

Consequently the Conference of Directors of the National Meteorological Services, which met at Washington in 1947 under the auspices of the International Meteorological Organization, adopted the World Meteorological Convention establishing a new organization founded on an agreement between governments. Just prior to this Conference, Canada had played host to the sessions of the Technical Commissions of the IMO which met in Toronto in the summer of 1947.

The Convention adopted at Washington was ratified by a large number of states and in 1951 the new World Meteorological Organization became active, the former organization having been dissolved. Furthermore, the General Assembly of the United Nations approved, in December 1951, the agreement between the United Nations and the World Meteorological Organization. The latter was thus recognized by the United Nations as a Specialized Agency.

The objectives of WMO are:

- (1) to facilitate world-wide co-operation in establishing networks of stations for making meteorological observations or other geophysical observations related to meteorology, and to promote the establishment and maintenance of centres for providing meteorological services;
- (2) to promote the establishment and maintenance of systems for rapidly exchanging weather information;
- (3) to promote standardization of meteorological observations and to ensure the uniform publication of observations and statistics;
- (4) to further the application of meteorology to aviation, shipping, agriculture, and other human activities;
- (5) to encourage research and training in meteorology and to assist in co-ordinating the international aspects of such research and training.

Structure and Activities

WMO's administrative and technical machinery consists of:

- (1) A World Meteorological Congress in which 110 member countries 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.
- (2) An Executive Committee which 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. Meeting at least once a year, its membership includes the President and the two Vice-Presidents of WMO, the President of WMO's six Regional Meteorological Associations, and 12 elected members.
- (3) Six Regional Meteorological Associations (Africa, Asia, South America, North and Central America, Europe and Southwest Pacific), composed of member countries whose meteorological networks lie in or extend into the region.