

World Meteorological Organization

XV-RA IV/Doc. 4.8

**REGIONAL ASSOCIATION IV  
(NORTH AMERICA, CENTRAL  
AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN)**

Submitted by: Secretary-General

Date: 31.III.2009

**FIFTEENTH SESSION**

Original Language: English

Nassau, Bahamas

Agenda Item: 4.8

24 April to 1 May 2009

## Expected Result: 8

# BROADER USE OF WEATHER, CLIMATE, AND WATER OUTPUTS FOR DECISION-MAKING AND IMPLEMENTATION BY MEMBERS AND PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

## Strategic Thrust 3: Partnership

### SUMMARY

#### ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED:

1. Cooperation with the regional bodies of the United Nations system and regional organizations
2. Communication and Public Affairs

#### ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL IMPLICATION:

None

#### ACTIONS REQUIRED:

To approve the draft text in the Appendix for inclusion in the general summary of XV-RA IV.

#### REFERENCES:

1. *Abridged Final Report with Resolutions of the fourteenth session of Regional Association IV (North America, Central America and the Caribbean)* (WMO-No. 987)
2. *Abridged Final Report with Resolutions of the Fifteenth World Meteorological Congress* (WMO-No. 1026)
3. *Abridged Final Report with Resolutions of the Sixtieth session of the Executive Council* (WMO-No. 1032)

#### CONTENT OF DOCUMENT:

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

Draft text for inclusion in the general summary of XV-RA IV

##### Appendix for information:

XV-RA IV/Rep. 4.8: Progress/Activity Report

## **DRAFT TEXT FOR INCLUSION IN THE GENERAL SUMMARY OF XV-RA IV**

### **4.8 BROADER USE OF WEATHER, CLIMATE, AND WATER OUTPUTS FOR DECISION-MAKING AND IMPLEMENTATION BY MEMBERS AND PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS** (*agenda item 4.8*)

#### **Cooperation between WMO and the regional bodies of the United Nations system and regional organizations**

**4.8.1** The Association reviewed the cooperation between WMO and the various economic and technical organizations in RA IV for the development and implementation of programmes and projects related to meteorology. These included the ACS, CARICOM, SICA, CRRH, IO-Caribe, CMO and CEPREDENAC. The Association invited the WMO Secretariat to continue to collaborate with these intergovernmental bodies.

**4.8.2** The pilot project on Automated Weather Service Production System for the Caribbean Area in Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago which was implemented in coordination with the Association of Caribbean States, the Government of Finland, the Caribbean Meteorological Organization and WMO, was completed in 2006. The Association felt the project was a good example of cooperative activities that contribute to the sustainability, visibility and development of the Meteorological Services and the establishment of partnerships with end users.

**4.8.3** The Association also highlighted the cooperation between WMO, the IDB and the CRRH in the organization of the Regional Climate Forum and their work on developing a Central American Regional Data Base in the NMHSs.

**4.8.4** The Association expressed its satisfaction for the World Bank project "Central American Probabilistic Risk Assessment (CAPRA)", in cooperation with WMO and with the participation of the regional intergovernmental organizations CEPREDENAC and CATHALAC.

**4.8.5** The Association further noted with satisfaction that the Office for North America, Central America and the Caribbean had participated in the various regional activities including the RA IV Hurricane Committee meetings, the Caribbean Meteorological Organization meetings, sessions of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Tsunami and other Coastal Hazards Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions and Conference of Directors of Ibero-american NMHSs. The Association encouraged the Office to continue and strengthen its participation in such regional forum and requested the Secretary-General and Members to provide support for the Office to ensure expanding strategic partnerships to other potential partners in the Region. The Association further encouraged Members in the Region to actively participate in the activities of regional organizations related to weather, climate, water and natural disaster risk reduction.

#### **Communication and Public Affairs**

**4.8.6** The Association was pleased with the numerous activities and products implemented under the WMO Global Communication Strategy with the objective of projecting a unified and consolidated image of WMO and NMHSs, strengthening constituencies both at the national and regional levels; spreading key messages giving a local voice to a global undertaking and vision; fostering strategic alliances with the media; and promoting a communication culture throughout WMO. The Association urged Members and the Secretary-General to further implement the Strategy with the aim to position WMO and NMHSs in a manner which plays to their unique strengths and raises the Organization's visibility as a key player in international cooperation and in contributing to sustainable development of Members.

**4.8.7** The Association felt the redesigned WMO Website had enhanced WMO communications. It called on Members to establish a link to the WMO Website, to identify them as an integral part of the WMO system and to make full use thereof. The Association was pleased with the concept of featuring a WMO front-page link to the NMHS of an area struck by natural disaster to create more awareness and provide relief organizations with critical meteorological data. In this context, it invited Members to provide the Secretariat with timely notifications of extreme weather events and other newsworthy activities for attracting the attention of the international media and the public. It further encouraged Members to continue to develop NMHSs Websites, with reference to WMO and linked to the WMO Website and highlight major WMO events with appropriate linkage.

**4.8.8** The Association expressed its appreciation to the Secretary-General for assisting NMHSs in the celebration of World Meteorological Day (WMD) as a significant instrument for increasing the visibility of NMHSs.

**4.8.9** The Association recalled that Fifteenth Congress called for a greater involvement of NMHSs in developing strategic alliances with the national media for the purpose of disseminating key messages and providing greater visibility for all activities of the NMHSs, and further called on NMHSs for a closer interaction with United Nations Offices in the field in order to increase recognition of NMHSs' contribution to disaster prevention and mitigation and other areas.

**4.8.10** The Association noted that WMO would participate in the World Exposition 2010 "Better City, Better Life" (Shanghai, China, May-October 2010). The WMO Pavilion "Meteland" will seek to enhance public awareness of the work undertaken by WMO and NMHSs and their contribution to people's daily life. The Association requested Members to support participation of WMO in the 2010 World Expo and contribute extrabudgetary resources, in-kind support and public information materials for the WMO Pavilion.

**4.8.11** The Association noted with satisfaction the efforts of the Office for North America, Central America and the Caribbean as information focal points in the WMO Secretariat for the Region. In order to enhance WMO's information and Public Affairs Programme in the Region, it requested the Office to further strengthen its links with the Members of the Association.

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DECISION-MAKING AND IMPLEMENTATION BY MEMBERS AND  
PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS**

**Strategic Thrust 5: Partnership**

**PROGRESS/ACTIVITY REPORT**

**SUMMARY**

Reference: XV-RA IV/Doc. 4.8

**CONTENT OF DOCUMENT:**

**Appendix:**

- Progress/Activity Report

## **PROGRESS/ACTIVITY REPORT**

### **COOPERATION BETWEEN WMO AND THE REGIONAL BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM, AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

1 The long-standing cooperation between WMO and ACS, CARICOM, SICA, CRRH, IO-Caribe, CMO and CEPREDENAC has been strengthened in supporting activities on hurricanes and in the preparation for, and mitigation of, disasters caused by tropical cyclones. The areas of cooperation also covered development cooperation activities including advisory services and training; programme for least developed, and small island developing countries; and some emerging issues in response to hurricanes and other natural disasters, as well as environmental protection, and climate risk management and adaptation to climate variability and change.

2 The Central American Climate Forum has become a very important panel for seasonal forecast discussion such as the effects of El Niño and La Niña events, beginning of rainy or dry seasons, north hemisphere winter effects over Central America and climate variability. The results of the Forum are widely disseminated to the media, decision makers and user sectors. The Data Base Climate project for Central America pretends to develop a Regional Data Base to support crop insurance activities with relevant meteorological and hydrological information. WMO, CRRH and the IDB are actively involved in this project.

3. The Association was informed on the completion of the pilot project on Automated Weather Service Production System for the Caribbean Area in Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago in 2006, which was implemented in coordination with the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), the Government of Finland, the Caribbean Meteorological Organization (CMO) and WMO. This pilot project has made a significant contribution to the sustainability, visibility and development of the Meteorological Services and the establishment of partnerships with end users.

4. The WMO Office for North America, Central America and the Caribbean has actively participated with the World Bank, CEPREDENAC and CATHALAC in the Central American Probabilistic Risk Assessment project (CAPRA). CAPRA is an information platform to enhance decision-making in risk management across various sectors, such as emergency management, territorial planning, public investment and the financial sectors. Through the application of probabilistic risk assessment principles to threats like hurricanes, earthquakes, volcanic activity, floods, tsunamis and landslides, CAPRA allows to measure and compare different types of risks, and to develop sector-specific applications for risk management.

### **COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS IN RA IV**

5 Fifteenth Congress noted increased public awareness of the importance of weather, climate and water services and products provided by NMHSs, and of international cooperation in these fields by a more focused outreach policy, closer interaction between the WMO Secretariat, NMHSs and the United Nations system.

6 WMO issued numerous Press Releases and Info Notes – some jointly with Members or other UN agencies, held various press conferences and in-depth briefings and informed the international media of news received from NMHSs. WMO experts participated in television and radio programmes and made themselves available for media interviews and background briefings. Timely seasonal forecasts in relation to disaster-struck areas were made available, attracting considerable media coverage and appreciative responses from relief organizations. The Statement on the Status of the Global Climate in 2007, the WMO Ozone Bulletins and the 2007 Greenhouse Gas Bulletin attracted major coverage, as did developments in relation to early warning systems, tropical cyclones, the El Niño/La Niña Updates, and the essential role of climate predictions. WMO

actively contributed to the education, outreach and communication activities in the context of the IPY 2007-2008. WMO also actively promoted the activities of the IPCC in its 2007 Nobel Peace Prize winning year by setting up media interviews and issuing press statements. A daily activity has been the issuing of the “WMO in the News” collection of stories dealing with WMO and NMHSs in the world’s press.

7 A WMO media guide for NMHSs communicators was finalized through a WMO workshop for Information and Public Affairs Focal Points of RA VI (13-14 May 2008, Warsaw, Poland), which can be accessed via: <ftp://ftp.wmo.int/Documents/MediaPublic/Guides/WMOMediaGuide.pdf> .

8 New brochures, posters, fact sheets and media advisories were developed for public information campaigns set up in the context of major international conferences, in particular on the occasion of the UNCCD COP-8 and the UNFCCC COP-13. WMO actively promoted NMHSs as vital partners for decision-making related to climate mitigation and adaptation, particularly through UN communications activities. Side events, press conferences and interviews set up by the WMO Secretariat, and given also by Permanent Representatives, all contributed to the high profile of NMHSs at these Conferences.

9 WMO enhanced its communications through its newly designed Website, which attracted an ever-increasing number of visits, confirming that it was not only a valuable outreach tool but also an indispensable tool for the work of WMO Members and Secretariat staff. The Website is continually updated in response to users’ requirements and to enhance uptake of WMO products. MeteoWorld online was further developed in response to demand and feedback and the News segment continued to be one of the most visited pages. The WMO Bulletin online was introduced.

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