

## **Res. 11.9/4 (Cg-XVI)**

### **WMO POLAR ACTIVITIES**

#### **THE CONGRESS,**

##### **Noting:**

- (1) Resolution 7 (Cg-XV) - WMO Antarctic Activities,
- (2) Resolution 11 (EC-LXII) - Executive Council Panel of Experts on Polar Observations, Research and Services (EC-PORS),
- (3) The WMO Strategic Plan,

##### **Considering:**

- (1) That there is increasing human presence and activities in Polar Regions,
- (2) That the Polar Regions are extremely important in terms of their global impacts on weather and climate, and the functioning of the Earth system,
- (3) That there is a continuing need for weather, climate, water and related environmental data from the Polar Regions, including enhancement and development of instruments and methods of observation suited to these areas, for the full implementation of the World Weather Watch, for the full realization of the value of research, monitoring and prediction of hydrology, climate change, atmospheric composition and the ozone layer over the Polar Regions,
- (4) That arrangements ensuring the legacy of the IPY-enhanced observational networks are crosscutting, and should be closely coordinated with the implementation of WIGOS and WIS, and designed to improve the capability of Members to provide a widening range of operational services and to better serve research programme requirements,
- (5) That there is a continuing need to coordinate WMO activities with other international organizations active in Polar Regions,
- (6) That there is an ongoing need to formalize responsibilities for the Antarctic as a Region not covered by any of the WMO Regional Associations,
- (7) The achievements of the Executive Council through its Panel of Experts on Polar Observations, Research and Services (PORS) in ensuring coordination of the operational activities in the Antarctic and in engaging technical commissions, regional associations and international organizations and entities in enhancing observations, research and services in Polar Regions, in particular within the framework of IPY legacy initiatives,

##### **Decides:**

- (1) That an integrated approach is needed to understand global impact of changes in Polar Regions so that required services may be provided to users and that governments may be advised on aspects of adaptation and mitigation;
- (2) That operational and research observing networks in Polar Regions (including the Antarctic Observing network (AntON)) should be integrated within the framework of WIGOS and WIS and be enhanced to include cryosphere related variables;

- (3) That concerted effort should be made to engage WMO Members, technical commissions and regional associations, as well as relevant research and international organizations and bodies, to improve predictive capability in Polar Regions on timescales from hours to centuries;

**Invites** Members, particularly those that have operational activities in Polar Regions:

- (1) To ensure continuity of their weather, climate, water and related environmental programmes in Polar Regions;
- (2) To provide additional observations in Polar Regions by using automatic weather and hydrometric stations, atmospheric soundings, and other geophysical observatories on land, by recruiting additional voluntary observing ships, by equipping aircraft with appropriate means of recording and distributing observations, and by deploying automated observing platforms on and under the sea and ice, in order to meet the needs of NWP, hydrological services, climate studies and research programmes;
- (3) To enhance their satellite programmes in delivering appropriate satellite observing system infrastructure and products and services required for Polar Regions;
- (4) To consider the possibility of cooperating with other Members in sharing the costs of re-opening and operating previously functioning stations, in expanding existing stations or in deploying new observing and communication systems;
- (5) To support WMO Polar Activities by providing both human and financial resources in its endeavours to enhance observations, research and services in Polar Regions;

**Requests** the Executive Council to:

- (1) Promote the coordination of weather, climate, water and related environmental activities in Polar Regions;
- (2) Ensure close collaboration with other international organizations concerned such as the Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM), the Scientific Committee for Antarctic Research (SCAR), the International Arctic Science Committee (IASC), the International Association of Cryospheric Sciences (IACS) and other relevant associations of IUGG, the Arctic Council, the Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programmes (COMNAP), the Forum of Arctic Research Operators (FARO), and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC);
- (3) Ensure that WMO Polar Activities support the WMO Strategic Plan 2012-2015 and beyond;

**Requests** regional associations and technical commissions to support WMO Polar Activities;

**Requests** the Secretary-General to bring this resolution to the attention of all concerned.

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Note: This resolution replaces Resolution 7 (Cg-XV), which is no longer in force.