

# WMO Reform and Restructuring of Secretariat

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**WMO OMM**

World Meteorological Organization  
Organisation météorologique mondiale

# Overview

- **WMO Constituent Body Reform; drivers and main thrusts;**
- **Secretariat Restructuring;**
- **Revisiting GCOS; why is it necessary and what does it imply?**



# Change drivers for 2020-23

Alignment of secretariat structures with the new Constituent Bodies

- **Holistic Earth System approach**
- Wide service concept weather-climate-water-oceans
- Stronger and more coherent WMO climate programme

New focal areas

- Better engagement of water/hydrology in WMO activities
- Engagement of private sector & needed support functions
- Better engagement of science and innovation communities
- Development financing & advisory activities
- Economic dimension of weather, climate and water services
- GMAS/UN services

Administrative processes

- Streamlining of travel, meeting, finance, document & correspondence processes: centralization of expertise, less hierarchic layers
- Delegation of authority to departments, but by ensuring of appropriate control mechanisms
- Less and bigger meetings, like the new TCs. Less, shorter and more focused documents

Result based management practices & culture: strategy => operational plan => department/unit action based on numerical indicators & regular follow-up

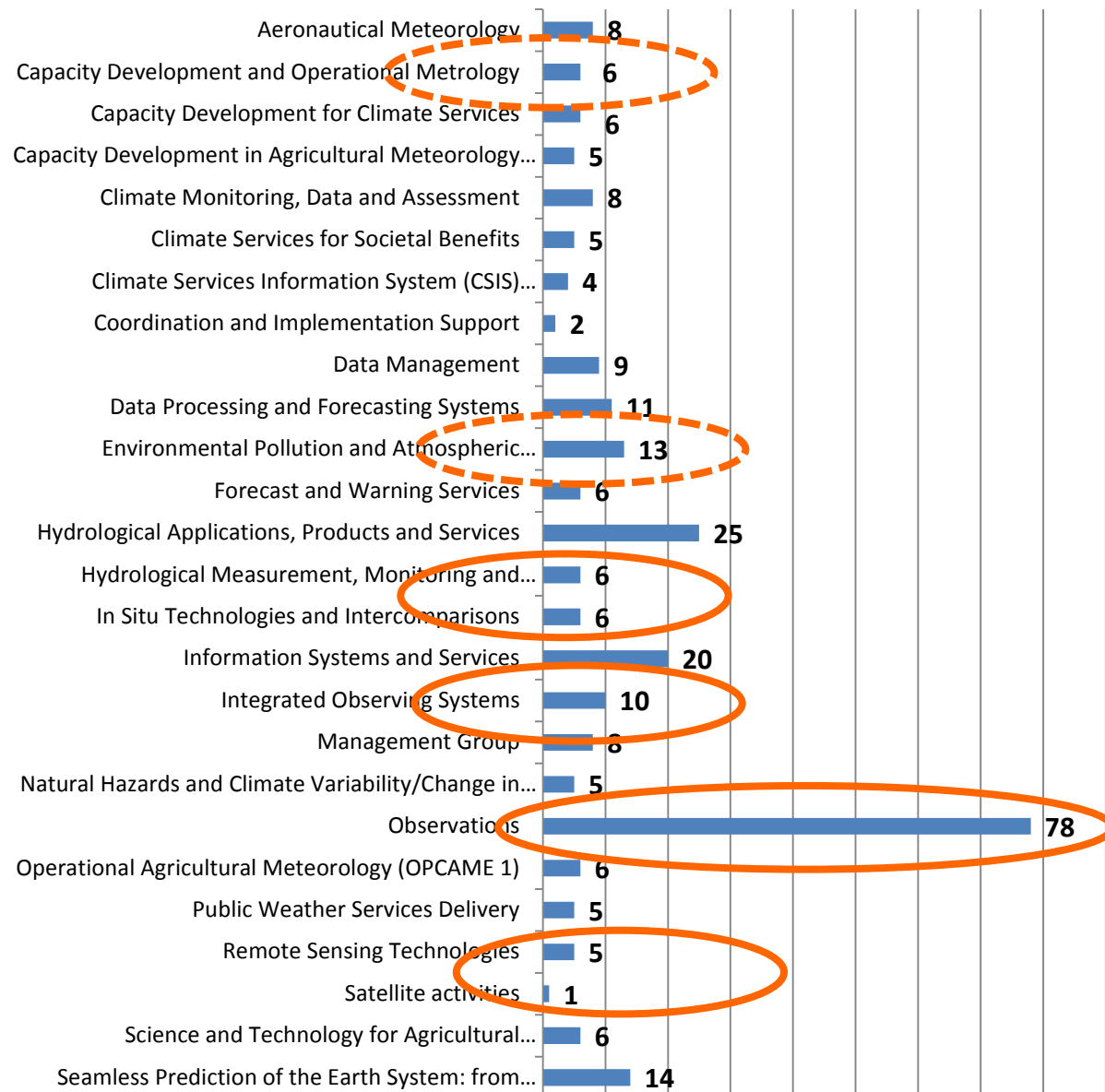
Regional/technical work dilemma: Regionalization of TC/Tech. department work, common priorities

# Additional change drivers behind reform of Technical Commissions

- Outdated governance structure with eight Technical Commissions working largely along parallel tracks;
  - WMO Technical Commissions are intergovernmental bodies, and thus expensive to run (translation, interpretation across all WMO languages); TC sessions will in the future be reserved for normative material requiring intergovernmental agreements;
- Complex working structure within individual TCs, making it difficult to manage and coordinate activities (example on next slide);
- Lack of coordination between Regional Associations and Technical Commissions hampers both implementation of new WMO initiatives and transfer of knowledge to developing Members;

## Expert Teams/Task Teams/Working Groups by work area (under the “old” 8 technical commissions)

- 78 Teams for “Observations” alone
- **106** when including remote sensing, satellite activities, integrated observing systems, etc.
- When including capacity development, cross-cutting activities, potentially closer to 110 or more ...



## Additional background: A brief history of WMO's observing systems activities

- **1962: Global Observing System** of the World Weather Watch
- **1982: Global Atmosphere Watch** (atmospheric composition);
- **1992: Global Climate Observing System**;
- **1993: World Hydrological Cycle Observing System**;
- **2007: Global Cryosphere Watch**;
- In order to better manage complex and growing web of observing systems, Congress in 2011 decided to implement **WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS)**, integrating all observing systems (except GCOS) into a common framework;
- The success of the **Inter-Commission Coordination Group on WIGOS** in guiding and overseeing the WIGOS implementation has directly paved the way for the ongoing WMO constituent body reform.



# CONSTITUENT BODIES REFORM (CBR)



1873



2050

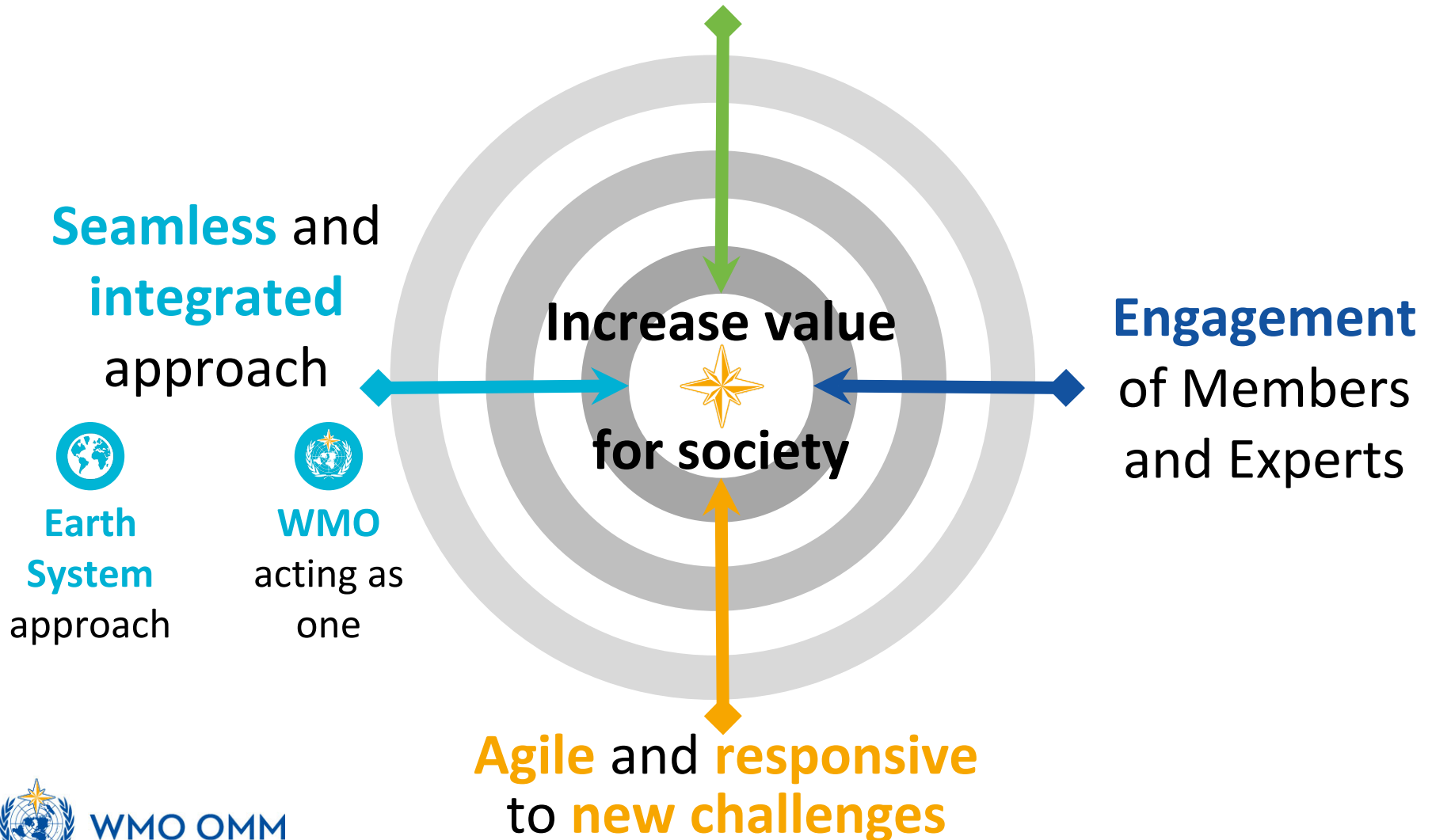
## WMO for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century



WMO OMM

# REFORM OBJECTIVES

Effectiveness and efficiency





# WMO STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-30

## VISION 2030

A world where **all nations**, especially the **most vulnerable**, are **more resilient** to the **socioeconomic impact** of **extreme weather, climate, water** and other **environmental events**, and **empowered** to boost their **sustainable development** through the **best possible weather, climate and water services**

## OVERARCHING PRIORITIES

Preparedness for, and reducing losses from hydrometeorological extremes

Climate-smart decision-making to build resilience and adaptation to climate risk

Socioeconomic value of weather, climate, hydrological and related environmental services

## CORE VALUES

Accountability for Results and Transparency

Collaboration and Partnership

Inclusiveness and Diversity

## LONG-TERM GOALS

### 1 Services



Better serve societal needs

### 2 Infrastructure



Enhance Earth system observations and predictions

### 3 Science & Innovation



Advance targeted research

### 4 Member Services



Close the capacity gap

### 5 Smart Organization



Strategic realignment of structure and programmes

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

### FOCUSED ON 2020-23

- Strengthen **national multi-hazard early warning/alert systems**
- Broaden provision of **policy- and decision-supporting climate, water and weather services**

- Optimize **observation data acquisition**
- Improve access to, exchange and management of **Earth system observation data and products**
- Enable access and use of **numerical analysis and prediction products**

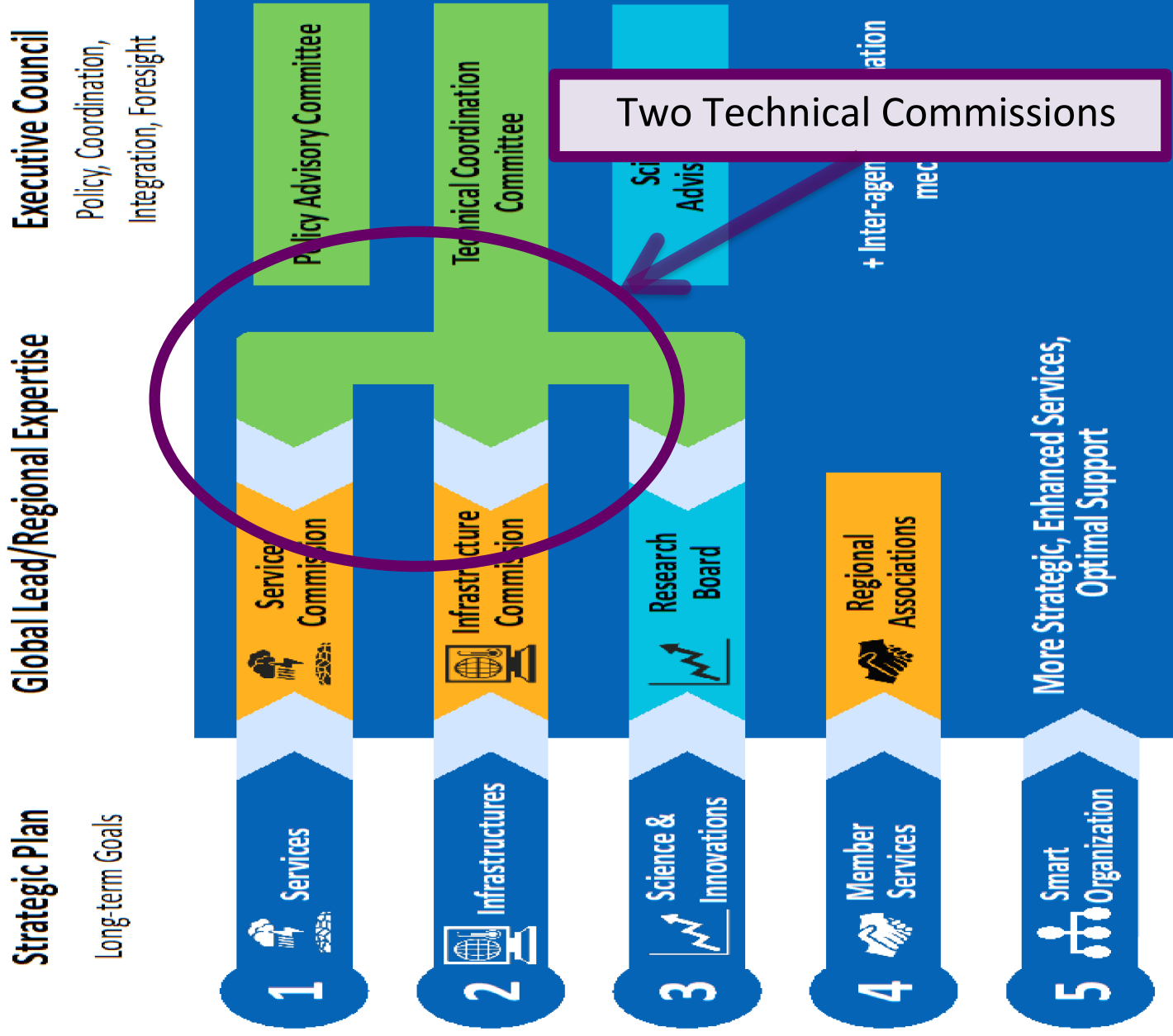
- Advance **scientific knowledge of the Earth system**
- Enhance **science-for-service value chain** to improve predictive capabilities
- Advance **policy-relevant science**

- Enable developing countries to **provide and utilize essential weather, climate, hydrological and related environmental services**
- Develop and sustain **core competencies and expertise**
- Scale up **partnerships**

- Optimize WMO **constituent body structure**
- Streamline WMO **programmes**
- Advance **equal, effective and inclusive participation**



# ALIGNMENT OF WMO STRUCTURE

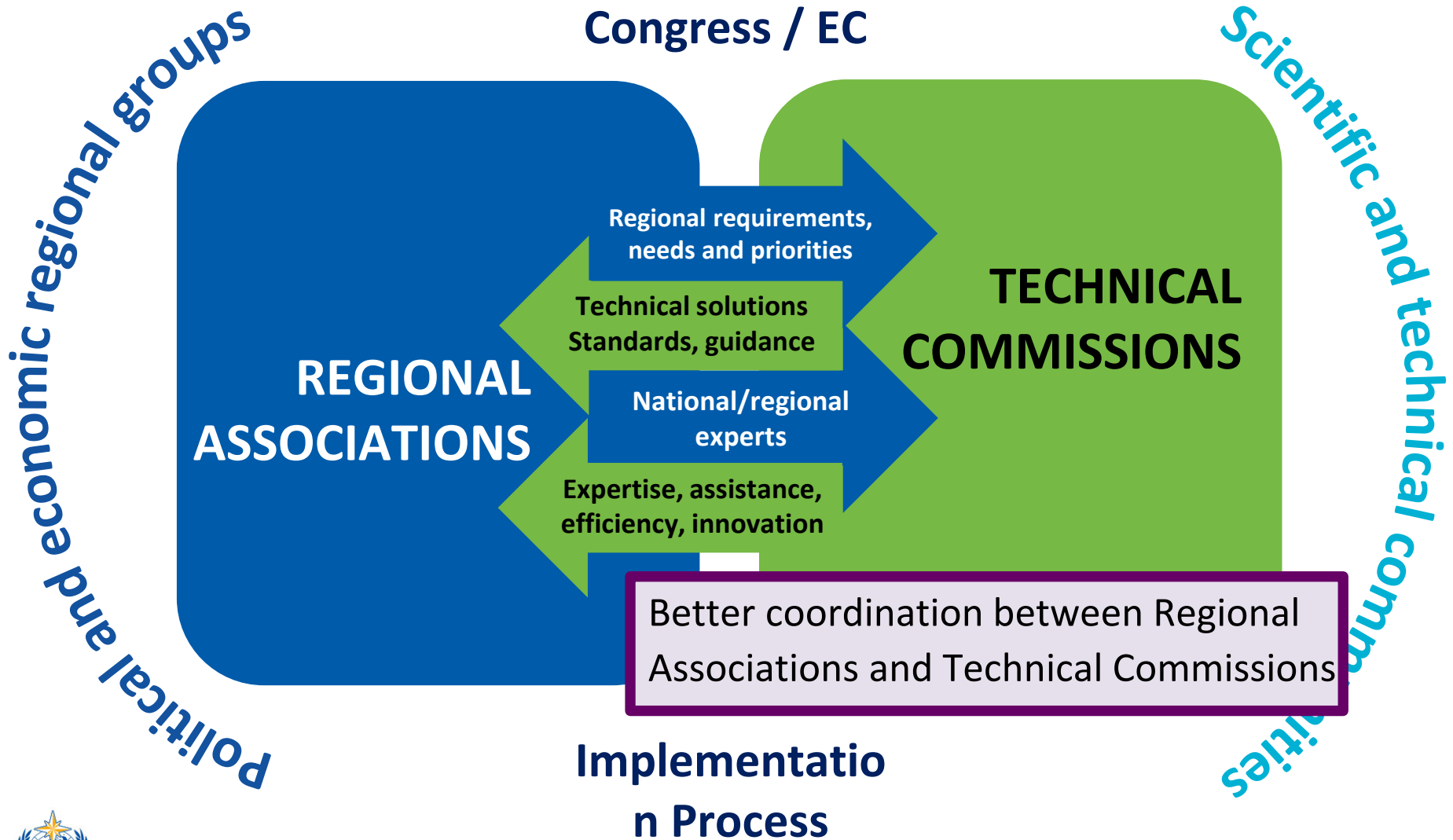


Established by EC-70

EC-70 Recommendations to Congress (intergovernmental)

EC-70 Recommendations to Congress for new science bodies (non-intergovernmental)

# AN ENHANCED ROLE FOR REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS



# STANDING COMMITTEES



## Infrastructure Commission



Earth observing systems and measurement networks



Methods of observations, measurements  
and instrumentation



Data, products and information exchange  
and life cycle management

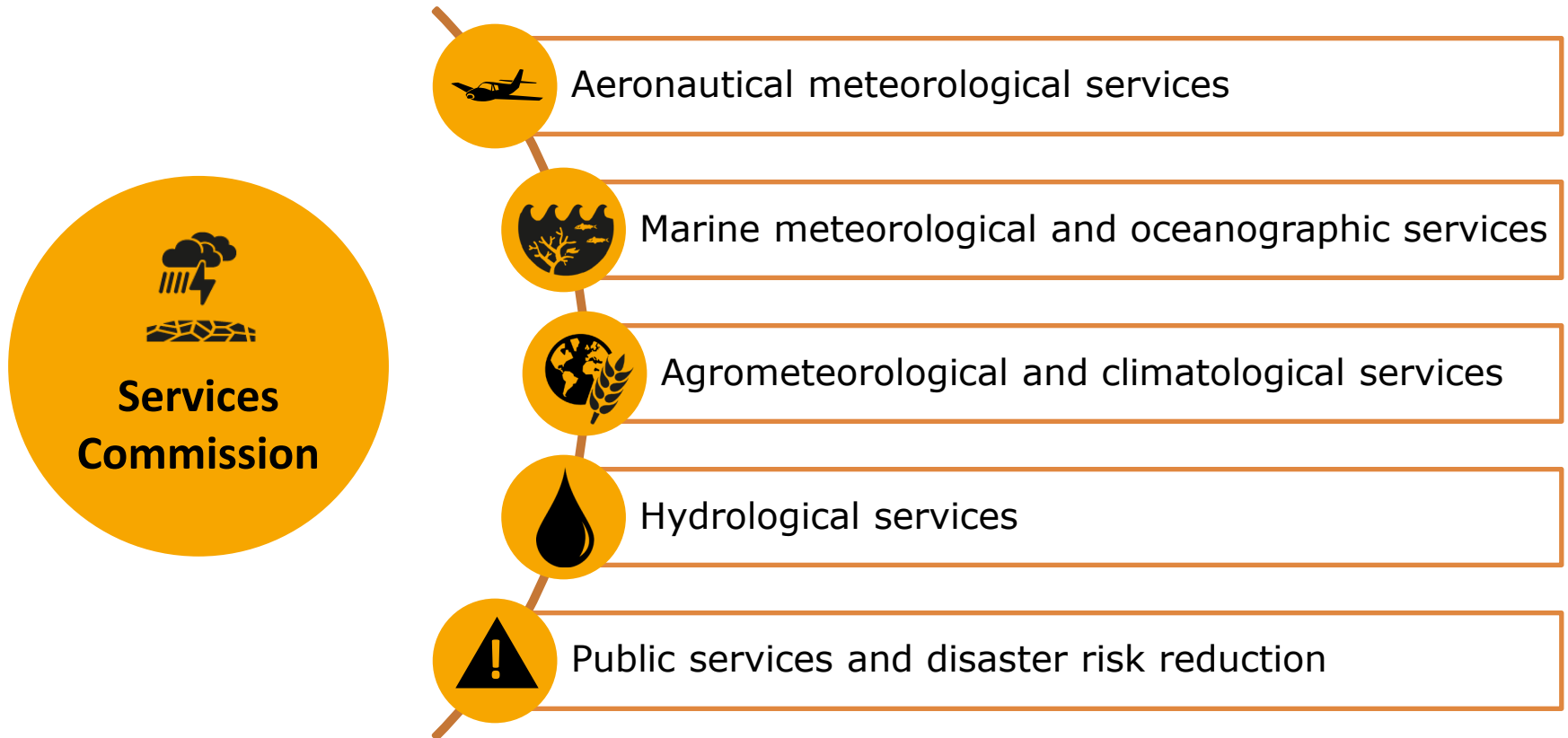


Data processing for applied Earth system  
modelling and prediction



# STANDING COMMITTEES

*(still to be finalized; will most likely include separate SC on climate)*



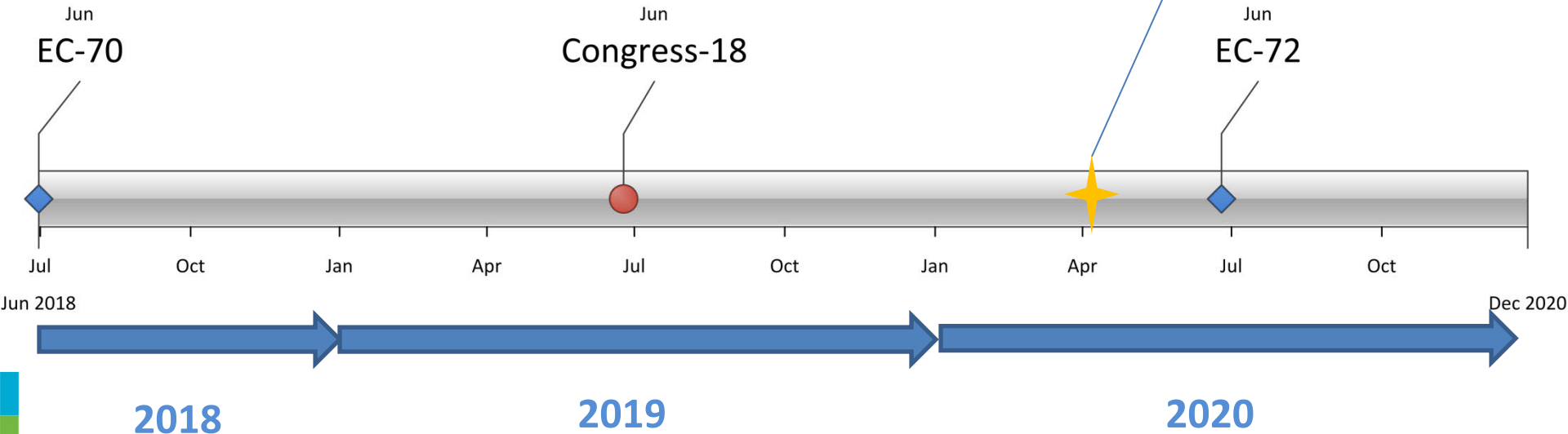
# WHAT'S NEXT?

Finalization of proposals, work on details, mapping, communication, formation of Communities of Practice (CoP)

Establishing of structures, work programmes, preparation of first session

Kick-off of new TCs

**APPROVAL of CBR**



# Secretariat reform

## Establishment of Infrastructure (Earth System) and Services (Weather, Climate, Water, Oceans & Environment) Departments

Establishment of Governance Services Department dealing with all administrative, language & conference, travel, meetings and legal matters, with the goal of streamlining and consolidation the administrative work of the Secretariat

Strengthening of support for Members & development activities and its cross-cutting nature of work

Establishment of cross-cutting coordination mechanisms for climate, water & cryosphere and oceans

- Time-limited programs with six-monthly milestones
- Chiefs appointed for two years with a possibility of renewal

## Leaner Executive Management

- Additional emphasis on internal communication
- Integration of DPO with regional and development activities while ensuring CREWS and future Alliance and CSI Secretariats have legal “firewall”
- Move of IT functions (ie, ELIOS, Community Platform) to IT unit in the Infrastructure Department



# Executive Management

SG, DSG & ASG  
Cabinet office P. Egerton

**PPE (& Economy?)**

D. Ivanov

**Oversight (& Ethics)**

A. Ojha

Board: SG, DSG, ASG, DI, DS, DMSD, DSI, DGS

## Infrastructure

A. Rea  
L-P. Riishojgaard  
P. Shi

## Science and Innovations

J. Luterbacher

## Services

CM. Shun  
M. Dilley

## Member services and development

M. Power  
Y. Adebayo  
J. Baez, A. Makarau, CK. Park & M. Repnik

**Water & cryosphere**

**Oceans**

**Climate**

GCOS

GAW

GFC

IPCC A. Moksitt

WCRP

## Governing services

M. Carrieri  
B. Exterkate





# What about GCOS?

- Letter sent to GCOS SC Members on October 25 2019:
  - {...} we, as GCOS co-sponsors, are convinced of the urgent need to strengthen, operationalize and sustain the GCOS through institutional mechanisms that will secure robust requirement setting, routine monitoring and reporting, and clear accountability for delivery.
  - {...} the Co-Sponsors of GCOS have agreed to initiate a process of realigning GCOS with the WMO Commission for Observation, Infrastructure and Information Systems {...};
  - {...} a formal process will be proposed for consideration during the next session of the WMO Executive Council, and that this will be done in coordination with all other GCOS Co-Sponsors {...}
  - **As we prepare decisions related to the processes described above, {...}, the GCOS Co-Sponsors would welcome and appreciate inputs and advice from the GCOS Steering Committee.**
- We are at the beginning of the process of developing new GCOS MoU between the co-sponsors; many details still to be fleshed out;
- WMO plans to integrate the GCOS Secretariat staff in the new Infrastructure Department.

**In line with recommendations in  
2014 GCOS Programme Review**

# What is WMO seeking from new GCOS arrangement?

- Stronger links between GCOS and the WMO constituent bodies, regulatory framework etc.
  - Per the 1998 MoU, the role of the GCOS SC is to *{...} provide scientific and technical guidance to sponsoring and participating organizations {...}, and to report to the sponsoring and participating organizations as needed;*
  - Latest GCOS Implementation Plan was approved by the GCOS Steering Committee in 2016, but never formally adopted via any WMO Constituent Body resolution; lack of status as WMO regulatory or guidance material significantly limits its impact;

## What is WMO seeking from new GCOS arrangement? (II)

- Better integration of work of GCOS panels with other WMO expert teams, task teams etc.
  - GCOS contribution to initiatives such as the Global Basic Observing Network (GBON) and the quality of GCOS experts are well recognized by WMO;
  - However, there are opportunities for improving synergies between GCOS panels and elements of the WMO TC working structure;
  - Systemic problem, not unique to GCOS; outgoing WMO TC working structure included more than 100 teams and groups on observing system issues.



# Summary and Conclusions

- WMO is reforming its constituent body structure for the first time in more than 40 years, reducing number of technical commissions from eight to two;
- The reform is expected to lead to significantly improved efficiency and effectiveness;
- WMO Secretariat currently being restructured to align itself with the new constituent body structure;
- In parallel, GCOS Co-Sponsors are revising GCOS arrangements, planning to develop new MoU;
- Within WMO, GCOS activities will fall under new Infrastructure Commission;
- GCOS Secretariat will be incorporated in new Infrastructure Department; allowing to better exploit synergy between GCOS and related WIGOS activities.

