Structure and activities

The administrative and technical machinery of the WMO consists of:

(1) A World Meteorological Congress in which 138 member countries and territories are represented by the heads of their meteorological services. It meets once every four years to adopt technical regulations on meteorological practices and procedures and to determine general policy. The Sixth Congress was held in Geneva from April 5 to 30, 1971.

(2) An Executive Committee that supervises the carrying-out of resolutions of the Congress, initiates studies, and makes recommendations on matters requiring international action. It provides members with technical information, advice and assistance. It meets at least once a year, its membership comprising the President and the three Vice-Presidents of the WMO, the President of the WMO's six Regional Associations, and 14 elected members.

(3) Six Regional Meteorological Associations (Africa, Asia, South America, North and Central America, Europe and the Southwest Pacific), composed of member countries whose meteorological networks lie in or extend into the region.

(4) Eight Technical Commissions established by the Congress to study and make recommendations on technical subjects including aeronautical, agricultural and marine meteorology; operational hydrology; special applications of meteorology and climatology; basic systems; instruments and methods of observation; and atmospheric sciences.

(5) A Secretariat under the direction of a Secretary-General.

The Sixth Congress approved a revised implementation plan for the World Weather Watch (WWW) for 1972-76. This plan does not represent a new beginning or a sharp break in continuity from the earlier plan for 1968-71; rather, it proposes the direct, logical continuation and development of the WWW as the global meteorological operational system. This system makes available to each member the basic meteorological and other related environmental information it requires in order to enjoy the most efficient and effective meteorological service possible. The plan for 1972-76 differs from its predecessor primarily because it incorporates the results and experience of all members and constituent bodies of the Organization in working together to implement the plan. Furthermore it reflects the many scientific and technological developments in meteorology during the previous four years.