

Resolution 25 (Cg-XVI)**DATA BUOY VANDALISM: INCIDENCE, IMPACT AND RESPONSES**

THE CONGRESS,

Noting:

- (1) Resolution 64/71 – Oceans and the law of the sea (paragraph 172) and resolution 64/72 – Sustainable fisheries, including through the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and related instruments (paragraph 109), which were adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2009 and urged States, appropriate United Nations agencies and relevant organizations to take necessary action and adopt measures to protect ocean data buoy systems and cooperate to address intentional and unintentional damage to platforms used for ocean observation and marine scientific research, such as moored buoys and tsunameters,
- (2) The *Abridged Final Report with Resolutions of the Sixty-second Session of the Executive Council* (WMO-No. 1059) which, inter alia, expressed concern about the significant occurrence of intentional or unintentional damage to ocean observing systems, and urged Members to help promote understanding of the impacts of such damage, which seriously undermines efforts to establish national and regional ocean hazard warning systems,
- (3) Resolution XXV-13 of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO/IOC) – Global coordination of early warning and mitigation systems for tsunamis and other sea-level related hazards, which recognized the value of collecting and exchanging data and information, and which called for:
 - (a) An inventory and assessment of the problem of ocean observing platform vandalism globally,
 - (b) An assessment of the impacts of such vandalism, including on the functionality of tsunami warning systems,
 - (c) Information on the annual cost of ocean observing platform vandalism to Member States,
 - (d) Recommendations for IOC and Member State action,
- (4) The Data Buoy Cooperation Panel (DBCP) and International Tsunameter Partnership (ITP) Technical Document (TD) No. 41, *Ocean Data Buoy Vandalism – Incidence, Impact and Responses*,
- (5) Resolution 50 (Cg-XVI) – Implementation of the WMO Integrated Global Observing System,

Acknowledging:

- (1) That Members and the global community increasingly rely on a rapidly expanding ocean observing network of critical infrastructure, necessary to detect storm surges and tsunamis and to improve understanding of weather, climate and ecosystems,

- (2) That ocean data buoy networks are an integral component of a sustainable, integrated and comprehensive global ocean observing system serving multiple applications, and have proven to be essential in providing timely and geographically specific data for decision-making,
- (3) That moored ocean buoy stations are especially susceptible to human-caused damage, which has resulted in extensive outages and data loss, often at critical times,

Recognizing that vandalism and damage to ocean observing networks takes many forms, including from ship impacts, incidental damage, direct exploitation of moorings as fish aggregation devices, intentional damage and theft,

Encouraged:

- (1) By recent action of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission, the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission and the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission to protect moored ocean observing systems, including regional and local education and training,
- (2) By the Regional Workshop on Establishing a Cooperative Mechanism for Protection of Met-Ocean Data and Tsunami Buoys in the Northern Indian Ocean Region (May 2011), which made important recommendations regarding possible new legal instruments on the topic,
- (3) By the fourth meeting of the IOC Working Group on Tsunamis and Other Hazards Related to Sea-Level Warning and Mitigation Systems (TOWS-WG-IV, Paris, March 2011), which, inter alia, proposed to the twenty-sixth session of the IOC Assembly that it adopt a resolution on the topic of vandalism of ocean data buoys and tsunameters,

Urges Members and **invites** relevant international and intergovernmental organizations:

- (1) To develop, in collaboration with educators and the global media, communication plans to raise awareness of the critical value of ocean observation, and to promote education and outreach, especially with recreational and commercial fishers, to broaden support of community stakeholders, enable proactive engagement at regional and local scales, and raise public literacy for ocean observing network-derived services and disaster risk reduction benefits;
- (2) To adopt additional strategies for the strengthening of ocean observing networks and systems and other damage prevention and mitigation practices, including the enhanced engineering of station and infrastructure design;
- (3) To work with the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and regional fisheries management organizations and bodies, especially those with the competence to manage highly migratory fisheries, to educate and encourage stakeholders to adopt binding measures to prevent and minimize vandalism and damage to ocean observing networks and data systems;

Requests the Secretary-General and **invites** the Executive Secretary of UNESCO/IOC:

- (1) To promote collection of more consistent and systematic statistics on vandalism, to increase capture and exchange of damage records and performance measures for ocean observing networks, and to conduct comprehensive cost-benefit assessments and risk-value analyses taking into account life, health, social and economic impacts of vandalism and damage to ocean observing networks and data systems;

- (2) To encourage and assist, where appropriate, the development of specific regional efforts and solutions in addressing the vandalism of ocean data platforms;
 - (3) To present the *Ocean Data Buoy Vandalism – Incidence, Impact and Responses* report to the United Nations General Assembly, with a view to promoting an integrated United Nations approach to addressing this critical issue.
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Resolution 26 (Cg-XVI)

WMO QUALITY MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

THE CONGRESS,

Noting the increasingly high impact of weather, water and climate information on crucial societal decision-making processes,

Noting further the increased scrutiny of the quality, reliability and accuracy of weather, water and climate products and services by critically important stakeholders,

Having considered recent developments in some application areas, such as aviation or marine meteorology, where partner organizations are mandating the implementation of Quality Management Systems (QMS) for services to them,

Recognizing the high importance of the working arrangements between WMO and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), including the recognition of WMO as a an international standardizing body for technical standards, a rare distinction given to only three organizations worldwide,

Recommends a full integration of the Quality Management Framework (QMF) into the wider WMO strategic and operational planning process as part of a holistic management system encompassing quality management, risk management, results-based management, as well as monitoring and evaluation;

Invites Members with a well-developed QMS in place to share experiences, expertise and documentation with other Members currently developing or planning such systems;

Agrees with the conclusions of the Inter-Commission Task Team on Quality Management Framework (ICTT-QMF) and the Executive Council concerning the need for a twinning partnership system;

Requests the Executive Council to establish an appropriate mechanism with the task to promote, oversee and guide the further implementation of the Quality Management Framework in the simplest and most efficient manner as possible;

Requests the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the Executive Council, to undertake an in-depth gap analysis of the WMO Secretariat in terms of QMS, with a view to developing a business case for a QMS implementation pilot project;

Urges the technical commissions to explore opportunities to develop new common Technical Standards under the Working Arrangements between ISO and WMO;

Encourages Members to provide in kind and extrabudgetary resources to help achieve these goals;