TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME

Report to Plenary on item 6.1

REFERENCES:
Cg-XV/I/Doc. 6.1 and Cg-XVI/INF. 6.1

APPENDICES:
A. Draft text for inclusion in the general summary on item 6.1
B. Draft Resolution 6.1/1/Cg-XVI) - Voluntary Cooperation Programme

ACTION PROPOSED:
It is recommended that the draft text given in Appendix A be included in the general summary of the work of the session and that the draft resolution in Appendix B be adopted.
6.1 TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME (agenda item 6.1)

6.1.1 Overview

6.1.1.1 Congress reviewed the progress made in the implementation of the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCOP) during the fifteenth financial period, as well as the actions taken by the Secretary-General as follow-up to its decisions and those of the Executive Council and regional associations related to the Programme.

6.1.1.2 It recognized that many Members continued to benefit from the activities carried out under the Technical Cooperation Programme, which covered a wide spectrum of development support, including the assessment and evaluation of the status of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, the identification of requirements for enhancing capacity, support for institutional development, infrastructure upgrades, strengthening regional networks and the preparation of national meteorological development plans, the formulation of project proposals, as well as the mobilization of the related resources.

6.1.1.3 Congress welcomed and strongly supported various measures taken by the Secretary-General to strengthen technical cooperation and better service Members, in particular through the reorganization of the Development and Regional Activities Department (DRA), establishment of the Resource Mobilization Office within it, integration of the Education and Training Programme and the Least Developed Countries Programme into DRA, and improved coordination across these and the Regional Offices and WMO Sub-regional Offices. Congress noted that these measures were taken in response to the WMO Strategic Plan (2008-2011) and contributed to the progress towards a more comprehensive approach to capacity building (refer to item 11.2).

6.1.1.4 Congress noted that the TCOP has been implemented during the fifteenth financial period with various functions funded by the regular budget under Expected Results 7 and 9 as decided by Cg-XV, the Voluntary Cooperation Programme, the Emergency Assistance Fund, external financing for regional and national development projects and leveraging strategic partnerships.

6.1.2 Voluntary Cooperation Programme

6.1.2.1 Congress noted with satisfaction the achievements of the Voluntary Cooperation Programme (VCP), in particular the number of NMHSs of LDCs and developing countries supported during the period 2007–2010 in that 88 separate projects were supported in 58 Member countries covering 83 per cent of all the requests received during the period. The streamlining of the VCP process has allowed the VCP to support projects through the Trust Fund and respond to the requests in shorter timeframes. Regions I and II benefited most from VCP projects (24 projects and 33 projects respectively).

6.1.2.2 During 2007-2010, 11 Members (Australia, China, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, Maldives, Mauritius, Myanmar, Norway, Pakistan, Republic of Korea) made cash contributions to the VCP Trust Fund (VCP-F) amounting to approximately US$ 1,098,253 while 23 donor Members and 3 private companies provided support through VCP Equipment and Services (VCP-ES) amounting to approximately US$ 5,501,855. The contributions overall supported mainly expert services, short-term fellowships and training activities, surface observing stations, improvement of telecommunication systems, climate database management systems and climatological activities, operational hydrological activities, and emergency assistance activities and in accordance with the guidelines for the utilization of VCP(F) as modified by the Executive Council (EC-LVIII).
6.1.2.3 Congress expressed its appreciation to VCP donors Members for their valuable efforts in supporting the Programme and for their willingness to continue to do so. Noting further the continued and increased needs of Members for this type of support, Congress encouraged Members to expand this network by creating more linkages among NMHSs, bringing more Members in to support the VCP Programme, strengthening the spirit of cooperation within the WMO through more active participation in the Programme.

6.1.2.4 Congress decided that the programme of assistance under the Voluntary Cooperation Programme should be continued during the sixteenth financial period. Noting the description of the Voluntary Cooperation Programme (see Annex to this paragraph and that the rules and procedures for the implementation of the Voluntary Cooperation Programme were still relevant and valid, Congress adopted Resolution 6.1/1 (Cg-XVI) – Voluntary Cooperation Programme.

6.1.3 Emergency Assistance

6.1.3.1 Congress recognized that during the period 2007–2010, substantial emergency assistance had also been provided to Members affected by disasters for the restoration of meteorological and hydrological networks through the WMO Emergency Assistance Fund, the VCP and bi-lateral assistance from Members facilitated by the Secretariat. Congress expressed satisfaction with the response to natural disasters, including the Haiti earthquake and the floods that affected Pakistan in 2010, the Pacific Tsunami in 2009, and storm surge in Bangladesh, Yemen and Seychelles in 2008 and Cook Islands in 2007 and requested the Secretary-General to continue to enhance the provision of timely and coordinated assistance to Members affected by disasters. Congress noted in particular the coordination efforts of the Secretariat and the bi-lateral contributions of Members in relation to the ongoing support to Haiti.

6.1.3.2 Congress further expressed its appreciation to Members for their contributions in cash and in-kind for emergency assistance activities. It encouraged Members affected by natural disasters and those emerging from conflicts to utilize the mechanism for the rehabilitation of their services and urged supporting Members to continue their engagement in these mechanisms and to contribute to the Emergency Assistant Fund specifically.

6.1.3.3 Congress was advised that the WMO Revolving Fund was reviewed during the financial period and was retired as it had not been utilized in the last few years by developing country Members. The remaining funds were transferred to the Emergency Assistance Fund.

6.1.4 Resource Mobilization and Strategic Partnerships

6.1.4.1 Congress commended the Secretary General on the establishment of the Resource Mobilization Office and the Resource Mobilization Strategy 2008-2011, supported by the Executive Council (EC-LXI, paragraph 6.29). It welcomed the focus of the RMO and RM Strategy on supporting the Technical Programmes, Regional Offices and National Meteorological and Hydrological Services to enhance the level of support and funding to activities aimed at development of NMHS to reach the levels of services needed to support the protection of life, property and food security, with particular emphasis on the developing countries, Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and in keeping with the Regional Strategic Plans and Strategic Development Plans.

6.1.4.2 Congress further recognized that the total financing for technical assistance (other than VCP) through Trust Funds through the Secretariat for the period was approximately US$ 29 million with financing from various sources (Governments, World Bank, European Commission, Foundations and other sources).

6.1.4.3 Congress noted with satisfaction that during the period 2007-2010 various agreements were signed between WMO and NMHSs of Member countries and with funding and developing
agencies for the implementation of regional cooperation programmes. Projects totalling some 40 M USD in support of NMHSs regional programmes were committed for capacity enhancement of NMHSs in West Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa and East Africa, South Eastern Europe, Central Asia, the Pacific and the Americas covering some forty or more countries as well as many single country projects. Congress also recognized that this capacity enhancement is in cooperation with WMO Members (including the Republic of Korea, Spain, Finland, Italy and the United States of America) and with the major partners such as World Bank (WB), various Directorates of the European Commission, Overseas Development Assistance Agencies of various Member countries, UN System Partners in particular UNISDR, WFP, and UNDP, and Rockefeller Foundation. Congress also supported the efforts to better institutionalize project management arrangements within the Secretariat for these cross-cutting regional projects.

6.1.4.4 Congress further noted the active engagement of the regional networks of advisers to Permanent Representatives on international cooperation and external relations in RA I (INTAD-I (Africa)), RA II (INTAD-II (Asia)) and RA V (INTAD-V (South-West Pacific)). Recognizing the usefulness of the INTAD networks for cooperation, especially among NMHSs of developing country Members, Congress urged Members to actively support this INTAD initiative with support from the Secretariat. In this connection, Congress noted that the International Training Seminar on South-South Cooperation on Weather and Climate (Nanjing, China, 8-12 November 2010) had facilitated the active engagement of the INTADs in RAs I, II and V. Congress further encouraged Members to strengthen the WMO South-South Cooperation activities with the support of the Secretariat.

6.1.4.5 Congress was very pleased to learn of the accreditation of WMO in December 2010 as Multilateral Implementing Entity by the Adaptation Fund, opening an excellent opportunity for significant funding of projects in the field of adaptation to climate change in support of and with participation of NMHS and supported the Secretariat’s approach to securing a similar status with the Global Environment Facility and possibly the Green Fund once the operating mechanism of this fund is decided. Congress took note that WMO will put forward several regional projects for consideration of the Adaptation Fund Board.

6.1.4.6 Congress considered that the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) and the recommendations of the High-Level Taskforce (HLT) provide a strong platform for future financing of NMHSs development projects. In this regard, Congress encouraged the Secretary-General to utilize national/regional projects to promote further development of climate services.

6.1.4.7 Congress recalled that, as requested, the Executive Council at its fifty-ninth session established through its Resolution 4 (EC-LIX) an Executive Council Working Group on Capacity Building (EC-CB) for the fifteenth financial period, and that the TOR were amended and approved through Resolution 10 (EC-LX) to better address the challenges in development cooperation.

6.1.4.8 Congress noted that in 2009 and 2010 the EC-CB assisted the Executive Council in consideration of a number of issues relating to capacity development activities including, resource mobilization and strategic partnerships; service delivery to NMHSs; interaction with the EC Panel on the Education and Training needs of Members; volunteerism; and the preparation of a Strategy for Capacity Development intended to provide an umbrella for the capacity development activities under the five priority areas for the sixteenth Financial Period (refer to item 11.2).

6.1.4.9 Considering the valuable work of the EC-CB, Congress requested the Executive Council to continue to address in a comprehensive manner the future challenges in capacity development.
6.1.4.10 In this regard, and in view of the proposal to prepare a WMO Strategy for Capacity Development, Congress agreed that the TCOP and related activities be integrated into the Strategy.

6.1.4.11 Considering that the utilization of volunteerism could be an instrument to support developing countries requiring assistance under normal and emergency situations, Congress welcomed ongoing discussions with UN Volunteers and the Volunteer Programmes of Overseas Development Assistance Agencies to see if WMO can partner with these programmes to secure support for developing country NMHSs.
Annex to paragraph 6.1.2.4 of the general summary

WMO VOLUNTARY COOPERATION PROGRAMME

1. Long-term objective

1.1 The main long-term objective of the WMO Voluntary Cooperation Programme (VCP) is to provide timely and effective technical assistance to Members by ensuring and furthering:

(a) Coordinated support to high-priority VCP projects by donors;
(b) Members’ participation in the VCP Programme; and
(c) Effective management and operation of the VCP Programme.

2. Purpose and scope

2.1 The main purpose of the WMO Voluntary Cooperation Programme (VCP) is to assist Member countries through cooperative efforts of Members to complement implementation activities for WMO scientific and technical Programmes under national programmes, bilateral or multilateral programmes, Trust Fund arrangements and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

2.2 The VCP provides, inter alia, for support to be given to Member countries at their request either in the form of equipment and services, including training, contributed on a voluntary basis by Member countries or by direct financing, using financial contributions obtained on the same basis.

3. VCP Governance

3.1 The technical guidance for the VCP is provided by the Executive Council and its subsidiary bodies. The EC collaborates closely with the presidents of regional associations and technical commissions as well as contributors to the VCP on technical cooperation activities.
DRAFT RESOLUTION

Res. 6.1/1 (Cg-XVI) — VOLUNTARY COOPERATION PROGRAMME

THE CONGRESS,

Noting:

(1) That the WMO VCP has functioned in the fifteenth financial period in a highly satisfactory manner,

(2) That this Programme is a major element in the implementation of the scientific and technical programmes of WMO and the provision of fellowships,

(3) That this Programme is an appropriate mechanism for the promotion and support of technical cooperation among Members, especially for the delivery of assistance to LDCs and SIDS,

(4) Resolution 24 (Cg-XV),

Commends the Members concerned for their continued support to the success of this Programme;

Considering the continued and increasing needs for support during the sixteenth financial period for the implementation of the various technical programmes of WMO,

Decides:

(1) That the WMO VCP shall be continued in the sixteenth financial period;

(2) That the fields of cooperation covered by the VCP during the sixteenth financial period shall include but not be limited to the following:

a) World Weather Watch (WWW)

b) The granting of short-term and long-term fellowships and short-term training seminars;

c) The support to meteorological, climatological, and hydrological applications activities;

d) The establishment and strengthening of observing and data-processing facilities;

e) The establishment and maintenance of the GAW stations;

f) The support to meteorological and hydrological activities related to environmental protection;

(3) That the VCP in the sixteenth financial period shall follow the same general procedures as during the fifteenth financial period;

(4) That special assistance should be provided to new Members of the Organization including those in South-east Europe and Central Asia, Small Island Developing States as well as the Least Developed Countries within the framework of the VCP and LDCP;
Urges Members of the Organization to contribute to the maximum extent possible to the Programme during the sixteenth financial period in form of financial support and equipment and services, including fellowships;

Authorizes the Executive Council to review the present rules and procedures for the operation of the WMO VCP, when necessary, bearing in mind the decisions of Sixteenth Congress;

Requests the Secretary-General:

(1) To continue to administer the VCP during the sixteenth financial period;

(2) To report to Seventeenth Congress on the assistance rendered during the sixteenth financial period, in addition to regular reports on the VCP provided to the Executive Council and made available to Members.

Note: This Resolution replaces Resolution 24 (Cg-XV) which is no longer in force.