

[ORIGINAL AGREEMENT]

VIEW TEXT [English](#) [French](#)

**Title:** MULTILATERAL Convention of the World Meteorological Organization (with annexes and Protocol concerning Spain) Signed at Washington, on 11 October 1947 In accordance with article 35, the Convention came into force on 23 March 1950, the thirtieth day after the date of deposit with the Government of the United States of America of the thirtieth instrument of ratification or accession For each State ratifying or acceding after that date the Convention comes into force on the thirtieth day after the deposit of its instrument of ratification or accession: Date of deposit of instrument of ratification or notification of accession (a) Iceland 16 January 1948 New Zealand 2 April 1948 Union of Soviet Socialist Republics 2 April 1948 a Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic

**Registration Number:** 998  
**REGISTERED**  
**By:** United States of America  
**Date:** 28.12.1950

**Signed/Adopted:**  
 11.10.1947, WASHINGTON

**Entry Into Force:**  
 23.03.1950 DEFINITIVE

**ICJ:** No Authority

**PARTICIPATION**

PARTICIPANT	ACTION	DATE	WITH EFFECT
Algeria	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	05.12.1949	23.03.1950
Andorra	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	05.12.1949	23.03.1950
Argentina	SIGNATURE	11.10.1947	
Ashanti	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	14.12.1948	23.03.1950
Australia	RATIFICATION	14.03.1949	23.03.1950
Australian Territories	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION (with Other)	26.10.1950	
Basutoland	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	14.12.1948	23.03.1950
Bechuanaland	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	14.12.1948	23.03.1950
Belgian Congo	SIGNATURE	11.10.1947	
Belgium	SIGNATURE	11.10.1947	
Bermuda	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	14.12.1948	23.03.1950
Brazil	RATIFICATION	15.03.1950	14.04.1950

British Solomon Islands	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	14 12 1948	23 03 1950
Brunei	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	14 12 1948	23 03 1950
Burma	RATIFICATION	19 08 1949	23 03 1950
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	ACCESSION	12.04 1948	23.03 1950
Canada	RATIFICATION	28.07.1950	27.08.1950
Chile	SIGNATURE	11 10 1947	
China	SIGNATURE	11.10.1947	
Colombia	SIGNATURE	11.10.1947	
Colony of Aden	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	14.12.1948	23.03.1950
Cuba	SIGNATURE	11.10.1947	
Czechoslovakia	RATIFICATION	26 07.1949	23 03.1950
Denmark	SIGNATURE	11.10.1947	
Dominican Republic	RATIFICATION	15.09.1949	23 03.1950
Ecuador	SIGNATURE	11.10.1947	
Egypt	RATIFICATION (with Declaration)	10.01.1950	23.03.1950
Falkland Islands and Dependencies	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	14.12 1948	23.03.1950
Federation of Malaya	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	14.12.1948	23 03.1950
Fiji	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	14.12.1948	23.03.1950
Finland	RATIFICATION	07.01 1950	23 03.1950
France	RATIFICATION	05 12 1949	23.03 1950
French Equatorial Africa	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	05 12 1949	23.03 1950
French Guiana	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	05.12 1949	23.03.1950
French Somaliland	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	05.12.1949	23.03.1950
French West Africa	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	05 12 1949	23.03.1950
Gibraltar	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	14.12 1948	23 03.1950
Gilbert and Ellice Islands	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	14.12 1948	23.03 1950
Gold Coast Colony	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	14.12.1948	23 03 1950
Gold Coast Northern Territory	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	14 12 1948	23 03 1950
Greece	RATIFICATION	20 01 1950	23.03 1950
Guatemala	SIGNATURE	11.10 1947	
Hong Kong	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	14 12 1948	23 03 1950

Hungary	SIGNATURE	11 10 1947	
Iceland	RATIFICATION	16.01 1948	23 03 1950
India	RATIFICATION	27 04.1949	23 03 1950
Indonesia	ACCESSION	16 11 1950	16 12 1950
Iraq	ACCESSION	21 02.1950	23 03.1950
Ireland	RATIFICATION	14.03.1950	13.04.1950
Israel	ACCESSION	30.09 1949	23.03.1950
Italy	SIGNATURE	11.10 1947	
Kenya Colony	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	14.12 1948	23.03 1950
Kenya Protectorate	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	14.12 1948	23.03 1950
Lebanon	ACCESSION	22.12 1948	23 03 1950
Madagascar	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	05.12.1949	23 03 1950
Malta	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	14.12.1948	23 03.1950
Mauritius	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	14 12 1948	23 03 1950
Mexico	RATIFICATION	27.05.1949	23.03.1950
Morocco	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	05 12.1949	23 03.1950
Nauru	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION (with Other)	26.10 1950	
Netherlands	SIGNATURE	11 10 1947	
New Caledonia	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	05 12.1949	23 03 1950
New Zealand	RATIFICATION	02 04.1948	23.03 1950
Nigeria Colony	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	14 12.1948	23.03 1950
Nigeria Protectorate	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	14 12 1948	23 03 1950
Norfolk Island	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION (with Other)	26 10 1950	
North Borneo	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	14 12 1948	23.03 1950
Northern Rhodesia	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	14.12 1948	23 03 1950
Norway	RATIFICATION	09 12 1948	23 03 1950
Nyasaland	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	14.12 1948	23 03 1950
Pakistan	RATIFICATION	11 04 1950	11 05 1950
Papua New Guinea	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION (with Other)	26 10 1950	
Paraguay	RATIFICATION	15 09 1950	15 10 1950

Peru	ACCESSION	30 12 1949	23 03 1950
Philippines	RATIFICATION	05.04 1949	23 03 1950
Poland	RATIFICATION	16 05 1950	15 06 1950
Portugal	SIGNATURE	11 10 1947	
Protectorate of Aden	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	14 12 1948	23 03 1950
Reunion	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	05 12 1949	23 03 1950
Romania	ACCESSION	18 08.1948	23 03.1950
Saint Pierre and Miquelon	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	05.12 1949	23 03.1950
Seychelles	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	14 12 1948	23 03 1950
Siam	SIGNATURE	11 10 1947	
Singapore	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	14.12 1948	23 03 1950
Southern Rhodesia	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	14 12 1948	23 03 1950
Swaziland	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	14.12 1948	23.03 1950
Sweden	RATIFICATION	10 11.1948	23 03 1950
Switzerland	RATIFICATION	23 02 1949	23 03 1950
Syrian Arab Republic	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	14 12 1948	23 03 1950
Tanganyika	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	14 12 1948	23 03 1950
Territory of New Guinea	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION (with Other)	26 10 1950	
Territory of the Cameroons under British Administration	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	14 12 1948	23 03 1950
Territory of Togoland under French Administration	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	05 12 1949	23 03 1950
Thailand	RATIFICATION	11.10.1949	23 03 1950
Togo	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	14 12 1948	23 03 1950
Tunisia	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	05 12 1949	23.03 1950
Turkey	RATIFICATION	05 08 1949	23 03 1950
Uganda Protectorate	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	14 12 1948	23 03 1950
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic	ACCESSION	12 04 1948	23 03 1950
Union of South Africa	RATIFICATION	17 01 1950	23 03 1950
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	ACCESSION	02 04 1948	23 03 1950
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	RATIFICATION	14 12 1948	23 03 1950

United States of America	RATIFICATION	04 05 1949	23 03 1950
Venezuela	ACCESSION	16 06.1950	16 07 1950
Yugoslavia	RATIFICATION	07 12 1948	23 03 1950
Zanzibar Protectorate	TERRITORIAL APPLICATION	14.12 1948	23 03 1950

No. 998

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**ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, BELGIUM,  
BRAZIL, BURMA, etc.**

**Convention of the World Meteorological Organization (with annexes and Protocol concerning Spain). Signed at Washington, on 11 October 1947**

*Official texts: English and French.*

*Registered by the United States of America on 28 December 1950.*

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**ARGENTINE, AUSTRALIE, BELGIQUE,  
GERMANNIE, BRÉSIL, etc.**

**Convention de l'Organisation météorologique mondiale (avec annexes et Protocole concernant l'Espagne). Signée à Washington, le 11 octobre 1947**

*Textes officiels anglais et français.*

*Enregistrée par les Etats-Unis d'Amérique le 28 décembre 1950.*

No. 998. CONVENTION<sup>1</sup> OF THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION, SIGNED AT WASHINGTON, ON 11 OCTOBER 1947

With a view to coordinating, standardizing, and improving world meteorological activities and to encouraging an efficient exchange of meteorological information between countries in the aid of human activities the contracting States agree to the present Convention, as follows:

PART I

ESTABLISHMENT

Article 1

The World Meteorological Organization (hereinafter called the Organization) is hereby established.

PART II

Article 2

PURPOSES

The purposes of the Organization shall be:

- (a) To facilitate worldwide cooperation in the establishment of networks of stations for the making of meteorological observations or other geophysical observations related to meteorology and to promote the establishment and maintenance of meteorological centers charged with the provision of meteorological services;
- (b) To promote the establishment and maintenance of systems for the rapid exchange of weather information;
- (c) To promote standardization of meteorological observations and to ensure the uniform publication of observations and statistics;
- (d) To further the application of meteorology to aviation, shipping, agriculture, and other human activities; and
- (e) To encourage research and training in meteorology and to assist in coordinating the international aspects of such research and training.

<sup>1</sup> In accordance with article 25, the Convention came into force on 23 March 1949, the thirtieth day after the date of deposit with the Government of the United States of America of the first instrument of ratification or accession. For each State ratifying or acceding after that date the Convention comes into force on the thirtieth day after the deposit of its instrument of ratification or accession. (For the list of States Parties to the Convention, see page 102.)

## PART III

## MEMBERSHIP

## Article 3

## MEMBERS

The following may become Members of the Organization by the procedure set forth in the present Convention.

- (a) Any State represented at the Conference of Directors of the International Meteorological Organization convened at Washington, D. C., on September 22, 1947, as listed in Annex I attached hereto, and which signs the present Convention and ratifies it in accordance with Article 32, or which accedes thereto, in accordance with Article 33;
- (b) Any Member of the United Nations having a meteorological service by acceding to the present Convention in accordance with Article 33;
- (c) Any State, fully responsible for the conduct of its international relations and having a meteorological service, not listed in Annex I of the present Convention and not a Member of the United Nations, after the submission of a request for membership to the Secretariat of the Organization and after its approval by two-thirds of the Members of the Organization as specified in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of this Article by acceding to the present Convention in accordance with Article 33;
- (d) Any territory or group of territories maintaining its own meteorological service and listed in Annex II attached hereto, upon application of the present Convention on its behalf, in accordance with paragraph (a) of Article 34, by the State or States responsible for its international relations and represented at the Conference of Directors of the International Meteorological Organization convened at Washington, D. C., on September 22, 1947, as listed in Annex I of the present Convention.
- (e) Any territory or group of territories, not listed in Annex II of the present Convention, maintaining its own meteorological service but not responsible for the conduct of its international relations, on behalf of which the present Convention is applied in accordance with paragraph (b) of Article 34, provided that the request for membership is presented by the Member responsible for its international relations, and secures approval by two-thirds of the Members of the Organization as specified in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of this Article.
- (f) Any trust territory or group of trust territories maintaining its own meteorological service and administered by the United Nations to which the United Nations applies the present Convention in accordance with Article 34.



Any request for membership in the Organization shall state in accordance with which paragraph of this Article membership is sought.

#### PART IV

##### ORGANIZATION

###### Article 4

- (a) The Organization shall comprise:
- (1) The World Meteorological Congress (hereinafter called the Congress);
  - (2) The Executive Committee;
  - (3) Regional Meteorological Associations (hereinafter called the Regional Associations);
  - (4) Technical Commissions;
  - (5) The Secretariat.
- (b) There shall be a President and two Vice-Presidents of the Organization who shall also be President and Vice-Presidents of the Congress and of the Executive Committee.

#### PART V

##### ELIGIBILITY

###### Article 5

- (a) Eligibility for election to the offices of President and Vice-President of the Organization, of President and Vice-President of the Regional Associations, and for membership, subject to the provisions of Article 13 (c) of the present Convention, on the Executive Committee should be confined to the Directors of Meteorological Services of Members of the Organization.
- (b) In the performance of their duties, the officers of the Organization and the members of the Executive Committee should regard themselves as representatives of the Organization rather than as representatives of particular Members thereof.

#### PART VI

##### THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL CONGRESS

###### Article 6

##### COMPOSITION

- (a) The Congress is the supreme body of the Organization and shall be composed of delegates representing Members. Each Member shall designate one of its delegates, who should be the director of its meteorological service, as its principal delegate.

- (b) With a view to securing the widest possible technical representation, any director of a meteorological service or any other individual may be invited by the President to be present at and participate in the discussions of the Congress.

*Article 7*

FUNCTIONS

The functions of the Congress shall be:

- (a) To determine general regulations, subject to the provisions of the present Convention, prescribing the constitution and the functions of the various bodies of the Organization;
- (b) To determine its own rules of procedure;
- (c) To elect the President and Vice-Presidents of the Organization, and other Members of the Executive Committee, in accordance with the provisions of Article 10 (a) (4) of the present Convention. Presidents and Vice-Presidents of Regional Associations and Technical Commissions shall be elected in accordance with the provisions of Articles 18 (a) and 19 (c), respectively, of the present Convention.
- (d) To adopt technical regulations covering meteorological practices and procedures;
- (e) To determine general policies for the fulfillment of the purposes of the Organization as set forth in Article 2 of the present Convention;
- (f) To make recommendations to members on matters within the purposes of the Organization;
- (g) To refer to any other body of the Organization any matter within the provisions of the present Convention upon which such body is empowered to act;
- (h) To consider the reports and activities of the Executive Committee and to take such action in regard thereto as the Congress may determine;
- (i) To establish Regional Associations in accordance with the provisions of Article 10; to determine their geographical limits, coordinate their activities, and consider their recommendations;
- (j) To establish Technical Commissions in accordance with the provisions of Article 19; to define their terms of reference, coordinate their activities, and consider their recommendations;
- (k) To determine the location of the Secretariat of the Organization.
- (l) To take any other appropriate action to further the purposes of the Organization.

- (b) With a view to securing the widest possible technical representation, any director of a meteorological service or any other individual may be invited by the President to be present at and participate in the discussions of the Congress.

### Article 7

#### FUNCTIONS

The functions of the Congress shall be:

- (a) To determine general regulations, subject to the provisions of the present Convention, prescribing the constitution and the functions of the various bodies of the Organization;
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- (d) To adopt technical regulations covering meteorological practices and procedures;
- (e) To determine general policies for the fulfillment of the purposes of the Organization as set forth in Article 2 of the present Convention;
- (f) To make recommendations to members on matters within the purposes of the Organization;
- (g) To refer to any other body of the Organization any matter within the provisions of the present Convention upon which such body is empowered to act;
- (h) To consider the reports and activities of the Executive Committee and to take such action in regard thereto as the Congress may determine;
- (i) To establish Regional Associations in accordance with the provisions of Article 18; to determine their geographical limits, coordinate their activities, and consider their recommendations;
- (j) To establish Technical Commissions in accordance with the provisions of Article 19; to define their terms of reference, coordinate their activities, and consider their recommendations;
- (k) To determine the location of the Secretariat of the Organization;
- (l) To take any other appropriate action to further the purposes of the Organization.

*Article 8*

## EXECUTION OF CONGRESS DECISIONS

- (a) All Members shall do their utmost to implement the decisions of the Congress.
- (b) If, however, any Member finds it impracticable to give effect to some requirement in a technical resolution adopted by Congress, such Member shall inform the Secretary General of the Organization whether its inability to give effect to it is provisional or final, and state its reasons therefor.

*Article 9*

## MEETINGS

Meetings of the Congress shall be convened by decision of the Congress or of the Executive Committee at intervals not exceeding five years.

*Article 10*

## VOTING

- (a) Each Member shall have one vote in decisions of the Congress, except that only Members of the Organization which are States, as specified in paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of Article 3 of the present Convention, (hereinafter referred to as "Members which are States"), shall be entitled to vote on any of the following subjects:
  - (1) Amendment or interpretation of the present Convention or proposals for a new Convention;
  - (2) Membership of the Organization;
  - (3) Relations with the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations;
  - (4) Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Organization and of the members of the Executive Committee other than the Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the Regional Assemblies.
- (b) Decisions of the Congress shall be by two-thirds majority of the votes cast for and against, except that elections of individuals to serve in any capacity in the Organization shall be by simple majority of the votes cast. The provisions of this paragraph, however, shall not apply to decisions taken in accordance with Articles 3, 25, 26, and 28 of the present Convention.

*Article 11*

## QUORUM

A majority of the Members shall be required to constitute a quorum for meetings of the Congress. For those meetings of the Congress at which decisions

are taken on the subjects enumerated in paragraph (a) of Article 10, a majority of the Members which are States shall be required to constitute a quorum.

*Article 12*

FIRST MEETING OF THE CONGRESS

The first meeting of the Congress shall be convened by the President of the International Meteorological Committee of the International Meteorological Organization as soon as practicable after the coming into force of the present Convention.

PART VII

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

*Article 13*

COMPOSITION

The Executive Committee shall consist of:

- (a) The President and Vice-Presidents of the Organization;
- (b) The Presidents of Regional Associations, or in the event that Presidents cannot attend, alternates as provided for in the general regulations;
- (c) Directors of Meteorological Services of Members of the Organization or their alternates, equal in number to the number of Regions, provided that not more than one-third of the members of the Executive Committee, including the President and Vice-Presidents of the Organization, shall come from one region.

*Article 14*

FUNCTIONS

The Executive Committee is the executive body of the Congress and its functions shall be.

- (a) To supervise the execution of the resolutions of the Congress;
- (b) To adopt resolutions arising out of recommendations of the Technical Commissions on matters of urgency affecting the technical regulations, provided that all Regional Associations concerned are given an opportunity to express their approval or disapproval before adoption by the Executive Committee;
- (c) To provide technical information, counsel, and assistance in the field of meteorology;
- (d) To study and make recommendations on any matter affecting international meteorology and the operation of meteorological services;

- (e) To prepare the agenda for the Congress and to give guidance to the Regional Associations and Technical Commissions in the preparation of their agenda;
- (f) To report on its activities to each session of the Congress;
- (g) To administer the finances of the Organization in accordance with the provisions of Part XI of the present Convention;
- (h) To perform such other functions as may be conferred on it by the Congress or by the present Convention.

#### *Article 15*

##### MEETINGS

The Executive Committee shall meet at least once a year. The time and place of the meeting shall be determined by the President of the Organization, taking account of the views of the other members of the Committee.

#### *Article 16*

##### VOTING

Decisions of the Executive Committee shall be by two-thirds majority of the votes cast for and against. Each member of the Executive Committee shall have only one vote, notwithstanding that he may be a member in more than one capacity.

#### *Article 17*

##### QUORUM

The quorum shall consist of a majority of the members of the Executive Committee.

### PART VIII

#### REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

#### *Article 18*

- (a) Regional Associations shall be composed of the Members of the Organization, the networks of which lie in or extend into the Region.
- (b) Members of the Organization shall be entitled to attend the meetings of Regional Associations to which they do not belong, take part in the discussions, present their views upon questions affecting their own Meteorological Service, but shall not have the right to vote.
- (c) Regional Associations shall meet as often as necessary. The time and place of the meeting shall be determined by the Presidents of the Regional Associations in agreement with the President of the Organization.

- (d) The functions of the Regional Associations shall be:
- (i) To promote the execution of the resolutions of Congress and the Executive Committee in their respective regions;
  - (ii) To consider matters brought to their attention by the Executive Committee;
  - (iii) To discuss matters of general meteorological interest and to coordinate meteorological and associated activities in their respective regions;
  - (iv) To make recommendations to Congress and the Executive Committee on matters within the purposes of the Organization;
  - (v) To perform such other functions as may be conferred on them by the Congress.
- (e) Each Regional Association shall elect its President and Vice-President.

#### PART IX

##### TECHNICAL COMMISSIONS

###### Article 19

- (a) Commissions consisting of technical experts may be established by the Congress to study and make recommendations to the Congress and the Executive Committee on any subject within the purposes of the Organization.
- (b) Members of the Organization have the right to be represented on the Technical Commissions.
- (c) Each Technical Commission shall elect its President and Vice-President.
- (d) Presidents of Technical Commissions may participate without vote in the meetings of the Congress and of the Executive Committee.

#### PART X

##### THE SECRETARIAT

###### Article 20

The permanent Secretariat of the Organization shall be composed of a Secretary General and such technical and clerical staff as may be required for the work of the Organization.

###### Article 21

- (a) The Secretary General shall be appointed by the Congress on such terms as the Congress may approve.

- (b) The staff of the Secretariat shall be appointed by the Secretary General with the approval of the Executive Committee in accordance with regulations established by the Congress.

*Article 22*

- (a) The Secretary General is responsible to the President of the Organization for the technical and administrative work of the Secretariat.
- (b) In the performance of their duties, the Secretary General and the staff shall not seek or receive instructions from any authority external to the Organization. They shall refrain from any action which might reflect on their position as international officers. Each Member of the Organization on its part shall respect the exclusively international character of the responsibilities of the Secretary General and the staff and not seek to influence them in the discharge of their responsibilities to the Organization.

PART XI

FINANCES

*Article 23*

- (a) The Congress shall determine the maximum expenditures which may be incurred by the Organization on the basis of estimates submitted by the Secretary General and recommended by the Executive Committee.
- (b) The Congress shall delegate to the Executive Committee such authority as may be required to approve the annual expenditures of the Organization within the limitations determined by the Congress.

*Article 24*

The expenditures of the Organization shall be apportioned among the Members of the Organization in the proportions determined by the Congress.

PART XII

RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

*Article 25*

The Organization shall be brought into relationship with the United Nations pursuant to Article 57 of the Charter of the United Nations, subject to the approval of the terms of the agreement by two-thirds of the Members which are States.



## PART XIII

## RELATIONS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

*Article 26*

- (a) The Organization shall establish effective relations and co-operate closely with such other inter-governmental organizations as may be desirable. Any formal agreement entered into with such organizations shall be made by the Executive Committee, subject to approval by two-thirds of the Members which are States.
- (b) The Organization may on matters within its purposes make suitable arrangements for consultation and cooperation with non-governmental international organizations and, with the consent of the government concerned, with national organizations, governmental or non-governmental.
- (c) Subject to approval by two-thirds of the Members which are States, the Organization may take over from any other international organization or agency, the purpose and activities of which lie within the purposes of the Organization, such functions, resources, and obligations as may be transferred to the Organization by international agreement or by mutually acceptable arrangements entered into between the competent authorities of the respective organizations.

## PART XIV

## LEGAL STATUS, PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES

*Article 27*

- (a) The Organization shall enjoy in the territory of each Member such legal capacity as may be necessary for the fulfilment of its purposes and for the exercise of its functions.
- (b) (i) The Organization shall enjoy in the territory of each Member to which the present Convention applies such privileges and immunities as may be necessary for the fulfilment of its purposes and for the exercise of its functions.
- (b) (ii) Representatives of Members and officials of the Organization shall similarly enjoy such privileges and immunities as are necessary for the independent exercise of their functions in connection with the Organization.
- (c) Such legal capacity, privileges, and immunities shall be defined in a separate agreement to be prepared by the Organization in consultation with the Secretary General of the United Nations and concluded between the Members which are States.

## PART XV

## AMENDMENTS

*Article 28*

- (a) The text of any proposed amendment to the present Convention shall be communicated by the Secretary General to Members of the Organization at least six months in advance of its consideration by the Congress.
- (b) Amendments to the present Convention involving new obligations for Members shall require approval by the Congress, in accordance with the provisions of Article 10 of the present Convention, by a two-thirds majority vote, and shall come into force on acceptance by two-thirds of the Members which are States for each such Member accepting the amendment and thereafter for each remaining such Member on acceptance by it. Such amendments shall come into force for any Member not responsible for its own international relations upon the acceptance on behalf of such a Member by the Member responsible for the conduct of its international relations.
- (c) Other amendments shall come into force upon approval by two-thirds of the Members which are States.

## PART XVI

## INTERPRETATION AND DISPUTES

*Article 29*

Any question or dispute concerning the interpretation or application of the present Convention which is not settled by negotiation or by the Congress shall be referred to an independent arbitrator appointed by the President of the International Court of Justice, unless the parties concerned agree on another mode of settlement.

## PART XVII

## WITHDRAWAL

*Article 30*

- (a) Any Member may withdraw from the Organization on twelve months' notice in writing given by it to the Secretary General of the Organization, who shall at once inform all the Members of the Organization of such notice of withdrawal.
- (b) Any Member of the Organization not responsible for its own international relations may be withdrawn from the Organization on twelve months' notice in writing given by the Member or other authority

responsible for its international relations to the Secretary General of the Organization, who shall at once inform all the Members of the Organization of such notice of withdrawal.

#### PART XVIII

##### SUSPENSION

###### *Article 31*

If any Member fails to meet its financial obligations to the Organization or otherwise fails in its obligations under the present Convention, the Congress may by resolution suspend it from exercising its rights and enjoying privileges as a Member of the Organization until it has met such financial or other obligations.

#### PART XIX

##### RATIFICATION AND ACCESSION

###### *Article 32*

The present Convention shall be ratified by the signatory States and the instruments of ratification shall be deposited with the Government of the United States of America, which will notify each signatory and acceding State of the date of deposit thereof.

###### *Article 33*

Subject to the provisions of Article 3 of the present Convention, accession shall be effected by the deposit with the Government of the United States of America of an instrument of accession, which shall take effect on the date of its receipt by the Government of the United States of America, which will notify each signatory and acceding State thereof.

###### *Article 34*

Subject to the provisions of Article 3 of the present Convention,

- (a) Any contracting State may declare that its ratification of, or accession to, the present Convention includes any territory or group of territories for the international relations of which it is responsible.
- (b) The present Convention may at any time thereafter be applied to any such territory or group of territories upon a notification in writing to the Government of the United States of America and the present Convention shall apply to the territory or group of territories on the date of the receipt of the notification by the Government of the United States of America, which will notify each signatory and acceding State thereof.

- (c) The United Nations may apply the present Convention to any trust territory or group of trust territories for which it is the administering authority. The Government of the United States of America will notify all signatory and acceding States of any such application.

## PART XX

### ENTRY INTO FORCE

#### *Article 35*

The present Convention shall come into force on the thirtieth day after the date of the deposit of the thirtieth instrument of ratification or accession. The present Convention shall come into force for each State ratifying or acceding after that date on the thirtieth day after the deposit of its instrument of ratification or accession.

The present Convention shall bear the date on which it is opened for signature and shall remain open for signature for a period of 120 days thereafter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorized by their respective Governments, have signed the present Convention.

DONE at Washington this eleventh day of October 1947, in the English and French languages, each equally authentic, the original of which shall be deposited in the archives of the Government of the United States of America. The Government of the United States of America shall transmit certified copies thereof to all the signatory and acceding States.

EN FOI DE QUOI, les soussignés, étant dûment autorisés à cet effet par leurs Gouvernements respectifs, ont signé la présente Convention.

FAIT à Washington le 11 octobre 1947, en anglais et en français, les deux textes faisant également foi, dont l'original sera déposé aux archives du Gouvernement des Etats-Unis d'Amérique, qui en transmettra des copies certifiées conformes à tous les Etats signataires et adhérents.

For Argentina:

Pour l'Argentine:

Alfredo G. GALMARINI

For Australia:

Pour l'Australie:

N. H. WARREN

For Belgium (including the Belgian Congo):

Pour la Belgique (y compris le Congo Belge):

A. VAN DEN BROECK  
N. VANDER ELST (pour le Congo belge)

For Brazil:

Pour le Brésil:

Francisco Xavier RODRIGUES DE SOUZA

For Burma:

Pour la Birmanie:

MAUNG PO. B.

For Canada:

Pour le Canada:

Andrew THOMSON  
Patrick D. McTAGGART-COWAN

For Chile:

Pour le Chili:

F. NIXON DEL RÍO

For China:

Pour la Chine:

JOHN LEE

For Colombia:	Pour la Colombie: SANTIAGO GARAVITO
For Cuba:	Pour Cuba: GMO BELT
For Czechoslovakia:	Pour la Tchécoslovaquie: DR ALOIS GRÉGOR
For Denmark:	Pour le Danemark: HENRIK KAUFFMANN
For the Dominican Republic:	Pour la République Dominicaine: HANS COHN
For Ecuador:	Pour l'Équateur: <i>ad referendum</i> C. J. AROSEMENA
For Egypt:	Pour l'Égypte: H. FAHMY
For Finland:	Pour la Finlande: J. KERÄNEN
For France:	Pour la France: A. VIAUT
For Greece:	Pour la Grèce: E. S. VOURLAKIS
For Guatemala:	Pour le Guatemala: CLAUDIO URQUIA E.
For Hungary:	Pour la Hongrie: L. AUJESZKY
For Iceland:	Pour l'Islande: TERESIA GUDMUNDSSON

For India:	Pour l'Inde: S. K. BANERJI V. V. SOMANI
For Ireland:	Pour l'Irlande: A. H. NAOLE
For Italy:	Pour l'Italie: Giuseppe BARBA
For Mexico:	Pour le Mexique: F. FERRA A.
For the Kingdom of the Netherlands:	Pour le Royaume des Pays-Bas: W. DEEKER
For New Zealand:	Pour la Nouvelle Zélande: M. A. F. BARNETT
For Norway:	Pour la Norvège: Th. HENNINGBERG
For Pakistan:	Pour le Pakistan: M. O. A. RAIC
For Paraguay:	Pour le Paraguay: T. FARIÑA SANCHEZ
For Poland:	Pour la Pologne: J. WINIEWICZ
For Portugal:	Pour le Portugal: H. AMORIM FERREIRA
For the Republic of the Philippines:	Pour la République des Philippines: C. DEL ROSARIO
For Rumania:	Pour la Roumanie:

For Siam:	POUR LE SIAM: CHAROON V. BUNNAG
For Sweden:	POUR LA SUÈDE: GUSTAF SLETTFENMARK
For Switzerland:	POUR LA SUISSE: JEAN LUGRON
For Turkey:	POUR LA TURQUIE: II. R. BAYDUR
For the Union of South Africa:	POUR L'UNION SUD-AFRICAINE: H. T. ANDREWS
For the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics:	POUR L'UNION DES RÉPUBLIQUES SOVIÉTIQUES SOCIALISTES:
For the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:	POUR LE ROYAUME-UNI DE GRANDE-BRETAGNE ET D'IRLANDE DU NORD: NELSON K. JOHNSON K. C. CHILVER
For the United States of America:	POUR LES ÉTATS-UNIS D'AMÉRIQUE: F. W. REICHELDERFER
For Uruguay:	POUR L'URUGUAY: Cap. de Fragata Américo DENTONE
For Venezuela:	POUR LE VENEZUELA:
For Yugoslavia:	POUR LA YOUGOSLAVIE: Milan VAMIC



## ANNEX I

STATES REPRESENTED AT THE CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS OF THE INTERNATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION CONVENED AT WASHINGTON, D. C., ON SEPTEMBER 22, 1947

Argentina	Mexico
Australia	Netherlands
Belgium	New Zealand
Brazil	Norway
Burma	Pakistan
Canada	Paraguay
Chile	Philippines
China	Poland
Colombia	Portugal
Cuba	Rumania
Czechoslovakia	Siam
Denmark	Sweden
Dominican Republic	Switzerland
Ecuador	Turkey
Egypt	Union of South Africa
Finland	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
France	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Greece	United States of America
Guatemala	Uruguay
Hungary	Venezuela
Ireland	Yugoslavia
India	
Ireland	
Italy	

## ANNEX II

TERRITORIES OR GROUPS OF TERRITORIES WHICH MAINTAIN THEIR OWN METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AND OF WHICH THE STATES RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ARE REPRESENTED AT THE CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS OF THE INTERNATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION CONVENED AT WASHINGTON, D. C., SEPTEMBER 22, 1947

Anglo-Egyptian Sudan	Indo China
Belgian Congo	Jamaica
Bermuda	Madagascar
British East Africa	Malaya
British Guiana	Mauritius
British West Africa	Morocco (not including the Spanish Zone)
Cameroun	Netherlands Indies
Cape Verde Islands	New Caledonia
Ceylon	Palestine
Curacao	Portuguese East Africa
French Equatorial Africa	Portuguese West Africa
French Oceanic Colonies	Rhodesia
French Somaliland	Sudan
French Togoland	Tunisia
French West Africa	
Hong Kong	

PROTOCOL  
CONCERNING SPAIN

At the time of signing the Convention of the World Meteorological Organization, the undersigned, being duly authorized by their Governments, have signed the following Protocol:

It is hereby agreed that Spain may, as soon as the Resolution of the General Assembly of the United Nations dated December 12, 1946<sup>1</sup> shall be abrogated or shall cease to be applicable, accede to the Convention of the World Meteorological Organization by complying with the provisions of Article 33 of the said Convention, without having to comply with the provisions of Article 3 (c) of the said Convention.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the respective representatives have signed the present Protocol.

Done at Washington this eleventh day of October 1947, in the English and French languages, each equally authentic, the original of which shall be deposited in the archives of the Government of the United States of America. The Government of the United States of America shall transmit certified copies thereof to all the signatory States.

For Argentina:

Alfredo G. GALMARINI

For Australia:

N. H. WARREN

<sup>1</sup> See resolution 39 (II), United Nations document A/64/Add. 1, page 63.

PROTOCOLE  
CONCERNANT L'ESPAGNE

Au moment de procéder à la signature de la Convention de l'Organisation Météorologique Mondiale, les soussignés, étant dûment autorisés par leurs Gouvernements, ont signé le Protocole suivant:

Il est convenu par les présentes que l'Espagne pourra, dès que la Résolution de l'Assemblée Générale des Nations Unies, en date du 12 décembre 1946<sup>1</sup>, sera abrogée ou cessera d'être applicable, adhérer à la Convention de l'Organisation Météorologique Mondiale en se conformant aux dispositions de l'article 33 de la dite Convention, sans avoir à se conformer à celles de l'article 3, alinéa (c).

EN FOI DE QUOI, les représentants respectifs ont signé le présent Protocole.

FAIT à Washington le 11 octobre 1947, en anglais et en français, les deux textes faisant également foi, dont l'original sera déposé aux archives du Gouvernement des Etats-Unis d'Amérique, qui en transmettra des copies certifiées conformes à tous les Etats signataires.

Pour l'Argentine

Alfredo G. GALMARINI

Pour l'Australie:

N. H. WARREN

<sup>1</sup> Voir résolution 39 (II), documents des Nations Unies A/64/Add. 1, page 63.

For Belgium (including the Belgian Congo): Pour la Belgique (y compris le Congo belge):

A. VAN DEN BROECK  
N. VANDER KAMF (pour le Congo belge)

For Brazil: Pour le Brésil.

Francisco Xavier RODRIGUES DE SOUSA

For Burma: Pour la Birmanie:

MAUNG PU. E.

For Canada: Pour le Canada:

ANDREW THOMPSON  
Patrick D. McILWAGGART-COWAN

For Chile: Pour le Chili:

F. NIETO DEL RÍO

For China: Pour la Chine:

John LEE

For Colombia: Pour la Colombie:

Santiago GARAYTO

For Cuba: Pour Cuba:

Clmo BELT

For Czechoslovakia: Pour la Tchécoslovaquie:

Dr Alois GRUBER

For Denmark: Pour le Danemark:

Henrik KAUFFMANN

For the Dominican Republic: Pour la République Dominicaine:

Hans COHN

For Ecuador: Pour l'Équateur.

Cl. J. ALOSIMENA

For Egypt: Pour l'Égypte:

H. FAHMY

For Finland: Pour la Finlande.

J. KERÄNEN

For France:	Pour la France: A. VIANT
For Greece:	Pour la Grèce: E. S. VOURLAKIS
For Guatemala:	Pour le Guatemala: Claudio URRUTIA E.
For Hungary:	Pour la Hongrie: L. AUYWANY
For Iceland:	Pour l'Islande: Teresa GUDMUNDSSON
For India:	Pour l'Inde: B. K. HANDEJI V. V. SOMANI
For Ireland:	Pour l'Irlande:
For Italy:	Pour l'Italie: Giuseppe BARBA
For Mexico:	Pour le Mexique: F. PERA A.
For the Kingdom of the Netherlands:	Pour le Royaume des Pays-Bas: W. BEEKER
For New Zealand:	Pour la Nouvelle-Zélande: M. A. T. BARNETT
For Norway:	Pour la Norvège: Th. HENSELBERG
For Pakistan:	Pour le Pakistan: M. O. A. BAIG
For Paraguay:	Pour le Paraguay: T. FARIÑA SANCHEZ
For Poland:	Pour la Pologne: J. WINIEWICZ

For Portugal:	Pour le Portugal:
	H. ANTON FERREIRA
For the Republic of the Philippines:	Pour la République des Philippines:
	C. DEL ROSARIO
For Rumania:	Pour la Roumanie:
For Siam:	Pour le Siam:
	Charoon V. BUNNAG
For Sweden:	Pour la Suède:
	Gustaf STAFFANSSON
For Switzerland:	Pour la Suisse:
For Turkey:	Pour la Turquie:
	H. K. BAYDUR
For the Union of South Africa:	Pour l'Union Sud-Africaine:
	H. T. ANDREWS
For the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics:	Pour l'Union des Républiques sovié- tiques socialistes:
For the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:	Pour le Royaume-Uni de Grande- Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord:
	Nelson K. JOHNSON R. C. CRDVER
For the United States of America:	Pour les États-Unis d'Amérique:
	F. W. REICHELDERFER
For Uruguay:	Pour l'Uruguay:
	Cap. de Fragata Américo DENTONE
For Venezuela:	Pour le Venezuela:
For Yugoslavia:	Pour la Yougoslavie:
	MILAN VEMIC

## LIST OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION

INDICATING THE DATES OF DEPOSIT OF INSTRUMENT OF RATIFICATION OR ACCESSION WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE DATE OF ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE CONVENTION IN RESPECT OF EACH PARTY<sup>1</sup>

	Date of deposit of instrument of ratification or accession of instrument		Date of entry into force of the Convention	
Iceland . . . . .	16 January	1948	23 March	1950
New Zealand . . . . .	2 April	1948	23 March	1950
* Union of Soviet Socialist Republics . . . . .	2 April	1948	23 March	1950
* Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic . . . . .	12 April	1948	23 March	1950
* Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic . . . . .	12 April	1948	23 March	1950
* Romania . . . . .	18 August	1948	23 March	1950
Sweden . . . . .	10 November	1948	23 March	1950
Yugoslavia . . . . .	7 December	1948	23 March	1950
Norway . . . . .	9 December	1948	23 March	1950
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland . . . . .	14 December	1948	23 March	1950
* Lebanon . . . . .	22 December	1948	23 March	1950
Switzerland . . . . .	23 February	1949	23 March	1950
Australia . . . . .	14 March	1949	23 March	1950
Philippines . . . . .	5 April	1949	23 March	1950
India . . . . .	27 April	1949	23 March	1950
United States of America . . . . .	4 May	1949	23 March	1950
Mexico . . . . .	27 May	1949	23 March	1950
Iceland . . . . .	11 July	1949	23 March	1950
Czechoslovakia . . . . .	26 July	1949	23 March	1950
Turkey . . . . .	5 August	1949	23 March	1950
Burma . . . . .	19 August	1949	23 March	1950
Dominican Republic . . . . .	15 September	1949	23 March	1950
* Israel . . . . .	30 September	1949	23 March	1950
France . . . . .	5 December	1949	23 March	1950
* Peru . . . . .	30 December	1949	23 March	1950
Iceland . . . . .	7 January	1950	23 March	1950
Egypt <sup>2</sup> . . . . .	10 January	1950	23 March	1950

## \* Accessions.

<sup>1</sup> For territories and groups of territories to which the Convention was made applicable in accordance with the provisions of article 3 (d) and 34 (a), see pages 184 to 188.

<sup>2</sup> The following declaration accompanied the instrument of ratification deposited by Egypt on 10 January 1950: "On the occasion of the ratification by Egypt of the Convention of the World Meteorological Organization, signed at Washington on 11 October 1947, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Egypt hereby reserves the Government's position respecting the reference to the Sudan - described as the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan - in article II of the said Convention. It is obvious that such a reference can not in any way prejudge the political and legal status of the Sudan nor bind the Government of Egypt which expressly reserves its position with regard to the field of application of the said Convention."

	Date of deposit of instrument of ratification or notification of accession	Date of entry into force of the Convention
Union of South Africa . . . . .	17 January 1950	23 March 1950
Greece . . . . .	20 January 1950	23 March 1950
* Iraq . . . . .	21 February 1950	23 March 1950
Ireland . . . . .	14 March 1950	13 April 1950
Brazil . . . . .	15 March 1950	14 April 1950
Pakistan . . . . .	11 April 1950	11 May 1950
Poland . . . . .	16 May 1950	15 June 1950
** Venezuela . . . . .	16 June 1950	16 July 1950
Canada . . . . .	28 July 1950	27 August 1950
Paraguay . . . . .	15 September 1950	15 October 1950
* Indonesia . . . . .	16 November 1950	16 December 1950

TERRITORIES AND AREAS TO WHICH THE CONVENTION WILL APPLY

- (a) Territories or groups of territories maintaining their own meteorological services which by virtue of the declarations given on their behalf by the State responsible for their international relations, in accordance with the provisions of Articles 3 (d) and 9 (a) of the Convention, will be separate members of the World Meteorological Organization:

	Date of receipt of declaration
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for:	
Bermuda . . . . .	14 December 1948
Central African Territories [Listed in Annex II of the Convention as "Rhodesia"] Northern Rhodesia (Protectorate) Nyasaland Protectorate Southern Rhodesia	14 December 1948
Hong Kong . . . . .	14 December 1948
Malayan Territories . . . . . [Listed in Annex II of the Convention as "Malaya"] Singapore Federation of Malaya North Borneo Sarawak Brunei (Protected State)	14 December 1948
The East African Territories and Indian Ocean Islands . . . . . [Listed in Annex II of the Convention as "British East Africa" and "Mauritius"] Kenya (Colony and Protectorate) Uganda Protectorate Tanganyika (Trust Territory) Zanzibar Protectorate Mauritius Seychelles	14 December 1948

\* Accessions

No. 118



	<i>Date of receipt of declaration</i>
The West African Territories . . . . .	14 December 1948
[Listed in Annex II of the Constitution as "British West Africa" and "Cameroon" (under United Kingdom Trusteeship)]	
Nigeria (a) Colony	
(b) Protectorate	
(c) Cameroons under United Kingdom Trusteeship	
Gold Coast (a) Colony	
(b) Ashanti	
(c) Northern Territories	
(d) Togoland under United Kingdom Trusteeship	
Sierra Leone (Colony and Protectorate)	
Gambia (Colony and Protectorate)	

With respect to the description of those territories and groups of territories designated in the above declaration, the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland informed the Government of the United States of America, by a note dated 13 December 1948, as follows:

"... each of the groups of territories described therein as 'The West African Territories', 'The East African Territories and Indian Ocean Islands', 'Malayan Territories' and 'Central African Territories' maintain a separate meteorological service and are to be regarded for the purpose of Article 3 (d) of the Convention and Annex II attached thereto as corresponding to 'British West Africa', 'British East Africa', 'Malaya' and 'Rhodesia' respectively. It will be observed that the Island of Mauritius, which figures as a separate territory in Annex II and which maintains an independent service, is now included in the 'East African Territories and Indian Ocean Islands' group and that likewise that portion of the Cameroons Territories under United Kingdom Trusteeship is included in the 'West African Territories' group."

France for:

Cameroons under French Trusteeship . . . . .	5 December 1949
French Equatorial Africa . . . . .	5 December 1949
French Oceanic Colonies . . . . .	5 December 1949
French Somaliland . . . . .	5 December 1948
French Togoland . . . . .	5 December 1949
French West Africa . . . . .	5 December 1949
Indo China . . . . .	5 December 1949
Madagascar . . . . .	5 December 1949
Mexico (not including the Spanish Zone) . . . . .	5 December 1949
New Caledonia . . . . .	5 December 1949
Tunisia . . . . .	5 December 1949

(b) Territories and areas to which the Convention has been applied by various States, by virtue of the membership of those States in the World Meteorological Organization, which territories and areas shall not be considered as separate members of the Organization:

	<i>Date of receipt of notification</i>
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for:	
Aden (Colony and Protectorate) . . . . .	14 December 1948
Basutoland . . . . .	14 December 1948
Bechuanaland (Protectorate) . . . . .	14 December 1948
British Solomon Islands (Protectorate) . . . . .	14 December 1948
Falkland Islands and Dependencies . . . . .	14 December 1948
Fiji . . . . .	14 December 1948
Gibraltar . . . . .	14 December 1948
Gilbert and Ellice Islands . . . . .	14 December 1948
Malta . . . . .	14 December 1948
Swaziland . . . . .	14 December 1948
France for:	
Algeria . . . . .	5 December 1949
French Guiana . . . . .	5 December 1949
French West Indies . . . . .	5 December 1949
Réunion . . . . .	5 December 1949
Saint Pierre and Miquelon . . . . .	5 December 1949
Snar . . . . .	5 December 1949
Valleys of Andorra . . . . .	5 December 1949
Union of South Africa for:	
Territory of South West Africa . . . . .	17 January 1950
Australia for:	
Australian territories . . . . .	26 October 1950
Papua	
Norfolk Island	
Territory under Australian Trusteeship . . . . .	26 October 1950
New Guinea	
Territory under Joint Trusteeship . . . . .	26 October 1950
Nauru	
(The Trusteeship Agreement designates the Governments of Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom as the Joint Administering Authority, with the Government of Australia continuing, on behalf of the Administering Authority, to exercise full powers of legislation, administration and jurisdiction in and over the Territory.)	

[AMENDMENT]

VIEW TEXT [English](#) [French](#)

**Title:** Convention of the World Meteorological Organization Signed at Washington on 11 October 1947 AMENDMENTS to articles 4 (b) and 12 (c) (as renumbered by resolution 2--Cg-IV) The Amendments were adopted by the Fifth Congress of the World Meteorological Organization at Geneva on 11 April 1967, in its resolution 1 (Cg-V), and entered into force on 11 April 1967, upon approval by two-thirds of the Members of the Organization which are States, in accordance with article 27 (c) Authentic texts of the amendments English and French Certified statement was registered by the United States of America on 9 November 1971

**Registration Number:** 998

REGISTERED

**Date:** 09.11 1971

**ICJ:** No Authority

**PARTICIPATION**

PARTICIPANT	ACTION	DATE	WITH EFFECT
Multilateral	AMENDMENT	11 04 1967	11 04 1967

No. 998. CONVENTION OF THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION. SIGNED AT WASHINGTON ON 11 OCTOBER 1947<sup>1</sup>

AMENDMENT to article 13,\* as amended<sup>2</sup>

The Amendment was adopted by the Fourth Congress of the World Meteorological Organization at its seventh plenary meeting held at Geneva on 11 April 1963 in its resolution 1 (Cg-IV), and entered into force on 11 April 1963 upon approval by two thirds of the Members of the Organization which are States, in accordance with article 28 (c).

*Authentic texts of the amendments: English and French.*

Article 13

COMPOSITION

The Executive Committee shall consist of:

- (a) The President and Vice-Presidents of the Organization;
- (b) The Presidents of Regional Associations who can be replaced at sessions by their alternates, as provided for in the General Regulations;
- (c) Twelve Directors of Meteorological Services of Members of the Organization, who can be replaced at sessions by alternates, provided:
  - (i) That these alternates shall be as provided for in the General Regulations;
  - (ii) That not more than seven and not less than two Members of the Executive Committee, comprising the President and Vice-Presidents of the Organization, the Presidents of Regional Associations and the twelve elected Directors shall come from one region, this region being determined in the case of each Member in accordance with the General Regulations.

\* NOTE: Article 13 was subsequently renumbered Article 12 by Resolution 2 (Cg-IV) adopted by the Fourth Congress of the World Meteorological Organization at its sixteenth plenary meeting held at Geneva on April 27, 1963. See p. 284 of this volume.

<sup>1</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 77, p. 143; for subsequent actions, see references in Cumulative Indexes Nos. 1 to 6, 8 and 9.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. 394, p. 260.

## MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS

By resolution 2 (Cg-IV), adopted at its sixteenth plenary meeting held at Geneva on 27 April 1963, the Fourth Congress of the World Meteorological Organization decided to amend the Convention of the World Meteorological Organization as follows:

- Modification of articles 2, 5, 6, 7, 10 and 11;
- Deletion of article 12;
- Renumbering of articles 13 to 35 as articles 12 to 34;
- Modification of articles 13, 14, 16, 22, 24, 25 and 26 (as renumbered).

The amendments entered into force on 27 April 1963, upon approval by two thirds of the members of the Organization which are States, in accordance with article 27 (c), as renumbered.

*Authentic texts of the amendments:  
English and French.*

## AMENDEMENTS DIVERS

Par résolution 2 (Cg-IV), adoptée à sa seizième séance plénière tenue à Genève le 27 avril 1963, le Quatrième Congrès de l'Organisation météorologique mondiale a décidé d'amender la Convention de l'Organisation météorologique mondiale comme indiqué ci-après :

- Modification des articles 2, 5, 6, 7, 10 et 11 ;
- Suppression de l'article 12 ;
- Renumerotation des articles 13 à 35 en articles 12 à 34 ;
- Modification des articles 13, 14, 16, 22, 24, 25 et 26 (tels que renumérotés).

Les amendements sont entrés en vigueur le 27 avril 1963, après avoir été approuvés par les deux tiers des membres qui sont des États, conformément à l'article 27, alinéa c, tel que renuméroté.

*Textes authentiques des amendements :  
anglais et français.*

## Article 2 \*

## PURPOSES

The purposes of the Organization shall be:

- (a) To facilitate worldwide cooperation in the establishment of networks of stations for the making of meteorological observations or other geophysical observations related to meteorology and to promote the establishment and maintenance of meteorological centers charged with the provision of meteorological services;
- (b) To promote the establishment and maintenance of systems for the rapid exchange of meteorological information;
- (c) To promote standardization of meteorological observations and to ensure the uniform publication of observations and statistics;
- (d) To further the application of meteorology to aviation, shipping, agriculture, and other human activities; and
- (e) To encourage research and training in meteorology and to assist in coordinating the international aspects of such research and training.

\* [Note: Only the English text was amended.]  
[Note : Le texte anglais seulement a été amendé.]

## PART V

## OFFICERS OF THE ORGANIZATION AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

## Article 5

(a) Eligibility for election to the offices of President and Vice-Presidents of the Organization, of President and Vice-President of the Regional Associations, and for membership, subject to the provisions of Article 12 (c) (ii) of the Convention, of the Executive Committee shall be confined to persons who are designated as the Directors of their Meteorological Service by the Members of the Organization for the purpose of this Convention.

(b) In the performance of their duties, all officers of the Organization and members of the Executive Committee shall act as representatives of the Organization and not as representatives of particular Members thereof.

## Article 6

## COMPOSITION

(a) The Congress is the general assembly of delegates representing Members and as such is the supreme body of the Organization.

(b) Each Member shall designate one of its delegates, who should be the Director of its Meteorological Service, as its principal delegate at Congress.

(c) With a view to securing the widest possible technical representation, any Director of a Meteorological Service or any other individual may be invited by the President to be present and to participate in the discussions of the Congress in accordance with the provisions of the General Regulations (hereinafter referred to as "Regulations").

## Article 7

## FUNCTIONS

In addition to functions set out in other articles of the Convention, the primary duties of the Congress shall be:

- (a) To determine general policies for the fulfilment of the purposes of the Organization as set forth in Article 2;
- (b) To make recommendations to Members on matters within the purposes of the Organization;

- (c) To refer to any body of the Organization any matter within the provisions of the Convention upon which such a body is empowered to act;
- (d) To determine regulations prescribing the procedures of the various bodies of the Organization, and in particular, the general, technical, financial and staff Regulations;
- (e) To consider the reports and activities of the Executive Committee and to take appropriate action in regard thereto;
- (f) To establish Regional Associations in accordance with the provisions of Article 17; to determine their geographical limits, coordinate their activities, and consider their recommendations;
- (g) To establish Technical Commissions in accordance with the provisions of Article 18; to define their terms of reference, coordinate their activities, and consider their recommendations;
- (h) To determine the location of the Secretariat of the Organization;
- (i) To elect the President and Vice-Presidents of the Organization, and members of the Executive Committee other than the Presidents of the Regional Associations;

Congress may also take any other appropriate action on matters affecting the Organization.

## Article 10

### VOTING

(a) In a vote in Congress each Member shall have one vote. However, only Members of the Organization which are States (hereinafter referred to as "Members which are States") shall be entitled to vote or to take a decision on the following subjects:

- (1) Amendment or interpretation of the Convention or proposals for a new Convention;
- (2) Requests for Membership of the Organization;
- (3) Relations with the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations;
- (4) Election of the President and Vice-Presidents of the Organization and of the members of the Executive Committee other than the Presidents of the Regional Associations.

(b) Decisions shall be by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast for and



against, except that elections of individuals to serve in any capacity in the Organization shall be by simple majority of the votes cast. The provisions of this paragraph however, shall not apply to decisions taken in accordance with Articles 3, 24, 25 and 27 of the Convention.

## Article 11

### QUORUM

The presence of delegates of a majority of the Members shall be required to constitute a quorum for meetings of the Congress. For those meetings of the Congress at which decisions are taken on the subjects enumerated in paragraph (a) of Article 10, the presence of delegates of a majority of the Members which are States shall be required to constitute a quorum.

Delete Article 12—First Meeting of the Congress; and

Renumber Article 13—Composition, as amended by Resolution 1 (Cg-IV), to read: Article 12—Composition; and

Renumber all remaining Articles—from Article 14 to Article 35 inclusive—Article 14 as Article 13, *et cætera*.

## Article 13

### FUNCTIONS

The Executive Committee is the executive body of the Organization.

In addition to functions set out in other Articles of the Convention, the primary functions of the Executive Committee shall be:

- (a) To implement the decisions taken by the Members of the Organization either in Congress or by means of correspondence and to conduct the activities of the Organization in accordance with the intention of such decisions;
- (b) To consider and, where necessary, take action on behalf of the Organization on resolutions and recommendations of Regional Associations and Technical Commissions in accordance with the procedures laid down in the Regulations;
- (c) To provide technical information, counsel, and assistance in the field of meteorology;

- (d) To study and make recommendations on any matter affecting international meteorology and the operation of Meteorological Services;
- (e) To prepare the agenda for the Congress and to give guidance to the Regional Associations and Technical Commissions in the preparation of their agenda;
- (f) To report on its activities to each session of Congress;
- (g) To administer the finances of the Organization in accordance with the provisions of PART XI of the Convention;

The Executive Committee may also perform such other functions as may be conferred on it by the Congress or by Members collectively.

#### Article 14

##### SESSIONS

(a) The Executive Committee shall normally hold a session at least once a year, at a place and on a date to be determined by the President of the Organization, after consultation with other members of the Committee.

(b) An extraordinary session of the Executive Committee shall be convened according to the procedures contained in the Regulations, after receipt by the Secretary-General of requests from a majority of the members of the Executive Committee. Such a session may also be convened by agreement between the President and the two Vice-Presidents of the Organization.

#### Article 16

##### QUORUM

The presence of two-thirds of the members shall be required to constitute the quorum for meetings of the Executive Committee.

#### Article 22

(a) The Congress shall determine the maximum expenditure which may be incurred by the Organization on the basis of the estimates submitted by the Secretary General, after prior examination by, and with the recommendations of, the Executive Committee.

(b) The Congress shall delegate to the Executive Committee such

authority as may be required to approve the annual expenditures of the Organization within the limitations determined by the Congress.

#### Article 24

The Organization shall be in relationship to the United Nations pursuant to Article 57 of the Charter of the United Nations. Any agreement concerning such relationship shall require approval by two-thirds of the Members which are States.

#### Article 25

(a) The Organization shall establish effective relations and cooperate closely with such other intergovernmental organizations as may be desirable. Any formal agreement entered into with such organizations shall be made by the Executive Committee, subject to approval by two-thirds of the Members which are States, either in Congress or by correspondence.

(b) The Organization may on matters within its purposes make suitable arrangements for consultation and cooperation with non-governmental international organizations and, with the consent of the government concerned, with national organizations, governmental or non-governmental.

(c) Subject to approval by two-thirds of the Members which are States, the Organization may take over from any other international organization or agency, the purpose and activities of which lie within the purposes of the Organization, such functions, resources, and obligations as may be transferred to the Organization by international agreement or by mutually acceptable arrangements entered into between competent authorities of the respective organizations.

#### Article 26

(a) The Organization shall enjoy in the territory of each Member such legal capacity as may be necessary for the fulfilment of its purposes and for the exercise of its functions.

(b) (i) The Organization shall enjoy in the territory of each Member to which the present Convention applies such privileges and immunities as may be necessary for the fulfilment of its purposes and for the exercise of its functions.

(b) (ii) Representatives of Members, officers and officials of the Organ-

ization as well as members of the Executive Committee shall similarly enjoy such privileges and immunities as are necessary for the independent exercise of their functions in connection with the Organization.

(c) In the territory of any Member which is a State and which has acceded to the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on November 21, 1947 such legal capacity, privileges and immunities shall be those defined in the said Convention.

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AMENDMENTS to articles 4 (b) and 12 (c) (as renumbered by resolution 2—Cg-IV)

The Amendments were adopted by the Fifth Congress of the World Meteorological Organization at Geneva on 11 April 1967, in its resolution 1 (Cg-V), and entered into force on 11 April 1967, upon approval by two-thirds of the members of the Organization which are States, in accordance with article 27 (c).

*Authentic texts of the amendments: English and French.*

The text of article 4 (b) is replaced by the following:

“(b) There shall be a President and three Vice-Presidents of the Organization who shall also be President and Vice-Presidents of the Congress and of the Executive Committee.”;

The first sentence of article 12 (c) is replaced by the following:

“(c) Fourteen Directors of Meteorological Services of Members of the Organization, who can be replaced at sessions by alternates, provided...”;

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AMENDMENT to the French text of article 13 (a) (as renumbered by resolution 2—Cg-IV)

The Amendment was adopted by the Fifth Congress of the World Meteorological Organization at Geneva on 26 April 1967, in its resolution 2 (Cg-IV), and entered into force on 26 April 1967, upon approval by two-thirds of the members of the Organization which are States, in accordance with article 27 (c).

*Authentic texts of the amendments: English and French.*

The French text of article 13 (a) is replaced by the following:

« a) de mettre à exécution les décisions prises par les Membres de l'Organisation, soit au Congrès, soit par correspondance, et de conduire les activités de l'Organisation conformément à l'esprit de ces décisions. »

#### MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS

By resolution 3 (Cg-V), adopted at Geneva on 26 April 1967, the Fifth Congress of the World Meteorological Organization decided to amend the Convention of the World Meteorological Organization as follows:

- Modification of article 2;
- Addition of a new article 5;
- Renumbering of articles 5 to 34 as articles 6 to 35;
- Modifications to articles 9, 13, 15 and 32 [as renumbered by resolution 2 (Cg-IV)].

The amendments entered into force on 28 April 1967, in accordance with the provisions of resolution 3 (Cg-V).

*Authentic texts of the amendments: English and French.*

(1) Amend the text of Article 2—Purposes—paragraph (d) to read:

“(d) To further the application of meteorology to aviation, shipping, water problems, agriculture, and other human activities; and”

(2) Insert a new Article in Part IV of the Convention entitled “Organization”, after the present Article 4 to read:

#### “Article 5

“The activities of the Organization and the conduct of its affairs shall be decided by the Members of the Organization.

(a) Such decisions shall normally be taken by Congress in session;

(b) However, except on matters reserved in the Convention for decisions by Congress, decisions may also be taken by Members by correspondence, when urgent action is required between sessions of Congress. Such a vote shall be taken upon receipt by the Secretary-General of the request of a majority of the Members of the Organization, or when so decided by the Executive Committee.

Such votes shall be conducted in accordance with Articles 11 and 12 of the Convention and with the General Regulations (hereinafter referred to as the “Regulations”).”

The addition of this new Article requires all following Articles to be renumbered and all references to these Articles throughout in the Convention to be corrected accordingly.

(3) Amend Article 9 \*—Meetings—to read:

**“Article 10. Sessions”**

“(a) Congress shall normally be convened at intervals as near as possible to four years, at a place and on a date to be decided by the Executive Committee;

(b) An extraordinary Congress may be convened by decision of the Executive Committee;

(c) On receipt of requests for an extraordinary Congress from one-third of the Members of the Organization, the Secretary-General shall conduct a vote by correspondence and if a simple majority of the Members are in favour, an extraordinary Congress shall be convened.”

Also, as a consequence of this amendment, add Article 10 (c) to the enumeration of Articles contained in the last sentence of paragraph (b) of Article 10 \*—Voting.

(4) Amend the first sentence of Article 13 \*\*—Functions (in part VII—Executive Committee) to read:

“The Executive Committee is the executive body of the Organization and is responsible to Congress for the co-ordination of the programmes of the Organization and for the utilization of its budgetary resources in accordance with the decisions of Congress.”

(5) Insert the following new sub-paragraph (b) in the text of Article 13 \*\*—Functions (in Part VII Executive Committee) and change the letters identifying the present sub-paragraphs (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) and (g) accordingly:

“(b) To examine the programme and budget estimates for the following financial period prepared by the Secretary-General and to present its observations and its recommendations thereon to Congress.”

(6) Insert in Article 15 \*\*—Voting (in Part VII—Executive Committee) the following new paragraph as paragraph (b):

“Between sessions, the Executive Committee may vote by correspondence.

\* Pre-amendment numbering of articles.

\*\* As renumbered by resolution 2 (Cg-IV).

Such votes shall be conducted in accordance with Articles 16 (a) and 17 of the Convention.”

(7) Amend Article 32 \* to read:

“Article 33

“Subject to the provisions of Article 3 of the present Convention, accession shall be effected by the deposit of an instrument of accession with the Government of the United States of America, which shall notify each Member of the Organization thereof.”

*Certified statement was registered by the United States of America on 9 November 1971.*

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\* As renumbered by resolution 2 (Cg-IV).

## BASIC FACTS ABOUT THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

From weather prediction to air pollution research, climate change related activities, ozone layer depletion studies and tropical storm forecasting, the World Meteorological Organization coordinates global scientific activity to allow increasingly prompt and accurate weather information and other services for public, private and commercial use, including international airline and shipping industries. WMO's activities contribute to the safety of life and property, the socio-economic development of nations and the protection of the environment.

Within the United Nations, the Geneva-based 185-Member Organization provides the authoritative scientific voice on the state and behaviour of the Earth's atmosphere and climate.

The World Meteorological Convention, by which the World Meteorological Organization was created, was adopted at the Twelfth Conference of Directors of the International Meteorological Organization (IMO), which met in Washington in 1947. Although the Convention itself came into force in 1950, WMO commenced operations as the successor to IMO in 1951 and, later that year, was established as a specialized agency of the United Nations by agreement between the UN and WMO.

The purposes of WMO are to facilitate international cooperation in the establishment of networks of stations for making meteorological, hydrological and other observations, and to promote the rapid exchange of meteorological information, the standardization of meteorological observations and the uniform publication of observations and statistics. It also furthers the application of meteorology to aviation, shipping, water problems, agriculture and other human activities, promotes operational hydrology and encourages research and training in meteorology.

### MEMBERSHIP

As of June 1996, there were 185 Members, comprising 179 Member States and six Member Territories, all of which maintain their own Meteorological and Hydrological Services.



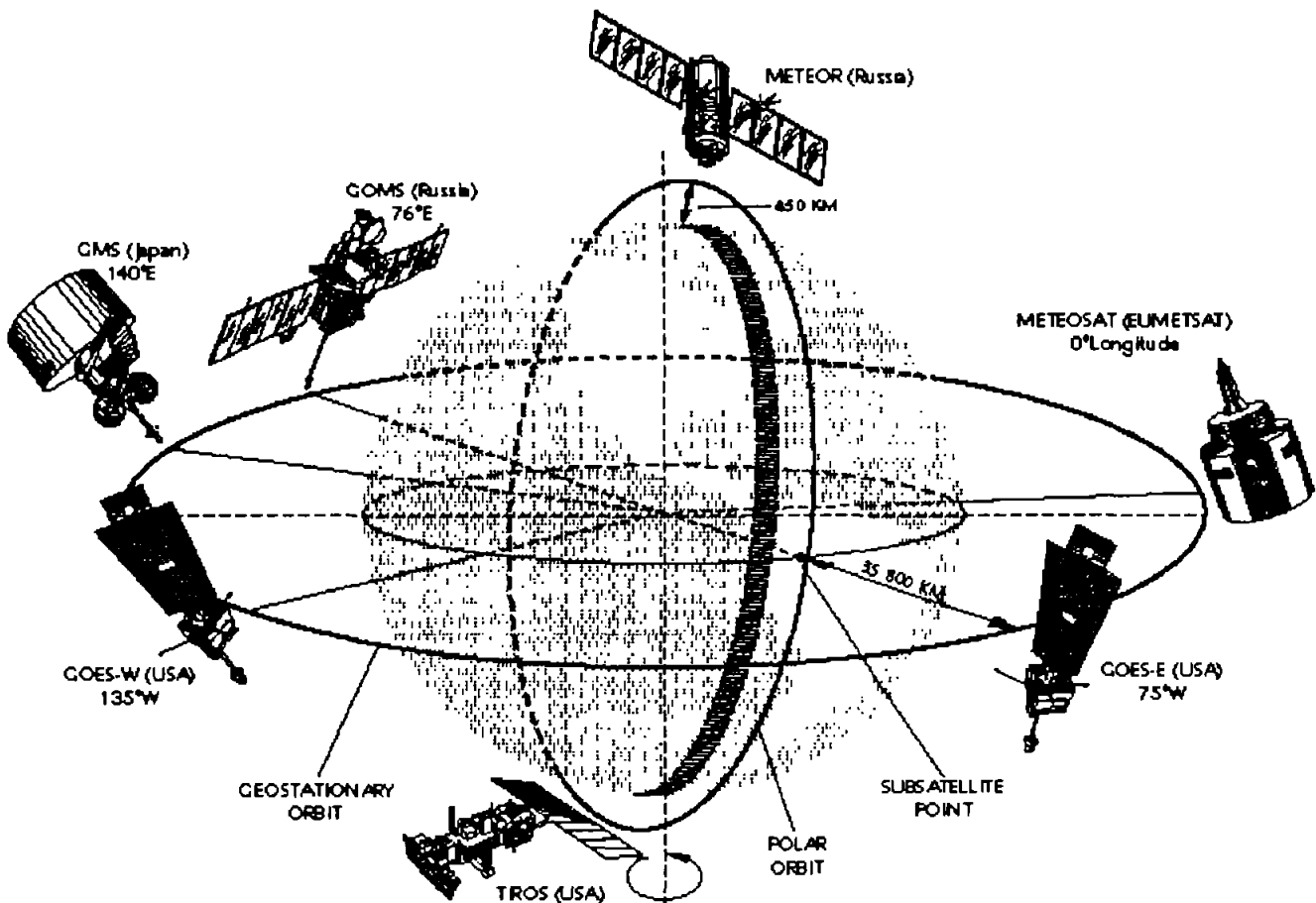


Figure 1 World Weather Watch meteorological satellite network

## ORGANIZATION

The World Meteorological Congress, which is the supreme body of WMO, meets every four years. It determines policies, approves the programme and budget and adopts regulations.

The Executive Council is composed of thirty-six members, including the president and three vice-presidents. It meets at least every year to prepare studies and recommendations for Congress, to supervise the implementation of Congress resolutions and regulations and to advise Members on technical matters.

Members are grouped in six regional associations (Africa, Asia, South America, North and Central America, South-West Pacific and Europe). Each of them meets every four years to coordinate meteorological and operational hydrological activities within their Region and to examine questions referred to them by the Council.

WMO has eight technical commissions responsible for aeronautical meteorology, agricultural meteorology, atmospheric sciences, basic systems, climatology, hydrology, instruments and methods of observation, and marine meteorology. Each of them meets every four years.

## THE SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat, headed by the Secretary-General, serves as the administrative, documentation and

information centre of the Organization. It prepares, edits, produces and distributes the publications of the Organization, carries out the duties specified in the Convention and other basic documents and provides secretariat support to the work of the constituent bodies of WMO described above.

## **WMO'S MAJOR PROGRAMMES**

### **World Weather Watch**

WMO's major scientific and technical programmes include the World Weather Watch (WWW), which is the backbone of WMO's activities. WWW offers up-to-the-minute world-wide weather information through Member-operated observation systems and telecommunication links with four polar-orbiting and five geostationary satellites, about 10 000 land observation and 7 000 ship stations and 300 moored and drifting buoys carrying automatic weather stations.

Each day, high-speed links transmit over 15 million data characters and 2 000 weather charts through three World, 35 Regional and 183 National Meteorological Centres cooperating with each other in preparing weather analyses and forecasts in an elaborately engineered fashion. Thus transoceanic ships and aeroplanes, research scientists on air pollution or global climate change, the media and the general public are given a constant supply of timely data. It is through WMO that the complex agreements on standards, codes, measurements and communications are established internationally.

Data from all over the world are needed to provide weather forecasts. If there were no WMO, the nations of the world would have to conclude individual agreements with one another to ensure the exchange and availability of data to meet their national requirements, such as provision of forecasts for the public and special services for various economic sectors like agriculture, utilities (gas, electric power production) and so on. An aircraft does not take off, nor does a ship leave port, without a weather forecast. The provision of such services is part of the international responsibilities of individual countries which would be hard pressed to provide accurate and timely information if the global infrastructure established under the auspices of WMO did not exist.

Combining facilities and services provided by Members, the Programme's primary purpose is to make available meteorological and related geophysical and environmental information enabling countries to maintain efficient meteorological services. Facilities in regions outside any national territory (outer space, ocean areas and Antarctica) are maintained by Members on a voluntary basis. The World Weather Watch comprises the Global Observing System, the Global Data-processing System, the Global Telecommunication System, Data Management and System Support Activities.

Also grouped under the WWW "umbrella" are WMO's satellite and emergency response activities, the latter relating to the coordination and implementation of procedures and response mechanisms for the provision and exchange of observational data and specialized products in case of nuclear accidents, as well as the Instruments and Methods of Observation Programme and the Tropical Cyclone Programme (TCP). The TCP, which is contributing substantially to the UN International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, is designed to assist more than 50 countries in areas vulnerable to tropical cyclones to minimize destruction and loss of life by improving forecasting and warning systems, and disaster preparedness measures.

### **World Climate Programme**

Climate and climate change issues are of major global concern in the 1990s. The collection and preservation of climate data help governments to prepare national development plans and determine their

policies in response to the changing situation. Established in 1979, the World Climate Programme (WCP) comprises the following components: the World Climate Data and Monitoring Programme, the World Climate Applications and Services Programme, the World Climate Impact Assessment and Response Strategies Programme, and the World Climate Research Programme. The WCP supports the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS), encompassing all components of the climate system, atmosphere, biosphere, cryosphere and oceans.

The objectives of the WCP are to use existing climate information to improve economic and social planning, to improve the understanding of climate processes through research, so as to determine the predictability of climate and the extent of man's influence on it, and to detect and warn governments of impending climate variations or changes, either natural or man-made, which may significantly affect critical human activities.

In order to assess available information on the science, impacts and the cross-cutting economic and other issues related to climate change, in particular a possible global warming induced by human activities, WMO and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) established the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 1988. The IPCC completed its first assessment report in August 1990 which indicated with certainty an increase in the concentration of greenhouse gases due to human activity. The report assisted governments to make important policy decisions in the negotiations and eventual implementation of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change which was signed by 166 countries at the UN Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro 1992). The convention was ratified in December 1993 and entered into force on 21 March 1994.

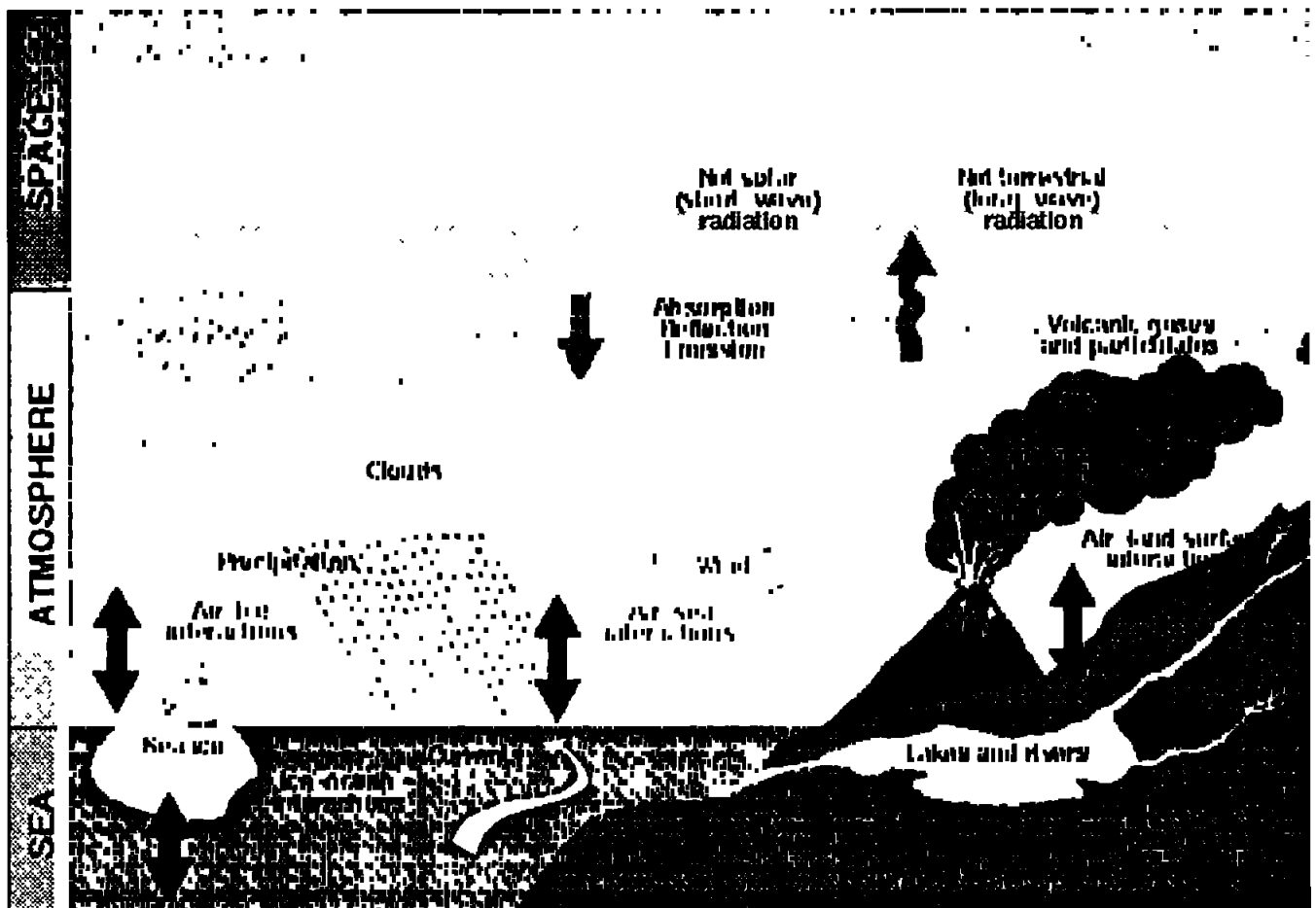


Figure 2 Schematic of the global climate system

## **Atmospheric Research and Environment Programme**

The Atmospheric Research and Environment Programme coordinates and fosters research on the structure and composition of the atmosphere, on the physics and chemistry of clouds and weather modification research, on tropical meteorology research and on weather forecasting

This major Programme aims to help Members to implement research projects and to disseminate relevant scientific information, to draw the attention of Members to outstanding research problems of major importance such as atmospheric composition and climate change, and to encourage and assist Members in incorporating the results of research into forecasting or other techniques appropriate to operational activities, particularly when they involve changes of procedures which require international cooperation and agreement. The Programme comprises the Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW), the Weather Prediction Research Programmes, the Tropical Meteorology Research Programme and the Physics and Chemistry of Clouds and Weather Modification Research Programme

The Global Ozone Observing System was established in the 1950s. Today, over 140 ground-based ozone stations, supplemented by satellites constitute an international ozone monitoring network. The landmark international Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer owes much to scientists all over the world and to WMO which has worked on the problem of ozone layer depletion for decades

Another major effort was the creation of the Background Air Pollution Monitoring Network (BAPMoN) which, among other things, provided observational evidence of the increasing atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases such as CO<sub>2</sub> and methane. In 1989, the ozone monitoring network and BAPMoN became part of WMO's Global Atmosphere Watch. National and international policy decisions affecting the environment in the 21st century will rely on scientific data gathered through GAW which will contribute to the new Global Climate Observing System. GCOS will make use of existing systems, such as the WWWW and programmes like the GAW, upgrading and enhancing them where necessary. A global ocean-observing system for physical, chemical and ecological measurements will also form part of GCOS

## **Applications of Meteorology Programme**

The application of meteorological information to numerous human activities supports national development projects. For example, weather-related agricultural losses may approach 20 per cent of annual production in some countries. Prompt meteorological advice can mean a substantial reduction in losses caused by pests and diseases. In drought-prone areas, like Africa's Sahel, for example, the use of tailored agrometeorological bulletins permits increased crop yields

Since the United Nations Conference on Desertification in 1977, WMO has been working with the UN in support of international actions to combat desertification. More recently the Organization has been involved in the negotiations leading to an International Convention to Combat Desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa. The Convention was opened for signature in October 1994

The Applications of Meteorology Programme aims to help Members in the application of meteorology and climatology to social and economic development, protection of life and property, and the well-being of mankind. The four components of the Programme are the Agricultural Meteorology Programme, the Aeronautical Meteorology Programme, the Marine Meteorology and Associated Oceanographic Activities Programme and the Public Weather Services Programme

## **Hydrology and Water Resources Programme**

Assessing global water resources and proper planning for their conservation is now recognized as a world-wide problem. Water resource management cuts across political boundaries. WMO facilitates cooperation within water basins shared between countries. Management of the quality and quantity of water resources serves a wide range of human needs. A new problem emerging is the management of water supplies to the world's growing megacities and agricultural regions. Floods are a major threat to life and property. Specialized forecasts aid communities and governments in flood-prone areas.

The Hydrology and Water Resources Programme concentrates on promoting world-wide cooperation in the evaluation of water resources and the development of hydrological networks and services, including data collection and processing, hydrological forecasting and warnings and the supply of meteorological and hydrological data for design purposes. The three components of the programme are the Operational Hydrology Programme-Basic Systems, the Operational Hydrology Programme-Applications and Environment, and the Programme on Water-related Issues.

## **Education and Training Programme**

The education and training activities of WMO encourage the exchange of scientific knowledge through special courses, seminars and training materials. Training programmes place several hundred specialists in advanced courses each year. Other activities include surveys of personnel training requirements, the development of appropriate training programmes, the establishment and improvement of regional training centres, as well as the organization of training courses, seminars and conferences.

## **Technical Cooperation Programme**

The Technical Cooperation Programme (TCO) seeks to bridge the gap between developed and developing countries by the systematic transfer of meteorological and hydrological knowledge and information. TCO assists Members, especially developing countries in obtaining the technical expertise and equipment for the development of their national Meteorological and Hydrological Services. In its efforts to bridge the technology gap between the national Services of developing and developed Members, WMO works with major international partners such as the United Nations Development Programme, UNEP, the Global Environment Facility and regional development banks.

## **RESOURCES**

By far the greatest proportion of funding comes from Members' own resources committed to the operation of national observing, communication and data-processing systems which are planned and implemented within the WMO framework. The maximum expenditure for the financial period 1996-1999, as approved by the Twelfth World Meteorological Congress, is Swiss francs 255 million. The extra-budgetary resources that are expected to be available over the same period to support specific components of programmes such as technical cooperation, education and training, improvement of the World Weather Watch, and some urgent environmental and climatological monitoring, research and cooperative work amount to Swiss francs 89.7 million. The staff post ceiling is 246. The Secretary-General is Professor G. O. P. Obasi (Nigeria).

[Click here for a short list of recent WMO Achievements](#)

**Additional information can be obtained from:**

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