



CARIBBEAN METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

CARIBBEAN METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL
SIXTY-SEVENTH SESSION
TORTOLA, BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS, 21-22 NOVEMBER 2024

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SPECIAL CMO ISSUES
(Submitted by the Coordinating Director)

Introduction

1. This document is designed to keep the Council informed on significant regional issues related to the CMO. Some of these will require decisions or actions by Council to ensure that CMO Member States understand their roles and adhere to commitments and requirements. Some other items will likely be presented verbally. The agenda item covers primarily the following topics:

- (A) Review of Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Institutions
- (B) Arrangements for Meteorological Forecast and Warning Services among CMO Member States

A. Review of Caribbean Community Institutions (RCCI)

2. Council will recall the matter of the Review of Caribbean Community Institutions (RCCI) as reported to the 64th and 65th Sessions of the Council. As noted previously, at the first Intersessional Meeting of the 61st Council, held virtually on 1 February 2022, Council was informed that the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) would conduct a review of its Community Institutions (CIs) to determine their efficacy and to make them "fit for purpose".

The Review had the following objectives and purpose:

- (1) Overall Objective: To determine the efficacy of Community Institutions and obtain actionable, and timely recommendations which will enable CARICOM to streamline its institutions, making them 'Fit for Purpose', able to deliver equitable and gender-sensitive services to the Member States; to improve the oversight of Community Institutions by the Community through the rationalisation of their functions, resources, structures and governance arrangements, and to improve effectiveness and efficiency.
- (2) Purpose: To improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the 17 Community Institutions.

3. The consultants were assigned by the Conference of Heads of Governments (CHOG) to review all CIs, with respect to the following three questions:

- Are they fit for purpose?
- Are they effective in delivery?
- Would the Region be harmed were they to be closed?

4. Council is reminded that the CMO Headquarters cooperated fully with the process, providing extensive information to the consultants, Baastel, via responses to questionnaires; provisions of many documents and reports; participation in several consultation meetings; and responses to the reports from the Review.

5. The 65th Council noted the concerns raised by the CMO Headquarters about the inadequacies of the review process and its strong objections to the recommendations made about the future of the CMO Headquarters.

6. Council was asked to provide a written position for submission to the CARICOM Secretariat prior to the December meeting of the Community Council of Ministers and to provide guidance on the way forward for the Organization given the very consequential recommendations and the impact on the CMO Headquarters Unit, in particular. However, no response was provided from the 65th Council. Additionally, no further information has been received from the CARICOM Secretariat on the matter since the meeting on 30 August 2023, although queries have been made to the Secretariat.

B. Arrangements for Meteorological Forecast and Warning Services among CMO Member States

7. Council is reminded that since the inception of the CMO in 1973, the Council agreed on the responsibilities of the NMHS of the States with Forecast and Warning Offices for those States without such offices. The arrangements have been modified in the intervening years but the fundamental premise of major cooperation and collaboration among all nations, on which the CMO was established, remains. The 50th session of the Council re-formalized the forecast and warning arrangements and the 51st Session of the Council reiterated Resolution 2 of the 50th Session of Council and re-consolidated the interface between its own arrangements and those of the WMO-led Regional Hurricane Operational Plan.

8. Council will recall that in 2021, questions were raised by the Antigua and Barbuda Meteorological Service (ABMS) to the Council about the formalities of the process and related costs for the services provided. So, the Council agreed to form a committee, which was chaired by Guyana and Belize, to review and discuss cost recovery as a part of regional forecasting arrangements and make a

recommendation to the Council. At a meeting in February 2022, the committee considered the question raised by Antigua and Barbuda with respect to cost recovery for services provided to the aviation sector in Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, and St Kitts and Nevis. The committee was of the view that the ABMS should be having discussions with the respective Civil Aviation Authority, instead of the various Meteorological Services, since the Civil Aviation Authorities are end users. The Committee offered several draft recommendations to be considered by the Council, while the 63rd Council discussion noted that the recommendations did not address the question of cross-border cost recovery. It was also noted that border agreements for cost recovery would need an intermediary to audit the process so that, for example, if a percentage cost is agreed, the transaction amounts can be ascertained (CMC63, Report).

9. Council is reminded that ICAO requires that all meteorological services providers implement a quality management system (QMS) and that, prior to implementing cost recovery for aeronautical meteorological services, a QMS must be implemented.

10. The Council is reminded that at the 65th Council (November 2023, Port of Spain), Antigua and Barbuda shared a summary of the recommendations following the assessment of ABMS ability to provide aeronautical service to British Overseas Territories in the Caribbean. The assessment followed meetings with the UK Met Office, representing *Air Safety Support International* (ASSI), Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Authority (ECCAA) and the CMO Headquarters.

11. Council is reminded of the decision of the 65th Council to form a committee, to be chaired by Saint Lucia, to consider the previous recommendations and deliver a final recommendation with regard to the matter of cost recovery, for aeronautical meteorology, to the regional forecasting arrangements. The Coordinating Director provided the chair of the special committee with the background documents and relevant excerpts of CMC reports. The committee has not met; it is first awaiting the outcome of the Antigua and Barbuda engagement with ASSI and CMO.

12. Council is asked to take note of updates on the matter. Since CMC65, CMO Headquarters participated in three meetings with UK Met Office, ASSI, and ABMS to discuss support to the ABMS for implementing QMS for aviation services, modernizing weather analysis and visualization software, and other human and technical capacity development. The CMO Headquarters' Science and Technology Officer (STO) traveled to Antigua in January 2024 for one of the meetings, while the others (December 2023 and May 2024) were held virtually. CMO Headquarters assisted ABMS in developing a proposal on "Requirements of the ABMS Regarding Provision of Aeronautical Services to the British Overseas Territories (BOT) in the Caribbean", which was presented to ASSI. The proposal was part of the rationale for seeking funding through the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) to support the ABMS to provide services to Anguilla, the Virgin Islands, and Montserrat.

13. In November 2024, ASSI reported that the FCDO has approved funding for the Antigua and Barbuda Meteorological Service to receive technical and human capacity development for three years. Details of the arrangements are still to be worked out but CMO Headquarters is expected to assist with some aspect of project management, while ECCAA will be responsible for auditing the service.

Grenada Membership with WMO: Request from Grenada Meteorological Service

14. Council will recall the request from Grenada for the CMO Headquarters to make representation to the Government of Grenada for Grenada to join WMO. One impetus for the request is for Grenada to be responsible for its own tropical cyclone forecast and warnings, which are currently provided by Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service. It was noted that since Grenada is not a Member of WMO, it cannot have Membership in the WMO RA IV Hurricane Committee, whose Members receive support from WMO for training and travel to the annual meeting of the Hurricane Committee, for example. Grenada is seeking the support of CMO Headquarters to make representation to the Government of Grenada for its Membership in the WMO.

15. Council is asked to note that the Coordinating Director completed this action item in May 2024. The parent Ministry for the Grenada Meteorological Service was provided a detailed rationale of the benefits of WMO Membership, all the required documentation, including the prorated annual contribution for Membership and the one-time fee. The up-to-date information was provided after personal consultation with the Member Services Department and External Affairs while at the WMO Secretariat in Geneva.

ACTIONS PROPOSED TO COUNCIL

16. **Council** is asked to:

- (i) **Note** and **discuss** ongoing activities with regard to the regional forecast and warning arrangements, including capacity development in Antigua and Barbuda Meteorological Service to support its forecast and warning services to British Overseas Territories in the Caribbean
- (ii) **Note** the CMO Headquarters support for the Membership of Grenada with WMO

CMO Headquarters
November 2024