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# **WMO policy framework for public-private sector engagementPublic-Private Partnership**

*(CGMS-46-WMO-WP-03)*



**WMO OMM**

World Meteorological Organization  
Organisation météorologique mondiale

***Lars Peter Riishojgaard  
WMO Secretariat, Geneva***

# Introduction

- 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

## **External *(to WMO)* drivers for Public Private sector engagement (PPE)**

- World Bank examining effectiveness of investments and inadequate use of private sector resources
- Private sector examining/testing 'level playing field' and pushing for opportunity
- Concerns that WMO acts as a cartel limiting progress, e.g. on on DRR and economic development)
- Creation of 'movement' within the Global Weather Enterprise (GWE) to push for change

# Additional background, perceptions

- Technology has changed the context and opportunities for participation in all elements of the meteorological value chain;
- Private sector sees opportunities that were not previously available, sometimes riding on the back of public investments;
- WMO sometimes perceived as
  - Acting narrowly for NMHSs, not broadly for Members
  - Being slow and defensive, not leading on PPE
- NMHSs perceived as afraid of private sector and defensive – therefore not benefitting from private sector involvement
- Previous approaches to cooperation deemed to have failed

# 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 and the implications of this on their ability to generate and deliver basic products and services (watches, warnings, etc.) to their respective constituencies
- Discussion at 2017 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;

{...}



# Global Weather Enterprise

*What is it?*

- The “weather enterprise” consists of **the multitude of systems and entities** participating in the production and provision of meteorological, climatological, hydrological, marine and related environmental information and services.
- In spite of the word “weather”, **the enterprise does include all activity areas of WMO within weather, climate and water**
- The GWE is largely unstructured – it has no governance mechanism or formal organization (outside or beyond WMO)
  - However, WMO is engaged with the World Bank, representatives of the private sector and from academia in a **Global Weather Enterprise Forum**
  - This forum is established to facilitate exchanges of ideas and stimulate progress toward a GWE based on strong PPE with mutual benefits to all participants

# Guiding principles for successful PPP

- Seek for win-win PPP scenarios that benefit society
- Recognize mandates and responsibilities stemming from international and national legislation and regulations
- Ensure a “level playing field”, cost- and benefit-sharing
- Engage in partnerships on matters critical to societies where joint action would bring efficiency and better service
- Promote WMO international norms and standards in meteorology, hydrology and climatology and their uniform implementation
- Accelerate uptake of research and technological developments into operations and stimulate the generation, translation and dissemination of knowledge
- “No country left behind” principle - keep the needs of developing countries, LDCs and SIDS in focus – combine efforts to bridge existing gaps and develop capacity in using state-of-the-art technology



# PPP, GWE and WMO process

## What we have done so far

- 2014: WMO World Weather Open Science Conference (WWOSC)  
Panels on the “Future of Weather Enterprise”
- 2015: 17<sup>th</sup> World Meteorological Congress adopted **Resolution 67 (Cg-17)** – *WMO Guidance on partnership with the private sector*
- 2016: 68<sup>th</sup> Session of WMO Executive Council – **Special dialogue** on the complementary and cooperative contributions of public and private sector institutions to meteorology and hydrology; **Decision 73 (EC-68)** – *Cooperation between the public and private sectors for the benefit of society*
- 2017: 69<sup>th</sup> Session of WMO Executive Council – **Decision 61 (EC-69)** – *Public–private engagement: A road map to the Eighteenth World Meteorological Congress with **Annex 1** - Draft Policy Framework for public–private engagement*



# PPP, GWE and WMO process

## Forthcoming activities

- Ultimate target – 18<sup>th</sup> World Meteorological Congress, June 2019
- To inform the Congress decisions, WMO will support studies and surveys
- Continued collaboration with partners such as the World Bank, other UN agencies,...
- Increased interaction with non-governmental organizations representing private sector, scientific societies, academia
- WMO plans to organize a GWE/PPP event in 4Q of 2018; all stakeholders invited and strongly encouraged to support and co-sponsor

# Role of CGMS

- Free and open exchange of (especially) observational data is critical to the generation of meteorological products and services
  - Emphasized in the CGMS Baseline and other documents
- Important to preserve this as PPP development moves forward within WMO
  - Satellite play a vital role in meteorology, both by volume and by impact; position of CGMS agencies on PPP and data exchange is therefore important to WMO
- The issue of data exchange and how it relates to and may be affected by PPP development will be discussed at CM-14 in Geneva on June 23
  - CGMS Agency participation in this discussion will be helpful to WMO (and perhaps also to CGMS agencies)