FINAL REPORT OF THE SIXTY-NINTH MEETING OF THE CARIBBEAN METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL

Amended, 6 November 2026
[Section 13 (a)]

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CHAIRPERSON:

The Honourable Minister **Stephenson King,** Minister for Infrastructure, Ports, Transport, Physical Development and Urban Renewal of **Saint Lucia**.

VENUE AND DATE:

Harbor Club Hotel
Rodney Bay
SAINT LUCIA
20-21 NOVEMBER 2025

1 OPENING OF THE SESSION AND ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

1.1. The Sixty-Ninth Session of the *Caribbean Meteorological Council* (CMC69) was hosted by the Government of **Saint Lucia** at the Harbor Club Hotel, Rodney Bay, on 20-21 November 2025. The Caribbean Meteorological Council (CMC) is the supreme organ, governing and policy-making body of the *Caribbean Meteorological Organization* (CMO).

1.2. ***Ms Vigil Saltibus****,* Director (Ag.) in the Saint Lucia Meteorological Service, opened the Session by extending words of welcome, after which the National Anthem of Saint Lucia and an invocation were rendered.

1.3. ***Dr. Arlene Laing***, Coordinating Director of the CMO Headquarters Unit, thanked the Government of Saint Lucia for hosting CMC69 and welcomed all participants to the Council Session. Dr. Laing reminded the audience that meteorological services are uniquely globally interdependent and that collaborative, comprehensive, and multilateral cooperation is necessary for the Caribbean to respond effectively and to extreme weather and climate events. She noted that the collaborative spirit of the CMO is a legacy of its origin as the British Caribbean Meteorological Service (BCMS), which was established in 1951, and noted that CMO would be commemorating the 75th anniversary of the BCMS in 2026. Her address also noted the recent approval of funding from the Green Climate Fund for the upgrading of the CMO Radar Network, which had been implemented by the CMO Headquarters with funding from a 2023 project of CARIFORUM and the European Union.

1.4. ***Prof. Celeste Saulo***, WMO Secretary-General, provided a video message in which she highlighted the beneficial collaboration between the CMO and WMO, including the role of the Coordinating Director and the Regional Training Centre at CIMH. Her address cited her call to action to accelerate the implementation of Early Warnings for All, with Hurricane Melissa as an illustration of the value of early warnings for saving lives and as an example of the intense tropical cyclones that are expected with warmer oceans. Additionally, she informed of the UN80 initiative, to celebrate the United Nations 80th Anniversary and to streamline and strengthen its operations across UN agencies, including the WMO. The Secretary General noted WMO's commitment to institutional strengthening, such as the first Leadership and Management Training workshop for Directors of Caribbean NMHSs. She cited WMO partnership with other international organizations to provide support to the Caribbean.

1.5. ***Mr Christopher Barks***, Regional Director of the ***International Civil Aviation Organization*** (ICAO) North American, Central American and Caribbean (NACC) Office, spoke of the high value that ICAO placed on its partnership with the CMO. This partnership has been key to advancing the safety of air navigation and resilience of meteorological services, quality management systems, and harmonization of digital data exchange. He noted the excellent opportunity provided by the Council to strengthen collaboration on regional and global priorities for civil aviation, including the goals of the ICAO Strategic Plan 2026-2050.

1.6. The outgoing Chair of the CMC, ***The Honourable, Kye Rymer***, Minister of Communications and Works of the British Virgin Islands reflected on his tenure and highlighted the role and efforts of the CMO in strengthening regional National Meteorological and Hydrometeorological Services (NMHSs). He proudly noted that the new regional WMO Youth Focal Point for Regional Association IV is from the Virgin Islands. The Honourable Minister thanked CMO for the notable work being done within the Caribbean and wished the incoming Chair success during his tenure.

1.7. The feature address was delivered by the host, ***The Honourable Stephenson King,*** the Minister for Infrastructure, Ports, Transport, Physical Development and Urban Renewal of **Saint Lucia**, who expressed gratitude to Minister Rymer, and issued a call to action for the strengthening of Caribbean early warning systems and building of resilience to weather and climate extremes in the

region. Minister King noted his government's commitment to advancing Early Warnings for All, including modernizing hydrometeorological infrastructure and investing in the Saint Lucia Meteorological Services. He cited the *Common Alerting Protocol* (CAP) for issuing alerts and warnings for Saint Lucia, which was being implemented following a workshop held in early 2025. He explained that robust early warning systems are no longer optional but necessary given the region's recent experiences with floods, intense hurricanes such as Hurricanes Beryl and Melissa. The Honourable Minister expressed his condolences to those who suffered the loss of loved ones due to Hurricane Melissa. He called for collective advocacy for sustained investment in meteorological services, whose daily information supported various sectors, such as transportation, tourism, agriculture, water, and disaster risk reduction. He cited the importance of having unity in purpose, unity in systems and unity in commitment to protecting our people, with the support of key regional and international partners.

1.8. The CMC confirmed the election of ***The Honourable Stephenson King,*** the Minister for Infrastructure, Ports, Transport, Physical Development and Urban Renewal of **Saint Lucia** as the ***Chair of the Caribbean Meteorological Council*** for its 69th session and the intersessional period until the next annual meeting of the Council.

1.9. The Chair invited the ***Honourable Arlington Musgrove***, the Minister of Physical Planning and Infrastructure Development of the **Turks and Caicos Islands** to make a special announcement. The Honourable Minister Musgrove informed the Council of his government's decision to host the next Annual Session of the Caribbean Meteorological Council in 2026 and to support the participation of attending Ministers. This offer was gratefully and enthusiastically accepted by the Council.

2 ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS

2.1 Agenda adopted by the Meeting is shown in **ANNEX I** of this Report. The Meeting fixed its hours of work and determined the order in which it would conduct its business. The list of Delegates attending the Meeting is attached as **ANNEX II** to this Report.

2.2 The ***Honourable Stephenson King***, Chair of the 69th Council, chaired the proceedings through Agenda Items 1 to 3. With the Chair having to fulfil other national obligations, the ***Honourable Kye Rymer***, graciously agreed to chair the remainder of the agenda items on the first day of the 69th session and the Deputy Permanent Secretary, ***Ms Lorraine Matthew***, chaired the second day of the 69th session.

3 CMO EXECUTIVE REPORTS

3(a) Coordinating Director's Report

3.1 The Coordinating Director provided updates on the activities of the CMO Headquarters Unit since the 67th Session of the Council (CMC67), held on 21-22 November 2024, and hosted by the Government of the British Virgin Islands. The report covered operational matters affecting the Headquarters and other topics for the CMC's attention and guidance. Additional details on specific activities and developments were discussed under separate agenda items as needed.

High Impact Tropical Weather Events

3.2 The Council was informed that since its last regular session in November 2024, the region experienced several high-impact systems, including hurricanes, tropical storms, strong tropical waves, upper-level troughs, and other disturbances. The 2025 Caribbean/Atlantic hurricane season was forecasted to be above normal due to warmer-than-usual Atlantic sea-surface temperatures and the

expected transition to La Niña conditions, both of which typically enhance major hurricane development.

3.3 The Council learned that the season was dominated by Hurricane Melissa, the first Category-5 hurricane to make landfall in Jamaica, which caused catastrophic destruction across the western parishes of St Elizabeth, Westmoreland, Hanover, St James, Trelawny, and Manchester. Melissa matched the 1935 Florida Keys hurricane for strongest landfall wind speed (185 mph), reached a minimum central pressure of 892 hPa, and maintained Category 5 intensity for 36 hours. Strong tropical cyclone forecasting and early warning systems by National Meteorological Services, in coordination and collaboration with the US National Hurricane Center, the WMO Regional Specialized Centre for Tropical Cyclones, significantly reduced loss of life, and Members noted that impacts would have been far greater without timely alerts and response actions.

3.4 The Council was advised that coordination with the US National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center's International Desk provided excessive-rainfall outlooks associated with several systems. A preliminary summary of 2025 Atlantic cyclone activity to 4 November included three major hurricanes.

3.5 Council Members were also reminded that other severe weather events—detailed in the reports of the 2025 Annual Meeting of Directors of Meteorological Services (DMS2025)—were cumulatively impactful across Member States. The Council also learned that frequent episodes of significant Saharan dust continued to affect the region throughout 2025, highlighting the need for strengthened monitoring and prediction capabilities to support integrated health services and advance the work of the WMO Global Atmospheric Watch (GAW).

Early Warnings for All – Selected Activities

3.6 The Council was informed that to strengthen national early warning capacities, the CMO Headquarters continued implementation of the ***Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems*** **(CREWS)** Caribbean 2.0 through an Implementing Arrangement with WMO, supported by **US$583K** in funding. Further details will be presented under Agenda Item 11.

3.7 The Council learned of a major new CMO Headquarters initiative **approved** by the ***Green Climate Fund*** **(GCF)**: the project "Scaling up of Caribbean Hydrometeorological and Multi-hazard Early Warning Services in Belize and Trinidad and Tobago," valued at approximately **US$24 million over five years**. The ***Caribbean Development Bank*** serves as the Accredited Entity and Contracting Entity, while the CMO Headquarters will act as the Executing Entity. This initiative advances the GCF–SAP–CREWS Scaling Up Framework, which enables climate-vulnerable countries with successfully implemented CREWS projects to access fast-tracked financing for early warning systems. Additional information will be provided under Agenda Item 11.

3.8 The Council was advised that the CMO Headquarters remains an active member of the *Regional Early Warning Systems (REWS) Consortium* led by CDEMA, which also serves as the steering committee for CREWS Caribbean 2.0. The next meeting of the Consortium is scheduled for 9–10 December 2025. CMO Headquarters continued to support disaster risk reduction efforts through collaboration with CDEMA, CIMH, and other regional institutions, including work to advance Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems. Related activities were described under Agenda Items 5, 10, and 11.

3.9 The Council recalled that a major disaster risk reduction responsibility of the CMO Headquarters is the **Severe Weather Forecasting Programme (SWFP) Caribbean**, which focuses on non-tropical cyclone severe weather such as heavy rainfall, strong winds, and rough seas occurring year-round. The Regional Sub-programme Management Team is co-chaired by the Director of Météo-France–Martinique and the CMO Coordinating Director and includes the CIMH as the training lead,

and the programme remains in a pre-operational phase with global and regional model products monitored by the Regional Forecast Support Facility (RFSF)-Martinique.

3.10 The Council also learned that the Coordinating Director continues to participate in the Americas and Caribbean Early Warnings for All (EW4All) *Regional Coordination Mechanism* and the *Operational Coordination Group* of the CREWS initiative.

Showcasing the work of National Meteorological Services

3.11 The Council recalled that, as part of efforts to showcase the work of National Meteorological Services, CMO Headquarters submitted five abstracts on behalf of Members to the 105th Annual Meeting of the American Meteorological Society (AMS), continuing a tradition begun in 2022. The CMO Headquarters was pleased to report that all five abstracts were accepted and presented during the meeting held from 12-16 January 2025 in New Orleans. Presentations covered innovations in observations, impact-based forecasting, public engagement, and advances in sensor technologies in Barbados and the Cayman Islands, as well as overviews of major weather impacts in 2024, including the performance of the Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines Meteorological Services during Hurricane Beryl and lessons from Beryl's impacts on the southern parishes of Jamaica.

3.12 The Council was invited to join the CMO Headquarters in expressing appreciation to the US Permanent Representative with WMO and the NOAA National Weather Service for sponsoring the participation of experts from CMO Member States, enabling historic representation of the CMO Community at the AMS meeting.

3.13 In addition to the five oral presentations delivered with support from CMO Headquarters, CMO experts contributed to two panel discussions, a town hall meeting, and other conference sessions. These included a panel on advancing end-to-end early warning systems in the Caribbean, moderated by the Coordinating Director; a panel on climate, environment, health, and early warning featuring Dr. Nicole Dawkins-Wright, an emergency physician in Jamaica's Ministry of Health and Wellness; and a WMO Town Hall Meeting on the UN's ***Early Warnings for All*** initiative, where the Coordinating Director served as an invited speaker. CMO participation also extended to the 41st Conference on Environmental Information Processing Technologies, which featured outcomes from the Innovations in Open Science Planning Workshop on community expectations for a Geoscience Data Commons.

3.14 Council noted that the Coordinating Director co-organized a pioneering Latin America and Caribbean Advances on Weather Forecasting Workshop the High-Performance Computing (HPC) conference, held in Kingston Jamaica on 23 September. Recognizing that weather forecasting is a highly-valued application for HPC, which is advancing rapidly, the workshop featured high-resolution regional models being developed and adapted for the climate and topographic diversity of Latin America and the Caribbean.

3.15 Council was informed that Mr Evan Thompson, President of WMO Regional Association IV (North America, Central America and the Caribbean) and Principal Director of the Meteorological Service of Jamaica, opened the Workshop by highlighting the importance of collaboration to overcome regional barriers of distance, language, and uneven technological capacity.

3.16 Council was further informed that presentations were made by leading experts from the WMO, the European Centre for Medium-range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF), CMO, US National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), Brazilian Institute for Space Research (INPE, Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas Espaciais), Meteorological Service of Jamaica, Meteorological Service of Colombia (IDEAM), Meteorological Service of Argentina, Caribbean Institute for Meteorology & Hydrology (CIMH), University of Illinois, NVIDIA, and Tomorrow.io.

3.17 Council noted that the Coordinating Director showcased the utilization of high-resolution numerical modeling in operational forecasting in the Barbados Meteorological Service and Cayman Islands National Weather Service, as well as the capacity building workshop for NWP in operational forecasting that was organized by WMO and CMO in August 2024.

WMO Matters

3.18 The Council was informed that many activities of the CMO Headquarters continued to support regional implementation of global programmes and initiatives of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). As a core part of its mandate, the CMO engages in WMO processes at the highest levels to ensure the interests of small developing states are represented and to guide Member States in aligning their national activities with global developments.

3.19 The outcomes of the WMO Extraordinary Congress, Executive Council, Technical Commissions, and Research Board were presented under Agenda Item 5; however, several issues with immediate implications for CMO Member States were highlighted. These included implementation of the *Early Warnings for All* technical regulations, development of the *WMO Integrated Processing and Prediction System* (WIPPS) Strategy incorporating artificial intelligence, and WMO's call for broad stakeholder collaboration on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and machine learning technologies for environmental monitoring and prediction.

3.20 The Council noted that the Coordinating Director participated in the *79th Session of the WMO Executive Council* in June 2025, supported by advisors from CIMH, the CMO Headquarters, and the Cayman Islands National Weather Service. She also took part in the Extraordinary Executive Council held on 24 October following the 2025 Extraordinary Congress.

3.21 Council was reminded of the strategic importance of the CMO to the global meteorological community, with the Coordinating Director being invited to participate in three (3) WMO events during the 2025 Extraordinary Congress that were focused on the strategic future of the global weather, climate, and water enterprise. These included:

- ***High-Level Event on the EW4All Initiative***, to which the CD was invited to provide a statement in support of the WMO Secretary General's "Call to Action" for the implementation of EW4All, which noted the unique risk for SIDS, and need for the technical Support and capacity development for early warning services in Caribbean SIDS.
- ***Strengthening Partnership with the health sector by leveraging climate and weather information to safeguard public health and safety***. The Rockefeller Foundation and the Wellness Network had a dialogue with a small group of experts, including the Principal of CIMH and the Coordinating Director. The Council noted that WMO, WHO, and partners will be investing in Health-Met Desks to help National Meteorological Services become national multi-disciplinary hubs for climate risk management and adaptation.
- ***Forum on Weathering the Future: Investing in WMO's Global Impact***, which introduced the WMO Commons, which aims to support the global observation infrastructure and service delivery. The forum included participants from philanthropies; banking; insurance and finance, technology companies; the aviation, shipping and commodity sectors; humanitarian actors; development banks and other funders.

3.22 The Council was advised that the Coordinating Director continues to serve as the RA IV representative to the WMO Research Board and was selected in May 2025 as co-chair of the RA IV Research and Modelling Expert Team established by the 19th Session of RA IV. In this role, she has advanced research priorities for North America, Central America, and the Caribbean. She also co-chairs the Research Board Task Team on Early Warnings for All and serves on the Task Team for Data Exchange for the Research Sector. Additionally, as a member of the Executive Council, she

continues her service on the Young Scientist Award Committee and the WMO Staff Pension Committee.

3.23 The Council was reminded that CMO Headquarters remains active in supporting regional and national implementation of the WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS) and the WMO Information System (WIS). CMO Headquarters hosts a Caribbean node of WIS 2.0 and supports the Regional WIGOS Centre in RA IV by ensuring availability, accuracy, and timeliness of meteorological, hydrological, and climate observations from National Meteorological and Hydrometeorological Services.

3.24 The Council was reminded that CMO Headquarters, in collaboration with the British Caribbean Territories and the Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service, is responsible for data quality management for the English-speaking Caribbean within the virtual **Regional WIGOS Centre**. The RWC, which has operated in pilot mode since December 2023, includes partnership with the US National Weather Service, Environment Canada, and Costa Rica. The Science and Technology Officer, who serves as focal point, attended the 4th Global Workshop for Regional WIGOS Centres in September 2025, during which he reported on how the CMO/BCT Node has solved Members issues with surface observation data availability, timeliness and accuracy and provided one-on-one training to Members.

Development of National Meteorological Services in CMO Member States

3.25 The Council was informed that CMO Headquarters continued to support the development of the National Meteorological Service of the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI). Guidance was provided to the Director of Meteorology of the TCI Airports Authority, and CMO Headquarters participated in the national consultation for the implementation of the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP). The Coordinating Director delivered brief remarks at the official launch of CAP. Council was reminded that CMO Headquarters had organized a CAP training workshop in May 2023 and expressed satisfaction in supporting TCI's implementation of CAP as a key early warning dissemination tool. CMO Headquarters also assisted with the evaluation of candidates for a meteorological forecaster position in TCI.

3.26 The Council learned that CMO Headquarters continued to support the development of national meteorological services in the Virgin Islands (UK). Assistance was provided to the Ministry of Communications and Works through the review of Terms of Reference for the Change Manager position and associated evaluation metrics. CMO Headquarters also continued to support capacity development and compliance with WMO requirements for observation timeliness and quality within the BVI meteorological services.

Legal and Governance to support National Hydro-meteorological Services

3.27 Council Members were informed of the CMO Headquarters support for the launch of the National Hydro-meteorology Policy by the Government of Saint Lucia, which was adopted from the Model Meteorology Policy endorsed by CMO Members in 2021.

3.28 Council was urged to encourage governments to enact the draft national legislation and policy developed through the Implementing Arrangements between WMO and the CMO Headquarters and financed by the CREWS Initiative. Adoption of these instruments will provide NMHSs with the legal mandate needed to strengthen Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems; build partnerships across sectors; integrate scientific and technological advancements; update operating models; develop capacities; and meet evolving responsibilities, particularly under the Early Warnings for All initiative.

CMO Radar Network and the CMO Operational Radar Group (CORG)

3.29 The Council was informed that CMO Headquarters and the *Caribbean Development Bank* secured ***Green Climate Fund*** (GCF) approval for a project that includes upgrading the radars in Belize and Trinidad to dual-polarization systems, the current operational standard. This initiative, valued at approximately US$25 million, is described under Agenda Item 11. The Council was also reminded that the original Doppler radar network was implemented by CMO Headquarters and supported by European Union funding and CARIFORUM oversight, with the radars commissioned in 2009.

3.30 The Council learned that CMO Headquarters continued to support the operations of the CMO Radar Network through the collection and disbursement of funds to radar host countries. In 2025, CMO Headquarters assisted the Meteorological Service of Jamaica with repairs to its radar, which were completed in June 2025, in time for the hurricane season, and proved especially valuable for monitoring and forecasting Hurricane Melissa in October 2025. CMO Headquarters also convened three virtual meetings of the CMO Operational Radar Group (CORG), comprising radar technicians and IT personnel from radar host countries and CIMH, and co-chaired by representatives from the Barbados Meteorological Service and CIMH.

3.31 The Council was advised that CMO was invited to give a keynote presentation at the 41st International AMS Conference on Radar Meteorology in Toronto in August 2025. The presentation on the CORG as a community of practice supporting early warnings was well received. In June 2025, CMO Headquarters welcomed representatives from Leonardo, manufacturer of radars in Barbados, Belize, Grand Cayman, Guyana, and Trinidad, and hosted a virtual forum with radar host countries to discuss operational challenges, sustaining the radar network, spare parts access, service agreements, and emerging technologies. Further details on the radar network and CORG are provided under Agenda Item 10.

Protecting Radio Frequencies for weather, climate and earth observations

3.32 The Council was reminded that CMO Headquarters continued to support WMO and regional efforts to protect radio frequencies essential for earth observations, weather forecasting, and climate services. Council recalled that CMO Headquarters serves on the Caribbean Spectrum Management Task Force.

3.33 In May 2025, CMO Headquarters participated in a panel at the 2nd Caribbean Spectrum Management Conference in Port of Spain. The CMO expressed appreciation to the Caribbean Telecommunications Union and its Members for supporting proposals that safeguard safety-related radiocommunication services, and encouraged Members to work with national spectrum authorities to protect frequencies allocated to meteorological and earth observation activities. A major WMO priority since the 2023 World Radiocommunication Conference has been the potential impact of new International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT) spectrum allocations on satellite measurements of sea-surface temperature, with studies showing that interference could extend up to 2,000 km from the coast.

3.34 The Council was advised that such interference would degrade critical satellite data used to forecast tropical storm development and rapid intensification. Sea-surface temperature observations were crucial for anticipating Hurricane Melissa's evolution, including its 36-hour period at Category 5 intensity over areas of high ocean heat content, which informed early warnings for Jamaica and neighbouring islands. As satellites provide the primary atmospheric and oceanic observations across the Atlantic and Caribbean, and rely on weak natural emissions with no viable alternatives, the CMO continues to advocate for protecting radio frequencies used for earth observations and for satellite links that relay essential data for weather, climate, and environmental monitoring. The Chair noted the importance of radio frequency coordination as a critical topic for action across the region.

CARICOM Related Activities, including Technical Visits to Brazil

3.35 Council was informed that CMO Headquarters participated in several CARICOM-related activities, including provision of scientific information to the two CARICOM Preparatory Meetings for COP30 of the UNFCCC and attendance at the Opening of the Heads of Government Conference in Barbados on 19 February.

3.36 The Council was reminded that CMO also provided briefings to the Council, the CARICOM Secretariat, and the Heads of CARICOM Institutions on the risks and impacts of the evolving policies of a key global and regional partner to the operational hydro-meteorological services in the Caribbean. The briefings provided options for mitigating the risks, which are being incorporated into the Strategic Plan of the Organization.

3.37 The Council also learned that the Government of Brazil extended an invitation for technical visits by four CARICOM institutions from 9–13 June 2025, ahead of the **Brazil–Caribbean Summit** held in Brasilia on 13 June 2025. The delegation comprised senior representatives from CDEMA, CIMH, CMO Headquarters, and The UWI Seismic Research Centre. The CARICOM team met with several Brazilian institutions to learn about their programmes and to identify potential areas of collaboration with the Caribbean. Details of the meeting were provided in the Coordinating Director's report (CMC69, Doc 3a).

3.38 These CARICOM organizations, led by CDEMA, have been developing project concepts under proposed complementary agreements to the Technical Cooperation Agreement between Brazil and CARICOM. The areas of collaboration identified for action during 2026-2030 are:

- comprehensive disaster risk management;
- integrated fire management;
- geosciences, with a focus on geophysics and seismology; and
- prevention and response to petroleum-sector accidents.

3.39 The CMO Headquarters Finance and Administrative Officer, Mrs. Natalie Araujo-O'Brien, continued to serve on the CARICOM RBM Leadership Group and the CCAT Finance Committee.

Marine Meteorology, Ocean Science, and Services

3.40 The Council was informed that CMO Headquarters continued to advocate for the inclusion of marine observations in the Global Basic Observation Network (GBON) and for their support through the UN ***Systematic Observations Financing Facility*** **(SOFF)**. In this context, CMO Headquarters participated in the regional SOFF implementation workshop held on 5–7 May in Kingston, Jamaica, with involvement from beneficiary states, implementing partners, and national meteorological services who serve as peer advisors to the beneficiary services in the Caribbean. The Council also learned that CMO Headquarters facilitated discussions between the Barbados Meteorological Service and the NOAA Earth-System Modeling Center on testing the assimilation of Barbados' marine observations into NOAA's weather forecasting models.

Headquarters Matters: Staff Terminal Benefit Fund

3.41 The Council was reminded that the CMO Headquarters had previously been advised that its Staff Terminal Benefit Fund was required to be registered with the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago. In 2025, the Central Bank confirmed that such registration was not required.

Strategic Objectives

3.42 The Council was informed that an update on the strategic planning processes of the CMO Headquarters and CIMH will be presented under Agenda Item 12, and was asked to note that planned activities will strengthen National Meteorological and Hydrometeorological Services; enhance early warning systems and disaster risk reduction; support implementation of the WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS); advance regional priorities in operational research, marine meteorology, and ocean services; and contribute to the Global Basic Observation Network (GBON) and the free exchange of core and recommended data.

Reduction of risks to operational weather, climate, and water services in NMHSs of CMO Members

3.43 The Council also noted that CMO Headquarters has been taking steps to reduce risks to the operations of National Meteorological and Hydrometeorological Services of CMO Members, in response to reduced financing of a key regional and global partner, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The Coordinating Director outlined the risks and impacts and proposed various mitigation options in briefing documents shared with the Caribbean Meteorological Council, the CARICOM Secretariat, Chair of the Heads of Government, and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). CMO Headquarters organized meetings with the National Meteorological and Hydrometeorological Services and CIMH to understand any impacts on their operations and to share updates.

3.44 Council was informed of support sought from other regional and international organizations, such as European National Meteorological Services with territories and interests in the Caribbean and the European Center for Medium-range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF). The latter has been providing their model products to WMO Members freely and also supporting the WMO Hurricane Regional Warning System and WMO Severe Weather Forecasting Programme Caribbean. The CMO Headquarters had facilitated provision of ECWMF high resolution model products to Barbados and Belize for integrating with their locally-run forecast models. Consultations were also held with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the regional Met Panel members including representative of the US Federal Aviation Authority. CMO Headquarters also briefed the *International Maritime Organization* (IMO), which partners with the WMO and National Meteorological Services for the Safety of Lives at Sea (SOLAS).

Other Matters

3.45 The Council was informed that as of 31 October 2025, financial contributions received from Member States amounted to 88% of the approved 2025 contributions and 14% of arrears from previous years, with additional details to be discussed under Agenda Item 6(c). CMO Headquarters continued supporting the CIMH in implementing the Intra-ACP Climate Services and Related Applications (ClimSA) Programme by serving on the Project Steering Committee and participating in associated workshops and activities; further information on ClimSA was provided in the Principal's report.

3.46 Council also noted the list of meetings and events attended by CMO Headquarters since CMC67, reflecting a particularly heavy schedule of CMO, WMO, and UNDRR-related activities, many of which focused on disaster risk reduction and Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems. The Council encouraged the Headquarters to continue the practice of congratulating and sensitizing newly appointed Ministers and Permanent Secretaries responsible for National Meteorological Services to the role of the CMO.

3.47 The Council was further advised of the CMO Headquarters continuous encouragement and facilitation of the participation of National Meteorological and Hydrometeorological Services and the CIMH in scientific, technical, and training events, particularly those sponsored by the WMO and its partners that carry special relevance for the region. The Council noted the list of events that the Coordinating Director facilitated from November 2024 to November 2025 (CMC69, Doc 3(a), Annex III).

3.48 The Coordinating Director's report informed the Council of the upcoming retirement of ***Mr John Tibbetts***, Director-General of Cayman Islands National Weather Service. The report lauded his contributions and achievements, including recent modernization of the Cayman Islands National Weather Service.

3.49 The Council:

(i) **Noted** the activities and issues concerning the CMO Headquarters in 2025, in particular, the approval of a major project by the Green Climate Fund to scale-up early warning systems and upgrade the radars in Belize and Trinidad and Tobago.

(ii) **Noted** the engagement with disaster risk reduction and early warning systems; radio frequency coordination to protect meteorological observations and their transmission, and applications; as well as those issues concerning the wider Caribbean Community.

(iii) **Discussed** the impact of the 2025 hurricane season, other high impact weather, on the region and, in particular, the impact on CMO Member States.

(iv) **Noted** the progress on the development of the CMO Headquarters Strategic Planning for 2025-2029, which is being revised to integrate the new GCF project.

(v) **Noted** the efforts of the CMO Headquarters in developing strategic partnerships for building capacity for operational services in the Caribbean.

(vi) **Noted** the opportunities for technical exchange with Brazilian entities following the Technical Visits by CARICOM institutions, including CMO Headquarters and CIMH.

(vii) **Noted** the promotion of the contributions of National Meteorological and Hydrometeorological Services and the CMO Operational Radar Group.

(viii) **Supported** the commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the establishment of the British Caribbean Meteorological Service.

3(b) CIMH Principal's Report

3.50 The Principal made a presentation to the Council on the activities of the *Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology* (CIMH). The presentation is available for downloading at this link. While the report contained many of the essential elements contained in Principal's Report to the Board of Governors, there are some differences as the report is intended for a less technical audience and has a shorter allotted time. Council was informed of reports from the Sections of the Institute, which were made available as links in the presentation of the Principal.

3.51 The report's Foreward provided (i) a high-level summary of the work performed by the CIMH during FY2025, including (ii) a focus on developing solutions to complex problems that include science and its linkages with social science, finance, social development and foreign policy; (iii) building multi-hazard and early warning networks and platforms that align with the *UN Early Warnings for All* Initiative (EW4All) and *UN Loss and Damage* programme; and (iv) planned exploration of climate attribution science and geoengineering.

3.52 The Council was asked to note the importance of developing risk management strategies for the CIMH. The Principal noted that CIMH had adjusted its strategic planning in response to the uncertainties accessing resources from US government institutions following the change in the US federal administration. The Council was informed of the Institute's efforts to mitigate the risks by (i) pivoting towards other sources and scientific partnerships and (ii) developing more aggressive revenue generation streams and business models. A number of examples of potential partners were cited in the report, including the World Bank.

3.53 Also brought to the attention of the Council was the upcoming loss of highly-skilled staff due to retirement and separation and the need for CIMH succession planning.

3.54 The Council was reminded of the value for money proposition, especially of the National Meteorological Services. If those services are valued then CIMH will also be valued and supported.

3.55 Council noted that the CIMH was focusing on the Caribbean as a region of cascading multiple natural hazards that are connected through multiple sectors, with attended risks and socio-economic-impacts. A graphical presentation of Caribbean climate hazards for each month dramatically illustrated to the Council, the importance of climate impacts to the region throughout the year.

3.56 The Council was presented with examples of the CIMH's support to Jamaica related to Hurricane Melissa, including numerical modelling and potential sector impacts. The analyses indicated the exposure of the different populations to various hazards as well as sector impacts. The Council noted the Principal's participation in a high-level delegation of regional institutions that visited Jamaica to assess the country's needs following the passage of Melissa. The delegation, which was led by the Executive Director of CDEMA, met with the Prime Minister of Jamaica, Dr. the Most Honourable Andrew Holness and toured impacted areas and facilities in the north of the island.

3.57 The Council was also reminded of CIMH participation in the CARICOM-Brazil technical visits, which was led by CDEMA and included the CMO Headquarters and UWI Seismic Research Centre. The CARICOM delegation met with several Brazilian institutions to understand their capabilities and to discuss how the Caribbean institutions could develop collaborations with Brazilian institutions.

3.58 The CARICOM and Brazilian institutions identified four areas of collaboration to be actioned during 2026 to 2030 under the Brazil-CARICOM complementary cooperative agreements:

- Risk mitigation, prevention and emergency response in the petroleum-sector, with a focus on environmental incidents;
- geosciences, with a focus on geophysics and seismology;
- civil protection and defence and comprehensive disaster risk management; and
- integrated fire management;

3.59 The Council noted that a number of potential areas of collaboration were identified, including a proposal by CIMH of a joint Caribbean/Brazil research and development programme aimed at launching a satellite (CARICOM 1) to support environmental monitoring of the land and ocean over the Caribbean and northern South America, including the Amazon basin. Further details on the organizations and meetings held were provided in the Principal's report and the Coordinating Director's report.

3.60 The Council was reminded of CIMH's focus on the marine environment as reported in 2024 and the Institute having initiated a collaboration with Rutgers University, IOCaribe, and the University of the Virgin Islands to better understand the ocean. The *Eastern Caribbean Ocean Glider Initiative* was presented as an exemplar for the future and how to entrain young people into science and engineering. The Principal noted the excitement of high school students involved in the deployment and retrieval of an ocean glider that was developed by Rutgers University. During 15 July to 15 October

2025, the glider sailed between Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, and Guyana, descending to 1000m while measuring temperature, salinity, dissolved oxygen and other properties of the ocean.

3.61 Council was reminded of the CIMH Marine and Forecast Support Centre that was approved by the Board in 2022. The Principal noted growing interest in IOCaribe for CIMH to take a stronger role in oil spill detection, monitoring and modeling as the facility in Curacao has closed.

3.62 The Council was updated on the CIMH's support to the water sector, including working with the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association and its members; serving on the Board of the Barbados Water Authority (BWA), providing geophysical investigations, modeling guidance and decision support system for the BWA. Council was reminded that CIMH is leading the implementation of the Barbados Water Academy, which could be a model for other countries. The Principal cited the learning opportunity provided to students from Lodge School during a site visit to a pumping station and the resulting internships of two students with the BWA. It was also noted that CIMH had been approached about facilitating another Caribbean Water Conference in 2026, following the successful conference held in 2023. Council was also asked to note the Institute's work with other international organizations with respect to water matters, including the IAEA.

3.63 The Council was reminded that the socio-economic health of CARICOM Members relies on access to accurate and timely weather and climate information provided through partnerships with leading scientific organizations in the United States, such as NOAA, NASA, and USGS. With the change in the US federal administration in 2025, these organizations faced reduction in finance and curtailing of their operations. CIMH proposed a strong pivot to Europe to the CARICOM Heads of Government meeting in February 2025 and travelled to Europe to advance partnerships. The Principal reported on collaborations initiated with the ECMWF and the subsequent visit of an ECMWF expert to CIMH in September 2025, to train staff and interns on the use of ECMWF models, including the AI forecast model.

3.64 The Principal also report to the Council on meeting with EU Directorates in Brussels to explore technical collaborations and access to the EU Copernicus resources. The EU has since agreed to support an initiative entitled, "Stormwatch", an EU-Caribbean Partnership in Weather Forecasting, Climate Services and Disaster Risk Management (USD1.5 million). Further details on the new initiative may be reviewed in the Principal's report.

3.65 The Council was reminded of the ongoing CIMH partnership with the Max Planck Institute for Meteorology and affiliated German universities and the educational opportunities that have been provided to Caribbean students through this partnership. The Principal reported that two UWI meteorology graduates were now postgraduate students at the University of Hamburg. Other internships were completed and a new technical exchange is expected with the German supercomputing group on high resolution modeling of Hurricane Melissa. Council was also informed of other collaborations being explored, such as with Ludovika University of Public Service in Hungary.

3.66 The Council was informed of the first Caribbean Science Session held on the margins of the 105th Annual Meeting of the American Meteorological Society (AMS), where Caribbean scientists and others involved in research in the Caribbean shared their work, experiences, and opportunities. The event is expected to be held annually.

3.67 The Council noted that CIMH hosted the 4th Caribbean Night Event at the 105th Annual AMS meeting, during which **Ambassador Carlos Fuller** of Belize, **Mrs Margaret Pestiana-Jeffers** of CIMH, and **Dr. John Lee**, a pioneer in Caribbean meteorology, were honoured for exceptional contribution to the development of climate and weather sciences, and related industries in the Caribbean.

3.68 The Council was asked to note the ongoing funded projects of the CIMH:

- Intra-ACP Climate Services and Related Applications (ClimSA) – ACP/EU
- Strengthening Climate Resilient Health Systems in the Caribbean - EU/PAHO
- CREWS marine project - World Bank and WMO
- Enhancing Climate Resilience in CARIFORUM countries (Intra ACP Global Climate Change Alliance Plus or GCCCA+ Regional Programme - ACP/EU, CCCCC
- Resilient Environment and Agricultural Caribbean Habitats (REACH) - Italian Foreign Ministry/FAO (Status is still to be resolved between the Government of Italy and FAO)

3.69 Finally, the Council noted the upcoming projects of the CIMH:

- About to be implemented with support from the Caribbean Development Bank (~USD1.5 Million): Strengthening marine observations and modeling in the Caribbean; enhancing air quality monitoring and disaster risk reduction and
- In development with the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (USD50 million): Enhancing climate services and climate resilience in the Caribbean

3.70 Following the report, the Council deliberated on national commitment to National Meteorological and Hydrometeorological Services and ensuring that the weather and climate services at the national level and the CIMH are elevated to the level of the Heads of Government. The Chair noted that Heads of Government need to be sensitized to the importance of National Meteorological and Hydrometeorological Services and to understand the value of their data and information to national development decisions. The Chair also noted the need for legislation and policy to govern the National Meteorological Services.

3.71 **The Council**

(i) **Accepted** the Principal's Report.

3(c) The CIMH's Board of Governors Report

3.41 The document comprises the decisions made at the 62nd Meeting of the Board of Governors (BOG-LXI) during the 17-18 November 2025. The Board of Governors (BOG) at the 62nd meeting made the following decisions and recommendations:

With reference to Matters Arising from the 61st CIMH BOG, Nov 2024:

- The Board **recommended** that activities undertaken by the CIMH during the American Meteorological Society (AMS) be brought forward into the Principal's report under the AMS heading. This is in addition to those activities being captured in the Meteorology Section report.

- The BOG **agreed** that the Summary of Conclusions of the Board of Governors meeting should be "adopted" by the Board rather than "noted", to reflect that the Report was not only seen by the members, but that the content was agreed to.

With reference to the Principal's Report:

- The BOG **recommended** that a virtual meeting be convened within three (3) months to discuss the CIMH's mandate. This would be in collaboration with the CMO Headquarters.

With reference to Document 4.2 – Review of CMC-LXVII:

- The BOG **agreed** that decisions taken by the BOG and submitted to the Council by the Chairperson should thereafter be circulated to the BOG, informing of the status of implementation of said decisions, well in advance of the next BOG meeting.

With reference to Document 4.3 – Finances to the Institute:

- The BOG **agreed** to recommend to the Council that Jamaica's contributions for FY2026 be deferred, given the devastation of that Member State by Hurricane Melissa. The BOG noted that it was not a case of debt forgiveness but rather a deferral of subvention

With reference to Document 4.4 – Previous Decisions of the Board of Governors:

- The BOG **discussed** the status of the Finance Committee (FC) and agreed that there is a need for a functioning Finance Committee that can advise the BOG on the financial management of the CIMH.
    - The BOG **noted** that the Board of Governors should not be rubberstamping financial reports without an understanding of the information contained therein.

With reference to Document 4.4 – Previous Decisions of the Board of Governors: …(continued).

- The BOG **agreed** that the Finance Committee should be provided with a Terms of Reference (TOR), outlining its roles and responsibilities, prior to the meeting of the Council.
        - The Member States that volunteered to be on the Financial Committee, pursuant to receiving the TOR for review, were the Cayman Islands, Grenada (after discussions were held to confirm) and Montserrat. Guyana volunteered during the Council session on the 20th of November.
- The BOG further **agreed** that the Secretary to the Board of Governors will be the Secretary to the Finance Committee.

With reference to Document 4.5 – The Institute's Pension Scheme:

- The BOG **accepted** the Audited Financial Statements for FY2024 for the CIMH Pension Scheme.

With reference to Document 4.6 – Statement of the Accounts for FY2024:

- The BOG **accepted** the Audited Financial Statements for FY2024.

With reference to Document 4.9 – Host Country Agreement:

- The BOG **recommended** that the Principal engage the Ministry of Home Affairs and Information to address the long-standing matter of the Host Country Agreement for the CIMH. The Chairperson informed the BOG that the matter needs to be returned to the table for discussion.

With reference to CIMH Strategic Planning – 2025 to 2029:

- The BOG **requested** that the CIMH write to the Heads of Government (HOGs) informing them of the formulation of the Institute's Strategic Plan. Governments are to be invited to advise on priority areas that should be reflected in the Strategic Plan. It is expected that this approach

will provide greater clarity to the CIMH on national priorities and the role the CIMH is expected to play in helping Member States achieve their objectives.

(The Principal indicated that the first draft will be processed in the 1st part of 2026, and the document should be completed by 2029 if there are no significant matters that lead to a setback. Risk mitigation will also be included.)

With reference to Document 4.7 – Staffing Matters:

- The BOG **noted** the need for the CIMH to fill the vacant Hydrogeologist position by August 1, 2026.
- The BOG **noted** that the Chief of the Applied Meteorology and Climatology Section is currently eligible for retirement; therefore:
    - The position may have to be filled in 2026
    - A person with the appropriate replacement skillset will have to be hired

With reference to Document 4.7 – Staffing Matters:
…(continued)

- The BOG **requested** that the Principal prepare a report on the advantages of the proposed merger of the Information Technology (IT) Group and the Instruments Section to form a new Technology Section.
- The BOG **requested** the Principal to finalise for consideration the proposed approach to finance the new positions specified in the Ashthom Consulting Inc. report on the positions needed for the management, administration and fiduciary systems at CIMH.

With reference to Document 4.7 – Staffing Matters:

- The BOG **requested** the Principal complete the update of Document 4.7 Staffing Matters by December 30, 2025.

With reference to Document 4.8 – Security:
- The BOG **noted** the report and **requested** that the Principal complete remaining outstanding matters related to security by January 15, 2026.

With reference to Document 5.1 – Estimates of Expenditure for the Financial Year 2026:

The BOG **agreed** that:

- The Estimates of Expenditure of **USD X,XXX,XXX (BBD X,XXX,XXX)** for FY2026 be presented to the Council for approval. The increase was 5.9 percent relative to the FY2025 Estimates of Expenditure.

- The BOG **requested** that an infrastructure/maintenance plan be developed for the CIMH within the next six months. This plan should provide information on the works to be implemented at the Institute within the next 3-5 years and the associated costs, which will be reflected in the CIMH's Budget, as well as the costs to be provided from external sources.

With reference to Any Other Business:

- The BOG **noted** that the current stipend of USD 1,000 per month provided to students at the CIMH is too low. The BOG therefore **agreed** that the CIMH should submit a proposal to increase the student stipend to reflect the increased cost of living.

The Principal indicated that he would submit the proposal the following week.

3.42 The Council

Adopted the decisions emanating from the 62nd BOG meeting.

4 STATUS OF ACTION FROM THE PREVIOUS SESSION

4.41 Following every session of the Council, the CMO Headquarters produces a single document containing an Action Sheet that allows the Council to follow-up on the actions taken on the decisions of its previous session, and to discuss any further actions if required. A summary of the decisions of CMC67 was presented to Council, giving the status of actions taken to implement these decisions of Council, and indicating areas where action as proposed had not materialized.

4.42 Council was informed of decisions from the previous meeting that would be reported on in this Session.

4.43 The **Council:**

(i) **Noted** the Status of Actions from CMC67.

5. SPECIAL WMO ISSUES

5 (A) OUTCOMES/HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2025 WMO EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS (CG-EXT 2025), 79TH SESSION OF THE WMO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (EC-79), AND THE EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (EC-EXT2025)

5.1 The Council noted the active participation of CMO representatives in the **79th Session of the WMO Executive Council (EC-79)**, including the three CMO experts serving on the Council: Dr. Arlene Laing, Permanent Representative (PR) of the *British Caribbean Territories*; Dr. Garvin Cummings, PR of Guyana; and Mr Evan Thompson, PR of Jamaica and President of WMO Regional Association IV, serving as an ex-officio Council member. Dr Laing was accompanied by advisors Dr David Farrell, Hydrological Adviser to the British Caribbean Territories, and Mr Kenneth Kerr, Science and Technology Officer at CMO Headquarters.

5.2 The Council also noted that Dr Laing led the delegation of the *British Caribbean Territories* to the **2025 WMO Extraordinary Congress** (Cg-Ext2025), joined by Dr Farrell, Mr Kerr, and Ms Nardia Magloire, WMO Regional Association IV Youth Focal Point, from the Virgin Islands (UK).

5.3 The Council was asked to take special note of the impact of **reduced contributions to the WMO budget in 2025**, which required the WMO Secretariat to revise its budget for 2026–2027, the final two years of the current strategic period. The Secretariat held online briefings to inform Members of the adjustments made by the Secretary-General, including a reorganization of the Secretariat structure and a reduction in staff, while noting that these changes are not expected to affect service to Members. To better understand the implications of these transformations, the 2025 Extraordinary Executive Council established a Task Force to develop recommendations for adjustments to the WMO Strategic and Operating Plans for 2026–2027, in light of the organization's ongoing liquidity challenges. The Executive Council, through Resolution 4/1, also encouraged Members to make voluntary contributions in addition to their assessed contributions whenever possible.

5.4 The Council was informed that the World Meteorological Congress adopted amendments to the Technical Regulations (WMO-No. 49) to include new requirements for early warning services, and that this was subsequent to the 79th Executive Council's endorsement of the procedure followed for advancing these amendments. CMO Members were requested to prioritize the implementation of these technical regulations at the national level, to ensure the engagement of national disaster risk management stakeholders, and to contribute to WMO's monitoring of early warning system progress.

5.5 The Council noted that EC-79 provided policy guidance on incorporating non-traditional data sources, including those using artificial intelligence (AI), into the **WMO Integrated Processing and Prediction System (WIPPS)**, as outlined in Resolution 4.1. A new **Joint Advisory Group on Artificial Intelligence** was established to accelerate the integration of AI into meteorological and hydrological operations, with particular emphasis on strengthening WIPPS capabilities.

5.6 Council was informed that the Extraordinary Congress subsequently approved Resolution 2.3(1)/1, adopting a new WIPPS Strategy incorporating AI to enhance forecasting, strengthen early warning systems, and bridge capacity gaps in developing countries, including Small Island Developing States. WMO Members were invited to develop pilot projects aligned with the WIPPS AI Roadmap, participate in related training and knowledge-sharing activities, contribute to the WIPPS Trust Fund, and collaborate with public, private, and academic sectors. The Extraordinary Congress also issued a WMO Call to All Stakeholders to collaborate on the development of AI and machine learning technologies for environmental monitoring and prediction, emphasizing scientific integrity, ethical standards, and the authoritative role of NMHSs.

5.7 The Council accepted that NMHSs will need to build technical capacity in AI/ML, data science, and digital infrastructure, and that CMO Headquarters has been advocating for the Caribbean to be included as a region for AI-related pilot activities. Council noted that the WMO Infrastructure Commission's plan for WIPPS AI integration includes five pilot projects now underway: the AI for Nowcasting Pilot Project, Data-Driven Weather Forecasting for All, ECMWF/WMO AI Weather Quest, Multi-model Integrated Forecasting and Application, and the Global Riverine Flood Prediction Pilot Study.

5.8 The Council recalled that the 19th WMO Congress approved a new **Global Greenhouse Gas Watch (G3W)** for systematic monitoring of greenhouse gas emissions, with its implementation plan endorsed by the Infrastructure Commission in April 2024 and adopted by the Executive Council in June 2024. Council noted that, in October 2025, the Extraordinary Congress approved a new resolution advancing G3W by integrating its components into existing programmes such as the **WMO World Weather Watch** and **Global Atmosphere Watch** (GAW). The initiative leverages WMO's long-standing experience in global atmospheric observations and includes components such as comprehensive surface and satellite-based measurements of carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide; prior emissions estimates; advanced Earth system models; and data assimilation systems. The Council noted that G3W has implications for Caribbean NMHSs, which currently lack the instrumentation and technical capacity for greenhouse gas measurement and analysis, and will therefore need to coordinate closely with national environmental and energy agencies to share emissions data with the WMO's Greenhouse Gas Data Hub.

5.9 The Council was informed that EC-79 approved Resolution 7, reaffirming WMO's neutral position on weather modification and clarifying that the statement is neither policy nor guidance but a reaffirmation of principles requiring scientific rigor, clear hypotheses, robust evaluation, and transparency. The resolution urges Members to exercise caution, adhere to ethical standards, evaluate potential impacts, and engage civil society when undertaking weather modification activities.

5.10 Council noted that EC-79 also issued recommendations concerning procedures for WMO elections and appointments, including the appointment of the Secretary-General.

5.11 The Council noted that the 79th Executive Council awarded the 69th IMO Prize to Prof. Gerhard Adrian, retired former President of WMO, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to numerical weather prediction, international cooperation, and data policy reform, including his leadership during the adoption of the WMO Unified Data Policy.

5.12 The Council was informed that WMO established the role of Youth Focal Point for each Regional Association and that ***Ms Nardia Magloire*** of the Virgin Islands (UK), nominated by the Coordinating Director, was selected as the first **Youth Focal Point for RA IV**. Ms Magloire contributed to the development of the WMO Youth Action Plan submitted to EC-79 and subsequently to the Extraordinary Congress for approval. The Council further noted that she joined the British Caribbean Territories delegation to the Extraordinary Congress as a virtual participant, contributing to revisions requested during the session, after which the Youth Action Plan was approved by the Congress.

5(b) Highlights of the 19th Session of RA IV, 27-29 March 2025

5.13 The Council noted the outcomes of the **19th Session of WMO Regional Association IV**, held from 27-29 March 2025, including the **re-election of Mr Evan Thompson**, Principal Director of the Meteorological Service of Jamaica and Permanent Representative of Jamaica with WMO, as **President of RA IV**, an achievement welcomed by the CMO for ensuring continued strong Caribbean representation and advocacy. The session also re-elected Ms Luz Graciela de Calzadilla, Director of the Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology of Panama, as Vice President of RA IV. Several officers from CMO Member States were selected for key leadership roles, including:

- Mr Peter Clarke (Jamaica) as Regional Hydrological Adviser and Chair of the Hydrological and Water Coordination Panel;
- Mr Kerry Powery (Cayman Islands, British Caribbean Territories) as Chair of the Infrastructure Committee;
- Mr Kenneth Kerr (CMO Headquarters, British Caribbean Territories) as Vice-chair of the Services Committee; and
- Mrs Arlene Aaron-Morrison (Trinidad and Tobago) as Vice-chair of the Hurricane Committee.

Extraordinary Session of the WMO Weather, Climate, Hydrological, Marine and Related Environmental Services and Applications (SERCOM-Ext2025)

5.14 The Council was informed that the Extraordinary Session of the **WMO Weather, Climate, Hydrological, Marine and Related Environmental Services and Application**s (SERCOM-Ext2025) was held virtually from 18-20 March 2025 and attended by ***Dr Arlene Laing*** as Principal Delegate of the British Caribbean Territories, supported by Mr Kenneth Kerr and Mr Haley Anderson of CMO Headquarters, and Ms Kathy Ann Caesar of the CIMH. The session approved amendments to the Technical Regulations introducing a new Section 6 on Early Warning Services and adopted several measures designed to enhance the provision and use of tailored services in support of Early Warnings for All, climate adaptation, and sustainable development. It also approved Updated Guidance for the implementation of the WMO Cataloguing of Hazardous Weather, Climate, Water and Related Environmental Events (WMO-CHE), noting its alignment with Resolution 12 (Cg-18) and recalling that the **Severe Weather Case Database for the Caribbean**, developed by CIMH in collaboration with CMO Headquarters, already adheres to the WMO-CHE methodology.

5.15 The Council also noted the CMO experts in SERCOM listed below:

a) Standing Committee on Services for Aviation (SC-AVI);
Co-Chair, Expert Team: Ms Kathy Ann Caesar/BCT

b) Standing Committee on Services for Agriculture (SC-AGR);
Expert Teams: Ms Shontelle Stoute/BCT, Ms Shanea Young/Belize, Ms Arlene Aaron-Morrison/Trinidad & Tobago
c) Standing Committee on Climate Services (SC-CLI);
Expert Team: Mr Adrian Trotman/BCT
d) Study Group on Integrated Health Services (SG-HEA);
Dr Roche Mahon/BCT

National Focal Point for Severe Weather Forecasting Programme
Dr Arlene Laing/BCT

National Marine Services Focal Point
Mr Dale Destin/Antigua and Barbuda, Ms Carol Subrath-Ali/Trinidad & Tobago, Eron McPherson/Guyana

National Focal Point for Climate Information Systems
Mr Komalchand Dhiram/Guyana, Mr Kaidar Kissoon, Trinidad & Tobago, Ms Kerrie Forbes/BCT, Ms Annie Carrette Joseph/Dominica

Business Continuity Management Task Team
Mr Haley Anderson/BCT

WMO Commission for Observation, Infrastructure, and Information Systems (INFCOM-3)

5.16 The Council was reminded that WMO has intensified global efforts to protect radio frequency bands essential for weather forecasting, climate monitoring, environmental services, and life-saving early warnings, and that CMO Headquarters has been actively engaged in this work since reporting to the 60th Council in 2020. In 2025, CMO Headquarters was invited to join the Caribbean Spectrum Management Task Force led by the Caribbean Telecommunications Union, which has developed an Action Plan and convened three times during the year. In May, the Science and Technology Officer participated in the 2nd Caribbean Spectrum Management Conference and a meeting of the Task Force. The Council was further informed that WMO issued its Preliminary Position on the World Radiocommunication Conference 2027 agenda, with key issues relevant to Caribbean meteorological operations shared with regional stakeholders and regulators.

5.17 The Council agreed to encourage NMHSs to use WMO's positions to engage national spectrum authorities and advocate for the protection of meteorological frequency bands vital for public safety and operational continuity. CMO Headquarters also coordinated with regional telecommunications experts to review the revised WMO/ITU Handbook *Use of Radio Spectrum for Meteorology (WMO-No. 1197)*, developed jointly by the WMO Expert Team on Radio-Frequency Coordination and the ITU-R Study Group 7. The Council was reminded that Caribbean decision-makers and regulators must remain up to date and well-informed on the critical importance of these protected spectrum bands for operational forecasting, climate and environmental monitoring, and research in weather, climate, water, and related environmental sciences.

WMO Research Board

5.18 The Council was informed that the Coordinating Director continues to serve as the WMO RA IV Co-Chair of the newly established Expert Team for Research and Earth-system Modelling, and as the RA IV Representative to the WMO Research Board. In this capacity, she helped organize a webinar on "Updates on Research, Modelling and AI for Weather Forecasting in North America, Central America and the Caribbean," held on 29 October 2025, which attracted more than 500 participants from around the world and highlighted advances in machine learning and artificial intelligence applications in numerical weather prediction and forecasting operations.

5.19 The Council was also reminded that the Coordinating Director co-chairs, with Prof. Jim Hurrell of Colorado State University, the WMO Research Board Task Team on Early Warnings for All, which

met twice in 2025. The Task Team is examining priority physical and social science research required to strengthen multi-hazard early warning institutions and systems, and to identify emerging and future hazards, including compound and cascading events, that are not yet fully reflected in the WMO Roadmap. At its second meeting, King's College London presented its study on "The International Relations of Tropical Storms in the Caribbean," aligning closely with the Task Team's objectives. The Council further noted that the Research Board Task Team on Social Science and Geophysical Science Integration completed its report on integrating both disciplines into research-to-operations pathways within WMO research programmes.

5(c) UN Early Warnings for All

5.20 The Council recalled that the WMO Congress **Resolution 4 (Cg-19)** affirms the UN global initiative, led jointly by WMO and the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, to ensure that every person on Earth is protected by multi-hazard early warning systems by 2027. Early Warnings for All (EW4All) remains the highest priority of the 19th World Meteorological Congress, with the WMO Executive Action Plan 2023-2027 launched by UN Secretary-General António Guterres at COP27 and subsequently approved by Parties.

5.21 At the Extraordinary Congress in October 2025, the WMO Secretary-General issued a Call to Action urging accelerated implementation of EW4All, which Members endorsed as essential to achieving universal early warning coverage. The Council also noted that the UN Secretary-General participated in a special session of the Congress, reiterating the life-saving value of robust early warning systems. The four pillars of people-centred multi-hazard early warning systems: disaster risk knowledge; detection, observation, and forecasting; warning dissemination and communication; and preparedness and response, were highlighted, with WMO leading Pillar 2 and supporting the other three in coordination with global partners. A global EW4All Dashboard has been established to track progress on indicators across all pillars and related disaster-risk governance frameworks.

5.22 The Council was further informed of key contributions made by the CMO Headquarters in 2025 in support of EW4All, including co-organizing national Common Alerting Protocol workshops; participating in the WMO RA IV Hurricane Committee and contributing to its Operational Plan; co-chairing the Severe Weather Forecasting Programme Eastern Caribbean Management Team and advancing the Severe Weather Operational Plan and regional severe weather case database; participating actively in the Regional Early Warning System Consortium led by CDEMA; and expanding public engagement through increased lightning safety awareness, including a regional video contest for schools.

5(d) WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS)

Implementation of Global Basic Observation Network (GBON)

5.23 The Council recognized that high-quality, timely observations are essential for accurate weather forecasting, and noted the continued efforts of CMO Headquarters to support Member States in meeting WIGOS and Global Basic Observing Network (GBON) requirements to enable real-time data sharing for rapidly evolving hazards and long-term climate analysis, research, and risk knowledge. The Council was reminded that GBON, designed, defined, and monitored at the global level, aims to ensure the availability and international exchange of fundamental surface observation data that underpin all weather, climate, and water services, with direct, positive impacts on forecast quality and public safety, and that its implementation began on 1 January 2023.

5.24 Council further recalled that the *Systematic Observations Financing Facility* (SOFF) is a financing and technical mechanism to support the *Global Basic Observing Network* (GBON). The

SOFF, which was formally launched at UNFCCC COP26, will allow developing countries to deliver their contribution to GBON. SOFF investment focuses on long-term observational data exchange as a measure of success. The intent is to support operating and maintenance costs of a country's basic observation infrastructure through results-based finance. It will **produce local benefits while delivering on a global public good – that of better global weather forecasts and climate information for all nations**. SOFF is a UN fund, co-created by WMO, UNDP and UNEP to close the most severe gaps, with priority given to Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

5.25 More than 65 partner institutions are to provide systematic, standardized, and coordinated support to beneficiary countries to achieve compliance with the GBON. Belize, Grenada, and Guyana are the CMO Members in the first batch of beneficiaries of the SOFF. Barbados, Dominica, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago are in the third batch.

5.26 The Council was informed that Belize is currently the only CMO Member State to have entered the Investment Phase of the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF), while Antigua and Barbuda and Guyana remain in the Investment Phase Pipeline. The Investment Phase enables countries to close GBON-related infrastructure and capacity gaps, while the Compliance Phase supports the long-term sustainability of GBON operations and ensures access to improved weather forecasting and climate analysis products. The Council also noted that CMO Headquarters has continued to support SOFF implementation across Member States by coordinating with peer advisor institutions, advising Members during the Readiness Phase, and sharing regional guidance with implementing partners, including the World Food Programme and the Inter-American Development Bank.

5.27 The Council was further asked to note that CMO Headquarters has been strongly advocating for a Regional Approach to SOFF implementation to improve efficiency and maximize the use of existing infrastructure and cooperative arrangements. Given the Caribbean's established upper-air network, which provides regional coverage without requiring an upper-air station in every country, CMO Headquarters has been working with WMO, NOAA, and SOFF beneficiary States to determine an optimal strategy for closing observational and data-exchange gaps. A regional SOFF workshop was held from 5–7 May 2025 in Jamaica with beneficiary countries, peer advisors, and implementing partners, focusing on identifying practical, cost-effective approaches to meeting GBON obligations and strengthening regional data exchange.

5.28 The Council was reminded of the obligations of CMO Member States under Resolution 2 of the WMO Extraordinary Congress (2021), which urges Members to begin implementing the Global Basic Observation Network (GBON), including undertaking preparations for GBON station designation and data exchange. The resolution allows for phased implementation based on national capacity and encourages leveraging multilateral and bilateral support mechanisms such as the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF). It further calls on Members to contribute financial, technical, or in-kind resources to support the development and operation of SOFF.

5.29 The Council noted steady progress toward GBON compliance across the CMO membership, supported by the CMO Headquarters Science and Technology Officer. In 2024, five Members: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, and Trinidad and Tobago, were exchanging hourly observations for the full 24-hour period. By the third quarter of 2025, nine Members (56%) had achieved full GBON station-level compliance, representing a 25% improvement, with compliant stations increasing from seven of 23 (30%) in November 2024 to eleven stations (48%) in 2025.

5.30 The newly compliant Member States in 2025 were Belize, Jamaica, Montserrat, and Saint Lucia. Other Members continued to exchange observations at three-hourly or six-hourly intervals, or

hourly for less than 24 hours. Council is referred to the report of the Annual Meeting of the Directors of Meteorological Services (Item 9) for additional details on individual Member progress and ongoing technical support needs.

WMO Information System (WIS) and WIGOS

5.31 Council The Council was reminded that the WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS) and the WMO Information System (WIS) form the foundation for accurate, reliable, and timely weather, climate, water, and environmental observations, which underpin all scientific and technical activities of National Meteorological and Hydrometeorological Services. WIGOS became operational in 2020, and all Members, including those of the CMO, are expected to implement WIGOS, WIS, and the WMO Unified Data Policy to ensure that core Earth system data are of the highest quality and exchanged freely for the global public good.

5.32 The Council was advised that the WMO Information System 2.0 (WIS 2.0) became operational on 1 January 2025, initiating the transition from the Global Telecommunication System (GTS) to WIS 2.0 during 2025–2030. During this period, all NMHSs must migrate their non-aviation weather data from GTS to WIS 2.0 and begin using their national WIS 2.0 nodes for both publishing and retrieving data. At present, CMO Members are using their nodes only for publishing. Members were encouraged to begin testing real-time retrieval functions and developing Standard Operating Procedures for data exchange, subscription management, and troubleshooting. CMO Headquarters, working with WMO and the RA IV WIS 2.0 Expert Team, will provide regional training and technical support to assist Members in fully implementing, testing, and validating their WIS 2.0 nodes before the 2030 deadline.

5.33 The Council recalled that the CMO Headquarters hosted the WIS 2.0 in a Box Workshop for 19 participants in June 2023, enabling Members to install and configure the software for improved national and international data exchange. Supported by participants, CMO Headquarters, and WMO, CMO States rapidly became early adopters and among the first globally to exchange data operationally via WIS 2.0. CMO Headquarters continues to strengthen WIGOS and WIS 2.0 capacities to enhance forecast accuracy, support impact-based services, and advance Early Warnings for All objectives. The Council further recalled the Letter of Agreement signed between CMO and WMO to provide cloud services for the CMO WIS Node for four years, with WMO recommending affordable options for maintaining the node beyond that period.

5.34 The Council was also informed that since December 2023 the United States, Canada, CMO Headquarters, Trinidad and Tobago, and Costa Rica have been piloting a Regional WIGOS Centre (RWC) for WMO RA IV to improve the availability, accuracy, and timeliness of observational data. CMO Headquarters and the Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service are responsible for data quality and metadata management for the English-speaking Caribbean. While this has strengthened data quality, gaps remain in Members' understanding of WIGOS tools, the linkages between WIGOS and WIS 2.0, and engagement with contributing RWC nodes. To address these needs, CMO Headquarters, in collaboration with WMO and CREWS, will deliver targeted capacity-building activities in early 2026, including two hands-on regional training workshops for NMHS national focal points and IT personnel.

5.35 Council was pleased to note that, In December 2023**,** the United States, Canada, CMO Headquarters, Trinidad and Tobago and Costa Rica began **piloting a *Regional WIGOS Centre* for WMO RA IV** (North America, Central America, and the Caribbean) - to ensure the quality, accuracy, and timeliness of observations. Council noted that **CMO Headquarters and Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service are responsible for the data quality and metadata management for the English-speaking Caribbean, respectively**, and that the availability and quality of observational data of CMO Members has been improved as a result.

5(e) The Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS)

5.36 The Council recalled that the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), launched in 2012 as a United Nations initiative led by WMO, provides a global mechanism for developing and applying science-based climate information to support decision-making at national, regional, and global levels. With priority areas in agriculture and food security, disaster risk reduction, energy, health, and water, the GFCS is currently being implemented through eight global projects, many focused on developing countries and Small Island Developing States. The Council noted that through the CREWS Initiative, the CMO Headquarters has been supporting Member States in strengthening governance frameworks, legislation, and institutional mechanisms for climate services, including the development of Strategic Plans and National Frameworks for Weather, Water, and Climate Services, and in assisting CIMH as needed with the implementation of the Climate Services and Related Applications (ClimSA) Programme.

5(f) Disaster Risk Reduction and Regional Severe Weather Forecasts and Warning Systems

Tropical Cyclone Programme

5.37 The Council recognized that the WMO Tropical Cyclone Programme (TCP) remains one of the most critical programmes for the Caribbean, given the region's vulnerability to tropical cyclones. The TCP plays an essential role in reducing disaster risk across all tropical basins, with its most important regional mechanism being the WMO RA IV Hurricane Committee, which serves the North Atlantic, East Pacific, and Caribbean Basin. The Committee, supported by the US National Hurricane Center as the Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre, brings together most Meteorological Services of CMO Member States and works closely with regional and national disaster management organizations to reduce loss of life and protect communities. It routinely updates the regional warning system, including areas of national responsibility and operational back-up arrangements for issuing tropical cyclone forecasts and warnings.

5.38 The Council noted that the 47th Session of the WMO RA IV Hurricane Committee was held from 31 March to 3 April 2025 in San Salvador, El Salvador, with the meeting report finalized after review. In addition to updating the Operational Plan and reviewing Member impact reports, the session included side events highlighting emerging initiatives led by WMO, UNDRR, UNESCO-IOCARIBE, and other partners, focused on advances in observations, forecasting, research, and warning communication. A special session on tropical cyclone research examined the growing role of artificial intelligence in model development, which showed skilful track forecasts but limited intensity forecast skill. A separate panel on ocean observations featured a presentation by Dr David Farrell, Principal of CIMH, on collaborative efforts with Rutgers University and others to deploy marine instruments for sub-surface monitoring in the Caribbean and tropical Atlantic. The Council also noted that CMO Headquarters co-sponsored the participation of Mr Gerard Tamar of Grenada and Mr Gregory Cato of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, who presented their experiences with Hurricane Beryl (2024).

WMO Severe Weather Forecasting Programme (SWFP) Caribbean

5.39 The Council recalled endorsing the establishment of the WMO Severe Weather Forecast Demonstration Project (SWFDP) Eastern Caribbean in 2015, which was formally designated as the Severe Weather Forecasting Programme (SWFP) Eastern Caribbean by the 18th World Meteorological Congress in 2019. Since 2021, SWFP Extranet products have been made available to NMHSs in Caribbean States beyond the original domain, with Météo-France Martinique serving as the Regional Forecast Support Facility (RFSF) and hosting the Extranet for model outputs and observational data to support severe weather forecasting. The SWFP Regional Subprogramme

Management Team (RSMT), co-chaired by Mr Emmanuel Cloppet of Météo-France Antilles-Guyane and Dr Arlene Laing of CMO Headquarters, includes representatives from CIMH and CMO NMHSs. The Management Team met three times since CMC67, and at its April 2025 meeting agreed to expand the programme's domain to all Caribbean islands, including the Bahamas, and rename it the **Severe Weather Forecasting Programme Caribbean**.

5.40 The Council noted that RFSF Martinique reported on the operational performance of the AROME high-resolution ensemble model, the region's first such system to provide explicit convection prediction at 1.3 km resolution for the deterministic run and 2.5 km for the ensemble. The RFSF continues to provide automatic products, including new excessive heat indicators being tested in the French West Indies. The SWFP Co-Chairs reported to the 47th RA IV Hurricane Committee on programme activities, and following the meeting the WMO Secretariat invited Caribbean Permanent Representatives to designate national focal points. Forecasters trained under the SWFP were encouraged to share competencies with colleagues and utilize the SWFP Extranet. CMO Headquarters also supported, organized, and presented during the Operational Workshop hosted virtually by CIMH from 21–23 July 2025, focusing on the SWFP Extranet, communication and public weather service practices, and the CIMH DEWETRA platform. The Coordinating Director also met with the Executive Director of Météo-France during EC-79 to review SWFP progress under the formal CMO-Météo-France Working Arrangements.

5.41 The Council further noted that, with CREWS Caribbean funding, one forecaster from the Antigua and Barbuda Meteorological Service completed hands-on severe weather forecast training at Météo-France Martinique from 12–14 November 2025. Planned activities for the 2025–2026 period include forecaster exchanges and attachments, enhancements to the severe weather case database including multilingual capabilities, and at least one operational forecasting workshop. CMO Headquarters also hosted an intern sponsored by the CCRIF-SPC from August to November 2025, who contributed to expanding the geographical coverage and high-impact event content of the severe weather case catalogue.

WMO Business Continuity Management Guidelines for WMO Members

5.42 The Council recalled that the WMO Executive Council endorsed the *Business Continuity Management Guidelines for WMO Members* (WMO-No. 1361), developed by the *Third Session of the WMO Services Commission*, to strengthen NMHS preparedness for disruptions to operations and service delivery. To support implementation, WMO established a dedicated **Task Team on Business Continuity Management**, on which Mr. Haley Anderson, CMO Headquarters Project Development Officer, has served since July 2024. Published in 2025, the Guidelines provide a structured approach for NMHSs to develop, maintain, and regularly test their business continuity plans. Council was asked to urge and support their NMHSs in adopting and implementing these plans to ensure the resilience of critical meteorological, hydrological, and early warning services.

5.43 The **Council**:

(i) **Noted** the decisions of the 2025 Extraordinary World Meteorological Congress, the 79th session of the Executive Council (EC), the Extraordinary Executive Council and the Technical Commissions;

(ii) **Noted** the results of the elections and appointments of CMO experts in the leadership in WMO Regional Association IV;

(iii) **Continued** to monitor the budget situation with WMO as there may be impact to the technical and other support for Members;

(iv) **Encouraged** Member States that have not yet done so to nominate national focal points for radio frequency coordination, to support protection of spectrum bands vital for earth observations and meteorological applications, as requested by WMO Infrastructure Commission;

(v) **Urged** Members to prioritize the implementation of the technical regulations on early warning services and to mobilize resources including through project development as well as to ensure engagement of national disaster risk management stakeholders;

(vi) **Encouraged** Members to contribute to the WMO monitoring of the progress of early warning systems and services;

(vii) **Urged** Members to support the developmental needs of Members in further enhancing the delivery of their national early warning services, leaving no one behind;

(viii) **Noted** the activities of the Research Board, including the Task Team on Early Warnings for All, which is co-chaired by the Coordinating Director;

(ix) **Urged** CMO Member States to ensure that their NMHSs complete activities for the Operational Phase of WIGOS;

(x) **Urged** CMO Member States to become compliant with GBON, following the guidelines from WMO;

(xi) **Committed** Members' NMHSs to maintaining their support and participation in the CMO WIS2.0 Node;

(xii) **Noted** the activities on the Virtual *Regional WIGOS Centre* (RWC) as a collaboration among the US, Canada, CMO Headquarters and the Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service;

(xiii) **Continued** its strong support for the *Global Framework for Climate Services* and to **urge** Member States to actively participate in GFCS projects and activities;

(xiv) **Noted** and **supported** the important work of the regional Hurricane Committee and the Severe Weather Forecasting Programme in the Caribbean;

(xv) **Urged** Members to develop and implement a business continuity plan following the *Business Continuity Management Guidelines for WMO Members* (**WMO**-No. 1361);

(xvi) **Acknowledged** the contributions of the new WMO Regional Association IV Youth Focal Point to the approved WMO Youth Action Plan and **encouraged** Members to support the activities of the Youth Action Plan in RA IV.

6. FINANCIAL REPORTS

6(a) Status of Refundable Balances

6.1 Council was reminded that the annual contribution to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) due from the British Caribbean Territories (BCT) is paid by the CMO Headquarters Unit (CMO HQ) on behalf of the British Government. This contribution is included in the annual budget of the CMO HQ and hence, in the individual CMO Member State's contribution to the CMO HQ.

6.2 By longstanding agreement between the UK Department of Transport and the CMO HQ, the UK Department of Transport reimburses the CMO HQ a percentage (73%) of the BCT's contribution to the WMO and refunds the full contribution (100%) due from the Members of the BCT, upon submission of an invoice with the accompanying annual audited Financial Statements of the CMO HQ.

6.3 Any refund received from the British Government is apportioned to those countries that are members of both the CMO and the WMO based on the unit allocations used in developing the CMO Contribution Formula. By Members' consent, these funds are held at the CMO HQ in Trinidad to assist Members in attending important Meteorological and/or Hydro-meteorological Meetings, participating in training opportunities and purchasing spare parts from time to time.

6.4 Access to drawdown on these funds is linked to the Member State's financial status with the Organization since apportionment of the refund is based on the assumption that all Member States are meeting their annual contributions to CMO HQ on a timely basis. In reality, there are a few Member States in arrears of contribution to the CMO HQ as well as to the Caribbean Rawinsonde and Radar Networks. During 2025, only three (3) Member States accessed these funds to date, namely Anguilla, Montserrat and Trinidad and Tobago.

6.5 At the 60th session of the Council (held virtually, November 2020), it was agreed that a Member State in arrears of contribution to the CMO HQ shall, after meeting its full contribution for two successive years, have access to the amount credited to its Refundable Balance account for the first of these years. Access to successive years' refundable balances shall be dependent on liquidating the arrears due for additional years.

6.6 The Refundable Balance reports the balance held at the CMO HQ on behalf of CMO Member States, as well as, the amount available for drawdown at 31 October 2025 based on the decision taken at CMC60 (held virtually, November 2020), and was presented to the Council.

6.7 **The Council**

(i) **Noted** the status of the Refundable Balances Account based on the decision taken at CMC60 (held virtually, November 2020) with respect to availability of funds for drawdown by Members States in arrears of contribution to the CMO Headquarters and the Caribbean Radar and Radar Networks.

6(b) CMO HQ Auditor's Report

6.8 The financial statements of the Caribbean Meteorological Organization - Headquarters Unit (CMO HQ) are normally audited about the middle of every year by the Auditor General's Department of Trinidad and Tobago (AGD). The audit of the financial statements for fiscal 2024 was completed on 07 November 2025 and delivered to the CMO HQ on 11 November 2025.

6.9 The attached documents represent the audited financial statements of the CMO HQ for 2024, as issued by the Auditor General for the consideration of the Council.

6.10 Council was advised that the delay in the completion of the audit for 2024 did not allow the audited financial statements be presented to the Member States well ahead of the annual meeting of the 69th Caribbean Meteorological Council (CMC69) to allow Members' experts adequate time to properly review these statements before the Council was asked to examine and accept the certified financial statements of the CMO HQ for 2024.

6.11 Current best practice in the field of Auditing recommends the change of auditors every five (5) years. This may not necessarily require a change of the auditing firm since the rotation of key personnel may serve as a critical measure to protect auditor independence and objectivity.

6.12 **The Council**

(i) **Reviewed and accepted** the audited financial statements for 2024 as issued by the Auditor General's Department of Trinidad and Tobago;

(ii) **Considered** a change of external auditors to conduct the audit of the financial statements of the Caribbean Meteorological Organization Headquarters Unit going forward;

(iii) **Reaffirmed** the continued use of the Auditor General's Department of Trinidad and Tobago for the provision of audit services for the Headquarters of the CMO for the year ended 31 December 2025, as provided by the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, should the Caribbean Meteorological Organization Headquarters Unit be unable to secure the services of an alternative provider at similar rates by the end of the first quarter of 2026.

6(c) CMO HQ and CIMH Statements of Contributions and Arrears

6.13 The financial provisions contained in Article 22 of CMO Acts, which established the *Caribbean Meteorological Organization* (CMO) in all sixteen Member States, stipulate that the expenses of the Organization shall be borne by Members States as apportioned by the Ministerial level *Caribbean Meteorological Counc*il (CMC) responsible for approving the budgets of both organs of the CMO, namely the *Headquarters Unit* (CMO HQ) and the *Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology* (CIMH). Once approved, it is hoped that all Member States would honour their commitment to meet their annual contributions towards these budgets in a timely manner.

6.14 A detailed statement of contributions and arrears to the CMO HQ, as at 31 October 2025, was presented to the Council under Agenda Item Doc. 6(c)-1. A similar document on the arrears to the CIMH at the 30 September 2025 was presented to the CIMH Board of Governors (17 and 18 November 2025) and presented to the Council under Agenda Item in Doc 6(c)-2.

6.15 The Summary of Total Arrears, Assessment and Receipts to the CMO Headquarters, at 31 October 2025, showed that total contributions received in 2025 was USD736,363 representing payment towards 10% of the arrears outstanding for prior years and 89% of the contributions approved for 2025. The overall increase in arrears at 31 October 2025 was 1%.

6.16 The Statement of the Status of Contributions and Arrears to the CIMH budget for 2025, showed that, as at 30th September 2025, approximately 46.6% of contributions assessed for 2025 and 12.6% of arrears from prior years was received. The implications of this financial situation on the programmes and activities of the CIMH was first discussed at the CIMH Board of Governors meeting held on (17 - 18 November 2025) before being presented to this session of Council.

6.17 At CMC67 (Virgin Islands, November 2024), as directed by the 65th Council (Trinidad, November 2023), the CMO Headquarters Unit and Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology presented a proposal of tiered consequences for Members in Arrears of Contributions. The 67th Council noted the report of discussions and the decision of the 66th Session and examined the revised version of the proposed tiered consequences presented.

6.18 **The Council**

(i) **Examined** the detailed Statements of Contributions and Arrears to the CMO Headquarters and the Caribbean Rawinsonde and Radar Networks at 31 October 2025.

(ii) **Examined** the Statement of Contributions and Arrears to the CIMH at 30 September 2025 which was presented in USD at the rate of 1.99375.

6(d) Proposed Consequences for Members in Arrears

6.19 Council recalled that at CMC67 (Virgin Islands, November 2024), the CMO Headquarters Unit and Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology presented a proposal for tiered consequences for Members in Arrears of Contributions as requested by the 65th session of the Council (CMC65, Trinidad and Tobago, 2023). After substantive discussion, the 67th Council recommended that legal advice be sought to understand the implications of the establishment of the consequences relative to the Agreement for the Establishment of the Caribbean Meteorological Organization. Additionally, the 67th Council also agreed to form a Task Force to negotiate directly with the Members in Arrears and recommended that the Task Force be comprised of the Chair of the Council, the Principal of CIMH, and the Coordinating Director of the Headquarters Unit.

6.20 The Council was reminded of the review provided by the Office of the General Counsel of CARICOM, in response to a request from CMO Headquarters for legal advice. The review noted that,

> "Although the Agreement is silent on penalties or sanctions for non-payment of assessed contributions, there appear to be no restrictions for the Council within the parameters of Article 8 to institute measures to address the arrears by the Parties to the Agreement".

6.21 The 69th session of the Council discussed and agreed with the principle of establishing consequences for Member states in arrears, including exclusion from voting, exclusion from non-emergency discretionary spending, and suspension of technical assistance for those with three or more years of arrears; with provisions made for exceptions where actions can be suspended if, e.g., a Member suffers a major natural disaster. However, the proposed measures were not yet approved by the Council.

6.22 **The Council**

(i) **Reviewed and discussed** the revised proposed tiered system of consequences;

(ii) **Noted** the actions taken by CMO Headquarters Unit and CIMH in response to the recommendations of the Council;

(iii) **Noted** the legal review of the implications of the proposed consequences relative to the Agreement for the Establishment of the Caribbean Meteorological Organization, as provided by the Office of the General Counsel of CARICOM;

(iv) **Reiterated the request made by the 67th Council for** CMO Headquarters Unit and the CIMH to obtain a *legal opinion* on the proposed consequences for Members in arrears and report to the next annual Council session;

(v) **Urged** the Task Force to make every effort to meet with Members in arrears to determine an immediate way forward.

6(e) Report on Status and Activities of the Ad-hoc Finance Committee

6.23 This matter was addressed at the meeting of the CIMH Board of Governors (62nd BOG, 17 and 18 November, 2025). The Council was advised that several members of the Finance Committee, first established at CMC63 (Cayman Islands, November 2022), were no longer available to serve as they had since retired or no longer had responsibility for the National Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services. In the absence of a quorum, no meetings had been held in 2024 – 2025.

6.24 The Council was informed that during the 62nd BOG, the following Members agreed to serve on the Finance Committee: Cayman Islands, Grenada and Montserrat. The BOG further agreed that the Secretary to the Board of Governors will be the Secretary to the Finance Committee The Board also agreed that the Finance Committee should be provided with a Terms of Reference (TOR), outlining its roles and responsibilities, prior to the next meeting of the Council.

6.25 Council also accepted the delegate from Guyana as another member of the Finance Committee, during the 69th session.

6.26 The Council

(i) **Agreed** that the Finance Committee will comprise of delegates from Cayman Islands, Grenada, Guyana, and Montserrat

(ii) **Requested** that a copy of the Terms of Reference be provided to the Finance Committee by the Principal of CIMH.

6(f) Review of the CMO Contribution Formula

6.27 Council recalled that the Caribbean Meteorological Organization (CMO) originated out of the old British Caribbean Meteorological Service, which was established in 1951. This Service later became the Caribbean Meteorological Service after the break-up of the Federation and the move to independence, and was subsequently transformed into the CMO in 1973. In establishing the CMO, the Caribbean Meteorological Council (CMC) devised an appropriate scheme for determining the contribution levels of its Member States, to replace the system and the levels of contributions then in place.

6.28 The Contribution Formula was first developed in the 1970's by the CMO Headquarters and the Caribbean Community Secretariat. It took five years for the Council to achieve a consensus on the Formula, after much consultations and deliberations involving financial, legal and political experts in the region. The resulting Formula was based on the regional proportional contributions, initially to CARIFTA and subsequently to CARICOM, and embraced the whole range of regional meteorological organs, activities and projects.

6.29 Council was reminded that the 40th Session adopted a revised Contribution Formula for the funding of the Organs of the Organization by Member States that came into effect in January

2002 and that the next revision of the Formula was considered by the 56th session of the Council (Grenada, November 2016).

6.30 The 57th session of Council (Antigua and Barbuda, November 2017) examined and deliberated in detail, a revised CMO Contribution Formula, as prepared by the CMO Headquarters and **decided** that the Revised Contribution Formula would become effective from **2020**. The ***CMO Contribution Formula – 2017 Revision*** is available as CMC57, Doc 7, on the CMO website.

6.31 The 69th Council was informed that at the 67th Session of the Council (Virgin Islands, November 2024), Antigua and Barbuda requested a review of the Contribution Formula, citing the statement that the "examination of the CCS units should be carried out approximately every five years".

6.32 Council was advised that the CARICOM Secretariat provided the CMO Headquarters with the relevant regional data for all CARICOM Members, as applicable for 2025 to 2027. In applying the CARICOM figures, it is noted that the Membership of CARICOM is different from that of the CMO. The CARICOM data has been adjusted to exclude Bermuda, Haiti, Suriname, The Bahamas, and Curacao as non-Members of CMO. It was further noted that the Unit System will be modified if there are any approved additions to the Membership of the CMO.

6.33 For this review, the Contribution Formula with the CCS units for 2025 to 2027 was calculated using the approved regional contributions to the 2025 budgets of the CMO HQ and the CIMH. The outcomes were shown in CMC69, Doc 6(f).

6.34 The **Council**:

(i) **Noted** the outcome of the review of contributions that were calculated using the most recent CCS Units;

(ii) **Determined** that a further revision of the Contribution Formula would not be required at this time but that the matter would be revisited at the next annual session of the Council.

7 SPECIAL CMO ISSUES

7(a) Review of Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Institutions

7.1 Council recalled 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".

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

7.3 Council noted that a written position had been requested of the Members of the Council with the intent of submission to the CARICOM Secretariat, for onward submission to the Community Council of Ministers. It was further noted that Council was requested 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 written response was provided by Members. Council further noted that, no further information had been received from the CARICOM Secretariat on the Review of Caribbean Community Institutions since the meeting on 30 August 2023, although queries had been made to the Secretariat on the matter.

7.4 The 68th session of the Council noted that, in June 2025, the CARICOM Secretariat solicited final comments from the Caribbean Community Institutions on the *Final Report of the RCCI*, with a deadline of 31 August 2025. The 68th Council further noted that 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.

7.5 Having been provided with the *Final Report of the RCCI* and the background documents previously shared with the Council, Members were to submit their comments to the Chair of the Caribbean Meteorological Council by 26 August 2025. However, no specific comments were received by the deadline.

7.6 The 69th session of the Council noted that the CMO Headquarters submitted final comments to the CARICOM Secretariat on 31 August 2025, with a copy provided to the then Chair of the Caribbean Meteorological Council, Honourable Kye Rymer, Minister of Communications and Works, The Virgin Islands (UK).

7.7 The Council was informed by the Principal that CIMH has to send in additional comments to the CARICOM Secretariat.

7(b) Arrangements for Meteorological Forecast and Warning Services among CMO Member States

7.8 Council was 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. The 51st Session of the Council 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.

7.9 Council recalled that questions were raised by the Antigua and Barbuda Meteorological Service about the formalities of the process and related costs for the services provided. So, Council agreed to form a committee to review and discuss cost recovery as a part of regional forecasting arrangements and make a recommendation to the Council. The Committee met on 25th February 2022 and elected Guyana and Belize to serve as Co-Chairs. The Committee expressed the view that the Antigua and Barbuda Meteorological Service (ABMS) should be having discussions with the respective Civil Aviation Authority of the four States to whom they provide services, instead of the various Meteorological Services, since the Civil Aviation Authorities are end users. The committee presented the draft recommendations for Council to consider (CMC63, Final Report).

7.10 The Council was 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.

7.11 The Council was also 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.

7.12 Council recalled 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 had not yet met while awaiting the outcome of the Antigua and Barbuda engagement with ASSI and CMO.

7.13 Council took note of updates on the matter, including the continuation of CMO Headquarters' 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. Additionally, the Science and Technology Officer (STO) travelled to Antigua in July 2025, while the other meetings were held virtually. Council recalled that 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*", 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.

7.14 Council noted that that meetings in 2025 focused on evaluating the necessary forecast and warning services needed by the British Overseas Territories in the Caribbean and what was needed to strengthen the Antigua and Barbuda Meteorological Service for its implementation of a QMS and delivery of those services to the neighbouring British Overseas Territories. Details of the capacity development are still to be worked out but CMO Headquarters is expected to assist with some aspect of project management.

7.15 Council noted 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.

7(c) CMO Data Policy

7.16 Council recalled that the principle of the international exchange of meteorological and hydrological data and products is fundamental to the existence and functionality of any National Meteorological and Hydrometeorological Services (NMHSs). Those principles guided the ***World Meteorological Organization*** (WMO) Resolutions (40, 25, and 60), which identified the types of data that are freely exchanged and the circumstances under which charges for data and products can or would apply. Data exchange and pooling of knowledge through the WMO make it possible for meteorological and related services to be provided at costs far below those that would be incurred should each NMHS have to undertake these activities on its own.

7.17 Council was reminded that WMO Members are committed to this WMO global policy/practice. Grenada, St. Kitts/Nevis, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, while not legally bound by the WMO practice, do tend to follow the practices of WMO, through the policies of the CMO, since they are beneficiaries of the free and unrestricted exchange of data and products under WMO's auspices.

7.18 Council was reminded that the World Meteorological Congress, the WMO supreme body, approved a new **WMO Unified Policy for the International Exchange of Earth System Data** during

the Extraordinary Congress in October 2021 (Cg-Ext 2021, Resolution 1), This unified policy superseded the previous data exchange policies of the WMO, which are no longer in force.

7.19 Council was provided with the key elements of the policy that pertain to the implementation of the WMO Unified Data Policy by Members, in CMC69, Doc. 7. The WMO Policy has been provided as an Annex to this report.

7.20 Council emphasized that Members should be implementing the WMO Unified Policy for the International Exchange of Earth System Data, in particular the ***core*** data and set a deadline of 1 March 2026 for implementation of the exchange of core data.

7.21 Council recalled that the 43rd session of the Caribbean Meteorological Council (Belize, 2003) made decisions on the use and distribution by the **Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology** (CIMH) of such data and products originating in Member States, under the "*Provision of Meteorological and Hydrological Data and Products by CIMH*".

7.22 Since the 43rd session of the CMC referenced WMO Resolutions that are no longer in force, the Council reviewed and updated the "*Provision of Meteorological and Hydrological Data and Products by CIMH*" (CMC43, Belize, 2003). The amendment is provided in **Annex III**.

7.23 The Council agreed that the CMO data policy will be subject to revision, based on performance, every five years.

7.24 **The Council**:

(i) **Noted** the status of the Review of Caribbean Community Institutions, including the provision of final comments to the CARICOM Secretariat by the CMO Headquarters as requested by the Secretariat.

(ii) **Noted** and **discussed** 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.

(iii) **Urged Members** to implement the WMO *Unified Policy for the International Exchange of Earth System Data* (Resolution 1, 2021 Extraordinary World Meteorological Congress (Cg-Ext (2021)), with regard to ***core*** data by **1 March 2026**.

(iv) **Reviewed** and **updated** the "*Provision of Meteorological and Hydrological Data and Products by CIMH*" (CMC43, Belize 2003), to reference WMO Resolution 1 (Cg-Ext (2021)), as shown in Annex III to this report.

(v) **Agreed** that the CMO data policy will be subject to revision, based on performance, every five years.

8 CMO BUDGETS (HEADQUARTERS UNIT, CRN AND RADAR, CIMH)

8(a) CMO HQ - Estimates of Expenditure for 2026

8.1 Budget estimates for the operating costs for the CMO Headquarters Unit and contributions to the Caribbean Rawinsonde and Radar Networks for 2026 were presented to the Council under Agenda Item Doc. 8(a) for consideration.

8.2 In keeping with the commitment made to Members at CMC67 (Virgin Islands, 2024), the draft estimates of expenditure presented for 2026 showed no change in total expenditure over 2025. However, based on the three-year period of declining financial support to Member States aimed at cushioning the full impact of the steep increase in operating expenditure due to the new salary scales approved by the CARICOM Secretariat (CCS) in 2024 and which was approved by the Council at CMC67 (Virgin Islands, 2024), the level of support in year two will be reduced from 75% in 2025 (year one) to 50% in 2026 (year two) and Member States will see a 3.2% increase in their contribution over 2025.

8.3 New CARICOM Daily Subsistence Allowances (DSA) effective February 2023 were received from the CCS in October 2025 and used to develop the Travel budget for 2026. These rates were last revised January 2008. The CMO HQ will continue to take advantage of the prevailing technology to participate in virtual and hybrid sessions to increase participation and networking with no added costs associated with foreign travel, however, the new DSA rates are expected to drive Travel expenditure up from 8% of the total budget in 2025 to 10% in 2026. This increase will be offset in full by savings expected under Personnel Emoluments which is budgeted to decrease from 82% of total estimated expenditure in 2025 to 80% in 2026, as the vacant post of Messenger/Courier will not be filled in 2026 and janitorial and local courier services will continue to be outsourced.

8.4 As we continue the CREWS 2.0 programme, any additional resources required to support the projects will be sourced, as and when needed, and are not anticipated to increase the operating cost of the CMO HQ as these will be charged against project support funding provided by the programme sponsor.

8.5 The proposed total operating expenditure for the CMO HQ, the Caribbean Rawinsonde and the Caribbean Radar Networks in 2026 is $5,424,935, which will be partially offset by the 50% financial support that will be provided by the CMO HQ from past surpluses. The net amount after the second year of financial support, upon which the contributions from Member States may be assessed**,** is TTD 5,106,790 equivalent to USD 764,489. This represents a net overall increase of 3.2% over 2025 and 6.6% over 2024.

8.6 The Council

(i) **Accepted** the new CARICOM Daily Subsistence Allowances effective February 2023 as provided by the CARICOM Secretariat;

(ii) **Approved** the second drawdown of **TTD XXX,XXX.00 equivalent to USDXX,XXX.00**, in 2026 to adjust the initial budget of TTD X,XXX,XXX.00, equivalent to USDXXX,XXX.00, **for an adjusted budget of TTD X,XXX,XXX.00, equivalent of USD XXX,XXX.00,** as detailed in **Annex IV** with Member contributions as indicated in **Annex V.**

(iii) **Recognised** an Impairment Loss on contributions in arrears prior to 2021 due from Antigua and Barbuda and Dominica and **Approved** the creation of a Provision for Doubtful Debts in 2025 for contributions in arrears in excess of five years;

(iv) **Urged** Members to give priority to meeting current annual contributions on a more timely basis, and to make every effort to liquidate arrears to the Organization on a phased basis;

8(b) CIMH - Estimates of Expenditure for 2026

8.7 The Estimates of Expenditure of the CIMH for Fiscal Year 2026 (FY2026) were presented for examination and approval by the Council after a detailed consideration by the Board of Governors (BoG) of the CIMH (17 and 18 November, 2025). The estimates cover the finances required to allow the Institute to effectively fulfill its mandate to the region. A similar document of the estimates of expenditure of the CIMH for 2026, was presented to the CIMH Board of Governors (17 and 18 November 2025) and was approved. This document was presented to the Council under Agenda Item in Doc 8(b).

8.8 The FY2026 Estimates show an increase of 5.9 % relative to the Estimates approved for FY2025. Discussions on the details of the budget was delivered verbally, based on the discussions and decisions of the BoG. The total expected expenditure for FY2026 is BBD X,XXX,XXX equivalent to USD X,XXX,XXX at the rate - [USD 1 = BBD 1.99375]. The delegate from Jamaica indicated that his government had requested an increase limit of 4%. The Principal agreed to adjust the budget to meet the limit of 4%.

8.9 The Council

(i) **Requested** a reduction in the proposed expenditure for 2026 to be limited to an increase of no more than 4%,

(ii) **Approved** the budget of **BBD X,XXX,XXX.00** equivalent to **USD X,XXX,XXX.00** for the CIMH**,** following the reduction from the expenditure presented by the Board of Governors with Member contributions as detailed in **Annex V, subject to the reduction;**

(iii) **Urged** Members to give priority to meeting annual contributions, as well as liquidating any arrears of contribution due to the CIMH;

(i) **Also Urged** Members to inform the CIMH of their transfers of funds, including the amount and date.

9 MEETING OF DIRECTORS OF METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES

9.1 The Caribbean Meteorological Council considered the Report of the Annual Meeting of Directors of Meteorological Services, held on 19 November 2025, presented by Mr. Kenneth Kerr, Science and Technology Officer of the CMO Headquarters. The report provided the Council with a summary of the deliberations, highlights of achievements and gaps closed by Members, areas where gaps remained and recommendations to the Directors on outstanding key issues that would have an impact on operational compliance, future costs, training opportunities and service delivery. Some of the following matters were also addressed separately in more detail by the Council under other agenda items.

STATUS OF ACTION FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

9.2 There were several action items that warranted reporting within the operational matters section. Mr. Kenneth Kerr, Science and Technology Officer, reported on three (3) of the action items that required the Meteorological Services of the Member States and the contributing nodes of the Regional WIGOS Centre to work together on an ongoing basis. These were continued implementation of WIGOS, achieving GBON compliance, and the formation of a CMO Operational WIS 2.0 Node Execution Team (CO-WET). These were priority areas and requirements of the World Meteorological Organization and have implications for early warning systems and the overall delivery of meteorological services within the Caribbean. The Directors and the Science and Technology Officer

will continue to work together to enable Members' NMHSs to meet WMO requirements and achieve compliance.

TRAINING

9.3 The meeting was informed that student performance at the entry-, mid-, and senior-level Meteorological Technician courses in 2024–2025 was strong. University of the West Indies degree students continued to excel, although gaps in foundational math and dynamics prompted the introduction of a new Mathematical Methods course. Mental health concerns, particular for students living away from home were noted, and Directors were urged to remain closely engaged with their students. Directors also called for standardized student stipends and clearer guidance on extended on-the-job training. Countries requested more flexible and refresher training options, and the CIMH emphasized improved coordination and grouped training to enhance efficiency.

OPERATIONAL MATTERS

Early Warnings for All Implementation & Artificial Intelligence

9.4 Council was informed that WMO updated its Technical Regulations (49) to strengthen global early warning capabilities, requiring all members to implement standardized practices by 2029, and improved coordination between meteorological and disaster management agencies. As part of the "Early Warnings for All" initiative, the WMO/CMO has supported the region through Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) workshops and tools like the WIS2 CAP Composer. As a result, Saint Lucia, Grenada, Dominica, and St. Maarten now have operational or testing CAP portals, with Saint Lucia issuing its first alerts in 2025.

Cataloguing of Hazardous Weather, Climate, Water and Related Environmental Events

9.5 Council was informed that the provision of Impact-Based Forecasting and Warning Services (IBFWS) by Members' NMHSs is expanding, with most States partially implementing IBFWS and only one Member NMHS was fully compliant with WMO recommended practices. Members' NMHSs were urged to adopt WMO hazard cataloguing standards to support impact-based forecasting and situational awareness. Many Member States' NMHSs are only partially cataloguing hazardous events and were recommended to utilize the fully compliant regional severe weather database already established through CIMH and CMO.

Amendment 82 – 21st Edition ICAO Annex 3-Meteorological Service for International Air Navigation

9.6 Council was informed of significant updates in the amended ICAO Annex 3—Meteorological Service for International Air Navigation (21st Edition), which came into effect November 27, 2025. It is now a Standard for all Volcanic Ash Advisory Centres (VAACs) to provide Quantitative Volcanic Ash (QVA) concentration information for significant volcanic ash clouds. This necessitates updates to SOPs and additional forecaster training. There are new distinctions between meteorological authorities and service providers clarifying oversight and quality management responsibilities. Additionally, ICAO now requires meteorological data to be exchanged in ICAO Meteorological Information Exchange Model (IWXXM) format, which poses technical challenges for many States lacking access to Aeronautical Message Handling System (AMHS) capability.

Status of Quality Management System (QMS) Implementation

9.7 Council was informed that the critical and mandatory ICAO standard for NMHSs relating to QMS implementation remains uneven across Member States, with only a small number operating fully

integrated systems. Many States are stalled at partial implementation or have not yet transitioned to ISO 9001:2015 standards. To assist with addressing this, the CMO Headquarters intends to host a regional QMS Lead Auditor certification workshop in early 2026, to build internal capacity and strengthen regulatory compliance ahead of emerging 2026 standards.

Regional WIGOS Center Monitoring Activities and Status of WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS) Implementation

9.8 Council reviewed the results of the Regional WIGOS Centre contribution nodes (CMO HQ and TTMS) and their collaboration with NMHSs to implement WIGOS using the WMO Incident Management System. Significant gains were noted, with several States moving from underperforming to consistently meeting thresholds of 80% or more station data availability. Challenges identified included metadata errors, inactive national focal points, and delayed responses. Targeted peer-to-peer support has greatly improved observation availability and accuracy, with notable progress in Jamaica and St. Lucia. Members were informed that in 2026, CMO Headquarters will host a capacity-building workshop to strengthen the skills of WDQMS national focal points and address gaps in observation reporting.

Global Basic Observation Network (GBON) Compliance

9.9 Council discussed the Global Basic Observations Network (GBON) compliance and noted that, due to focused efforts by the RWC and NMHSs, compliance has improved significantly, with more States achieving the required 24-hour hourly data reporting. Some States remain noncompliant due to limited overnight operational hours; however, innovative solutions—such as integrating AWS data with WIS2 to enable automatic reporting after office hours—offer a viable option to close the gap.

Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) Progress

9.10 Council was informed that of the eleven Member States eligible for SOFF funding, eight were in the readiness stages, while three had progressed to the investment phase. Belize has advanced the furthest in the investment phase, with Guyana and Antigua in the investment pipeline phase. Continued engagement with SOFF advisors and completion of national GBON contribution plans are essential to unlock funding, and Members were encouraged to accelerate progress.

WIS2 Transition and Data Retrieval

9.11 Council was informed that although WIS 2.0 became operational in 2025, most Caribbean services still relied exclusively on GTS for data retrieval. While States are successfully publishing data through WIS 2.0, adoption of the retrieval component, which is now mandatory, remains limited. The transition requires developing SOPs, training staff, and actively using the WIS2 data portal. Some States, such as Antigua, have noticeable gaps in WIS2 performance that must be addressed promptly ahead of full migration requirements.

Capacity Development as the Foundation for Modernization

9.12 It was emphasized that modern meteorological services rely not only on technology but also on skilled personnel. A series of upcoming regional capacity-building and operational readiness workshops, led by CMO Headquarters, will include leadership and management, media and disaster coordination capacity development, Regional WIGOS Centre training, WDQMS focal point training, WIS2 training, and QMS auditor certification. These initiatives aim to equip Members' NMHS staff with the skills and competencies needed to meet evolving global standards.

Impacts of Hazardous Weather During 2025 (Loss & Damage), Challenges & Best Practices

9.13 Council discussed the impacts of Category 5 Hurricane Melissa in 2025, which caused 45 deaths to date, displaced 90,000 households, damaged over 191,000 buildings, and disrupted power and communications across Jamaica. Early warning services provided by the Jamaica Meteorological Service included, severe weather alerts, and daily briefings to aid anticipatory action. The timely radar restoration helped reduce casualties and strengthen public trust, supported by community organizations and regional partners. Operational challenges included complex communications, telecommunication failures, and limited surge capacity. Lessons learned emphasized redundant communication systems, real-time soil monitoring, public education, enhanced crisis staffing, and continued investment in radar and early-warning infrastructure. Investments in Jamaica's NMS have built robust early warning capabilities, combining real-time monitoring, impact-based forecasting, multi-channel communication, and community outreach, enabling effective preparedness and response.

9.14 **The Council**

(i) **Accepted and endorsed** the report

(ii) **Endorsed** the decision of the Directors that student mental health support was important.

(iii) **Endorsed** the decision of Directors that there was a need for student stipend refresh and harmonization.

(iv) **Urged** Member States to maintain close oversight of training implementation and student support, including ensuring adequate mental health services.

(v) **Agreed** to the request by Directors for continuing refresher training, and curriculum reforms to ensure that students meet the required competencies and requirements.

(vi) **Urged** Members to advance full implementation of WMO and ICAO standards and recommended practices, particularly IWXXM, QMS, EW4All, CAP, IBFWS, Hazardous Events Cataloguing, WIGOS and GBON Compliance, and WIS 2 transition.

(vii) **Acknowledged** the exemplary work of the Meteorological Service of Jamaica in response to Category 5 Hurricane Melissa.

10 CMO WEATHER RADAR NETWORK

Regional Radar Network and Early-Warning Capacity

10.1 Council was reminded that the regional radar network across six CMO Member States provided shared, overlapping coverage that strengthens the Caribbean's multi-hazard early-warning capacity. Further, cross-border detection, such as Barbados and Trinidad radars covering neighboring islands, was critical for issuing early alerts for approaching hazardous weather. Against this context, Council was informed that the report (CMC69, Doc 10) outlined the network's status, emerging radar issues, and the CMO Operational Radar Group (CORG) recommendations that were necessary to maintain a reliable and resilient system.

Securing the Caribbean Weather Radar Network (CWRN)

10.2 Council was informed that any failure or downtime in a single radar on the network weakens early warning capacity for multiple Member States, directly increasing risks to lives, livelihoods, and critical infrastructure. Therefore, the Caribbean Weather Radar Network (CWRN) functions as a shared regional early warning system that must be secured and managed as a regional public good.

10.3 Council was requested to acknowledge that the CWRN is a mission-critical asset requiring continuous investment, including skilled technical personnel, proper routine maintenance, and sustainable long-term funding. It was also requested that Council formally recognize the network's essential value in protecting lives and fulfilling national, regional, and global commitments to disaster risk reduction and climate resilience.

Maintenance and Challenges

10.4 Council was updated on the radar maintenance routines across the CWRN, which ranged from daily to annual checks, with remote monitoring used where physical access is limited. Further, operations relied on small teams responsible for 24-hour monitoring and maintenance; however, staff shortages, particularly in radar, electronic, and radio frequency expertise, remained a persistent challenge. Hence, dependence on foreign manufacturers for troubleshooting and parts replacement often results in long repair times.

10.5 It was recommended to Council that to address the existing gaps in radar maintenance and technical expertise, NMHSs should form partnerships with in-country institutions. These include The University of the West Indies (UWI) campuses at Mona, Cave Hill, and St. Augustine, the University of Technology (UTech) in Jamaica, the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT), Advanced Solutions Technical Institute (ASTI), MIC Institute of Technology (MIC-IT) in Trinidad and Tobago, and the University of Guyana. Such collaborations should aim to integrate radio frequency (RF) training modules to enhance local expertise, promote knowledge exchange, and reduce dependence on external contractors.

10.6 Council was informed that NMHSs have also highlighted challenges with inadequate recurrent budget allocations for radar maintenance and limited access to spare parts. It was noted that while some NMHSs maintain formal service agreements with radar manufacturers, which provide opportunities for on-site capacity-building and shared maintenance services, these arrangements are often costly and constrained by funding availability.

Radar Spare Parts and Aging Infrastructure

10.7 Council was reminded that four of the six CMO radars are over ten (10) years old, and many parts for these legacy radar models are no longer manufactured, causing long repair delays. To compensate, NMHSs often used stopgap measures, such as cannibalizing decommissioned radars or fabricating parts locally, which are not sustainable.

10.8 Council was reminded that CIMH maintains a spare-parts pool for the radars procured by the CMO. It was noted that some NMHSs were unaware of inventory status or access protocols. It was recommended that Council consider supporting a comprehensive approach to strengthening the regional radar spare-parts system, with the coordination of the CIMH and the CMO Headquarters. It was noted by the Principal of CIMH that a solution needed to be developed for the disposing of parts in the pool that will become obsolete with the changing in technology. The CMO Headquarters noted that some parts from Barbados were made available to Trinidad and Tobago, following the upgrade of the radar in Barbados in 2022. It was noted that those arrangements were conducted with the permission of the Ministry of Finance in Barbados. The meeting also noted that it was in the best interest of the NMHSs to become aware of the spare parts pool, and the procedures for viewing the inventory and requesting parts.

10.9 Additionally, the Council was asked to consider CMO's seeking alternative donor funding to facilitate grouped procurement, thereby reducing costs and shortening delivery times.

Radio Frequency Interference

10.10 Council was informed that Radio Frequency (RF) interference remains a top Caribbean priority due to its significant impacts on CWRN performance and the increasing crowding of radar frequency bands by commercial, government, and personal communication systems.

10.11 Council was briefed on the impact of RF interference on operational radars and that RF caused by signals from 5G, Wi-Fi, satellite links, and other communications, is a growing threat to radar accuracy. RF interference can produce false echoes or hide real weather, weakening forecasting and early-warning services. The problem is exacerbated by small island geographies, limited local RF expertise, and insufficient national coordination to protect meteorological frequencies.

10.12 Council urged Members to establish mandatory national protocols requiring NMHSs to continuously coordinate with Spectrum Management Authorities to protect radar bands and to strengthen regional NMHS collaboration through joint RF monitoring, shared procedures, and regular technical engagement.

10.13 The representative from the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) informed the Council of its position on the protection of radio frequency bands used for meteorological observations and space weather. ICAO is requesting that each State includes the ICAO position as they develop their own positions for the World Radiocommunication Conference 2027. The ICAO also agreed to share with CMO, a document with the ICAO position for distribution to the Members.

Country-Specific Radar Status Highlights

10.14 **Jamaica:** Council was reminded that Jamaica's Doppler radar, installed in 2021 under the PPCR project, suffered major mechanical defects in March 2022. Repeated delays and setbacks from the contracted radar company left the system non-operational for over three years, significantly limiting national and regional monitoring capacity, particularly during hurricane seasons. Using the CMO Radar Network Fund, a structured restoration began in April 2025, including antenna replacement and major system repairs. This enabled the radar to return to full functionality on 23 June 2025, allowing effective monitoring of Hurricane Melissa. Work was ongoing to link the radar to Barbados, integrating it into the regional radar mosaic.

10.15 Council was informed that Jamaica's radar performed exceptionally well during Hurricane Melissa's approach, providing continuous, high-quality data that captured the storm's structure, tracked the eye, and gave forecasters critical information at the most crucial time. However, once the hurricane made landfall, the radar experienced a major failure. Its normal scanning modes ceased functioning, limiting operations to a basic mode and preventing full 3-D scans and Doppler wind data essential for monitoring hazardous conditions within the storm. The extreme winds forced open the dome access door, triggering the radar's built-in safety system and causing an automatic shutdown to protect the equipment from severe damage. In summary, while the radar was highly effective during the approach, the hurricane's intensity revealed vulnerabilities that must be addressed to ensure its future reliability.

10.16 **Belize:** Council was informed that in early October 2025, Belize's radar went offline due to a leak in the feed horn and a voltage fault in the main power supply. The outage coincided with the planned retirement of Belize's only trained radar technician, creating a critical risk to radar operations during the peak of the hurricane season.

10.17 Council was briefed on the actions taken by the CMO Headquarters to assist the National Meteorological Service of Belize (NMSB). The CMO Headquarters in coordination with WMO–CREWS for funding, and cooperation with the radar manufacturer Leonardo, Germany GmbH, and collaboration with the NMSB arranged an urgent on-site visit by a Leonardo specialist engineer from 6 to 10 October 2025.

10.18 Council was informed that the engineer conducted remote and onsite diagnostics and repairs and provided hands-on training to five new local technicians during the visit, thus building local capacity for ongoing radar maintenance. These actions successfully restored radar operations and strengthened Belize's ability to maintain the system independently in the future.

10.19 **Trinidad & Tobago:** Council was reminded that the Trinidad and Tobago radar, which was restored in 2024, began to experience intermittent outages throughout 2025 due to power surges triggering protective shutdowns, limited cooling capacity at the radar site, a non-functional backup generator, and recurring faults with the radar antenna's Voltage Standing Wave Ratio (VSWR), which is a measure of how efficiently radio-frequency (RF) power is transmitted from the radar transmitter to the antenna.

10.20 While maintenance efforts have improved stability, key tasks remain unresolved. Council was told that the Trinidad and Tobago radar remains a critical component of early-warning services, but these unresolved issues posed serious risks to operational reliability. Urgent corrective actions are required to ensure continuous and dependable radar service that supports both national and regional weather forecasting and disaster preparedness.

10.21 **Guyana:** Council was reminded that the Guyana Hydro-meteorological Service (GHMS) experienced a major radar outage beginning in June 2024 due to structural and mechanical damage, which severely affected real-time weather monitoring and early-warning services during the primary rainy season.

10.22 Council was informed that the GHMS's radar was fully restored, recalibrated, and returned to operational status on 7 March 2025. During the restoration, an engineer from Leonardo Germany GmbH conducted a thorough assessment, recommending structural and mechanical evaluations to address both immediate failures and underlying vulnerabilities. Following multiple interventions, local structural and mechanical engineers confirmed the radar building and primary moving components were sound.

10.23 **Saint Lucia:** The Council was informed that the Saint Lucia Meteorological Service weather radar continued to operate with limited functionality and requires a comprehensive maintenance check and corrective repairs. Corrective work and maintenance with the supplier was rescheduled from November 2025, with the next corrective work window set for January 2026.

10.24 **Cayman Islands:** The Council noted that the radar operated continuously in 2025 with minor IT-related delays; an upgrade is underway to replace aging components and improve detection, accuracy, and reliability.

10.25 **Barbados:** The Council noted that the radar remained fully operational throughout 2025 with strong maintenance practices and planned upgrades to servers and spare parts.

Caribbean Weather Radar Mosaic Update

10.26 Council was reminded that the Caribbean Weather Radar Mosaic, which began as a collaboration with Meteo-France and CMO, was then further developed by the Barbados

Meteorological Service (BMS) starting in 2013. The BMS radar mosaic has evolved into a critical regional asset, integrating radar data from across the Caribbean and parts of Central and South America. This mosaic now serves as a forecasting tool for the Caribbean and the broader hemispheric forecasting community.

10.27 Council was informed that through regional coordination led by the CMO Headquarters and WMO, the Barbados Meteorological Service (BMS) continued efforts in 2025 to integrate more regional radars into the Caribbean mosaic. These efforts brought together experts and national meteorological leaders across the Caribbean, Central America, and Brazil, overcoming language barriers and technical challenges to share radar data and enhance regional forecasting capabilities.

10.28 Council was also briefed on the significant upgrade in the mosaic software during 2025, reducing processing times from 10 minutes to seconds, improving data-stitching logic, and enabling integration of additional radars.

10.29 Council noted that these actions represent a major strengthening of the regional radar value to forecasting and monitoring of severe weather and precipitation. The mosaic serves as a strategic pillar supporting aviation, hydrology, disaster preparedness, agriculture, and climate resilience and applauded the BMS for its outstanding body of work.

CMO Radar Modernization Project

10.30 Council was informed that the approved USD 24.1 million grant to scale up Caribbean Hydrometeorological and Multi-Hazard Early Warning Services in Belize and Trinidad and Tobago includes funding for major upgrades to the Doppler weather radars and associated infrastructure. Approximately USD 3.3 million has been allocated to Belize and USD 3.5 million to Trinidad and Tobago, to enhance national and regional monitoring, nowcasting, and early-warning capabilities.

10.31 The Council noted that the project includes installation of dual-polarization radar components, procurement of spare parts for a five-year maintenance schedule, enhanced lightning suppression systems, radar software upgrades, and targeted technical training for operational sustainability. Country-specific activities will strengthen data storage, telecommunication networks, radar calibration, and partnerships with CIMH and UWI to develop radar applications and training, which will also support multi-hazard early-warning systems. Additional measures include cybersecurity safeguards, specialized forecaster training, implementation of a common radar data format, and regional sharing of radar products to improve early-warning services and integration into numerical weather prediction models.

10.32 The Council further noted that the initiative aims to establish regional coordination mechanisms for radar spare parts, data archiving, and information exchange among NMHSs, ensuring timely maintenance, operational continuity, and long-term sustainability. By reinforcing technical capacity, operational resilience, and regional collaboration, the project will enhance the Caribbean's ability to deliver accurate forecasts, protect lives and infrastructure, and meet national, regional, and global climate and disaster risk reduction obligations.

CORG Coordination and International Recognition

10.33 Council was informed that the CORG convened three times in 2025, reinforcing its role as the region's primary body for radar coordination and technical oversight. The Group provided expert guidance on operational challenges affecting Member States and ensured Caribbean radar priorities were represented at international forums, including WMO conferences. CORG facilitated direct engagement with radar manufacturers and developers of open-source radar software, addressing design, maintenance, and modernization issues. This collaboration enables NMHSs to communicate

operational challenges, build local technical capacity, reduce long-term costs, and enhance interoperability across the regional radar network**.**

10.34 Council commended the CORG for its increasing international recognition, exemplified by the invitation to give a keynote presentation to the *41st International Conference on Radar Meteorology* held in Toronto, Canada on 25-29 August 2025. Environment and Climate Mr. Kenneth Kerr, CMO Science and Technology Officer, received sponsorship as a presenter and a panelist.

10.35 The Council was informed that CMO Headquarters supported the submission of the abstract of the CORG and an abstract from the Barbados Meteorological Service on the application of radar to forecasting in the Caribbean.

10.36 The Council noted that the CORG's participation ensured that the Caribbean's operational radar achievements, best practices, challenges, and needs were prominently represented. The Council also noted that the CORG highlighted how coordinated regional collaboration strengthens radar sustainability and supports early-warning services for CMO Member States.

10.37 Council was informed that the CORG developed its Strategic 3-Year Plan, which outlines priorities to enhance the reliability, sustainability, and security of regional radar operations. Key measures include preventive maintenance, calibration, improved data quality, radio-frequency protection, and strengthened data sharing and integration into forecasting systems. Collectively, the plan aims to deliver more accurate and resilient radar-based early-warning services, boosting the region's capacity to respond to severe weather and multi-hazard events.

10.38 **The Council**:

(i) **Noted** the status of the radars in the CMO Member states during 2025, especially the repairing of the radar in Jamaica, which was used to monitor and forecast Hurricane Melissa.

(ii) **Noted** that the CMO Weather Radar Network should be treated as a mission-critical asset—that requires consistent investment, skilled technical support, maintenance, and adequate funding for operations.

(iii) **Recognized** that securing and safeguarding the integrity, reliability, and continuity of the radar network as a regional public good, is a strategic imperative for protecting lives, enabling climate adaptation, and ensuring that regional governments can fulfil their national and regional obligations and global initiatives such as the UN Early Warnings for All.

(iv) **Acknowledged** the successful approval of the CMO Green Climate Fund (GCF) project and recognized the importance of the project for upgrading the Doppler Weather Radar systems in Belize and Trinidad and Tobago.

(v) **Noted** the commitment of CMO Headquarters to executing the project in accordance with GCF guidelines, with oversight of the Caribbean Development Bank, the Accredited Entity with GCF.

(vi) **Formally endorsed** the CMO Headquarters implementation of the approved GCF project, *Scaling up Caribbean Hydrometeorological and Multi-Hazard Early Warning Services in Belize and Trinidad and Tobago,* which includes the upgrading of the CMO-procured weather radars in Belize and Trinidad and Tobago**.**

(vii) **Noted** that the CMO Operational Radar Group has been recognized internationally as an exemplar community of practice for weather radar operations**.**

(viii) **Acknowledged** the valuable role of the CMO Operational Radar Group in ensuring the sustainability of the regional weather radar network, which is a key tool for early warning services in the Caribbean, and **noted** the CORG Roadmap 2025-2027.

(ix) **Urged** NMHSs to strengthen collaboration, through joint monitoring, shared protocols, and regular technical engagement, to ensure the accuracy, reliability, and uninterrupted availability of radar data across the region.

(x) Agreed to **consider** conducting a reconciliation of the existing regional radar spare parts pool hosted by the CIMH and to guide the future of the pool and the development of regional arrangements and policy for procurement and access to spare parts in the pool**.**

11 OTHER PROJECT UPDATES AND PROPOSALS

11.1. The Council was reminded that the CMO Headquarters continued to advance several initiatives to strengthen Member States' capacity to deliver effective weather, water, climate, and early warning services. These include CREWS Caribbean 2.0; the GCF Simplified Approval Process (SAP) Project to scale up hydrometeorological and multi-hazard early warning systems in Belize and Trinidad and Tobago; the implementation of Quality Management Systems (QMS); the research project on the International Relations of Tropical Storms in the Caribbean; and support to an initiative to embed alternative energy topics into CSEC and CAPE Mathematics and Science curricula. CREWS Caribbean 2.0, which runs to March 2027 with a budget of US$7 million, aims to strengthen MHEWS governance, improve disaster risk knowledge, enhance NMHS and NDRMO capacities, support warning dissemination, and advance inclusive and gender-responsive early warning systems.

11.2. The Council was reminded that the CMO Headquarters entered into an Implementing Arrangement with WMO in November 2024 to support Member States through activities such as developing or adjusting SOPs between NMHSs and NDRMOs; developing national strategic plans and frameworks for weather, water, and climate services; regional and national severe weather forecasting workshops; familiarization missions for operational forecasters; capacity development in lightning detection, WIGOS and WIS 2.0; strengthening collaboration among NMHSs, NDRMOs, and the media; and supporting national CAP implementation workshops. The CMO Headquarters also continued working with the Caribbean Development Bank to upgrade Doppler weather radars in Belize and Trinidad and Tobago through the GCF-SAP and GCF-CREWS Scaling Up Framework, which offers fast-tracked access to financing of up to US$25 million for early warning systems. The associated project, valued at US$24.93 million, will strengthen national MHEWS governance, disaster risk knowledge, warning communication, and NMHS detection, observation, monitoring, forecasting, and service delivery, along with co-benefits including increased access to education and strengthened gender equality.

11.3. The Council noted the expected benefits to NMHSs, particularly for advancing impact-based forecasting; implementing high-resolution numerical weather prediction; upgrading Doppler radar systems; modernizing ICT systems; strengthening communications; developing staff capacity across forecasting, observations, and analysis; and supporting the institutionalization of MHEWS. Council was reminded of ICAO's QMS requirement and of its previous instruction to CMO Headquarters to initiate a structured programme to support Members in achieving QMS certification, beginning with regional baseline assessments and progressing toward project proposal development and grant funding. Council was updated that the CMO Headquarters is pursuing funding to support NMHS

leadership training, QMS auditor certification, development of model documentation, and a regional workshop to tailor QMS documentation and establish a regional audit strategy.

11.4. The Council also recalled the research project on the International Relations of Tropical Storms in the Caribbean, jointly undertaken by King's College London and The UWI, with the Coordinating Director serving on the Advisory Board. During HC-47, the project conducted interviews with forecasters and related experts, and a subsequent workshop, "Weather Politics and Security in the Caribbean," was held in Jamaica in May 2025. The Council was further reminded of the request from The UWI's Faculty of Science and Technology to partner on advancing alternative energy education through the installation of meteorological stations supported by the Trinidad and Tobago Green Fund, aimed at integrating sustainability and environmental science topics into CSEC and CAPE syllabi.

11.5. The Council noted progress updates provided at CMC68 on CREWS Caribbean 2.0, the International Relations of Tropical Storms project, and the CREWS Accelerated Support Window proposal on satellite data and radar capacity development. For CREWS Caribbean 2.0, activities advanced included development of SOPs through a unified approach with CDEMA, assessment of existing SOPs, planning for WIS 2.0 and WIGOS training of trainers, and concept development for a regional workshop to strengthen collaboration among NMHSs, NDRMOs, and the media. Implementation also continued for national strategic plan development, expansion of the Severe Weather Forecasting Programme, updating of the operational plan, testing of excessive heat alerts, development of the 2025–2026 training plan, initial planning for familiarization missions, and the successful 2025 Caribbean Lightning Safety Awareness Contest. National CAP training workshops were completed for Grenada, Dominica, and Saint Lucia, and financial support was provided to Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for their participation in HC-47.

11.6. The Council was informed that the CMO Headquarters responded to an urgent request from Belize for radar operations and maintenance training to ensure operational continuity during the hurricane season. CMO Headquarters worked closely with WMO project officers to incorporate this need into the Accelerated Support Window proposal aimed at strengthening early warning system capacity through improved satellite data utilization. The proposal was ultimately submitted for consideration. Council reaffirmed its support for the CMO Headquarters' ongoing efforts to strengthen NMHS operational capacity, implement CREWS Caribbean 2.0, pursue QMS funding, and develop the GCF-SAP-CREWS Scaling Up Project, including radar upgrades and wider MHEWS strengthening in Belize and Trinidad and Tobago.

11.7. The Council also reflected on progress updates received at the virtual 68th Session, on the CREWS Caribbean Project Phase 2 (CREWS Caribbean 2.0), noting preliminary discussions with regional and international partners and the drafting of an Implementing Arrangement with WMO.

11(a) Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) Caribbean Project Phase 2 (CREWS Caribbean 2.0): Strengthening Hydro-Meteorological and Early Warning Services in the Caribbean

11.8. The Council was reminded that, following the successful completion of CAP training workshops in Grenada, Dominica, and Saint Lucia in early 2025, steady progress has been made in advancing activities under the WMO-CMO Implementing Arrangement. Over recent months, significant effort has been devoted to the development, planning, and conceptualization of activities requiring engagement with partner organizations such as UNDRR, the Caribbean Broadcasting Union (CBU), and CDEMA. A survey issued to assess the status of SOPs developed under CREWS Caribbean 1.0 received ten responses from NMHSs and none from NDRMOs; only three NMHSs reported awareness of any SOP with their NDRMO, and the majority identified limited awareness and resource constraints as barriers to implementation. Recommendations included regular NMHS–NDRMO meetings, practical SOP exercises, and clearer guidance documents, indicating a need for a nationally focused approach. The Council was also advised that CDEMA's staffing changes and

commitments to post-Hurricane Melissa recovery have delayed joint SOP-related activities, which are expected to be advanced in 2026.

11.9. The Council was informed that progress continued on the development of National Strategic Plans and Frameworks for Weather, Water, and Climate Services for Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Saint Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis, and Trinidad and Tobago, following a public call for consultancy services. A consultant was contracted effective 31 October 2025, and the first national stakeholder consultation in Saint Lucia is scheduled for 24 November 2025. Government approval letters will be issued to the remaining beneficiary countries, with strategic plan preparation continuing into 2026. In relation to the Severe Weather Forecasting Programme–Caribbean (SWFP-C), CMO Headquarters provided financial support to the first operational regional workshop in July 2025 and is working with CIMH to develop an in-person training workshop for SWFP-C Focal Points in early to mid-2026. CMO Headquarters, Météo-France, and CIMH also organized an attachment for the Antigua and Barbuda Meteorological Service SWFP-C Focal Point at the Regional Forecast Support Facility in Martinique in November 2025, with further familiarization missions planned for 2026 to support obligations under Resolution 1 (2011) on regional forecast and warning arrangements. The Council was encouraged to note that documenting the impact of these missions will be important, given their pilot nature.

11.10. The Council was updated that CMO Headquarters continues to expand regional lightning detection and awareness-building capacity, following the successful 2025 Caribbean Lightning Safety Awareness Contest. Automatic Weather Systems for winning schools in the Bahamas, Belize, and Dominica have been shipped, and lightning sensor installations are expected in the first quarter of 2026 pending site assessments and finalization of hosting agreements. The Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service completed its site assessment, while the assessment in Jamaica was delayed by Hurricane Melissa. CMO Headquarters has initiated discussions with the University of São Paulo—operators of the STARNET lightning network—and The University of the West Indies to explore an internship for a UWI student to train in low-cost lightning sensor development and data analysis, enabling long-term regional capacity building.

11.11. The Council was informed that CMO Headquarters and WMO continued preparations for training-of-trainers initiatives in WIGOS and WIS 2.0, contributing to a concept note for a WIGOS and Regional Basic Observing Network workshop scheduled for February 2026 in Costa Rica. CREWS Caribbean 2.0 funding will be used to support participation by RWC staff and WMO Data Quality Monitoring System National Focal Points. Member States were encouraged to respond promptly to requests for nominees and consider self-funding when possible. The Council also noted ongoing collaboration among CMO, WMO, UNDRR, and the CBU to organize a regional workshop to strengthen collaboration among NMHSs, NDRMOs, and the media, scheduled for 20–21 January 2026 in Port of Spain. To maximize participation, resources from regional and national workshops will be pooled, and one or two pilot national trainings will be supported. An AI and Meteorological Innovation Workshop, hosted jointly by CMO Headquarters and Varysian Limited, will follow on 22-23 January 2026. Invitation letters have been issued to NMHSs, NDRMOs, and State Media, with nominations due by 21 November 2025; WMO and UNDRR will support travel for the communications workshop and, based on nominations received, participation in both workshops where feasible.

11.12. The Council was informed that the approval timeline for the CREWS Accelerated Support Window proposal on satellite data and radar capacity development did not align with Belize's urgent need for radar operations and maintenance training, particularly after the sudden breakdown of the national weather radar during the peak of the 2025 hurricane season. CMO Headquarters, working closely with WMO Project Officers for CREWS Caribbean 2.0, identified an alternative funding avenue within CREWS Caribbean 2.0 to rapidly respond to Belize's request. An urgent training and repair mission was organized from 6-10 October 2025, during which a specialist from Leonardo Germany GmbH provided intensive, hands-on training to five technicians of the National Meteorological Service of Belize. The team successfully diagnosed and repaired the radar, restoring full operational

functionality and significantly enhancing national capacity in calibration and preventive maintenance. This timely intervention ensured uninterrupted radar surveillance at a critical period and strengthened both Belize's resilience and regional early warning capabilities. Council was asked to note the continued cooperation between CMO and WMO under CREWS Caribbean 2.0, and that the intervention was featured in WMO's Project Updates Newsletter.

11(b) Green Climate Fund (GCF) Simplified Approval Process (SAP) for Climate Risk Early Warning Systems (CREWS) Scaling up Hydrometeorological and Multi-hazard Early Warning Systems in Belize and Trinidad and Tobago Project

11.13. The Council was informed that at the 43rd meeting of the Green Climate Fund Board, held from 27-30 October 2025, the CMO's proposal, presented by the Caribbean Development Bank as the Accredited Entity, was approved for USD 24 million to scale up multi-hazard early warning systems in Belize and Trinidad and Tobago. This represents the second project advanced under the GCF-SAP-CREWS Scaling Up Framework. The initiative will substantially strengthen both countries' National Meteorological and Hydrometeorological Services, establishing the institutional, technical, and operational foundations needed for modern, impact-based multi-hazard early warning systems. It is expected to directly benefit approximately 1.2 million people and indirectly benefit an additional 0.3 million across the two countries, enhancing resilience to climate-related hazards, reducing damage and loss, improving response times, and lessening socioeconomic impacts, particularly for vulnerable communities.

11.14. The Council noted that key project activities include upgrading Doppler radars and forecasting facilities, developing impact-based forecasting systems, strengthening institutional capacity for disaster risk reduction, and improving the integration of climate information services across sectors. The project also aims to enhance collaboration among national and regional stakeholders and improve communication with vulnerable populations. Further details on the innovative reforms, system upgrades, capacity development, and institutional strengthening measures to be implemented for NMHSs and National Disaster Risk Management Organizations in Belize and Trinidad and Tobago were provided in an Annex.

11(c) Quality Management System (QMS) Implementation

11.15. The Council was asked to note that CMO Headquarters continued advancing activities to strengthen the leadership, operational, and technical capacities required for NMHS compliance with Quality Management Systems (QMS), building on the Council's previous guidance at CMC63 and its support for pursuing grant funding at CMC67. These efforts complement the regional programme of actions endorsed by the Council, including baseline assessments, the development of model QMS documentation, and the formulation of a regional audit strategy. Preparations are underway for the WMO Training on Leadership and Management of NMHSs in RA III and RA IV, scheduled for 1-5 December 2025 in Port of Spain. Funded through a WMO Voluntary Co-operation Programme (VCP) request submitted by CMO Headquarters, this training targets senior NMHS leadership and addresses strategic planning, governance, resource management, and emerging technologies, competencies essential for effective QMS implementation, maintenance, and continual improvement.

11.16. The Council was further informed that another VCP request is being refined to support certification training for NMHS personnel in QMS auditing. CMO Headquarters has submitted a draft proposal under a new Canadian funding opportunity, for which positive preliminary feedback has been received, and is also pursuing CREWS Caribbean 2.0 support to develop a hybrid QMS-Severe Weather Forecasting workshop to expand regional participation. The proposed workshop would strengthen forecast processes, verification practices, and regional consistency, directly contributing to improved forecasting capacity and supporting ICAO's efforts to harmonize and integrate safety

oversight and quality management frameworks in the North America, Central America, and Caribbean Region.

11(d) The International Relations of Tropical Storms in the Caribbean

11.17. The Council was informed that in September 2025, the research team for the project International Relations of Tropical Storms in the Caribbean presented their initial findings and planned activities for 2026-2027 to the WMO Research Board Task Team on Early Warnings for All, and that the UWI lead investigator conducted an interview with the Coordinating Director on the operational aspects of the Hurricane Committee and CMO regional forecasting arrangements. The Council was reminded that the project was designed from the outset to engage directly with experts in the CMO community and to examine CMO and WMO international relations both in practice and as documented; accordingly, the research team will participate in the 69th Council Session as observers and will present their study at the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Directors of Meteorological Services. The Council was further advised that the team will conduct face-to-face interviews with Directors of National Meteorological Services to identify key cooperation challenges and opportunities related to tropical storms and hurricanes, supporting outcomes that include a regional workshop and policy report on cooperation needs, jointly developed policy recommendations with WMO, and greater visibility of the CMO's role in regional and global meteorological governance.

11(e) Advancing Alternative Energy Education within the Ministry of Education CSEC and CAPE Science and Mathematics Syllabi

11.18. The Council was informed that this project remains in the development stage, and that collaborators will need to engage with the new officials in the Ministry of Education since the government has changed.

11.19. **The Council:**

(i) **Noted** updates on the development of projects and proposals, and their implementation to strengthen NMHS operational and management capacity, early warning systems, and consequently, climate adaptation and sustainable development in Member States.

(ii) **Noted** that activities being implemented in conjunction with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) will have to be rescheduled in response to the departure of the CREWS Caribbean 2.0 Project Officer and the regional response to Hurricane Melissa's devastating impact on Jamaica.

(iii) **Noted** the approval of the CMO project, "Scaling up Hydrometeorological and Multi-hazard Early Warning Systems in Belize and Trinidad and Tobago", by the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

(iv) **Recognized** the significance of the approval of the GCF project for strengthening National Meteorological Services and early warning systems in Belize, Trinidad & Tobago, and the wider Caribbean.

(v) **Approved** the CMO Headquarters Unit as the Executing Entity for the GCF project, *"Scaling up Hydrometeorological and Multi-hazard Early Warning Systems in Belize and Trinidad and Tobago"*, to be implemented on behalf of the CMO, with oversight by the Caribbean Development Bank as the Accredited Entity of the GCF.

(vi) **Supported** the CMO Headquarters Unit in regional collaboration for radar data sharing, capacity development, and adoption of best practices in operational early warning services across CMO Members

(vii) **Supported** the CMO Headquarters Unit in the communication of the GCF project objectives to stakeholders, partners, and the public to enhance awareness and buy-in.

(viii) **Supported** the CMO Headquarters Unit in the pursuit of grant funding to support Member States' implementation of Quality Management Systems for their National Meteorological and Hydrometeorological Services, and the participation of NMHS personnel in these trainings.

(ix) **Encouraged** Members to respond in a timely manner to requests for nominees to participate in workshops and other activities being implemented by the CMO Headquarters Unit in support of CMO Member states.

12 STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL PLANNING

12.1 The Council noted the activities accomplished in support of the current Strategic Plan development by the CMO Headquarters and CIMH and the draft strategic planning document initiated by CMO Headquarters for its next strategic period.

12.2 The **Council**:

(i) **Noted** the progress being made on the strategic planning by the CMO Headquarters and CIMH

(ii) **Requested** the CMO Headquarters Unit and CIMH to accelerate the completion of the CMO Strategic Plan and **present** the plan to the Council during Q1 of 2026.

13 OTHER MATTERS

13(a) Human Resources (HR) Committee [*Amended 6 November 2026, following email consultation and agreement of the 69th Council*]

13.1 The Council recalled that at its 67th session, Saint Lucia had agreed to serve on the HR Committee, alongside the Chair of the HR Committee, which is assigned to the Chair of the Board of Governors of the CIMH. During the 69th Council session, Montserrat agreed to serve on the HR Committee. A request was made for another Member to serve as Secretary of the HR Committee, since that position could not be filled by a member of staff. The opportunity remained opened at the end of the session. The Council noted that the Terms of Reference for the HR Committee would be provided by the Principal of CIMH.

13.2 **The Council**

(i) **Accepted** the Membership of the HR Committee as Barbados, Saint Lucia and Montserrat.

13(d) Any other business

13.3 **The Council**

(i) **Decided** to schedule the approval of the Draft CMC69 report during a virtual session at a time to be determined after consultation with the Council delegates.

14 DATE AND VENUE OF THE CMC ANNUAL SESSION IN 2026

14.1 The ***Honourable Arlington Musgrove***, the Minister of Physical Planning and Infrastructure Development of the Turks and Caicos Islands informed Council of his government's decision to host the next Annual Session of the Caribbean Meteorological Council and support the participation of attending Ministers.

14.2 **The Council**

(i) **Accepted** the generous offer of the government of the Turks and Caicos Islands regarding the hosting the Annual CMC and related meetings in 2026.

Close of Meeting

14.3 There being no other business, the Meeting ended at **_15:00_ pm AST** with an exchange of courtesies.

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15 **P R O V I S I O N A L A G E N D A**

1. OPENING OF SESSION AND ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA AND PROCEDURAL MATTERS

3. CMO EXECUTIVE REPORTS

   (a) Coordinating Director's Report

   (b) CIMH Principal's Report

   (c) CIMH Board of Governors' Report

4. STATUS OF ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS SESSION

5. SPECIAL WMO ISSUES

   (a) Outcomes/Highlights of the Extraordinary World Meteorological Congress and 79th Session of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Executive Council (EC)

   (b) Issues emerging from meetings of the WMO Technical Commissions and Research Board in 2025

   (c) UN Early Warnings for All

   (d) WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS), Global Basic Observation Network (GBON), WMO Information Systems (WIS) and Systematic Observation Finance Facility (SOFF)

   (e) The Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) and other Services

   (f) Disaster Risk Reduction and Regional Severe Weather Forecasts and Warning Systems
   - Tropical Cyclone Programme
   - Severe Weather Forecasting Programme

   1.10.

   (g) Business Continuity Management

6. FINANCIAL REPORTS

   (a) Status of Refundable Balances

   (b) CMO HQ - Auditor's Report

   (c) Statement of Contributions and Arrears (CMO HQ & CIMH)

   (d) Proposed Consequences for Members in Arrears

   (e) Report on Status and Activities of Ad-hoc Finance Committee

(f) Review of CMO Contribution Formula

7. SPECIAL CMO ISSUES

(a) Review of Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Institutions

(b) Regional Arrangements for Meteorological Forecast and Warning Services among CMO Member States

(c) CMO Data Policy

8. CMO BUDGETS (Headquarters Unit, CRN and Radar, CIMH)

(a) CMOHQ Budget Estimates for 2026

(b) CIMH Budget Estimates for 2026

9. REPORT OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE DIRECTORS OF METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES

10. CMO WEATHER RADAR NETWORK

11. OTHER PROJECT UPDATES AND PROPOSALS

(a) Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) Caribbean Phase 2

(b) Green Climate Fund (GCF)/CREWS Scaling Framework

(c) The International Relations of Tropical Cyclones

12. CMO STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL PLANNING

13. OTHER MATTERS

14. DATE AND VENUE OF FUTURE CMC SESSIONS

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69TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CARIBBEAN METEOROLOGICAL COUNCIL
20-21 NOVEMBER 2025

CMC69
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Amendment of the "*Provision of Meteorological and Hydrological Data and Products by CIMH*"
(CMC69, Rodney Bay, Saint Lucia, 2025)

The Council policy (CMC43, 2003), "*Provision of Meteorological and Hydrological Data and Products by CIMH*", was **amended by the 69th session of the Caribbean Meteorological Council** (CMC69, Rodney Bay, Saint Lucia, 2025) to reference WMO Resolution 1 (2021 Extraordinary World Meteorological Congress, Cg-Ext(2021)), which had replaced the WMO Resolution 40 referenced by CMC43.

THE COUNCIL:

Noted the contents of the WMO Resolution 1 of the 2021 Extraordinary World Meteorological Congress (Cg-Ext (2021));

Agreed that the CIMH could provide climate data and products for (i) research and educational purposes, (ii) non-commercial use by clients, (iii) commercial use by clients, in exactly the same way undertaken by Member countries and consistent with the WMO Resolution 1;

Also agreed that the CIMH can supply meteorological and climate data directly to other Meteorological Services, climate services, research and educational institutions or other clients, without seeking permission of each of the Member countries whose data are utilized, provided that it respects the conditions set out by Members regarding the provision of such data;

Further agreed that the CIMH can place conditions on the redistribution by third parties of data and products it provides to them, in exactly the same way that Member countries can do under WMO Resolution 1 (Cg-(Ext2021)).

Decided the CIMH shall include acknowledgements of the CMO Member countries as the originating source of the data used for the products generated and delivered to third parties.

Extract from the Report of the

Forty-Third Session of the Caribbean Meteorological Council (CMC)

Belize City, Belize
18-19 December 2003

4(c) Provision of Meteorological and Hydrological Data and Products by CIMH

THE COUNCIL:

Noted the contents of the WMO Resolution 40 of the Twelfth Congress;

Agreed that the CIMH could provide climate data and products for (i) research and educational purposes, (ii) non-commercial use by clients, (iii) commercial use by clients, in exactly the same way undertaken by Member countries and consistent with the WMO Resolution 40;

Also agreed that the CIMH can supply meteorological and climate data directly to other Meteorological Services, climate services, research and educational institutions or other clients, without seeking permission of each of the Member countries whose data are utilized, provided that it respects the conditions set out by Members regarding the provision of such data;

Further agreed that the CIMH can place conditions on the redistribution by third parties of data and products it provides to them, in exactly the same way that Member countries can do under Resolution 40.

Decided the CIMH shall include acknowledgements of the CMO Member countries as the originating source of the data used for the products generated and delivered to third parties.

HEADQUARTERS UNIT ESTIMATES 2026

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REGIONAL CONTRIBUTION TO CMO HEADQUARTERS AND CIMH BUDGETS - 2026

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