



# CARIBBEAN METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

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## 63rd Caribbean Meteorological Council, 24-25 November 2022



The 63<sup>rd</sup> Session of the **Caribbean Meteorological Council** was held from 24-25 November 2022 at the Cayman Islands Airport Authority Conference Facility, George Town, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands, under the auspices of the Government of Cayman Islands. The meeting focused on several priority areas of the WMO, including the UN Early Warnings for All Global Initiative and the Global Basic Observation Network. During the Opening Ceremony, Keynote Speaker and Chair of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Council, the **Honourable G. Wayne Panton**, Premier and Minister of Sustainability & Climate Resiliency, Cayman Islands, stressed that *"Enhancing resiliency through national weather forecasting, hydrological services and multi-hazard early warning systems is essential to ensuring small island nations like the Cayman Islands can withstand the predicted impacts of climate change."* WMO Secretary-General, **Prof. Petteri Taalas**, noted that *"We have to invest in the Early Warning capacities of Countries...to reach 100% coverage of Early Warning Services by the end of 2027."* **Ambassador Dr. Carla Natalie Barnett**, Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) advocated for strengthening Caribbean hydro-meteorological institutions, expressing that, *"Despite the economic and financial challenges we face, increasing investment in National Meteorological and Hydrological*

*Services, and other institutions that provide scientific and technical information, will strengthen decision-making as together we prepare the Caribbean for a more resilient future."*

Following the formal opening, the CMC discussed and made decisions on special WMO and CMO issues, including, but not limited to:

- The Action Plan for the "Early Warning for All Initiative", per the call from the United Nations Secretary-General, *Mr Antonio Guterres*
- WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS), Global Basic Observing Network (GBON), and implementation of a Regional WIGOS Centre in RA IV
- Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) and implications for CMO Members
- Disaster Risk Reduction and Regional Severe Weather Forecasts and Warning Systems
- Arrangements for Meteorological Forecast and Warning Services among CMO Member States
- The CMO Weather Radar Network status, utilization and maintenance
- WMO Climatological Standard Normals (CLINO) 1991–2020
- Implementation of Quality Management Systems for Aviation Weather Services

The Council was pleased to note that the CMO actively contributed to various events during 27<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP27) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Egypt, including its first-time hosting a Side event, in collaboration with the *Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems* (CREWS) Secretariat. Council also approved the 2023 budgets of the Organs of the CMO (the *Headquarters Unit* and the *Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology*) and noted the activities undertaken and planned by the Organs.

CMO Members were encouraged to focus on the key role that their National Meteorological and Hydrometeorological Services (NMHS) will have to play in the implementation of the "Early Warnings for All" initiative and emphasized the need for Members to strengthen their early warning systems. Members were also encouraged to recognize that activities within the WMO Tropical Cyclone Programme (TCP), Severe Weather Forecast Programme, and the Global Framework for Climate Services were important to the resilience of the Caribbean to hydrometeorological hazards. Other related activities were cited in the *Strategic Roadmap for Advancing Impact-based Multi-hazard Early Warning Systems and Services in the Caribbean*, which was developed through the CREWS Caribbean project. CMO members were urged to be prepared to take advantage of resources available through the funding mechanisms supporting Early Warnings for All, including SOFF. Member States were also urged to ensure that their National Meteorological and Hydrometeorological Services complete activities for the Initial Operational Phase of WIGOS, which ends in 2023 and to calculate, publish and submit their 1991-2020 Climatological Standard Normal as soon as possible.

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## About the CMO

The Caribbean Meteorological Organization (CMO) is a specialized agency of the Caribbean Community that coordinates the joint scientific and technical activities in weather, climate and water – related sciences in sixteen English-speaking Caribbean countries (Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands). The Organs of the CMO are: (i) The *Caribbean Meteorological Council* (CMC)-Governing Body of the CMO, (ii) The *Headquarters Unit* (Secretariat), headed by a Coordinating Director, located in Trinidad and Tobago; (iii) The *Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology* (CIMH) located in Barbados; and (iv) The Caribbean Meteorological Foundation (CMF). The CMO originated from the British Caribbean Meteorological Service, founded in 1951.

## About the CMC

The *Caribbean Meteorological Council*, is the Governing Body of the *Caribbean Meteorological Organization* (CMO), a specialized agency of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). The Council was established by its Member States in 1962 to further the regionalization of meteorology in the Anglophone Caribbean. The CMC comprises government Ministers responsible for meteorology, hydrology and aviation, or their representatives, and meets annually to, among others, set policy, approve projects and budgets. For further details on the Caribbean Meteorological Organization, the Caribbean Meteorological Council, and their meetings, visit <http://www.cmo.org.tt/meetings.html>

## WMO Members

Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, British Caribbean Territories, Dominica, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago

