to 31 March 2009
WANG, Mr C. (China)	Senior External Relations Officer (P.5), External Relations Office, Cabinet and External Relations Department	a further 8 months to 31 March 2009
BATJARGAL, Mr Z. (Mongolia)	WMO Representative and Coordinator to UN and other International Organizations in North America (P.5), New York Liaison Office, Cabinet and External Relations Department	a further 12.5 months to 31 July 2009
REQUENA, Mr F. (Argentina)	Executive Assistant to the SG (P.5), Office of the SG	12 months to 30 September 2009

#### **Acknowledgements**

26. The President wishes to place on record his sincere appreciation to all those who have contributed to the continued progress of the Organization since EC-LX. He would particularly like to express his sincere thanks to the First, Second and Third Vice-Presidents, to the members of the Executive Council, to the presidents of regional associations and of technical commissions and the members of their groups, as well as to all to the members of the Executive Council panels and all

experts who contributed to the activities of WMO, for all the time and effort they have devoted to the work of the Organization over the past year.

27. The President also wishes to extend his special thanks to the Secretary-General and the staff of the Secretariat for their dedicated professional support for the constituent bodies and Members of WMO and for their loyalty and commitment to the Programmes and activities of the Organization.

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