

## **DEC.2 (XXXI). Decision on sharpening the objectives and long-term goal of the African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development**

### **The Conference of Ministers,**

**RECALLING** its resolution 621 (XXII) of 24 April 1987 adopting the Constitution of the African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development,

**AWARE** of its resolution 651 (XXIII) of 15 April 1988 on the scale of constitution to the regular budget of the Centre,

**MINDFUL** of its resolution 741 (XXVII) of 22 April 1992 and decision 2 (XXV) of 2 May 1994 on the work programme and budget of the Centre for 1992 – 1994 and 1994-1996 respectively,

**ALSO RECALLING** resolution 755 (XXVIII) of 4 May 1993, regarding the terms of membership of the Board of Governors of the Centre,

**ALSO AWARE** of the relevant resolutions and report on the rationalization and harmonization of institutions sponsored by the Economic Commission for Africa,

**HAVING NOTED** the report of the eighth meeting of the Centre, held in Niamey, Niger, from 27 to 29 March 1996,

### I.

## **OBJECTIVES AND GOAL**

### **1. Decides:**

- a) To refocus the medium-term objectives and long-term goal of the Centre's programme to make it better respond to the evolving socio-economic needs of members States;

#### **Long-term goal of the Centre's programme**

- b) The Centre shall act as the weather and climate watch institution for Africa by providing:
- i. African countries with regular continental medium to long-range meteorological and climate prediction;
  - ii. regional early warnings on drought, tropical cyclones and other extreme and climate events;
- c) The Centre shall act as the African Centre of excellence for meteorological applications for sustainable development by:
- i. building capacities for cross-sectoral activities for meteorological application for sustainable social and economic development at the national level. This includes strengthening and broadening national meteorological services and improving communication infrastructure in order to maximize cost-benefit and optimize the utilization of climate and meteorological information and products;

- ii. developing methodologies and techniques for application at the national and subregional levels;
- iii. strengthening Africa's participation in global climate and weather watch programmes;
- iv. providing specialized training to relevant professionals and development practitioners in Africa; and
- v. maintaining appropriate research facilities, networking capacities and regional data bank and making them available to research programme in the region;

### **Medium-term objectives**

- vi. producing products that will satisfy the requirements of member States and complement those of national meteorological services and increase their effectiveness and impact
- vii. assisting in developing and strengthening the capacity of national meteorological services to become broad-based and cross-sectoral, interacting regularly with the ultimate users including government departments and other non government users; and
- viii. participating in the global weather and climate programme for the benefit of member States;

## II.

### **SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

2. **Also decides** to establish a Scientific Advisory Committee of the Board of Governors. The Committee shall be the principal body to advise the Board on scientific matters related to the Centre's activities and will, with a view to providing proposals and recommendations to the Board, perform the following functions:

- a) Ensure that the scientific content of programmes and products of the Centre meets the regional requirements and standards for achieving the medium-and long-term objectives of the Centre by:
  - i. reviewing and evaluating the Centre's products and services, taking into account the set objectives of the Centre's programme and the expressed requirements of users;
  - ii. advising on the type of scientific infrastructure required to produce the Centre's products;
  - iii. reviewing the requirements for scientific staff of the Centre, taking into consideration the activities to be carried out by the Centre's programme and providing guidelines for the recruitment of senior scientific staff;
  - iv. making periodic scientific reviews with the Director General to help him/her keep within the objectives of the Centre's programme;
- b) Review the objectives of the Centre in the light of emerging economic and scientific developments or any other new scientific issues that are likely to contribute to enhancing the activities of the Centre's programme;
- c) Review the responses of the principal users of the Centre's products and services with a view to better satisfy their needs and review the list of users periodically;
- d) Develop a mechanism for determining users' needs and for assessing benefits realized through the use of the Centre's products and services;

- e) Follow up scientific developments in the areas relevant to the Centre's programme activities;
- f) Examine with immediate effect and streamline the programme's activities and identify additional staff requirements for the next three years, beginning in 1997, taking into account the objectives and outputs (products) of the Centre's programme;

3. **Further decides** that the Scientific Advisory Committee shall be composed of seven eminent scientists selected in their personal capacity by the Centre's Board of Governors for a term of four years and the membership will be renewed by 50 per cent every two years. One of the members of the committee shall be proposed by the Centre's partners. The Director General of the Centre will assume the secretariat of the Committee.

### III.

#### **WORK PROGRAMME AND BUDGET FOR MAY 1996 – APRIL 1998**

4. **Endorses** the Centre's programme of work and budget for the biennium May 1996 – April 1998 as proposed by the eighth session of the Board of Governors (Niamey, Niger 27 - 29 March 1996) refocusing the Centre's objectives and goal on:

- a) Regional (African) meteorological and climate watch and prediction; and
- b) Meteorological applications and climate services with related capacity building, including networking and infrastructure development and strengthening at the national (member countries) level;

### IV.

#### **STATUTORY MATTERS**

##### **A. Membership of the Board of Governors**

5. **Further decides**, in view of the launching of the Centre's programme demonstration period (1996 – 1997), to extend the membership of the present Board of another two years, until May 1998;

##### **B. Scale of contribution to the recurrent budget of the Centre**

6. **Requests** the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa, in close collaboration with the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization and the Director General of the Centre, to review the scale of contribution to the regular budget of the Centre with a view to updating it;

7. **Also decides** that the present scale of financial contribution will remain in force until after the results of the review exercise when the new scales come into force, and that the contributions begin with the year of ratification of the Constitution of the Centre by the member State concerned.

8. **Updates** the annual contributions of member States taking into account the admission of Eritrea, Namibia and South Africa which were not members of the Commission at the time the Centre was established (April 1987), using, while waiting for the update, the present percentage scale as follows:

<b><u>Country</u></b>	<b><u>Percentage</u></b>	<b><u>Contribution (in \$ US)</u></b>
Eritrea	0.65	6,500
Namibia	1.08	10,800
South Africa	8.00	80,000

### **C. Staff rules**

9. **Further requests** the Executive Secretary of the Commission, in close collaboration with the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization and the Director General of the Centre, to review the staff rules of the Centre with a view to updating them in light of the evolution of the Centre's programme and its working environment;

V.

### **CONCLUSION**

10. **Requests** the Commission, through its Niamey-based Multinational Programming and Operational Centre, to continue to assist in the financial administration of the Centre until the resources are available for the recruitment of the appropriate staff;

11. **Further requests** the Executive Secretary of the Commission and the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization to report to the Conference of Ministers at its next meeting on the implementation of this decision.