

C A R I B B E A N

M E T E O R O L O G I C A L

O R G A N I Z A T I O N

**CARIBBEAN METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL** **Doc. 2**

FIFTY-NINTH SESSION

ANGUILLA, 14-15 NOVEMBER 2019

**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, coffee breaks, matters of general interest, special and local arrangements are announced.

##### Item 3: CMO EXECUTIVE REPORTS

1. 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.

1. 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.

1. 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 CMC58(St Kitts and Nevis, 2018) 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 CMO AND WMO ISSUES

The 18th World Meteorological Congress (Cg-18), was hosted by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) on 3-14 June 2019. A new strategic plan and a major governance reform of the WMO were approved by Congress.

The reform is aligned with the strategic goals, which enable a stronger focus on extreme weather, water resources, the ocean, coordinated climate services, environmental degradation, urbanization, and public health; while harnessing technological advances from satellites, supercomputing and data integration to translate science into services for society. Special emphasis is being placed on support for regional operations and capacity development as well as greater and controlled engagement with the private sector and academia. Cg-18 also saw the election of new WMO Officers as well as the election of the Coordinating Director to the WMO Executive Council, ensuring the continued presence of the British Caribbean Territories (BCT) on the Council since 1983.

The 71st session of the World Meteorological Organization's Executive Council (2019) focussed on implementing the decisions of the 18th WMO Congress. These priority areas will affect the activities of Member States and their NMHSs in the period 2020-2023. The Coordinating Director of the CMO, will engage the Caribbean Meteorological Council on the region’s role and responses to these major WMO implementation activities.

##### Item 6: FINANCIAL REPORTS

1. 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 2018 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: THE CMO STRATEGIC PLAN

The CMO Headquarters has been operating under its “Operational Programme for the period 2016-2019". Progress in this regard will be discussed by Council. The CMO Headquarters is now in the process of preparing the CMO Strategic Plan 2020-2023. Council will be asked to approve the CMO Strategic Plan 2020-2023 and the related Operational Programme for the period 2020-2023.

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

Draft versions of the CMO HQ budget estimates and the CIMH budget estimates for 2020 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 2020.

##### 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 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. 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 establishment of an Operational Radar Working Group will be brought to Council for approval. The Council will be briefed on the need for upgrading the CMO radars to dual-polarization. Given that the radars are critical regional infrastructure, the Council will be asked to discuss approaches for expanding utilization of the radar data, and to revisit the agreement from CMC49 concerning radar spare parts.

##### 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, other non-regional Governments, and universities.

The 56th to 58th sessions of the Council discussed the steps being undertaken to establish a WMO Severe Weather Forecast Programme (SWFP) in the Eastern Caribbean, as proposed by CMO and partners. Considerable regional activity has taken place in the last three years towards the development of this Project, with implementation plans and training activities making significant progress in 2019. Council will discuss the aims of the project and the expected roles to be played by 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 atCARICOM Member States. It is being implemented by the WMO, the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), and the World Bank Group (WBG), and regional partners: Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), CIMH, and CMO Headquarters Unit. CREWS Caribbean is supporting activities such as the development of Model Legislation and National Strategic Plans for National Meteorological Services, a regional strategy for NMHSs and Early Warning Systems in the Caribbean, the Caribbean Climate Outlook Forum (CariCOF), the SWFP Eastern Caribbean.

CIMH is a lead institution in the EUREC4A field study, which is a major international project being led by Germany and France and scheduled to operate out of Barbados during January to February 2020. The CMO Headquarters Unit is partnering with the University of Leeds and CIMH on a Caribbean Weather Forecasting Initiative to foster knowledge exchange between Caribbean forecasters and researchers.

##### Item 12: OTHER MATTERS

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

##### Item 13: DATE AND VENUE OF CMC60 IN 2020

CMC is mandated to meet annually and traditionally does so in a different Member State each year. St Vincent and the Grenadines have expressed an interest in hosting the Council for its 60th Session in 2020. The Cayman Islands have indicated their willingness to host in 2021. 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.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

CMO Headquarters

September 2019