



REPORT OF THE FORTY-SEVENTH MEETING OF THE CARIBBEAN METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL



CHAIRMAN:

Dr. the Hon. Ralph Gonsalves
Prime Minister
**ST. VINCENT AND THE
GRENADINES**

VENUE AND DATE:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
**ST. VINCENT AND THE
GRENADINES**

29-30 November 2007

CONTENTS AND AGENDA

	<u>PAGES</u>
1. OPENING OF SESSION AND ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN	1
2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS	1
3. CMO HEADQUARTERS UNIT MATTERS	2 - 4
(a) Coordinating Director's Report	2
(b) Status of Refundable Balances	3
(c) Auditor's Report	4
4. STATUS OF ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS SESSION	5
5. CMO BUDGETS (Headquarters Unit, CRN and Radar)	5 - 9
(a) CMO Headquarters General Staff Salary Issues	5
(b) Budget Estimates for 2008	6
(c) Budget Virements	7
(d) Statement of Contributions and Arrears	8
6. CIMH MATTERS	9 - 10
(a) Board of Governors' Report	9
(b) Principal's Report	10
7. ANNUAL MEETING OF THE DIRECTORS OF METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES	11
8. CMO RADAR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION – Update	11

CONTENTS AND AGENDA

	<u>PAGES</u>
9. OTHER PROJECT UPDATES AND PROPOSALS	12 - 13
(a) Cayman Islands Radar Project Proposal	
(b) WMO/Finland SIDS-Caribbean Project –Special Extension Pilot Project	
(c) Feasibility Study for an Early Warning Project for CARICOM States - Government of Italy/CARICOM Agreement	
(d) CARIB-HYCOS Project Update	
10. SPECIAL CMO AND WMO ISSUES	13 - 15
(a) Outcome/Highlights of the 15 th Congress of the World Meteorological Organization, 2007	13
(b) Meteorological Services in the Caribbean – (i) Quality Management (ii) Authority vs Provider	13
(c) CMO and the Intergovernmental Group on Global Earth Observations (GEO)	15
11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS	..15
12. SPECIAL OTHER MATTERS	16
13. DATE AND VENUE OF CMC48 (2008)	16

ANNEX

<u>No:</u>	<u>TITLE</u>
1	LIST OF DELEGATES

1. INTRODUCTION – OPENING OF THE SESSION AND ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

- 1.1 At the kind invitation of the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the Forty-Seventh Annual Meeting of Caribbean Meteorological Council was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, on 29-30 November 2007 under the Chairmanship of Dr. the Hon. Ralph Gonsalves, Prime Minister and Minister of National Security of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.
- 1.2 After an opening prayer by Mr. Joel Jack, Deputy Director of Airports of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Mrs. Corsel Robertson, Director of Airports, made brief welcoming remarks and introductions. Mrs. Donna McRae-Smith, Project Officer in the Sustainable Development Programme of the CARICOM Secretariat, brought greetings on behalf of the Secretary-General of CARICOM. This was followed by remarks by Mr. Tyrone Sutherland, Coordinating Director of the Caribbean Meteorological Organization (CMO), and by Dr. Ralph Gonsalves.
- 1.3 The Vote of Thanks was delivered by the Hon. Reginald Austrie, Minister of Housing, Lands and Telecommunications of the Commonwealth of Dominica.
- 1.4 A special feature at the Opening was a presentation to Prime Minister Gonsalves by Mr. Tyrone Sutherland on behalf of the CMO. The presentation was of a large very high definition satellite photograph showing Hurricane Dean in the Caribbean in August 2007.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS

- 2.1 Prime Minister Gonsalves informed the Council that due to pressing matters of State, he would not be able to chair the Meeting in its entirety. He designated Sir Vincent Beache, National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister, to chair the Meeting in his absence.
- 2.2 A List of Delegates attending the Meeting is attached as **Annex I** to this Report. The Agenda adopted by the Meeting is shown on the **Contents and Agenda pages** of this Report. The Meeting fixed its hours of work and determined the order in which it would conduct its business.

3. CMO HEADQUARTERS UNIT MATTERS

3(a) Coordinating Director's Report

- 3.1 The CMO Coordinating Director presented his report on the activities and issues concerning the CMO Headquarters Unit since the previous session of the Council. Major activities related to the implementation by the CMO of the EU-funded CMO Radar Project and regional preparation for and attendance at the Congress of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) (See Agenda items 8 and 10).
- 3.2 The Coordinating Director sought the endorsement of the Council for his proposal to host the Bureau of the WMO and related high-level meetings in 2009. The WMO Bureau comprises the President, three Vice-Presidents and the Secretary-General of the Organization. The Council noted the arrangements made in 2007 by the Headquarters for the participation by staff of some Meteorological Services and the CIMH in various scientific, technical and training events of special relevance to the region, particularly those funded by the WMO and its partners. The Council was briefed about the budgetary difficulties experienced by the CMO Headquarters as a result of the non-payment of contributions by some Member States.
- 3.3 The Council was very disturbed to have been informed about the recent and unexpected non-renewal of the CMO Headquarters' lease. The Council recalled that premises for the CMO Headquarters in Port of Spain are provided by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago under a long-standing Headquarters Agreement with the CMO. It noted that a lease for the existing CMO premises had been signed between the Government and the property owner for a 3-year period in the first instant from December 2004. However, an April 1007 request by the CMO for a renewal of the lease had not been acted upon, causing the premises to be leased out to another party without any indication to that effect to the CMO.
- 3.4 The **Representative of Trinidad and Tobago** apologized on behalf of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago for the situation that the CMO faced. He confirmed that the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Utilities, gave assurances that the Ministry was addressing the situation and would have the matter resolved shortly.
- 3.5 The Council expressed extreme disappointment that an institution of the Community, particularly one of the oldest, possessing full Juridical personality and which enjoys full diplomatic privileges and immunities, could be placed in such an untenable situation. The Council expressed the hope that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago would place high priority on such a serious issue and looked forward to an expeditious, amicable and fair resolution in this regard.

- 3.6 The Council indicated that a mechanism should be put in place to prevent a re-occurrence.

3.7 THE COUNCIL:

Noted the activities and issues concerning the CMO Headquarters, particularly those concerning the Radar Project implementation and WMO-related activities;

Endorsed the Headquarters plans to celebrate the 35th year since the establishment of the CMO;

Also endorsed the Coordinating Director's desire to host the WMO Bureau and other related high-level meetings in 2009;

Also noted the budgetary difficulties experienced by the CMO Headquarters;

Commended the effort and the internal arrangements of Members that managed to meet their contribution commitments to the Organization;

Noted the sudden difficulty that emerged concerning the non-renewal of the CMO Headquarters lease; and

Urged the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to quickly and reasonably resolve the issue regarding the CMO Headquarters' lease.

3(b) Status of Refundable Balances

- 3.8 The Council was presented with the current status of the CMO Member Refundable Balances from reimbursements from the United Kingdom held by the CMO Headquarters Unit. The refundable balances account, at 15 November 2007 in TT\$, was as follows:

BCT

Anguilla	44,601.00
Br. Virgin Is.	45,515.01
Cayman Is.	9,054.41
Montserrat	38,669.69
Turks & Caicos Is.	34,899.26

\$172,739.37

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CMO MEMBERS OF WMO

Antigua and Barbuda	9,056.50
Barbados	60,506.84
Belize	18,652.33
Dominica	5,150.25
Guyana	50,916.00
Jamaica	42,926.90
St. Lucia	7,816.15
T'dad & Tobago	55,648.77

\$250,675.74

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St. Kitts (funds held from BCT days \$83.74)

- 3.9 By Member's consent, these funds are held by the CMO Headquarters Unit to assist Members in attending important Met/Hydro Meetings, and also to purchase spares. The Coordinating Director noted that these funds have been used very effectively in pursuit of these objectives.
- 3.10 In response to a request for clarification regarding the drawdown of refundable balances of those Member States' in arrears of contribution to the CMO, the Coordinating Director explained that while a refundable balance was calculated for accounting and auditing purposes, there was only a disbursement in cases where countries made contributions on a regular basis. In this regard, the CMO agreed to provide each future Meeting of the Council with the amount of Refundable Balance that each Member State was entitled to.

3.11 THE COUNCIL:

Noted the status of the Refundable Balances Account as presented.

3(c) Auditor's Report

- 3.12 The Coordinating Director presented the audited accounts for 2006 of the CMO Headquarters. It was explained that the accounts of the CMO were normally audited between July and August every year by the Trinidad and Tobago Auditor General's Department.
- 3.13 The **Guyana representative** enquired whether the audited reports were accompanied by an official management letter summarising the work undertaken by the Auditor General and any comments that the Department may have regarding the accounts of the CMO. In response, the Coordinating Director stated that the Auditor's Report was indeed the complete report, which included the management letter. However, he confirmed that the Auditor General's Department always held consultations with the CMO after the audit, but prior to the issuance of the Report, where any specific requests are made, such as requests for clarification, additional information, etc. The CMO would then formally respond to the requests.

3.14 THE COUNCIL:

Noted the audited statements of accounts for 2006.

4. STATUS OF ACTIONS FROM THE PREVIOUS SESSION

- 4.1 The Coordinating Director recalled the CMO's undertaking to resume the production of a single document containing an **Action Sheet** that would allow the Council to follow-up on the actions taken on the decisions of its previous session, and to discuss any further actions if required.
- 4.2 In this regard, a summary of the decisions of CMC46 (Antigua & Barbuda, 2006) was prepared by the CMO. The Coordinating Director gave the status of actions taken to implement these decisions to Council.
- 4.3 Issues highlighted included the status of actions regarding:
- The Coordinating Director's Report
 - CIMH Matters
 - CMO Institutional Review – Future Action
 - The CMO Radar Project Implementation – Update
 - Special CMO Issues; and
 - Other Matters

4.4 THE COUNCIL:–

Noted the status of actions from the previous session.

5. CMO BUDGETS (Headquarters Unit, CRN and Radar)

5(a) CMO Headquarters General Staff Salary Issues

- 5.1 Council examined CMO Headquarters General Staff Salary Issues in conjunction with the Budget Estimates for 2008.
- 5.2 It was recalled that the 42nd Council de-linked the remunerations of the CMO Headquarters general staff from the Trinidad & Tobago Public Service, in order that a more realistic market-based system be introduced that would also allow for regular review. The new system was produced by a Human Resources consultancy firm, but the arrangement put in place had not accomplished what the Council envisaged.
- 5.3 In this regard, the Coordinating Director proposed a new and stable way to deal with the revision of salary structure of the general staff of the CMO Headquarters. He proposed that as the Executive Management and professional staff remunerations and conditions of service were already based on the CARICOM conditions, the entire CMO Headquarters staff remunerations and conditions should be linked to those of the CARICOM Secretariat.

5(b) Budget Estimates for 2008

- 5.4 The Coordinating Director presented two options for the 2008 Estimates of Expenditure. Option 1 was based on the proposal in Section 5 (a) above and Option 2 was based on the status quo.
- 5.5 The Council noted that Option 1 would result in a 6.3% increase over the 2007 budget, and that Option 2 would result in a 1.12% increase.
- 5.6 The Council discussed the options presented and agreed that a suitable mechanism must be instituted to address salary revision on a regular basis. In this regard, Option 1 was accepted, as it was posited that the status quo was not tenable.

5.7 THE COUNCIL:

Extended the link of remunerations and conditions of work to the Caribbean Community Secretariat to **ALL CMO Headquarters staff**, with differences as determined by the Headquarters Agreement between the CMO and Trinidad and Tobago;

Agreed that the link would become effective from 2008, with revisions to be effected automatically with those of the Caribbean Community Secretariat;

Requested the Caribbean Community Secretariat to provide the CMO Headquarters, on a routine basis, with all relevant information on existing remunerations and conditions of work and advanced information on proposals for revision, to facilitate planning and budgetary processes;

Approved Option 1, which had a budget of TT **\$3,369,645.00** as shown in **ANNEX II**, with Member contributions as indicated in **ANNEX III**;

Urged Members to give priority to meet annual contributions, through quarterly, bi-annual or more frequent part-payments if necessary, and to make every effort to pay off arrears to the Organization;

Reminded Members that when forwarding their contributions to CMO Headquarters by bank transfers, to deposit funds into the same currency account as the sum remitted; and

Also urged Members to inform the CMO Headquarters of their transfer of funds, including the date, amount and currency, in order to overcome difficulties in properly identifying the origin of funds within the banking system.

5(c) Budget Virements

- 5.8 In presenting this Agenda item, the Coordinating Director noted that there have been a number of occasions in the past when the Coordinating Director had to make variations in expenditure of the approved budget due to unforeseen circumstances. It was recalled that at **CMC14 (Antigua 1974)**, Council foresaw the need for these variations in the approved budget and authorized the Coordinating Director as follows:

THE COUNCIL: –

*“**Authorized** the Coordinating Director to take such action as necessary for the smooth functioning of the Headquarters Unit, including variations of expenditure (Virements) in the approved Budget of the Headquarters Unit, provided that Council is subsequently notified of all virements. Council noted the information from the Coordinating Director that virements in the past rarely exceeded **\$3,000.00.**”*

- 5.9 The Council noted that as this limit was set over 30 years ago, and given regional and international currency exchange rate fluctuations, the increasing costs of goods and services, and the recurrent non-receipt of contributions from some Member States, virements between budget lines after 1974 in the approved budget had exceeded the TT \$3,000.00 limit originally envisaged for which subsequent approval from the Council had to be sought.
- 5.10 The Coordinating Director also informed that the Auditor General of Trinidad and Tobago would prefer that the Council remove the old limit to permit the Coordinating Director greater flexibility to manage the finances of the Organization.

5.11 THE COUNCIL:

Agreed to remove the old implied limit of TT \$3,000.00 in the authorization previously granted to the Coordinating Director to allow for virements between budget lines within the approved budget;

Authorised the Coordinating Director to take such action as necessary for the smooth functioning of the Headquarters Unit, including the utilization of variations of expenditure (virements) up to, but not exceeding, one percent (1%) of the CMO Headquarters' Budget; and

Also agreed that Council is to be subsequently notified of all virements between budget lines during its Annual Meeting.

5(d) Statement of Contributions and Arrears

- 5.12 The Council recalled that for many years, both main arms of the Caribbean Meteorological Organization (CMO), namely the Headquarters Unit and the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH), had been forced to operate under very difficult circumstances because of the large arrears of contributions by Member States. The Caribbean Meteorological Council (CMC), as the Governing Body of the CMO, had constantly urged Member States to rectify the situation by making regular payments to the current budget estimates and by establishing a plan to pay off arrears.
- 5.13 As requested by the Forty-Sixth Session of Council (Antigua 2006), the Coordinating Director of the CMO and the Principal of the CIMH presented a paper on the situation regarding arrears to the Nineteenth Meeting of the Community Council of Ministers, the second-highest body of the Caribbean Community.
- 5.14 The Coordinating Director recalled that:

THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL:

Considered the matter of the arrears of Member States' contributions to the Caribbean Meteorological Organisation (CMO) and the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) as set out on **pages 10 to 15 of this Draft Summary of Recommendations and Conclusions;**

Noted that Member States' lack of commitment to contribute to the annual budget of the CMO and the CIMH will act as an impediment to Member States receiving funds from International Organisations (Donors) willing to assist;

Urged Member States to make every effort to meet their commitments to the CMO and CIMH."

- 5.15 The Council was presented with a Statement of Arrears of Contributions to the Headquarters budget from 2001. The Coordinating Director reported that since the time of preparation of the Statement of Arrears of Contributions, payments had been received and the balance had been adjusted for the following Member States, all of which had positive balances as at November 29, 2007:

Country	Balance in 2006	Contribution in 2007	Paid in 2007	Balance in 2007
Antigua and Barbuda	(18,752.66)	129,799.00	186,235.48	(75,189.14)
St. Kitts and Nevis	118,092.20	51,922.00	213,721.00	(43,706.80)
Trinidad and Tobago	75,350.00	1,138,552.00	1,213,908.00	(6.00)

- 5.16 The Council noted, with great satisfaction, the number of Members that made regular contributions. It also noted and commended those Member States that had cleared their arrears over the last few years and were making regular and normal contributions.

5.17 THE COUNCIL:

Noted Statement of Arrears of Contributions to the CMO Headquarters;

Also noted the conclusions and recommendations of the Nineteenth Meeting of the Community Council regarding the matter of arrears of Member States' contributions to the CMO and CIMH;

Received an update from Antigua and Barbuda regarding a successful newly implemented procedure to address the issue of arrears of the Member States contributions to all regional institutions, including the CMO and the CIMH;

Urged Member States to make their annual contributions on a timely manner and implement a mechanism to adequately address the issue of arrears to the CMO and CIMH.

6. **CIMH MATTERS**

6(a) **Board of Governors' Report**

- 6.1 Chairman of the Board of Governors, **Mr. Frederick Forde**, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Department, Barbados, presented the Council with the CIMH Board of Governors' Report.
- 6.2 Mr. Forde's presentation highlighted the main thrusts of the issues discussed, including CIMH Programmes and Activities; Administrative and Personnel Matters; Estimates of Expenditure; and a Brainstorming Session. Mr. Forde also explained that the CIMH and the CMO Headquarters had a similar problem in respect of their finances/arrears.
- 6.3 Regarding the Estimates of Expenditure, it was noted that the Board recommended that the provision for the Chief Technical Officer be removed and an allocation made for the post of Senior Technical Officer be included.
- 6.4 The Chairman presented the Council with Revised Estimates of Expenditure of the CIMH for 2008 of **BDS \$4,808,021.00** for its approval.

6.5 THE COUNCIL:

Considered the Draft Summary of Conclusions of the Forty-Fourth Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology and made amendments and other editorial corrections;

Accepted the Draft Summary of Conclusions, as amended, and **endorsed** the recommendations contained therein; and

Approved the Estimates of Expenditure of **BDS \$4,808,021.00** for the CIMH as presented by the Board of Governors.

6(b) **Principal's Report**

6.6 The Principal of the CIMH, **Dr. David Farrell**, presented the Council with his Report on the activities of the CIMH for the past year. He informed the Council of the activities of the following programmes:

- Entry Level Technicians Programme;
- Mid-Level Technicians Programme;
- Senior Level Technicians Programme;
- Hydrology Courses;
- High School Pilot Programme; and,
- University Courses

6.7 The Principal informed the Council that, given the high level of arrears of Member States to the Institute, there was dire need to increase external funding. The Institute therefore developed a number of proposals to be presented to funding institutions which totalled US \$800,000.00. These proposals included a water management proposal to the Organization of American States (OAS) for US \$400,000.00, a disaster management proposal to the Government of Japan for US \$130,000.00, and a second proposal to the Government of Japan regarding the effect of climate change on energy demand totalling US \$230,000.00.

6.8 The Council was informed that given these new proposals above, the Board of Governors approved the recruitment of a Research Assistant to the Principal of the CIMH, as well as a new Lecturer in Hydrology.

6.9 THE COUNCIL:

Noted the Principal's Report setting out the activities and issues relating to the CIMH since the 2006 Meeting of the Board of Governors.

7. ANNUAL MEETING OF THE DIRECTORS OF METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES

7.1 The Meeting considered and amended the Report of the Annual Meeting of Directors of Meteorological Services held on 26 November 2007, which was presented by Mr. Glendell De Souza, Science and Technology Officer of the CMO. The Report provided the Council with a summary of the deliberations and recommendations of the Directors on a wide range of technical and scientific topics.

7.2 This Report was circulated for the consideration of the Meeting.

7.3 THE COUNCIL:

Accepted and **endorsed**, as amended, the Draft Report of the Meeting of Directors of Meteorological Services held on 26 November 2007.

8. CMO RADAR PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION – Update

8.1 The Coordinating Director provided the Council with an update on activities related to the implementation of the **€13.2 million** Regional Weather Radar Project, approved by the European Commission in October 2003.

8.2 This Project was approved to construct and install **four** new Doppler weather radars in the Caribbean. This Radar project would link the new radars with others already in place to form a modern network of nine radars as part of the Caribbean Early Warning System for severe weather conditions.

8.3 The Council noted that after overcoming major hurdles in 2006, implementation in 2007 has proceeded with varying degrees of satisfaction in each of the four countries to receive radars, namely Barbados, Belize, Guyana, and Trinidad and Tobago.

8.4 The suspension of the construction in Guyana was highlighted. This suspension occurred when there was an objection to the location of the tower by the Guyana Civil Aviation Authority due to the possible interference of the tower with its VHF Omni-directional Radio (VOR) navigation system, notwithstanding previous clearances received from the relevant authorities.

8.5 The Government of Guyana immediately agreed to the relocation of the tower to a new site in the vicinity, which was acceptable to ALL stakeholders. The Government also agreed to bear relocation cost and the cost of construction of the new tower to a state similar to the old tower at the time of suspension. The construction of the tower recommenced in early November. This unfortunate incident has moved the installation of the radar in Guyana to approximately August 2008.

- 8.6 Council noted that the delays in Guyana in particular may affect the Site Acceptance certification of the radars, as the contract for the Project Management Unit – which is responsible for certification – would end in September 2008. There would be the need to extend portions of the Project due to the delays.

8.7 THE COUNCIL:

Noted the activities connected with the implementation of the Radar Project;

Also noted the particular challenges and risks still facing the implementation of the Project;

Urged the radar host countries to continue all local activities that would facilitate and expedite implementation within the relevant deadlines; and

Expressed appreciation to the Government of Guyana regarding its swift action relative to the relocation cost and the cost of construction of the new tower to a state similar to the old tower at the time of suspension.

9. OTHER PROJECT UPDATES AND PROPOSALS

- 9.1 The Council was provided with updates on other projects and proposals impacting on the Meteorological Services in Member States. These included (a) the Cayman Islands Radar Project Proposal; (b) the WMO/Finland SIDS-Caribbean Project-Special Extension Pilot Project; (c) the Feasibility Study for an Early Warning Project for CARICOM States – Government of Italy/CARICOM Agreement; and (d) the WMO Carib-HYCOS Project.
- 9.2 The CMO Headquarters indicated that it required more detailed reports from Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago regarding the use and functionality of the SmartMet System, along with the quality of training provided under the WMO/Finland SIDS-Caribbean Pilot Project.
- 9.3 The Principal stated that he foresaw a major delay in the receipt of the funding for the Feasibility Study for an Early Warning Project for CARICOM States, which was agreed to by the CARICOM Secretariat and the Government of Italy. This was due to a conflicting prior agreement between the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Government of Italy as stated by the IDB.
- 9.4 It was hoped that the Project described above would have been implemented in close collaboration with WMO Carib-HYCOS Project. However, it would now be recommended to WMO that the Carib-HYCOS Project proceed independently. The Member States of Dominica and St. Lucia which had not indicated to WMO their participation in the Carib-HYCOS Project were advised to re-consider. The Project, which was inactive for several years due to funding issues, would start implementation shortly. The CMO mainland states (Belize and Guyana) would be covered by the Feasibility Study for an Early Warning Project for CARICOM States when it would come on stream.

9.5 THE COUNCIL:

Noted the updated information on the WMO/Finland SIDS-Caribbean Pilot Project; the Feasibility Study for an Early Warning Project for CARICOM States - Proposal to the Government of Italy.

10. SPECIAL CMO ISSUES AND WMO ISSUES

10(a) Outcome/Highlights of the 15th Congress of the World Meteorological Organization, 2007

10.1 The Coordinating Director presented the Council with the outcomes and highlights of the 15th Congress of the World Meteorological Organization, which took place in Geneva in May 2007. He noted the impact of several decisions of the Congress on the Meteorological and Hydrometeorological Services in the Caribbean, in particular those that could have a bearing on the level of meteorological training provided in the region. The Council was also informed of the results of the election of the primary officers of the WMO, namely, the Secretary-General, its non-resident President and three Vice-Presidents and its Executive Council.

10.2 The Coordinating Director expressed gratitude to Member States of the CMO for supporting his successful bid for re-election as Second-Vice President of the WMO. He pledged to continue to work for the benefit of the Member States of CMO and other developing countries.

10.3 THE COUNCIL: –

Noted the Outcome and Highlights of the 15th Congress of the World Meteorological Organization, 2007 that are of particular interest to CMO Member States.

10(b) Meteorological Services in the Caribbean – (i) Quality Management (ii) Authority vs. Provider

10.4 The Council discussed the issue of Quality Management within the Meteorological Services. The Coordinating Director pointed out that the consequence of a CMO Member State not meeting international standards would be a negative effect on the economy of that country. In this regard, he stressed that the Region needed to be aware of the current emphasis on improving standards and accountability and must be proactive in preparing for these changes.

10.5 In this regard, he pointed to the initial work presented to the Meeting of the Directors of Meteorological Services on the verification of the Terminal Aerodrome Forecast (TAF).

10.6 The **Cayman Islands Representative** emphasised that the Quality Management Framework was not restricted only to TAF verification, but was applicable to all aspects of products and services offered by a Member State's Meteorological Agency.

10.7 He also noted that the Quality Management Framework also included the certification of personnel and their competency to provide forecasts for aviation. WMO and International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) had made recommendations to the definition of a meteorological service regulator and a meteorological service provider. The Council noted that Paragraph 1.3 of the Supplement to WMO 258 states, inter alia,

"In the context of the current WMO classification, an Aeronautical Meteorological Forecaster (AMF) is a Meteorologist specialising in aeronautical meteorology and an Aeronautical Meteorological Observer is a Meteorological Technician specialising in weather observing for aviation purposes. Those operational aeronautical forecasters who had fully qualified as "WMO Class II meteorologists" prior to 31 December 2004, and who continue to meet all the competency requirements as set out in the current Supplement would also be categorised as AMF."

10.8 The Council discussed the ICAO deadline of 2010 for the recommendation to become a requirement. Hence, under the present classification scheme, meteorological personnel who are recognized as "Aeronautical Forecasters" must have a university degree. Due to the implication of this classification scheme, Members were urged to keep abreast of pending WMO and ICAO decisions on the matter.

10.9 THE COUNCIL:-

Noted the information on Quality Management within the National Meteorological Services;

Also noted the need to implement measures to improve Quality Management in the Region; and

Further noted the ICAO deadline of 2010 for the recommendation to become a requirement.

10(c) CMO and the Intergovernmental Group on Global Earth Observations (GEO)

- 10.10 The Coordinating Director recalled a series of three ministerial-level Summits aimed at *strengthening global cooperation on Earth observations* which led to the establishment of the *Group on Earth Observations (GEO)* and a 10-year implementation Plan for the *Global Earth Observing System of Systems (GEOSS)*.
- 10.11 The CMO informed the Council of its application to join GEO as a Participating Organization in order to provide input on behalf of the CMO Member States and sought the approval of the Council in this regard.

10.12 THE COUNCIL:

Provided a formal endorsement of the *GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan*;

Endorsed the request for CMO membership of the Intergovernmental *Group on Earth Observations as a Participating Organization*; and

Supported the CMO Headquarters' efforts to bring GEOSS activities to the attention of the CMO Member States and encourage involvement of national institutions whose role is in the field of environmental monitoring.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 11.1 The Cayman Islands Representative proposed to re-order the CMO-associated meetings prior to the Council Session in order to minimise the strain on technical staff relative to the preparation of the reports of these Meetings and also to afford Delegates the opportunity to be fully apprised of the issues raised in each Meeting.
- 11.2 Regarding the 2002 revisions to the contributions formula of Member States to the CMO, the Barbados representative requested the CMO to disseminate the information to relative stakeholders.
- 11.3 The Guyana Representative recommended that more time be given to Directors to update the CMO Member States on the status of Meteorological and Hydrological Services offered by respective Member States. He posited that the sharing of this information would enhance the services offered by the Region.

11.4 THE COUNCIL:

Agreed to re-order the CMO-associated meetings prior to the Council Session on a trial basis for at least the next two years.

Also agreed that the 2002 revisions to the contributions formula be disseminated to the Directors of Meteorological Services.

Further agreed that the CMO would invite two CMO Member States (including the host country) to make a presentation to the Annual Meeting of Directors of Meteorological Services regarding those salient issues relative to its Meteorological and Hydrological Services which occurred since the previous meeting.

12. **SPECIAL OTHER MATTERS**

- 12.1 At around 3:30 p.m. on 29 November, the Council's deliberations were disrupted by an earthquake of magnitude of 7.3. The deliberations resumed the Headquarters of the National Emergency Disaster Organisation at 4:15 p.m. Council resumed deliberations on 30 November at its original location after receiving clearances from the relevant authorities.

13. **DATE AND VENUE OF CMC48 (2008)**

- 13.1 The Delegation of Guyana indicated its desire to host the Forty-Eighth Meeting of the CMC and Related meetings on dates to be determined through consultations between the CMO and the Member State.

13.2 THE COUNCIL:

Welcomed the offer by the Delegation of Guyana to host the Forty-Eighth Meeting of the CMC and Related Meetings;

Expressed its thanks to the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines for its warm hospitality and for the excellent arrangements put in place for the conduct of the business of CMC 47.

13.3 **Close of Meeting**

There being no other business the Meeting ended with an exchange of courtesies.

47TH MEETING OF THE CARIBBEAN METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, KINGSTOWN, ST. VINCENT

29-30TH NOVEMBER, 2007

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