

World Meteorological Organization

EC-LXI/Doc. 8(3)

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Submitted by: Secretary-General

Date: 28.IV.2009

SIXTY-FIRST SESSION

Original Language: English

Geneva, 3 to 12 June 2009

Agenda Item: 8

## Expected Result: 11

### FUTURE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

#### Strategic Thrust: Efficient Management and Good Governance

### FUTURE STRUCTURE OF WMO

#### SUMMARY

**ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED:**

This document presents conclusions and recommendations on aligning programmes and working mechanisms of constituent bodies to the WMO Strategic Plan put forth by the EC Working Group on Strategic and Operational Planning and the PTC-2009 meeting.

**ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL IMPLICATION:**

None

**ACTION REQUIRED:**

Endorsement of the recommendations, as appropriate, and decision on the future work on that topic.

**REFERENCES:**

1. *Abridged Final Report with Resolutions of the Sixtieth Session of the Executive Council*, Geneva, 18-17 June 2008 (WMO-No. 1032), paragraph 7.2.7 of the general summary
2. Report of the Second session of the EC Working Group on WMO Strategic and Operational Planning (Geneva, 16-18 March 2009).

**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. 8(3): Progress/Activity Report

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

**8 FUTURE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES** (*agenda item 8*)

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**Future Structure of WMO**

**8.x.1** The Council referred to the decision taken at its sixtieth session (2008) to work towards creating a flexible and effective working mechanism for studying and developing recommendations for aligning the structure of WMO with the result-based Strategic Plan (Final report of EC-LX, paragraph 7.2.7). It appreciated that the Working Group on WMO Strategic and Operational Planning and the PTC-2009 meeting had considered a number of options on aligning programmes and working mechanisms of constituent bodies to the WMO Strategic Plan.

**8.x.2** In taking due note of the conclusions and recommendations of its Working Group and of the PTC-2009 the Council agreed ..... (to be completed at the session).....

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**FUTURE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

**Strategic Thrust: Efficient Management and Good Governance**

**FUTURE STRUCTURE OF WMO**

**SUMMARY**

Reference: **EC-LXI/Doc. 8(3)**

**CONTENT OF DOCUMENT:**

**Appendix:**

- Progress/Activity Report

## PROGRESS/ACTIVITY REPORT

### RECOMMENDATIONS ON ALIGNING PROGRAMMES AND WORKING MECHANISMS OF CONSTITUENT BODIES TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN

1. The EC Working Group on Strategic and Operational Planning, at its second meeting (Geneva, 16-18 March 2009), addressed the issue and agreed on conclusions and recommendations summarized below.
2. The Working Group considered a discussion paper that had been prepared for the PTC-2009 meeting, which contained a number of options on aligning programmes and working mechanisms of constituent bodies to the WMO Strategic Plan. The Working Group also took note of the pertinent deliberations of the PTC-2009 (Geneva, 2-4 February 2009) concerning several options as alternative way of conducting technical commission meetings.
3. The discussion paper, *inter alia*, proposed that all technical commissions meet every two years with two days of their meeting being conducted in the usual intergovernmental fashion and a further six days as a technical conference. The proposal also asked that all the technical commissions review their terms of reference to bring them into alignment with the WMO Strategic Plan.
4. The Working Group concluded that the consideration of the role, structure and number of the technical commissions was one component of the re-structuring necessary, and that without considering the likely changes to other constituent bodies, such as the regional associations and Executive Council, it may be premature to make extensive changes to the technical commissions.
5. A pre-requisite for moving forward was a clear vision of the strategic goals of the Organization and there was some confidence that at the highest level the Strategic Thrusts and Expected Results of the Organization were unlikely to change in substance, rather in emphasis.
6. The Working Group was of the view that:
  - The proposal should be costed, and it should also include as a costed option a parallel meeting of a number of the smaller technical commissions;
  - There is a need for closer integration of the work of the technical commissions;
  - There is a need to reduce overlap and duplication in the work of the technical commissions;
  - The experts who volunteer their time to work in the technical commissions are an asset that we must recognize and continue to nurture; and
  - Proposals for change should be benchmarked against other agencies undertaking similar technical roles as the WMO.
7. The Working Group agreed that the proposal (paragraph 3 above) should eventually go forward to the Council in a revised form, including an introduction that made it clear that the WMO must decide on a strategy for dealing with its structural issues, noting that two interlinked evolutionary approaches should be considered:
  - Changes to the mode of operations of existing constituent bodies; and
  - Holistic reform that would involve Cg-XVI making changes to the Basic Documents that govern the structure of the WMO's constituent bodies.

8. As an example of a major reform the possibility of a changed number of technical commissions was given, with one technical commission focused on research, another on systems, another of services and possibly one on capacity building.

9. The Working Group emphasized that whatever proposal is put to Congress should first be subject to wide discussions and consensus building before it is finalized, otherwise it would be unlikely to be adopted.

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