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. 7**
SEVENTIETH SESSION
GRACE BAY, PROVIDENCIALES, TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS,
12-13 NOVEMBER 2025

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
(C) CMO Membership Requests

A. Review of Caribbean Community Institutions (RCCI)

2. Council will recall the matter of the **Review of Caribbean Community Institutions (RCCI)**, first reported to the Council 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".

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, 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. Council will further recall that the Review was conducted during 2022-2023 and that the *Final Report of the RCCI* consultancy was provided to the Council in October 2023. The recommendations included major restructuring of the CMO and other Institutions as well as restructuring of the legal status and governance of all Institutions.

6. The 65th Council (Trinidad and Tobago, 2023) had 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. Following presentations of preliminary responses by the Coordinating Director and the Principal of CIMH, Members were invited to provide written comments to the Chair. However, no comments were received from Members. Additionally, no further correspondence was provided on the matter by the CARICOM Secretariat in 2024, as was reported to the 67th Council (Virgin Islands, 2024).

7. In June 2025, the CARICOM Secretariat solicited final comments from the institutions on the *Final Report of the RCCI*, with a deadline of 31 August 2025. The Community Institutions were notified that comments from the Institutions will inform the preparation of a paper to be presented to the Conference of Heads in February 2026, for their consideration of the recommendations and determination of the way forward. Having been provided with the *Final Report of the RCCI* and background documents shared with the Council, Members were to submit their comments to the Chair of the Council by 26 August. No specific comments were received by the deadline.

8. Council is asked to note that the CMO Headquarters submitted final comments to the CARICOM Secretariat on 31 August 2025, using the template provided.

9. In June 2026, in support of the decision process regarding the recommendations of the RCCI, the CARICOM Secretariat requested all Community Institutions to update their institutional profile, by responding to the template below. The update was requested because:

> "… the Secretariat notes comments from some Institutions indicating that, in certain instances, the Report did not fully reflect information that was current at the time of its preparation. The Secretariat also recognizes that the passage of time since 2023 may have rendered some of the information contained in the Report outdated."

YEAR ESTABLISHED
MANDATE
MISSION

VISION
GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE
HEADQUARTERS
FULL MEMBERS
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS
STAFF COMPLEMENT
BUDGET
ONGOING PROJECTS, SOURCE OF FUNDING, AND END DATES
NATURE, VALUE AND END DATES OF ONGOING CONTRACTS
VALUE OF CURRENT ARREARS OWED BY MEMBER STATES
VALUE OF LIABILITIES

10. Council is asked to note that CMO Headquarters provided the information as requested by the deadline. Having had no further information, on 2 November 2026, CMO Headquarters inquired about the status of the recommendations from the RCCI and was told that the process is ongoing, with the intent to present recommendations to the Community Council in December 2026 and to the Heads of Government in February 2027. However, the decision of when to take the matter to the Heads is determined by the Community Council.

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

11. 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 (2011) reiterated Resolution 2 of the 50th Session of Council and reconsolidated the interface between its own arrangements and those of the WMO-led Regional Hurricane Operational Plan. Resolution 1 of CMC51, replaced Resolution 2 of CMC50.

12. The Council is asked to review and amend the current forecast and warning arrangements due to the growing capacity of some recipient Members to take responsibility for their own national forecasts and warnings. Council will recall a review requested in 2021 due to questions about cost recovery and resources needed to deliver skillful forecast and warning services to neighbouring states.

13. Resolution 1 of CMC51 Resolution itself speaks to variations and review of the arrangements, whereby the Council “further decides”:

(i) that variations in the international arrangements or agreements emanating from the above should be made in collaboration with and coordinated by the Headquarters of the Caribbean Meteorological Organization,

(ii) to review this Resolution whenever significant changes in the arrangements are proposed.

<u>Grenada to be integrated into WMO RA IV Hurricane Committee</u>

14. The Council is asked to extend heartfelt congratulations to Grenada on becoming a Member of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). Therefore, Grenada will now be integrated into the WMO Regional Association for North America, Central America and the Caribbean (RA IV) and the RAIV Hurricane Committee. Subsequently, **Grenada will be responsible for issuing its own tropical cyclone watches and warnings.**

15. Under the current Operational Plan of the Hurricane Committee, and the CMO regional forecasting arrangements, Trinidad and Tobago has responsibility for issuing tropical cyclone watches and warnings for Grenada and its dependencies. Over the years, tropical cyclone forecasting for Grenada has been a collaborative exercise between the Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service and the Grenada Meteorological Service. Improvement in forecasting has been accomplished through training at CIMH, alongside university pathways and other international options, as well as operational capacity development through hurricane forecasting and storm surge workshops, facilitated by the Coordinating Director, as the Permanent Representative (PR) of the BCT with WMO.

16. With this significant change in the arrangement being proposed, as per Resolution 1, CMC51, the Council is asked to review the existing arrangement and amend it to reflect this changes in responsibility.

Barbados

17. Council is reminded that under the existing forecasting arrangements stated in CMC51, Resolution 1, Barbados has responsibility for the islands and coastal waters of Barbados, Dominica and St Vincent and the Grenadines.

18. **Barbados** is formally proposing that the Council amends Resolution 1 of CMC51 (2011), regarding its responsibility for the provision of forecast and warnings for Dominica and St Vincent and the Grenadines. The proposed amendment acknowledges the advances in scientific knowledge and technical capabilities of the national meteorological services of Dominica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, which has enabled them to undertake their own national forecast and warnings.

19. Since 2011, particularly during, approximately, the past five years or so, both Dominica and St Vincent and the Grenadines have matured in their operational functionality as well as having leaders with scientific qualifications at the post-graduate level. For example, the St Vincent Meteorological Service demonstrated skilled forecasting of high impact events, including the hydrometeorological hazards associated with the volcanic eruptions of April 2021, some of which were concurrent with heavy rainfall, leading to flooding and lahars; in July 2021, Hurricane Elsa moved across the volcanic red zone. Then in 2024 record-breaking category-4 Hurricane Beryl caused catastrophic damage in the Grenadines but very few lives were lost. In late April 2026, the Dominica Meteorological Service helped to save lives by issuing flood warnings for the eastern areas of Dominica that experienced heavy rainfall and dramatic, damaging landslides but no casualties or major injuries. These are achievements to be celebrated by the Council. These NMHSs have been supported in improving their weather forecasting ability with education and training at the CIMH, alongside university pathways and other international options; increasing scientific knowledge and management qualifications through WMO fellowships; and developing greater operational capacity and strengthening their governance with support from CMO Headquarters.

20. Additionally, Council is being asked to amend the section of CMC51, Resolution 1 related to tropical cyclone forecast and warnings for Dominica to reflect an agreed decision of the RA IV Hurricane Committee. In 2023, the 45th Hurricane Committee approved a change in its Operational Plan, whereby Dominica has responsibility for issuing its own tropical cyclone watches and warnings. This change in the Hurricane Operational Plan was requested by Barbados in collaboration with Dominica, which solved the matter of latency in the prior tropical cyclone watch and warning process for Dominica.

21. Barbados will continue to support St. Vincent and the Grenadines with tropical cyclone forecasts and warnings, given that St Vincent and the Grenadines is not a member of WMO, and also serve as backup to both Members for weather forecasts and warnings.

22. In light of the change in status of Grenada and the new capabilities of Dominica and St Vincent and the Grenadines, Council is asked to review and approve the proposed amended Resolution in Annex

I. The amended resolution will be renamed “Resolution 1, CMC70 (2026),” and will replace the existing “Resolution 1”, CMC51 (2011), which will be no longer in effect.

Antigua and Barbuda

23. 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. Subsequently, 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, Grand Cayman).

24. 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 CMO Headquarters.

25. Since CMC65, CMO Headquarters participated in several 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 Science and Technology Officer (STO) travelled to Antigua in January 2024 and July 2025, while the other meetings were held virtually. CMO Headquarters assisted ABMS in developing a proposal on “*Requirements of the ABMS Regarding Provision of Aeronautical Services to the British Over Seas Territories (BOT) in the Caribbean*”. The proposal sought funding through the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), to support the ABMS with the provision of weather forecast and warning services to the British Overseas Territories of Anguilla, the Virgin Islands, and Montserrat.

26. Council is reminded that in 2025, Antigua and Barbuda received support from *CARICOM Regional Organisation for Standards and Quality* (CROSQ) for support towards attaining compliance with and certification to, the ISO 9001 standard.

27. Council is asked to recall that a new special committee, chaired by Saint Lucia, was formed at the 65th Council and asked to advise on any changes to the arrangements. Committee activities were postponed pending the outcomes of proposed capacity development support to Antigua and Barbuda Meteorological Service by the UK government.

28. Council is advised that the CMO Headquarters is still awaiting an update from the FCDO.

C. CMO Membership Requests

29. Council is informed that Sint Maarten and The Bahamas have expressed their interest in CMO Membership. The inquiries have not been formalized but being given serious consideration as Membership in CARICOM and its Institutions has been expanding. With that in mind, the CMO Headquarters reviewed the procedures for new Membership in the CMO, which was extensively

researched by the previous Coordinating Director, Mr Tyrone Sutherland, in consultation with the CARICOM Secretariat. Excerpts from the document presented to the 55th Council are presented in Annex II.

30. Sint Maarten, which is not a CARICOM Member, has became a Participating State of the Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA). While not a CMO Member, Sint Maarten has been engaged with CMO within RA IV, on the WMO RA IV Hurricane Committee and the Severe Weather Forecasting Programme (SWFP) Caribbean, the CMO Operational Radar Group (CORG), the CMO Caribbean WIS 2.0 node and CMO Common Alerting Protocol portal. For the SWFP programme, Sint Maarten represents the Non-CMO Members on the Management Team. In addition, Sint Maarten participates actively in regional training and capacity development activities that are led by CMO or co-organized by CMO. The current Director of the Sint Maarten Department of Meteorology is a former head of the Dominica Meteorological Service.

31. Council is reminded the Bahamas was part of the old *British Caribbean Meteorological Service* (BCMS) established in 1951, where it hosted one of the three main weather forecasting offices of the BCMS. The regional meteorological service became the Caribbean Meteorological Service in 1963, after the dissolution of the West Indies Federation. Then in 1964, Bahamas withdrew from the Caribbean Meteorological Service (CMS). However, the Bahamas Meteorology Department forecasters and technicians continued to be trained at the CIMH and they participate in capacity development activities implemented by the CIMH and CMO Headquarters for the benefit of CARICOM Members. Furthermore, by agreement between CMO and the Bahamas, the Bahamas area of responsibility for forecasts and warnings includes the islands and coastal waters of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

32. Council is asked to recall that in 2014 Suriname had expressed an interest in joining the CMO and so the revised Contribution Formula, approved by the Council in 2017, provided two options (with and without Suriname as a Member).

33. In response to the email request from Suriname, the Coordinating Director, Mr Tyrone Sutherland, sought guidance from the CARICOM Secretariat on the procedure of accession to Membership in CMO. The procedure is provided in Annex II, so that the Council may be prepared.

ACTIONS PROPOSED TO COUNCIL

34. **Council** is asked to:

(i) **Note** the status of the Review of Caribbean Community Institutions.

(ii) **Congratulate** Grenada on its Membership in WMO and **note** its integration into the WMO RA IV Hurricane Committee, with responsibility for issuing its own tropical cyclone forecasts, watches and warnings

(iii) **Note** the proposal from Barbados to amend Resolution 1, CMC51 regarding its responsibilities under the CMO regional forecasting arrangement and the WMO RA IV Hurricane Committee Operational Plan.

(iv) **Commend** Dominica and St Vincent and the Grenadines for their advances in scientific, technical and operational capabilities, which has enabled them to take on the responsibility for their own national forecast and warnings.

(i) **Amend Resolution 1 of CMC51,** to reflect the revised forecast and warning responsibilities and backup arrangements and **rename** the amended resolution as **Resolution 1, CMC70,** shown in **Annex I**;

(ii) **Urge** the affected NMHSs to inform all relevant national authorities and organizations of the arrangements;

(iii) **Urge** the affected NMHSs to formally exchange detailed operational material to enable the smooth implementation of backup operations.

(v) **Note** that Antigua and Barbuda Meteorological Service is awaiting information from the UK Government about potential support for its forecast and warning services to British Overseas Territories in the northeastern Caribbean.

(vi) **Note** the interest of the Bahamas and Sint Maarten in joining the CMO and **recall** the procedures that were established for new Membership in CMO by the 55th Council.

CMO Headquarters
November 2026

CARIBBEAN METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL

RESOLUTION 1, CMC70, 2026 - REGIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR METEOROLOGICAL FORECAST AND WARNING SERVICES AMONG CMO MEMBER STATES

THE CARIBBEAN METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL,

Noting that the National Meteorological and Hydrometeorological Services (NMHS) of the CMO Member States have developed to various scientific and technical levels over the years,

Considering that the ***Weather Forecast and Warning Offices*** of Member States, with the higher scientific and technical levels and functions, operate round-the-clock and year-round and that the ***Aeronautical Meteorological Offices*** of Member States operate according to aeronautical requirements,

Taking into account the existing arrangements made under the auspices of the Caribbean Meteorological Organization in which the Member States with the Weather Forecast and Warning Offices provide the same weather forecast and warning services to those States without such offices, as well as the back-up arrangements between Services,

Noting further that these arrangements form the basis for many other international arrangements or agreements, such as the responsibilities of Member States for forecasts and warnings within the Regional Hurricane Warning System of the *World Meteorological Organization* (WMO) and the provision of aeronautical meteorological forecasts and warnings under the auspices of the *International Civil Aviation Organization* (ICAO),

Recognizing the major importance of these arrangements and **having reviewed** the scientific and technical capacities of the NMHSs of Member States,

Decides that the following arrangements shall apply:

Member States with Weather Forecast and Warning Offices	**States and Areas of Responsibility for Forecasts and Warnings**
Antigua & Barbuda	The islands and coastal waters of Antigua & Barbuda, Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, and St. Kitts & Nevis
Barbados	The islands and coastal waters of Barbados; tropical cyclone warnings responsibility on behalf of St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Belize	The islands, coastal waters and inland areas of Belize
Cayman Islands	The islands and coastal waters of the Cayman Islands
Dominica	The islands, and coastal waters and inland areas of Dominica
Grenada	The islands and coastal waters of Grenada and its dependencies
Guyana	The coastal waters and inland areas of Guyana
Jamaica	The island and coastal waters of Jamaica
Saint Lucia	The island and coastal waters of Saint Lucia
St Vincent and the Grenadines	The islands and coastal waters of St Vincent and the Grenadines (weather forecasts and non-tropical cyclone warnings)
Trinidad and Tobago	The islands and coastal waters of Trinidad and Tobago
By agreement between CMO and The Bahamas (non-CMO Member), the Bahamas area of responsibility for forecasts and warnings includes the islands and coastal waters of the Turks and Caicos Islands	

Also decides that, having consulted with the WMO Hurricane Committee for the region, the following backup arrangements for tropical cyclone watches and warnings, Aerodrome Forecasts (TAF) for main airports and agreed upon essential products, as determined under the auspices of the WMO and ICAO, shall apply:

(i) Antigua will take over the responsibility of Barbados with respect to the island and coastal waters of Dominica;

(ii) Barbados will take over the responsibility of Antigua and/or Saint Lucia;

(iii) Barbados will take over the responsibility of Trinidad and Tobago and Dominica;

(iv) Jamaica will take over the responsibility of the Cayman Islands;

(v) Trinidad and Tobago will take over the responsibility of Grenada;

(vi) Trinidad and Tobago will take over the responsibility of Barbados with respect to the islands and coastal waters of Barbados and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Trinidad and Tobago will serve as a secondary backup to Barbados with respect to Saint Lucia;

(vii) USA will take over the responsibility of The Bahamas and Jamaica;

(viii) The Cayman Islands will take over responsibility for Belize, with Jamaica serving as a secondary backup to the Cayman Islands with respect to Belize.

Further decides

(i) that the NMHSs of all Member States should ensure that all stakeholders at the national level are aware of these arrangements and that the CMO Headquarters should make this Resolution permanently available on its website;

(ii) that variations in the international arrangements or agreements emanating from the above should be made in collaboration with and coordinated by the Headquarters of the Caribbean Meteorological Organization,

(iii) to review this Resolution whenever significant changes in the arrangements are proposed.

This Resolution replaces Resolution 1 of CMC51, which is no longer in effect.

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Membership of the Caribbean Meteorological Organization (CMO)

Excerpts from CMC55, Doc 3(d)

(Submitted by the Coordinating Director)

Introduction

1. This document is intended to enable the Council to deliberate on a policy matter concerning a possible increase in membership of the Caribbean Meteorological Organization (CMO). During the course of 2014 and again in 2015, the Coordinating Director of CMO received informal communication from the Directorate of the Meteorological Service of Suriname, indicating that Suriname was interested in and was considering joining the CMO. Information requested from the CMO Headquarters included the procedure for joining, the financial consequences and the benefits.

2. Before providing information to Suriname, consultations were undertaken with the CARICOM Secretariat, specifically the Directorate for Foreign and Community Relations, the General Counsel, and the Finance Directorate, on as many of the issues involved if Suriname decided to make a formal application to join the Organization. The following material and proposals to the Council are based on some very significant discussion with and guidance provided by the General Counsel in particular. It is intended to allow Council to have an advanced discussion and examination of the procedures, should an application for membership actually materialize.

Who can join the CMO?

3. The entire consideration of membership to the Organization has to be based on the basic document entitled ***"Agreement establishing CMO"***, upon which all the various ***Acts of Parliament*** in the individual Member States are based. In this regard, Council is asked to note the following:

ARTICLE 2: Membership:

Membership of the Organization shall be open to:

Article 2(a):

Antigua	Guyana
Bahamas	Jamaica
Barbados	Montserrat
Belize	St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla
British Virgin Islands	St. Lucia
Cayman Islands	St. Vincent
Dominica	Trinidad and Tobago
Grenada	Turks and Caicos Islands

Article 2(b)

any other State of the Region able and willing to exercise the rights and assume the obligations of membership and which is admitted as a member in accordance with **Article 29.**

ARTICLE 29: <u>Accession:</u>

1. Any State of the Region may apply to the Council to become a member of the Organization and may if the Council so decides be admitted to membership in accordance with **Article 2(b**).
2. Admission to membership shall be upon such terms and conditions as the Council may decide and shall take effect from the date on which an appropriate **Instrument of Accession** is deposited with the Secretariat.

Financial Implications and Impact on other CMO Member States

9. The consultations that took place between the CARICOM Secretariat and the CMO Headquarters included consideration of the financial aspects for Suriname and the Organs of the CMO. It would be recalled that, at the 54th session of the Council, the CMO Headquarters had proposed that it would prepare a draft revision of the CMO Contribution Formula for consideration of the Council in 2015. The CMO Headquarters has already prepared a draft of this revision with input from the CCS Finance Directorate. However, it became obvious that the work would have to be redone if a new Member State were to be added. With this in mind, the CMO Headquarters and the CCS considered it more prudent to await any decision on Membership by Suriname before the revision was undertaken.

10. Notwithstanding this decision, Council would note that the process of revision of the Contribution Formula comprises the following elements, (i) a ***Host Country Benefit***; (ii) the ***CCS Unit System*** for regional contributions; and (iii) the level of ***National Meteorological Development***. While the CMO Headquarters has most of the required information, a formal technical visit to Suriname to confirm or verify the level of National Meteorological Development would be undertaken. It could be safe to assume that the inclusion of a new Member of the Organization would have a positive impact on the levels of contribution of existing Member States.

The Process for Joining CMO

11. The General Counsel of the CARICOM Secretariat and the CMO Headquarters carefully examined the basic document ***"Agreement establishing CMO"***, as well as existing legal requirements within the Member States of the Caribbean Community, to determine the procedure to be used for an application for membership of the Organization.

12. In this regard, based on Article 29, shown above, it would be appropriate for a formal application to join the CMO to be made through the ***Ministry of Foreign Affairs*** of [the proposed Member]. The following would generally be the normal procedure:

(i) **Formal application** (letter to the Chairman of the Council or the Coordinating Director of CMO would be appropriate);

(ii) **Approval in principle of the application** by Council/Member States (round-robin if necessary), and **mandate to negotiate terms and conditions.** Member States may also be requested to approve the core terms and conditions to be accepted by [the proposed Member], if this is submitted to them at the same time as the application;

(iii) **Terms and conditions of accession to be agreed to by [the proposed Member] and set out in writing as an agreement.** This includes acceptance of all obligations in the Agreement, contributions to be paid, access to services, obligations such as incorporation of CMO into legislation, recognition of CMO in relevant privileges and immunities legislation/framework (Article 24) and timelines for any implementation (these obligations may be required to be done prior to formal accession);

(iv) **Approval of accession by the Council**;

(v) **Deposit of Instrument of Accession** with the CARICOM Secretariat.

13. Taking into account that this information is being discussed well before an actual application has been received, it is hoped and expected that Member States of CMO would respond positively and in a timely manner, in accordance with the above procedures, if and when an application for membership is received.