

WMO Policy Framework for Public-Private Sector Engagement

Lars Peter Riishojgaard, WMO Secretariat



WMO OMM

World Meteorological Organization

Organisation météorologique mondiale

Background

- Respective roles of private versus public sectors in meteorology are undergoing very rapid change, due to (among other factors):
 - Increasing demands for weather and climate information and increasing private sector appreciation for the value of such information
 - Commoditization of key observing, telecommunications and computing technologies
 - Limited public funds available for maintaining and improving basic capabilities and service delivery in meteorology
 - Political drive toward commercialization of government functions in many countries
- As a result the national weather services in many WMO Members are under pressure, in terms of budget, mandate and responsibility, visibility, or – in some cases - even regarding their very existence

Role of WMO

- Members are looking to WMO for guidance on Public-Private Sector Engagement (PPE)
- As an organization, WMO is concerned about
 - Preserving the existing framework of international collaboration in meteorology, in particular as concerns the free and open exchange of data (observations and products)
 - Potential erosion in the mandates and roles of the NMHSs of its Members
- Discussion at the recent WMO Executive Council meeting resulted in
 - Draft Decision 12.2/1 (EC-69) “Public-Private Engagement: A Road Map to the Eighteenth World Meteorological Congress”

WMO Executive Council 69 (May 2017)

(from Draft Decision 12.2/1)

{...}

Recognizes that growth of private sector involvement in all facets of meteorological and hydrological services are substantially expanding, making public-private engagement an urgent and important issue that will impact the future policies and strategies of WMO and its Members;

Notes the potential risks to NMHSs in the evolving relationship between public and private sectors, as well as the potential opportunities to better meet the needs of Members;

Acknowledges the important leadership role of WMO, through its Convention and through the authority of its Technical Regulations in helping to build a strong and strategic alliance between all of the parties contributing to a sustainable global weather enterprise for the benefit of society;

{...}

EC-69 (*Draft Decision 12.2/1, II*)

{...}

Agrees:

(1) That there is some urgency to better equipping NMHSs, through WMO, to engage actively and positively with private sector organizations, not least to ensure that essential national mandates, including the importance of a single authoritative voice in relation to safety of life and property are sustained;

(2) That in accordance with the aims and purposes of the Convention of WMO, a policy framework on public-private engagement would be beneficial to the Organization and should be prepared for consideration and approval at the next World Meteorological Congress (Cg-18);

{...}

EC-69 (*Draft Decision 12.2/1, III*)

{...}

Emphasizes the fundamental importance of free and open data and products exchange, support to public good infrastructure, including the global observing networks, and the value of reinforcing the regulatory environment afforded by the WMO Convention as priority areas within the policy framework that require early attention to ensure security, sustained performance and growth of the global weather enterprise, including opportunities for public-private dialogue, noting in particular the overarching strategic priority of safety of life and property;

{...}

EC-69 (*Draft Decision 12.2/1, IV*)

{...}

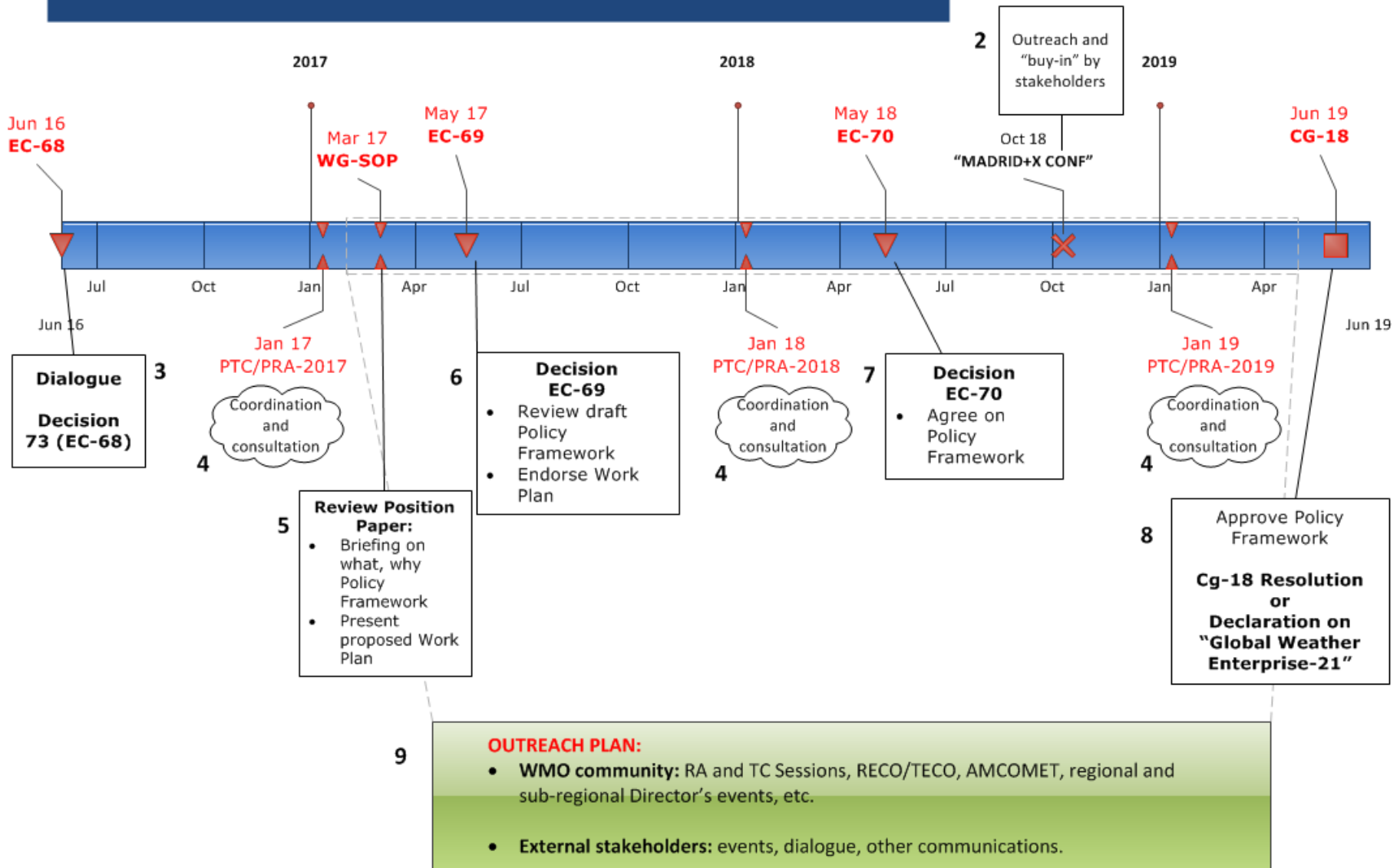
Endorses the Work Plan on Public-Private Engagement (thereafter referred to as “PPE Work Plan”) as provided in [Annex 2](#);

{...}

EC-69 (*Draft Decision 12.2/1, Annex 2*)

Annex 2 contains a roadmap for the two years leading up to the 18th World Meteorological Congress in 2019; while relatively light on detail, it does reflect the intention of EC to further develop and submit to CG-18 a Policy Framework on PPE

1 Work Plan - Public-Private Engagement (PPE) activities by Cg-18



Summary and conclusions

- Respective roles of private versus public sectors in meteorology changing rapidly
- WMO Members are asking WMO for guidance on how to react to this
 - WMO is responding by developing a Policy Framework on Public-Private Sector Engagement
 - WMO course of action constrained by the fact that different Members have very different perspectives on this
 - Preserving existing international agreements on data exchange is likely to become a central part of this document (*see also CGMS-45 WMO-WP-21*)

Thank you Merci



WMO OMM

World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale