

## World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

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### Key features

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**Type of organisation:** United Nations specialized agency

**Charter/Constitution:** Convention of the World Meteorological Organization (1947); Agreement between the United Nations and the WMO (1951); Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the Specialized Agencies (adopted by WMO 1951), [http://library.wmo.int/pmb\\_ged/wmo\\_15-2012\\_en.pdf](http://library.wmo.int/pmb_ged/wmo_15-2012_en.pdf)

**Membership:**

- Nature: Representatives from governments, i.e. members of United Nation States, Territories or group of Territories having a Meteorological Service in accordance with Article 3, WMO Convention.
- Number: 191 members Same

**Year of establishment:** 1950

**Headquarters:** Geneva, Switzerland

**Field offices:** Abuja (Nigeria), Nairobi (Kenya), Manama (Bahrain), Apia (Samoa), Asunción (Paraguay), San José (Costa Rica), Brussels (Belgium), New York (United States), Mexico City (Mexico), Singapore

**Secretariat staff:** 300 (1 October 2017)

**Total budget:** CHF 92,171 (2016) \*in thousands of Swiss Francs

**Type of activity:** Policy dialogue, data collection and analysis, information exchange, development of legal instruments

**Sectors of activity:** Weather, climate, hydrology and water resources, environmental issues, related meteorological areas (aviation, shipping, water problems, agriculture and human activities, etc.)

**Webpage:** <http://public.wmo.int>

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### Members

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, British Caribbean Territories (Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands), Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China (People's Republic of), Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, French Polynesia, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hong Kong (China), Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Korea, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Macau (China), Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Niue, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

### Relationship with non-Members

In accordance with Regulation 20 of the General Regulations, invitations to constituent body sessions are issued to the following non-member countries because of their status as members of, or observers to, the United Nations: Andorra, Equatorial Guinea, Grenada, Holy See, Liechtenstein, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, San Marino, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

### Observers

Observers include: i) those non-members listed immediately above as well as the State of Palestine; ii) Organisations within the United Nations system; iii) Organisations with an agreement or working arrangements with WMO providing for representation; iv) Organisations with consultative status-i.e. NGOs with a consultative status agreement and other IOs with which WMO has a working relationship.

### Mandate

The WMO is the UN system's authoritative voice on the state and behaviour of the Earth's atmosphere, its interaction with the oceans, the climate it produces and the resulting distribution of water resources. The vision of WMO is to provide world leadership in expertise and international co-operation in weather, climate, hydrology and water resources and related environmental issues and thereby contribute to the safety and well-being of people throughout the world and to the economic benefit of all nations.

## IRC processes taking place within the World Meteorological Organization



## Categories of legal and policy instruments

	Is it taking place within the IO?	Approximate number
Treaties for ratification by States (excluding the funding one)		
Legally binding decisions		
Recommendations	√	>200
Political declarations	√	20
Model treaties or law		
Production of technical standards	√	>200
Non-binding guidance/best practices document	√	390

## Interactions with other international organisations active in the field

Mechanisms of interaction		Approximate number of IOs involved	Examples
Develop joint instruments	√	5	IMO/IHO (International Hydrographic Organization)/WMO Manual on Safety Information
MoU or other agreements	√	>100	Working Arrangements with SPREP (South Pacific Regional Environment Programme)
Participate in co-ordinating institution	√	4	GCOS (Global Climate Observing System)
Joint meetings that provide forum for co-ordination	√	>100	Included in MoUs and other agreements (e.g. SPREP)
Observe relevant actions of other bodies	√	>100	Included in MoUs and other agreements (e.g. SPREP)
Exchange information	√	>100	Included in MoUs and other agreements (e.g. SPREP)

### WMO history

WMO originated from the International Meteorological Organization (IMO), which was founded in 1873. Established in 1950, WMO became the specialized agency of the United Nations in 1951 for meteorology (weather and climate), operational hydrology and related geophysical sciences. Since its establishment, WMO has played a unique and powerful role in contributing to the safety and welfare of humanity. Under WMO leadership and within the framework of WMO programmes, National Meteorological and Hydrological Services contribute substantially to the protection of life and property against natural disasters, to safeguarding the environment and to enhancing the economic and social well-being of all sectors of society in areas such as food security, water resources and transport.

Source: Updated from OECD (2016), *International Regulatory Co-operation: The Role of International Organisations in Fostering Better Rules of Globalisation*, OECD Publishing, Paris. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264244047-en>