



AGENDA ITEM 9: POLICY, LEGAL, OVERSIGHT, FINANCIAL AND STAFF MATTERS

AGENDA ITEM 9.4: Public-private engagement and other policy matters

DRAFT RESOLUTION

Draft Resolution 9.4(1)/1 (Cg-18)

Geneva Declaration – 2019: Building Community for Weather, Climate and Water Actions

THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL CONGRESS,

Recalling that the Geneva Declaration of the Thirteenth World Meteorological Congress (1999), was adopted in response to the United Nations General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the regional economic and social commissions' appeal to WMO to contribute, within its field of competence, to the action taken at international, regional and national levels to promote and support sustainable development, especially activities pertinent to weather- and climate-related natural disasters, climate change and the protection of the environment,

Noting Decision 51 (EC-70) on preparing a new high-level policy document for consideration by the 18th Congress reflecting the WMO position, policy and guidance on public-private engagement in light of the global developments outlined in the UN Agenda for Sustainable Development 2030, the Paris Agreement, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction,

Having considered the text of the Declaration which has been widely reviewed by Members and partner international organizations,

Adopts the Congress Declaration entitled "Building Community for Weather, Climate and Water Actions", provided in the annex to this Resolution, as a call for action,

Recognizing that the main texts of the Geneva Declaration (1999) have already been included in the preamble to the Convention,

Decides to remove the Geneva Declaration (1999) from the WMO policy documents and to replace it with the current Declaration, under the name "Geneva Declaration – 2019: Building Community for Weather, Climate and Water Actions";

Urges Members to consider and act upon the Geneva Declaration – 2019, in particular in capacity building, through legislation and pertinent national and regional actions, policies and strategies;

Requests the presidents of the technical commissions and of the regional associations to pay due attention to the Geneva Declaration – 2019 in applying inclusive approaches in their work including their subsidiary bodies, leveraging expertise and innovation from all sectors;

Requests the Secretary-General:

- (a) To circulate the Geneva Declaration – 2019 to all Governments and to pertinent international and regional organizations;
- (b) To publish the Geneva Declaration – 2019.

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[Annex: 1](#)

Annex to draft Resolution 9.4(1)/1 (Cg-18)

**DECLARATION
OF THE EIGHTEENTH WORLD METEOROLOGICAL CONGRESS
BUILDING COMMUNITY FOR
WEATHER, CLIMATE AND WATER ACTIONS**

We, the delegates from xxx Member States and Territories of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), meeting in Geneva from 3 to 14 June 2019 at the Eighteenth World Meteorological Congress, having considered:

- that the global societal risks related to extreme weather, climate, water and other environmental events should be addressed through interdisciplinary and multi-sectoral partnerships, and
- that the expanding opportunities to use meteorological, climatological, hydrological and related environmental information and services to inform critical decisions can foster increased societal and structural resilience, and sustainable economic development;

declare as follows:

We NOTE

- **The strong focus of the global agenda** on both immediate and long-term challenges related to weather, climate and water, as reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction;
- **That achieving the sustainable development goals will benefit from inclusive partnerships** amongst public, private and academic sectors, as well as civil society, at global, regional, national and local levels;

We FURTHER NOTE

- **The progress in science and technology** that significantly improves our collective ability to generate decision-supporting data, products and services for governments, businesses and citizens;
- **That the rapidly growing and changing demand** for weather, climate and water information and services can be met more effectively through open dialogue that enhances coordination and collaboration between the public, private and academic sectors;

We RECOGNIZE

- **The need to strengthen the entire weather, climate and water services value chain** – from acquisition and exchange of observations and information, through to data processing and forecasting, and service delivery – to meet growing societal needs;
- **The evolving capabilities and growing engagement of the private sector** in contributing to all links of the value chain and accelerating innovation;

- **The heterogeneous business models** of the diverse stakeholders and differing legislative frameworks of the Members;
- **The persistent capacity gap between developed and developing countries** in the provision of essential services that impedes resilience to natural hazards;
- **The pressure on public funding** which inhibits the ability of some National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) to sustain and improve requisite infrastructure and services;
- **The crucial need for WMO to work more closely** with development and funding agencies, the private sector and the international finance community in designing and guiding development assistance aimed at closing the capacity gap;
- **The need for innovative approaches and incentives** to enable fair and equitable access to data, including to the rapidly growing non-traditional data from all sectors;

We REAFFIRM

- **The mission of WMO** outlined under Article 2 of the WMO Convention as to facilitate worldwide cooperation on monitoring and predicting changes in weather, climate, water and other environmental conditions through the exchange of information and services, standardization, application, research and training.;
- **The role of WMO in the development and promulgation of international standards** to ensure the quality, interoperability and fit-for-purpose information and services, and in promoting the adherence by all stakeholders to those standards;
- **The vital importance of the mission of the NMHSs** in monitoring, understanding and predicting weather, climate and water, and in providing related information, warnings and services that meet national, regional and global needs;
- **The commitment of Members to broaden and enhance the free and unrestricted exchange of meteorological, hydrological and climatological data and products** as articulated in Resolutions 40 (Cg-12), 25 (Cg-13) and 60 (Cg-17) of the World Meteorological Congress, and to enable access to the international infrastructure and facilities coordinated by WMO through its programmes;
- **The responsibility of Members' governments to maintain and sustain requisite infrastructure** and the operation of international systems and facilities for observations, data exchange and information supply;

We WELCOME

- **The opportunities for all stakeholders and the broader user community** that will result from a closer collaboration among public, private and academic sectors;
- **The engagement of all sectors** in addressing the societal needs through weather, climate, water and other environmental information and services;

- **The contributions of Members and partner international organizations to sustaining and developing the global meteorological infrastructure** coordinated by WMO through its programmes;
- **The evolving role of WMO** as a facilitator in establishing and expanding partnerships among stakeholders, from public, private and academic sectors that will significantly improve the availability of high-quality weather, climate, water and other related environmental information and services in all countries;

We URGE all stakeholders from public, private and academic sectors to adhere to the UN Global Compact and WMO established principles for successful partnerships, by:

- **Contributing collectively** to achieving the overarching purpose articulated in the WMO Convention;
- **Respecting shared values** that create opportunities for innovation and growth based on science, leverage expertise to provide positive outcomes and solutions for all parties, support knowledge and technology transfer and uptake, invest in local research, and develop human capacity;
- **Promoting sustainability of the global infrastructure** by seeking opportunities for multi-sector engagements that improve efficiency and better serve society;
- **Promoting free and unrestricted international data sharing**, based on national circumstances, with intellectual property rights duly respected;
- **Enabling all countries to advance together** through a coordinated approach for engaging the public, private and academic sectors, as well as civil society and investment partners, with special focus on bridging existing gaps in developing countries, Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS);
- **Fostering and maintaining fair and transparent arrangements**, adhere to quality and service standards, to advance collective objectives in delivering public goods, and take into account specific stakeholder needs, such as:
 - Ensuring that access to commercial data with use restrictions is treated equally by and between public and private sector entities; and
 - Committing to comply with relevant national and international legislation and policies with respect to both data provision and avoidance of anti-competitive behaviour;
- **Seeking integrity** by engaging in mutually beneficial relationships and partnerships to the benefit of society;
- **Respecting the sovereign** right of Members in deciding how weather, climate and water services are organized and provided, including the application of national and regional legislation and policies for making data and products available on a free and unrestricted principle, as well as the assignment of key national responsibilities related to public safety;

We ALSO ENCOURAGE

- **Pursuing efficiencies that enhance value-for-money**, including multi-sector and cross-border partnerships;

- **Developing innovative data exchange mechanisms and incentives** to increase data availability, resolve existing data gaps, promote greater data sharing and avoid fragmentation;
- **Continuing dialogues and initiatives** aimed at building trust, mutual understanding and cooperation between stakeholders from all sectors;
- **Stakeholders from all sectors** to act as powerful advocates for sustained investment in core public infrastructure and capability;
- **Working with economic communities** to better understand business models and economic frameworks for the provision of weather, climate, water and environmental services, and to work towards innovative and mutually beneficial approaches;

We CALL on all Governments to give due consideration to the statements expressed in this Declaration to:

- **Foster structured dialogue** between public, private and academic sectors at both national and international level;
- **Safeguard and strengthen the authoritative voice of NMHSs** for the issuance of warnings and relevant information to support critical decisions related to natural hazards and disaster risks, in collaboration with national disaster management authorities;
- **Endeavour to put in place appropriate legislative and/or institutional arrangements** to enable effective cross-sector partnerships and remove barriers to mutually beneficial cooperation and collaboration;
- **Ensure the fulfilment of international commitments**, including those stemming from the WMO Convention, for sustainable operation of the international infrastructure and exchange of required data;
- **Promote uptake of and compliance with WMO standards and guidance by all stakeholders** to enhance interoperability and the quality of data and products;
- **Engage with civil society** to extend the outreach to communities and citizens in particular to enhance public understanding and response to warnings of natural hazards;
- **Encourage stakeholders from all sectors** to facilitate international data sharing and make their data available as needed for essential public purposes, such as disaster risk reduction;

WE CALL ON partner organizations and development agencies to work closely with WMO to:

- **Increase the impact of capacity development** initiatives through strategic multi-stakeholder partnerships leveraging the investments, expertise and knowledge of all sectors;
- **Ensure the best use of development funds** to close the capacity gap, by exploiting financially viable business models that provide sustainable solutions for modernizing infrastructure and enhancing services in developing countries, LDCs and SIDS;

- **Optimize national adaptation planning** and disaster risk management to build resilience at all levels through a greater involvement of the expertise of the NMHSs in partnership with other public institutions, private and academic sectors, as well as civil society;
 - **Reinforce the capability** of developing countries, LDCs and SIDS to contribute to the international exchange of data and products through WMO global systems, and to benefit from the global public goods produced collectively by the Members.
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