



CARIBBEAN METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

CARIBBEAN METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL
SIXTIETH SESSION
19-20 NOVEMBER 2020, VIRTUAL PLATFORM

Doc. 2 Rev 1

NOTES ON THE AGENDA (Submitted by the Coordinating Director)

The 60th Caribbean Meteorological Council Session will be held on a virtual platform on 19-20 November 2020 with **each daily session from 9:00 am to 12:30 AST (1300-1630 UTC)**.

Only a subset of agenda items will be discussed during the Virtual Session; other items will be delivered for comments and approval by correspondence. 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 will be adjusted for the virtual platform. 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 are announced.

Item 3: CMO EXECUTIVE REPORTS

a) 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.

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 CMC59 (Anguilla, 2019) 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 72nd session of the World Meteorological Organization's Executive Council (2020) will be held as a Virtual Meeting on 28 September to 2 October and focussed on implementing the decisions of the 18th WMO Congress. These priority areas will affect the activities of Member States and their National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in the period 2020-2023. The Coordinating Director of the CMO, a Member of the WMO Executive Council, will engage the Caribbean Meteorological Council on the region's role and responses to these major WMO implementation activities.

An Extraordinary Session of the World Meteorological Congress will be held in 31 May to 4 June 2021, or later depending on the status of international travel restrictions, to deal with such matters as a review of WMO Regional Concept and Approaches, the role of operational hydrology in addressing global water challenges, and Data policy.

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.

b) CMO HQ - Auditor's Report

The accounts of the CMO Headquarters for 2019 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 HEADQUARTERS OPERATIONAL PLAN**

The CMO Headquarters will report on its Operational Plan developed from the CMO Strategic Plan 2020-2023 and its progress.

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

Draft versions of the CMO HQ budget estimates and the CIMH budget estimates for 2021 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 2021.

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 plans for the CMO Operational Radar Working Group will be reported to Council.

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

The Council will be briefed on the status of projects involving the CMO Headquarters Unit and partner organizations, such as the WMO, other non-regional Governments, and universities.

The status of the WMO Severe Weather Forecast Programme (SWFP) in the Eastern Caribbean, will be presented. Considerable regional activity has taken place in the last few years towards the development of the Programme, with implementation plans and training activities making progress in 2019 and 2020, while other training activity had to be postponed until 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Council will discuss the aims of the programme and the roles of 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 at CARICOM 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: Meteorological Legislation and Policy; Strategic Plans for National Meteorological Services and National Frameworks for Weather, Water, and Climate Services and corresponding Actions Plans; a Strategic Roadmap for Advancing Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems in the Caribbean 2020-2030; and related pilot activities for NMHSs and EWS; and the SWFP Eastern Caribbean.

The CMO Headquarters Unit partnered with the University of Leeds and CIMH on a EUREC4A-SWFP *Caribbean Weather Forecasting Initiative* to foster knowledge exchange between Caribbean forecasters and researchers. The EUREC4A field study, a major international project led by Germany and France, with CIMH as a lead institution, operated out of Barbados during January to February 2020.

Item 12: OTHER MATTERS

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

Item 13: DATE AND VENUE OF FUTURE CMC SESSIONS

CMC is mandated to meet annually and traditionally does so in a different Member State each year. The Cayman Islands has expressed an interest in hosting the Council for its 61st Session 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
October 2020