

**JOINT WMO-IOC TECHNICAL COMMISSION
FOR OCEANOGRAPHY AND MARINE
METEOROLOGY (JCOMM)**

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and UNESCO/IOC
Executive Secretary

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**REVIEW OF DECISIONS OF THE GOVERNING BODIES OF WMO AND UNESCO/IOC
RELATED TO THE COMMISSION**

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RELATED DOCUMENT:

JCOMM-4/Doc.4: Review of Decisions of the Governing Bodies of WMO and UNESCO/IOC related to the Commission

REVIEW OF DECISIONS OF THE GOVERNING BODIES OF WMO AND UNESCO/IOC RELATED TO THE COMMISSION

Forty-third Session of the IOC Executive Council and 26th Session of the IOC Assembly

1. The 43rd Session of the IOC Executive Council (June 2010, Paris) acknowledged progress in observations, services, standards, and data management made under JCOMM and in collaboration with IODE.
2. The 26th Session of the IOC Assembly (June 2011, Paris)¹ congratulated JCOMM on its achievements, and supported the establishment of Regional Marine Instrument Centres (RMICs), passing a resolution equivalent to the one passed by the 16th World Meteorological Congress (May 2011, Geneva). IOC Member States expressed concern over the lack of extrabudgetary resources for the IOC and WMO to carry out a review of JCOMM, urging continued efforts to conduct the proposed review. They also stressed the need for more timely publication of JCOMM guides and manuals.
3. The IOC Assembly also decided a strengthening and streamlining of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), where JCOMM plays an important role in coordinating implementation of a number of GOOS elements. This is detailed in JCOMM-4/Doc. 11 and JCOMM-4/BM. 11.

Thirty-sixth UNESCO General Conference

4. The General Conference of UNESCO at its Thirty-sixth session (Paris, 25 October - 15 November 2011) approved a zero nominal growth budget for UNESCO of US\$653 million, with a budgetary allocation to the IOC of \$10 405 400. However, following the General Conference vote admitting Palestine as a Member State of UNESCO, the United States of America and Israel have withheld their assessed contributions (22.38% of UNESCO totals), resulting in Regular Programme budget deficit of \$72 million for 2011 and a projected budget shortfall of \$146 million for 2012-2013, with a resulting financing gap of \$167 million. To restore cash-flow stability and to eliminate the deficits for both 2011 and the next two years, UNESCO is effecting a budget reduction of \$188 million or 29% of the approved budget, with all programme sectors reduced by 31%. For the IOC this is a cut of \$3.2 million for 2012-2013. Even with utilizing what little flexibility there is in staff allocation, the reduction translates into a 77% cut to resources for activities. As a consequence, the IOC Executive Council (June 2012) and Assembly (June 2013) will be proposed by the Secretariat to be held in only one language.
5. For IOC Secretariat support to JCOMM, instead of a planned \$170 000 for the period 2012-2013, the allocation is provisionally \$34 000 (20% of planned). Maintaining IOC's responsibility to host this Fourth Session of JCOMM (JCOMM-4, 23-31 May 2012) was possible only through the voluntary financial contributions of the Republic of Korea, and in particular the Korea Meteorological Administration, Yeosu City, Jellonamdo Province, and the Expo 2012 Yeosu Korea Organizing Committee; as well as the planned support of the WMO. For comparison, the total cost to the IOC and WMO Secretariats and host country of the JCOMM-4 session (for travel, in-session interpretation and translation, pre-session translation, and report preparation - not including in kind staff and hospitality costs) is estimated at \$400,000.
6. The budget situation of the IOC is fluid, as UNESCO Member States make pledges and donations to the UNESCO Emergency Fund and as the UNESCO Secretariat and Member States (through its Executive Board) continue to make adjustments.

¹ The final report can be downloaded at <http://ioc-unesco.org/ioc-26>

7. However, with the suspension of US contributions the ability of IOC to maintain some of these programmes ceases or is significantly impaired. An immediate additional consequence for JCOMM is the freezing of a P-3 professional staff post supporting JCOMM at the IOC Secretariat.

8. For many years the USA has been consistently one of the largest contributors to the IOC and the main contributor to the IOC Special Account, fully supporting science and observation programmes like the International Ocean Carbon Coordination Project (IOCCP) and the Ocean Observations Panel for Climate (OOPC), the large majority of the cost of the JCOMM In Situ Observing Platform Support Centre (JCOMMOPS), and also making significant contributions to the Tsunami Programme, the International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange (IODE) and the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS).

9. The US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the WMO and IOC Secretariats are exploring solutions to assure continuity of technical coordination support to all JCOMM Members/Member States through the JCOMM In Situ Observing Platform Support Centre's (JCOMMOPS), and continued support of the Ocean Observations Panel for Climate (OOPC).

Sixteenth World Meteorological Congress

10. The 16th Session of the WMO Congress noted with appreciation the work accomplished by JCOMM during the past intersessional period, and reaffirmed the success of a jointly sponsored technical commission in bringing together the marine meteorological and oceanographic communities, and integrating operational marine activities. Two resolutions on RMICs and Data Buoy Vandalism (Resolution 9 (Cg-XVI) and Resolution 25 (Cg-XVI), respectively) were adopted in line with the decisions at IOC. Congress also adopted Resolution 24 (Cg-XVI): Marine Meteorology and Oceanography Programme, as reproduced in Appendix B.

11. The WMO Congress noted and requested actions by JCOMM for the following issues, to be discussed in detail under the respective agenda items as indicated:

- Expansion of the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) into Arctic waters;
- IMO/WMO Worldwide Met-ocean Information and Warning Service (WWMIWS);
- Pro-active approach of JCOMM to address coastal and marine hazards, including the joint JCOMM-CHy Coastal Inundation Forecasting Demonstration Project (CIFDP) and support for the Storm Surge Watch Scheme (SSWS);
- JCOMM supports for and coordination of research activities, including the global wave climate projections with WCRP, and possible joint-research with the World Weather Research Programme (WWRP) on the freshwater inflow to the oceans in the Polar Regions;
- Enhanced ocean forecasting, and possible cooperation with the WMO Commission for Atmospheric Sciences (CAS) on fully coupled atmosphere-ocean modelling in the future;
- JCOMM's role in GOOS implementation and future Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS);
- WMO Congress made the following decisions which will impact the intersessional work programme of JCOMM:
- A full integration of the Quality Management Framework (QMF) / Quality Management

System (QMS) into the wider WMO Strategic and Operational Planning. The Technical Commissions including JCOMM are urged to develop new common Technical Standards under the Working Arrangements between ISO and WMO;

- Support for, and facilitation of the implementation of GFCS is a priority of the Organization in the sixteenth financial period (2012-2015). The Office of the GFCS was established within the WMO Secretariat. WMO Congress recognized that while the Commission for Climatology (CCI) will have a central role in the implementation of the GFCS, other Technical Commissions will also have important roles to play: for example, JCOMM for marine observations, for marine climate data management and for services to marine sector. Each technical commission was urged to assist in the development of the detailed implementation plan, and to keep under review their work plans as the implementation of the GFCS proceeded so that they could give effective support to the initiative and take advantages of the opportunities that it offered. An Extraordinary Session of the World Meteorological Congress will take place in 2012, to address the GFCS Implementation Plan and associated governance issues.

12. WMO Congress noted and supported the ongoing priority areas for JCOMM, as detailed in the Strategic and Operating Plans:

- To enhance support for the WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS), through continuing implementation of the initial ocean observing system – both in situ and remote sensing – as specified by the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) and endorsed by OceanObs'09;
- To develop standards/best practices in the marine community through the IODE-JCOMM Standards Process, as well as update of the related manuals, guides, and catalogues, in support of the WMO Information System (WIS);
- To extend marine services for: (1) safety-related marine meteorological services, including provision of sea state and sea ice in MSI; (2) coastal storm surge and inundation forecasting in response to increased risks associated with global climate change; and (3) operational ocean forecasting with clear definition of operational ocean observation requirements; and also to develop a range of marine and ocean climate services in support of the Global Framework for Climate Services;
- To continue support for capacity building through education, training and technology transfer, implemented through all Programme Areas.

13. WMO Congress reaffirmed its support for JCOMM's project-oriented approach to address specific, defined, and time-bound activities, which the Committee will need to consider in the Operating Plans for the next intersessional period. Noting the current restriction in resources (both personnel and financial), the WMO Congress agreed that additional resources must be made available in order for JCOMM to carry out its ongoing work as well as emerging requirements.

**APPENDIX B: WMO RESOLUTION 24 (CG-XVI)
– MARINE METEOROLOGY AND OCEANOGRAPHY PROGRAMME**

THE CONGRESS,

Noting:

- (1) Resolution 19 (Cg-XV) – Marine Meteorology and Oceanography Programme;
- (2) The *Abridged Final Report with Resolutions and Recommendations of the Third Session of the Joint WMO/IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology* (WMO-No. 1049);
- (3) Resolution 4 (EC-LXII) – Report of the third session of the Joint WMO/IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology;

Considering:

- (1) That a continuing concerted effort by National Meteorological Services is needed, in association with national oceanographic agencies and institutions as appropriate, in order that marine meteorological and oceanographic services meet national, regional and international requirements;
- (2) That the scope of the Marine Meteorology and Oceanography Programme is defined in response to the evolving needs of all users of marine data and products, and includes an outreach programme to enhance the national capacity of all maritime countries to deliver marine data and services to support safety at sea and develop priority applications in coastal area management, disaster risk reduction, and climate services;
- (3) That these goals should be supported through application of a vigorous and focused training and capacity building strategy to enhance the marine capabilities of Members;
- (4) That progress in developing and implementing marine meteorological and oceanographic products and services will be achieved through best use of adequate technology and opportunities such as *in situ* met-ocean data, and emerging remote sensing platforms;
- (5) The ongoing priority areas identified by the Joint WMO-IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM) at its third session;
- (6) The role of the Marine Meteorology and Oceanography Programme in supporting all WMO priority areas;

Decides:

- (1) That detailed planning and implementation of the Marine Meteorology and Oceanography Programme should form an integral part of the WMO Strategic Plan, and assist Members to arrange for enhanced services provision, including new operational ocean forecast and warning systems to be developed in close coordination with users;
- (2) That the Marine Meteorology and Oceanography Programme should be strengthened and expanded to address new emerging challenges and issues, especially on Disaster Risk Reduction, Coastal Management and climate services;

- (3) That additional funding be sought for high-priority and emerging activities in the field of training, capacity building and support for Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States;
- (4) That the WMO Strategy for Service Delivery should guide the implementation of the Marine Meteorology and Oceanography Programme;

Requests the Executive Council, with the assistance of the JCOMM and other relevant technical commissions, and regional associations, to promote, guide, and assist in the implementation of the Marine Meteorology and Oceanography Programme;

Urges Members concerned to collaborate actively, by making time and expertise of their staff available, and by giving all possible support, both direct resources and in-kind, to the implementation of the Marine Meteorology and Oceanography Programme and the work of JCOMM through:

- (1) Strengthening their marine meteorological and oceanographic services, with priority given to basic services in support of the safety of life and property at sea as required under the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), including supporting the establishment of the IMO/WMO Worldwide Met-ocean Information and Warning Service (WWMIWS), and the adoption of a quality management approach to the delivery of marine weather and ocean services;
- (2) Continuing and/or expanding their contribution to met-ocean data collection and archival, including associated metadata, making use of modern telecommunication facilities for the collection and dissemination of information, within the concept and developing structure of the WMO Information System, in particular through operational or sustained funding for the national ocean observing systems components of the WMO-IOC-UNEP-ICSU Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS);
- (3) Assisting developing countries to fulfil their responsibilities under, and gain full benefit from, the Marine Meteorology and Oceanography Programme, in particular through strengthening specialized training facilities and programmes in marine meteorology and oceanography;
- (4) Supporting an integrated effort to develop and improve forecasting capabilities and service delivery in coastal risk reduction, in particular in cases of extreme events (e.g. storm surges, and high and/or long waves), as well as the analysis of the impacts of oceanic response to climate variability and change, through the implementation of regional demonstration projects promoted by WMO, as appropriate;

Requests the Co-presidents of JCOMM:

- (1) To ensure that the Commission takes the lead in satisfying the technical needs of Members in the area of marine meteorology and oceanography, including by continuing its policy of preparing and updating guidance material in various aspects of marine meteorology and oceanography management, through the collaborative efforts of its experts;
- (2) To continue the efforts of the Commission in enhancing the role of the WMO in the field of marine meteorology and oceanography;
- (3) To arrange for contributions from JCOMM to other WMO Programmes, as appropriate;

Requests the Secretary-General:

- (1) To assist in the implementation of the programme, and in particular, to give high priority to training and capacity building requirements;
- (2) To foster the overall integration of the programme in the priority activities of the WMO, in accordance with the Strategic Plan for WMO;
- (3) To ensure the essential high-level of collaboration with IOC required for the efficient and effective functioning of JCOMM;
- (4) To arrange for the coordination of activities under the MMOP, with other relevant programme activities of the IOC and other international organizations;
- (5) To assist in the implementation of these activities;
- (6) To seek for further enhancement of cooperation between the MMOP and other WMO Programmes and technical commissions;
- (7) To seek voluntary and in-kind resources, as necessary, to facilitate the implementation of the programme and the work of the JCOMM;
- (8) To bring this resolution to the attention of all concerned.

Note: This resolution replaces Resolution 19 (Cg-XV), which is no longer in force.
