



CARIBBEAN METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

CARIBBEAN METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL
SIXTY-NINTH SESSION
RODNEY BAY, SAINT LUCIA, 20-21 NOVEMBER 2025

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NOTES ON THE AGENDA (Submitted by the Coordinating Director)

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 is made in coordination with the host. 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, and special and local arrangements are announced.

Item 3: **CMO EXECUTIVE REPORTS**

a) Coordinating Director's Report – Headquarters Unit Matters

The Coordinating Director will present 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 4: **STATUS OF ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS SESSION**

A summary of the decisions of CMC67 (The Virgin Islands, UK) and the mid-year CMC68 (The Virgin Islands, Virtual Platform) 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 5: **SPECIAL WMO ISSUES**

The priority decisions of the Extraordinary World Meteorological Congress (October 2025) and the 79th WMO Executive Council. Those decisions that affect the activities of Member States and their National Meteorological and Hydrometeorological Services (NMHSs) in the period 2025-2027 will be discussed.

The Coordinating Director, a member of the WMO Executive Council, will engage the Caribbean Meteorological Council on the region's role and responses to the major WMO implementation activities, several of which have been addressed by Council over the last few years. They include the compulsory implementation of improved observation and information systems, which is supported by the *Systematic Observation Finance Facility* (SOFF); "*UN Early Warnings for All*" mandated by the UN Secretary-General on World Meteorological Day 2022 and other disaster risk reduction activities; and strengthening the capacity of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in developing countries. Council will be briefed on the outcomes of the meetings of the Technical Commissions and WMO Research Board, on which the Coordinating Director serves. Updates will be provided on the Tropical Cyclone Programme and Severe Weather Forecasting Programme, which are crucial programmes for safeguarding lives and property in Member States. The new WMO Guidelines on Business Continuity Management will be examined and draft training materials introduced for the benefit of Member States. Other matters of capacity development will also be covered.

Council will also be briefed on the outcomes of the 19th Session of WMO Regional Association IV (North America, Central America, and the Caribbean), held on 27-29 March 2025 in San Salvador, El Salvador.

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. Details will be provided on the Refundable Balance system and the mechanism for redistribution to Member States.

b) **CMO HQ - Auditor's Report**

The accounts of the CMO Headquarters for 2024 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 challenges of the Organs of the Organization.

d) Proposed Consequences for Members in Arrears (CMO HQ and CIMH)

A summary of the discussion and decisions of the 68th Session of the CMC (Virtual Session, August 2025) and actions taken on this matter during the inter-sessional period will be presented.

e) Report of the Status and Activities of Ad-hoc Finance Committee

At CMC63 (Cayman Islands), Council agreed that an ad-hoc Finance Committee, which was formed by the Board of Governors of CIMH, was to review the Financial Statements of both CMO Headquarters Unit and CIMH and report to Council. The Committee comprises Belize, the Cayman Islands, and Grenada. Council will be updated on the Committee.

f) Review of CMO Contribution Formula

At CMC67, Antigua and Barbuda requested a review of the CMO Contribution Formula. Information on the review will be presented.

Item 7: SPECIAL CMO ISSUES

a) Review of Caribbean Community Institutions (RCCI)

A status update on the Review will be presented to the Council. Council will recall that the Review was conducted during 2022-2023 and that the Final Report of the RCCI consultancy was provided to the Council in October 2023. The recommendations included major restructuring of the CMO and other Institutions as well as restructuring of the legal status and governance of all Institutions. At the 65th Council (Trinidad and Tobago, 2023) Members were invited to provide written comments to the Chair following presentations of preliminary responses by the Coordinating Director and Principal. No comments were received from Members and no correspondence provided by the CARICOM Secretariat until June 2025.

In June 2025, the CARICOM Secretariat solicited final comments from the institutions on the Final Report of the RCCI by 31 August 2025. The comments from the Institutions will inform the preparation of a paper to be presented to the Conference of Heads in February 2026 for their consideration of the recommendations and determination of the way forward.

b) Arrangements for Meteorological Forecast and Warning Services among CMO Member States

From the inception of the CMO in 1973, the Council agreed on the responsibilities of the NMHSs 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 consolidated 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 for the services provided, so the Council formed a committee to review and discuss cost recovery as a part of regional forecasting arrangements and make recommendations to the Council.

The committee, chaired by Belize and Guyana, presented their recommendations to the 63rd Council (Grand Cayman 2022). The committee expressed the view that the Antigua and Barbuda Meteorological Service should be having discussions with each of the respective Civil Aviation Authority, instead of the various Meteorological Services since the Civil Aviation Authorities are end users. The 63rd Council requested that the matter be discussed further and the next Council be informed on any further developments on this matter and asked to advise on any changes to the arrangements. At the 65th Council, Antigua and Barbuda presented information about ongoing developments with regard to support being provided by the UK government, in collaboration with CMO Headquarters, for their Quality Management System and other technical assistance to support ABMS in its provision of meteorological services for aviation to the British Overseas Territories of

Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, and Montserrat.

A new special committee, chaired by Saint Lucia, was formed at the 65th Council and asked to advise on any changes to the arrangements. Any other updates on changes to the regional forecasting arrangements will be presented under this item. Committee activities were postponed pending the outcomes of proposed capacity development support to Antigua and Barbuda Meteorological Service by the UK government.

c) CMO Data Policy

The Council at its 52nd Session (Saint Lucia, 2012) reiterated the data policies of the WMO and the CMO, being cognizant of the fact that the principle of the international exchange of meteorological and hydrological data and products was fundamental to the existence and functionality of any National Meteorological and Hydrometeorological Services (NMHSs). Council recognized that knowledge and adherence to these principles by the NMHSs were issues that concern national governments. The 52nd Council was reminded of CMC43 (Belize, 2003) decision^s on the "Provision of Meteorological and Hydrological Data and Products by CIMH", which references the WMO Resolutions (40 and 25). The Unified WMO Data Policy approved by the World Meteorological Congress (Cg-Ext 2021) replaced the WMO Resolutions 40 and 25. Therefore, it is proposed that the Council reviews and updates the data policy of CMO, in consideration of the unified WMO data policy.

Item 8: CMO BUDGETS (Headquarters Unit, CRN and Radar, CIMH)

Estimates of the CMO HQ and the CIMH budgets for 2026 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 2026.

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 regarding the *UN Early Warnings for All*, *Global Basic Observation Network* (GBON), *WMO Integrated Global Observing System* (WIGOS), impact-based forecasting, *WMO Information System 2.0* (WIS 2.0), Quality Management System (QMS), *International Civil Aviation Organization* (ICAO) requirements, and operations during severe weather and the hurricane season. 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. 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 will be discussed. Additionally, the activities of the CMO Operational Radar Group, which is one mechanism for ensuring the sustainability of the network, will be reported to Council.

The Council will be briefed on plans to upgrade the radars in Belize and Trinidad and Tobago. The upgrade is a major component of a project on the "*Scaling up of Caribbean*

Hydrometeorological and Multi-hazard Early Warning Services in Belize and Trinidad and Tobago", approved for funding by the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

Item 11: **OTHER PROJECT UPDATES AND PROPOSALS**

The Council will be briefed on the status of projects involving the CMO and partner organizations, such as the WMO and CREWS. The status of the WMO Severe Weather Forecasting Programme (SWFP) Caribbean will be presented. Council will discuss the roles of the Meteorological Services and other institutions in Member States.

The CREWS Initiative has granted US \$7 million dollars for a new three-year project, CREWS Caribbean 2.0, to benefit CARICOM Members and associated states. The project is being implemented by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Disaster Risk reduction (UNDRR) with the CMO Headquarters Unit, Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) and Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) as leading regional implementing partners. The project is focusing on different components of multi-hazard early warning systems in support of the UN Early Warnings for All initiative. CMO Headquarters continues to promote lightning safety awareness and lightning detection as a component of CREWS Caribbean 2.0. The implementation of the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) in CMO Member States has been advanced with training and capacity development supported by CMO Headquarters in collaboration with WMO and supported by CREWS.

The CMO GCF/CREWS Scaling up Framework project, with budgeted funding of USD \$24million, was submitted by the Caribbean Development Bank, which is an Accredited Entity with the GCF.

CMO Headquarters and WMO have been piloting a WMO Information Systems (WIS 2.0) node for the Caribbean, using WMO cloud services, with updates to be reported to Council.

The Coordinating Director has been supporting a project on "The International Relations of Tropical Storms" that is being implemented by Kings College of London and The University of the West Indies (Mona).

Item 12: **CMO STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL PLANNING**

The Council will consider strategic plans being developed by the CMO Headquarters and CIMH for their next strategic period. The CMO Headquarters plan is considered as Part A of a CMO plan, with the CIMH plan as Part B. The Plans will include alignment with regional and national priorities and building environmental resilience within the region.

Item 13: **OTHER MATTERS**

- (a) Miscellaneous issues not covered in the Agenda may be brought up under this item.

Item 14: **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 meetings in 2026 and beyond. The Turks and Caicos Islands has expressed an interest in hosting in 2026.

