



CARIBBEAN METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

CARIBBEAN METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL
SIXTY-FIRST SESSION
18-19 NOVEMBER 2021, VIRTUAL PLATFORM

Doc. 2

NOTES ON THE AGENDA (Submitted by the Coordinating Director)

The 61st Caribbean Meteorological Council Session will be held on a virtual platform on 18-19 November 2021 with **each daily session, 9:00 am to 1:00pm AST (1300-1700 UTC)** with a break period. **Only a subset of agenda items will be discussed during the Virtual Session**; other items will be delivered for comments and approval by correspondence or without debate during the session. CMO documents bear the same numbers as relevant agenda items for ease of reference. Actions proposed to Council are reflected in the documents.

Item 1: OPENING SESSION AND ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

The format for the opening session will be adjusted for the virtual platform. Election of a Chairman follows. Traditionally, the Chairman comes from the host country.

Item 2: ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS

The Agenda may be amended and subsequently adopted. Working hours, breaks, matters of general interest are announced.

Item 3: SPECIAL WMO SESSION [To be confirmed]

A briefing is provided on critical matters arising from the Extraordinary Session of the World Meteorological Congress 2021, including the Unified Data Policy, WMO support to the Global Water Agenda (Water Declaration, Water and Climate Coalition), Global Basic Observation Network and Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF), and Regional Concept. The impact of the decisions of the Congress on the Meteorological and Hydrometeorological Services (NMHS) and their stakeholders in the Caribbean will be discussed.

Item 4: CMO EXECUTIVE REPORTS

a) Coordinating Director's Report – Headquarters Unit Matters

The Coordinating Director presents an annual report to the Council on the activities of the CMO Headquarters, on issues deemed relevant to its operations and seeks policy guidance and advice as necessary.

b) CIMH Principal's Report

The Principal of the CIMH will report to the Council on the activities of the CIMH for the past year and upcoming programmes and activities for the next year.

c) Board of Governors

The Board of Governors of the CIMH will meet a few days before the Council session and the Chairman of the Board will submit its report to the Council. That report is expected to include, inter alia, urgent matters that impact on the physical and technical facilities at the Institute, as well as activities within the Strategic Plan of the CIMH. The reports of the Principal and the Chairman of the Board will then be open for further discussion and appropriate decisions by the Council.

Item 5: STATUS OF ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS SESSION

A summary of the decisions of CMC60 (St Vincent and the Grenadines, Virtual Platform, 2020) will be brought to the current session of the Council. The status of actions taken to implement these decisions will be presented in this document, but more detailed discussions on these actions will be presented under other agenda items, if appropriate.

Item 6: FINANCIAL REPORTS

a) Status of Refundable Balances

Up-to-date figures for the Refundable Balances account from reimbursements received from the UK and held by the CMO Headquarters Unit for Members will be presented.

b) CMO HQ - Auditor's Report

The accounts of the CMO Headquarters for 2020 have been audited by the Trinidad and Tobago Auditor General's Department. The report of the auditors will be submitted for the consideration of the Council.

c) Statement of Contributions and Arrears (CMO HQ and CIMH)

The Council will also be presented with the latest Statement of Contributions and Arrears to the CMO Headquarters and to the CIMH, in order to monitor progress, if any, in alleviating the financial difficulties of the Organs of the Organization.

Item 7: CMO BUDGETS (Headquarters Unit, CRN and Radar, CIMH)

Draft versions of the CMO HQ budget estimates and the CIMH budget estimates for 2022 will be presented to the Council. The Council, as the final arbiter of all CMO budgets, will decide on the CMO Budgets for the year 2022.

Item 8: SPECIAL CMO AND WMO ISSUES

From the inception of the CMO in 1973, the Council agreed on the responsibilities of the NMHS of the States with Forecast and Warning Offices for those States without such offices. The arrangements have been modified in the intervening years. The 50th session of the Council re-formalized these arrangements. The 51st Session of the Council reiterated the resolution of the 50th Session of Council and reconsolidated the interface between its own arrangements and those of the WMO-led Regional Hurricane Operational Plan. Questions have since arisen about the formalities involved in the process and the related costs, so the Council will be asked to review, modify if necessary, the arrangements.

An Extraordinary Session of the World Meteorological Congress will be held 11-22 October 2021 on a virtual platform. The impacts and responsibilities of CMO Member States will be discussed.

Following the Extraordinary Congress, the 74th session of the World Meteorological Organization's Executive Council (2021) will be held as a Virtual Meeting on 25-29 October and focused on implementing the decisions of the WMO Congress. These priority areas will affect the activities of Member States and their National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in the period 2020-2023. The Coordinating Director, a Member of the WMO Executive Council, will engage the Caribbean Meteorological Council on the region's role and responses to major WMO implementation activities.

Item 9: ANNUAL MEETING OF THE DIRECTORS OF METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES

The Directors or representatives of the Meteorological Forecast and non-Forecast Offices meet before the Council session to discuss a range of scientific/technical matters affecting their operations, including those during severe weather, the hurricane season, volcanic eruptions, and earthquakes. A report of the discussions will be submitted to the Council, with special emphasis on recommendations that require specific considerations and/or approval.

Item 10: CMO WEATHER RADAR NETWORK

The CMO Weather Radar Network comprises radars in Belize, the Cayman Islands, Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, and Guyana. This network, along with radars of neighbouring States, forms a primary tool in the region's early warning system. The Council will be briefed on issues affecting the operation of the network, the impact of the radars on the public and other users, the importance of fulfilling international commitments and the long-term sustainability of the radars. The plans of the CMO Operational Radar Working Group will be reported to Council.

Item 11: OTHER PROJECT UPDATES AND PROPOSALS

The Council will be briefed on the status of projects involving the CMO Headquarters Unit and partner organizations, such as the WMO, other non-regional Governments, and universities.

The status of the WMO Severe Weather Forecast Programme (SWFP) in the Eastern Caribbean, will be presented. Considerable regional activity has occurred in the last few years towards the development of the Programme, with implementation plans and training activities making progress in 2020, while some training had to be postponed to 2021 and 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Council will discuss the aims of the programme and the roles of the Meteorological Services and other institutions in Member States.

The Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) Caribbean project, *Strengthening Hydro-Meteorological and Early Warning Services in the Caribbean*, is aimed at CARICOM Member States. It is being implemented by WMO, the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), and the World Bank Group, and regional partners: Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), CIMH, and CMO Headquarters Unit. CREWS Caribbean is supporting activities such as: Meteorological Legislation and Policy; Strategic Plans for National Meteorological Services and National Frameworks for Weather, Water, and Climate Services and Actions Plans; Strategic Roadmap for Advancing Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems in the Caribbean 2020-2030; and priority activities for NMHSs and EWS; and the SWFP Eastern Caribbean.

The CMO Headquarters Unit partnered with the University of Leeds and CIMH on a EUREC4A-CMO-SWFP *Caribbean Weather Forecasting Initiative* to foster knowledge exchange between Caribbean forecasters and researchers. The EUREC4A field study, a major international project led by Germany and France, with CIMH as a lead institution, operated out of Barbados during January to February 2020. The second workshop of the Initiative has been postponed to 2022. Meanwhile, Caribbean participants have been reviewing preliminary EUREC4A research results and planning future research with the EUREC4A-UK group. Lessons learned from the Initiative will be shared during a November workshop on severe weather forecasting.

The CMO Headquarters and the WMO organized the first Symposium on Lightning and Lightning Safety Awareness in May 2021, which was attended by 131 participants from 28 countries. The symposium supported disaster risk reduction and efforts to develop a lightning detection system for the Caribbean.

The CMO Headquarters organized the Caribbean Hydro-Meteorology Symposium 2020, 15-17 December 2020, in collaboration with Varysian Ltd. The symposium focused on (i) The integration of operational hydrology in terms of the Caribbean context and how to develop a roadmap for hydrological activities and (ii) Partnerships: With public sector, private sector, academia, and inter-governmental bodies to invest, improve, and work collaboratively on strengthening Hydro-Meteorological infrastructure, data sharing, products, and services to meet growing societal demand.

Item 12: OTHER MATTERS

Miscellaneous issues not covered in the Agenda may be brought up under this item.

Item 13: DATE AND VENUE OF FUTURE CMC SESSIONS

CMC is mandated to meet annually and traditionally does so in a different Member State each year. Members that have not hosted in recent times are invited to seek authorization to do so, and to extend an invitation to the Council for the meeting in the year 2022. Members may, if they so choose, give indications of interest for subsequent years, including 2023, the 50th anniversary of the Agreement to establish the CMO.

CMO Headquarters
September 2021