

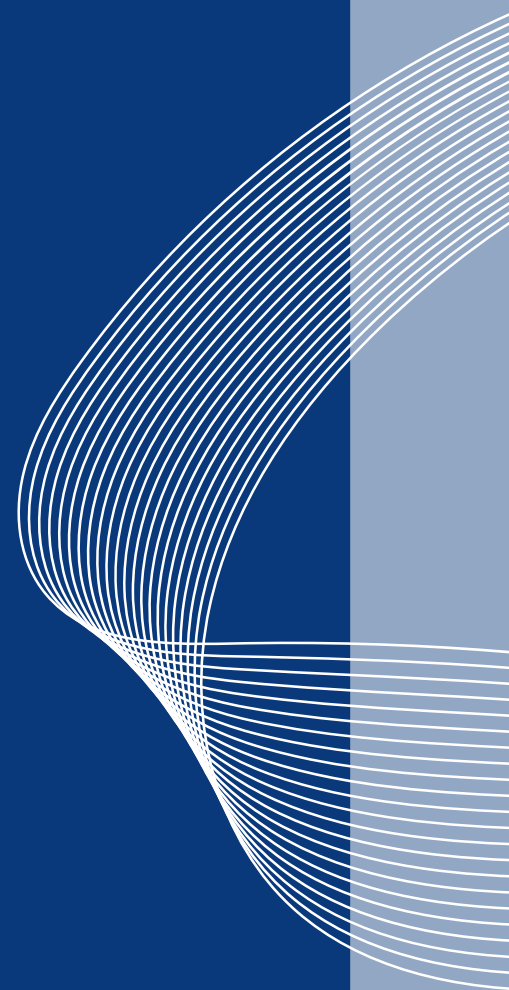


WMO | COMMONS

*The WMO Weather, Climate  
and Water Intelligence  
Commons*

*Draft*

Operational  
Guidelines



# WMO COMMONS

The WMO Weather, Climate and Water Intelligence Commons

## Operational Guidelines

*World Meteorological Organization*

# DRAFT

### **The WMO Commons - A Financing Mechanism for a Resilient Future: Safeguarding the World's Weather, Climate and Water Intelligence**

These Operational Guidelines set out the purpose, scope, governance, and operational arrangements of the WMO Weather, Climate and Water Intelligence Commons (WMO Commons).

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## List of Acronyms

Acronym	Definition	Acronym	Definition
<b>AI</b>	Artificial Intelligence	<b>IDMP</b>	Integrated Drought Management Programme
<b>APFM</b>	Associated Programme on Flood Management	<b>KPI</b>	Key Performance Indicator
<b>CAP</b>	Common Alerting Protocol	<b>NMHS</b>	National Meteorological and Hydrological Service
<b>CHF</b>	Swiss Franc	<b>RBM</b>	Results-Based Management
<b>CMIP</b>	Coupled Model Intercomparison Project	<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>COP</b>	Conference of the Parties	<b>SWF</b>	Severe Weather Forecasting
<b>EW4All</b>	Early Warnings for All	<b>UNGA</b>	United Nations General Assembly
<b>FFF</b>	Flood Forecasting Framework	<b>USD</b>	United States Dollar
<b>G3W</b>	Global Greenhouse Gas Watch	<b>WCAG</b>	WMO Commons Advisory Group
<b>G7/G20</b>	Group of Seven / Group of Twenty	<b>WCRP</b>	World Climate Research Programme
<b>GAW</b>	Global Atmosphere Watch	<b>WHYCOS</b>	World Hydrological Cycle Observing System
<b>GBON</b>	Global Basic Observing Network	<b>WIGOS</b>	WMO Integrated Global Observing System
<b>GCOS</b>	Global Climate Observing System	<b>WIPPS</b>	WMO Integrated Processing and Prediction System
<b>GCW</b>	Global Cryosphere Watch	<b>WIS</b>	WMO Information System
<b>GMAS</b>	Global Multi-Hazard Alert System	<b>WMO</b>	World Meteorological Organization
<b>GOOS</b>	Global Ocean Observing System	<b>WSP</b>	WMO Space Programme
<b>HydroSOS</b>	Global Hydrological Status and Outlook System	<b>WWRP</b>	World Weather Research Programme
<b>IBF</b>	Impact-Based Forecasting		

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## 1. Overview

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The WMO Weather, Climate and Water Intelligence Commons (“WMO Commons”) aims to safeguard and strengthen the critical public backbone of weather, climate, and water data and intelligence. This global infrastructure, comprising collaboration frameworks, expertise, software, hardware, systems, and services, underpins trillions of dollars in economic value and risk management, driving global stability, security, and sustainable growth.

The WMO Commons is a WMO-managed pooled financing mechanism that sustains, strengthens and modernizes the globally mandated backbone and system-enabling functions of weather, climate and water data and intelligence, ensuring continuity, interoperability and equitable participation across all WMO Members. Through this mechanism, voluntary contributions from sovereign governments, philanthropic organizations, multilateral institutions and private-sector actors are pooled and allocated through a single financing platform to support the international infrastructure that enables national observing networks and forecasting services to operate as part of a coherent and interoperable global system.

By pooling resources, the mechanism ensures that critical global functions whose benefits extend across borders receive stable and coordinated financing. This collective approach reinforces the global system on which all countries depend for weather forecasting, climate services, and early warning capabilities. It leverages what WMO Member countries already support, mobilizing additional voluntary contributions to close critical gaps and strengthen the global system

The WMO Commons seeks to mobilize at least USD 100 million over 5 years to finance global weather, climate and water monitoring, prediction, and service delivery systems. This investment leverages billions in existing public-sector investment, complements the growing role of private-sector engagement and investment, and unlocks its full value by focusing on the global common good. It also complements and reinforces existing climate financing mechanisms, avoiding duplication.

The allocation and use of all pooled resources under the WMO Commons are guided by a WMO Commons Annual Workplan, which translates strategic priorities defined in the WMO Strategic Plan (currently for 2024–2027) and Annual Operating Plans into programmatic investments and results.

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## 2. Why It Is Needed

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The world depends on the global public infrastructure coordinated by WMO, yet it remains critically underfunded and increasingly fragile. From early warning systems to seasonal forecasts and longer-term climate outlooks, as well as risk analytics, WMO data and services power resilience across sectors and are relied upon daily by billions through consumer-facing platforms.

However, market-driven approaches cannot ensure full coverage or system reliability, and emerging technologies like AI depend on robust public infrastructure and data to deliver reliable, authoritative, and equitable weather, climate, and water services.

The WMO Commons responds to this need by pooling resources to sustain and modernize the backbone of the global weather, climate and water intelligence system, ensuring interoperability, quality, innovation, open access, institutional capacity, and user co-creation. In doing so, it secures trusted data and services as a global public good, while accelerating resilience, market stability, and collective security in the face of increasingly severe climate risks.

For contributors, this represents one of the highest-leverage investments in global public goods available: every contribution safeguards systems that underpin trillions of dollars in global economic

activity while directly supporting the Paris Agreement, the SDGs, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative.

The WMO Commons also plays a critical role in supporting countries across all income categories, particularly middle-income countries that may not be eligible for concessional financing but require targeted support to maintain and integrate their systems into the global infrastructure. The WMO Commons ensures that all Members can participate effectively in and benefit from the global weather, climate and water intelligence system.

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### 3. What It Supports

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The WMO Commons pooled fund complements WMO Regular Budget by financing gaps in WMO's globally mandated stewardship of the international weather, climate and water system, including:

- Overseeing the sustained operation and modernisation of globally coordinated observing systems.
- Coordinating global meteorological data exchange and prediction infrastructure.
- Leading development, governance, and oversight of international standards and data policies.
- Steward coordination mechanisms that safeguard system integrity and interoperability.

WMO Members already invest in and rely on these shared systems. The WMO Commons ensures they are adequately resourced, modernized and globally coherent, so that all countries can :

- Share meteorological observations across borders in real time.
- Contribute to and benefit from global weather and climate prediction models.
- Maintain internationally agreed standards, protocols, and coordination mechanisms.
- Ensure interoperability between national systems within the global network.

Without this shared global infrastructure, national forecasting systems, climate services, and early warning services would be significantly less effective.

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### 4. The Investment Pathways

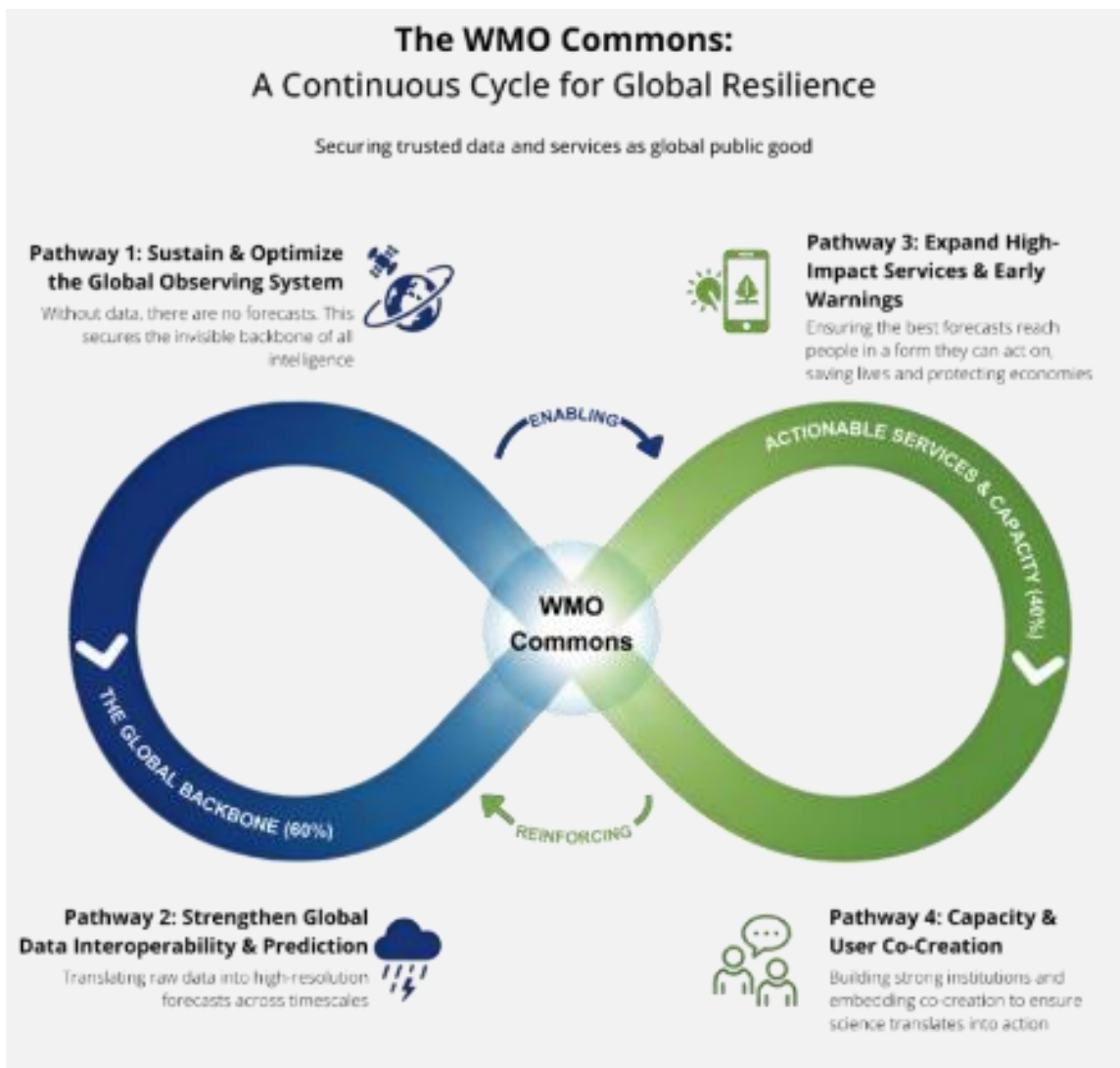
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The WMO Commons is structured around four Investment Pathways that collectively sustain the global weather, climate and water intelligence backbone:

<b>1</b>	<b>Sustain and Optimize the Global Observing System</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Strengthen Global Data Interoperability and Prediction</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Expand High-Impact Services and Early Warnings</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Capacity Development and User Co-Creation</b>

Each Pathway reflects an international responsibility that no country can achieve alone, but which can be delivered exponentially through pooled resources.

The Pathways are directly anchored in WMO's formally mandated systems and programmes, thereby strengthening proven and publicly managed global infrastructure, while also leveraging WMO's unique regulatory and normative role in setting international standards and guidance. Every contribution reinforces internationally recognized frameworks rather than creating parallel mechanisms.



### Pathway 1 – Sustain and Optimize the Global Observing System

*Without data, there are no forecasts.*

Observing systems are the invisible backbone of every early warning, climate outlook, and weather app. Yet critical gaps remain, especially in the most vulnerable regions, undermining global resilience.

Each contribution strengthens the global foundation of all forecasts and warnings, improving model accuracy, extending lead times, and reducing false alarms. The result is fewer disaster losses, greater climate resilience, and economic benefits worth trillions.

### Pathway 2 – Strengthen Global Data Interoperability and Prediction

*Data only creates value when it can be exchanged, processed and transformed into actionable intelligence.*

Reliable forecasts begin with data, but without modern systems to exchange, process, and model that data, its value is lost. For many countries, data exchange is patchy, forecasting capacity is limited, and advanced modelling is out of reach, creating a “climate intelligence divide” that has global impacts, increasing vulnerability and tempering investment confidence.

Contributions unlock the full value of the global observing system, translating raw data into high-resolution forecasts across timescales, and ensuring that innovations from key WMO programmes rapidly reach users worldwide. This also enables authoritative climate predictions and projections across seasons, years and decades, ensuring global consistency and supporting long-term planning, adaptation and risk management.

### Pathway 3 – Expand High-Impact Services and Early Warnings

*Forecasts only save lives when people receive and trust them.*

Even the best forecasts are useless unless they reach people in a form they can act on. Today, too many warnings arrive too late, are too technical, or fail to reach the most at risk. Scaling impact-based services and multi-hazard early warning systems is not only central to saving lives, but also for protecting economies, de-risking investments and enabling climate adaptation.

Contributions expand hazard coverage, extend forecast lead times, improve accuracy and reliability, and ensure warnings are multi-channel, interoperable, and trusted. They also strengthen services for agriculture, food security, energy, health, water, finance, insurance, aviation, marine transport and humanitarian response. In parallel, they improve the translation of warnings into action at household, community and sector levels.

### Pathway 4 – Capacity Development and User Co-Creation

*Technology alone cannot deliver resilience.*

Without strong institutions, sustainable financing, skilled professionals, and active user engagement, systems break down. Many public weather agencies (NMHSs), especially in developing countries, lack the institutional and technical capacity to provide reliable services.

This Pathway establishes the enabling environment that makes all other investments sustainable. Investment support here creates lasting institutional capacity, inclusive services, and shared ownership across the global network.

*Annex I provides an overview of the Investment Pathway outcomes and the systems and programmatic elements they support.*

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## 5. Value Proposition for Contributors

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Contributing to the WMO Commons represents a high-impact investment in the global public infrastructure that underpins weather, climate, and water intelligence worldwide. Through pooled financing and coordinated system strengthening, contributors benefit from:

- ▶ **High Leverage and Value for Money**

Every contribution acts as a catalyst, unlocking and multiplying the impact of existing multibillion-dollar national, regional and multilateral investments. By sustaining the global public backbone of observations, data, prediction systems, services, and institutional capacity, WMO Commons contributions ensure that these broader investments deliver their full value to societies worldwide.

- ▶ **Safeguarding a Critical Global Public Good**

Contributions directly support the continuity, reliability, and modernization of the global weather, climate, and water intelligence system on which all countries depend.

- ▶ **Strategic Influence and Engagement**

Contributors gain a platform to inform strategic priorities and engage in dialogue on the evolution of global weather, climate, and water information systems through the WMO Commons Advisory Group.

▶ **Transparency and Accountability**

Contributors benefit from clear and consistent reporting through the WMO Commons Results and Impact Report, complemented by visibility through the WMO Commons Investment Portal.

▶ **Global Visibility and Recognition**

Contributions are recognized through high-level platforms including COP, UNGA, G7/G20 processes, Early Warnings for All (EW4All), and WMO-led campaigns and publications.

▶ **System-Wide Efficiency and Reduced Transaction Costs**

The pooled financing model reduces fragmentation, streamlines engagement, and replaces multiple bilateral arrangements with a single coordinated mechanism.

▶ **Enhanced Market Stability and Innovation Environment**

By strengthening the global public backbone, contributors help ensure a more stable, predictable, and innovation-ready ecosystem for weather, climate, and water services across sectors.

## 6. Key Elements

The WMO Commons operates through a set of core institutional and operational components that together ensure financing, governance, implementation, and reporting coherence.

These components function as an integrated system, linking pooled financial contributions to programmatic delivery and measurable results.

<b>WMO Commons Fund</b>	Established as a WMO Trust Fund structure, the WMO Commons Fund mobilizes and pools financial contributions into a unified financing platform structured around four Investment Pathways.
<b>WMO Commons Annual Workplan</b>	The Commons Annual Workplan is the central operational instrument of the WMO Commons. It translates strategic priorities into programmatic investments, allocates resources across the Investment Pathways, and serves as the basis for implementation and results reporting.
<b>WMO Commons Advisory Group</b>	The Advisory Group provides a structured platform for contributor engagement, offering strategic input on priorities, reviewing results, and strengthening partnerships, while operating in an advisory capacity.
<b>WMO Commons Advisory Group Annual Meeting</b>	The Annual Meeting brings together contributors, partners, and users to review progress, discuss financing priorities, and inform future directions of the WMO Commons.
<b>WMO Commons Investment Portal</b>	A public-facing platform that provides transparency on contributions, allocations across Investment Pathways, and implementation progress, supporting visibility and accountability.
<b>WMO Commons Results and Impact Report</b>	An annual consolidated report that presents financial performance, programmatic results, and system-level outcomes, aligned with WMO's Results-Based Management framework.
<b>WMO Commons Global Campaign</b>	A coordinated advocacy and communications initiative designed to promote the WMO Commons, mobilize partners, and sustain global visibility and engagement.

## 7. Annual Workplan

The WMO Commons operates as a unified pooled fund accepting unearmarked contributions. Resource allocation is guided by global system needs, strategic priorities and technical requirements. Priority is given to sustaining the global backbone under Pathways 1 and 2, while ensuring that investments under Pathways 3 and 4 translate into measurable global service and capacity outcomes. This approach minimizes fragmentation, reduces transaction costs, and ensures system-wide coherence and maximum impact.

The Commons Annual Workplan is the central operational instrument of the WMO Commons and serves as the primary basis for all allocation decisions. It is developed parallel and complementary to the WMO Annual Operating Plan, which itself is based on the WMO Strategic Plan and related four-year Operating Plan. The Workplan:

- Ensures alignment with the WMO Strategic and Operating Plans.
- Allocates contributions across the four Investment Pathways to specific priority activities and initiatives.
- Links financial allocations to results and impact reporting.

### Annual Development Timeline

<b>August–September</b>	WMO identifies initial priority activities based on current priorities and a forecast of expected funds.
<b>September</b>	A draft is shared with the WCAG for consultation.
<b>October–November</b>	Based on feedback received, the work plan is finalized and reviewed to ensure alignment with WMO's overall planning, budgeting and regulations.
<b>December</b>	The work plan is submitted for Executive Management approval and public release.

Amendments to the WMO Commons Annual Work Plan can be undertaken throughout the year if unexpected and significant additional funding is received, or an urgent priority arises. The process will be a compressed version of the above.

## 8. Results and Financial Reporting

The WMO Commons applies an integrated planning, financing and reporting framework that links pooled contributions to programmatic delivery and system-level results.

The WMO Commons operates fully within WMO's existing institutional framework and does not create separate planning, budgeting, monitoring or performance systems. WMO Commons-supported activities are delivered through existing WMO departments, regional offices, governance processes and programmes, and are reflected through WMO's Strategic Plan, Operating Plan, Annual Operating Plan, Monitoring System, Results-Based Management framework and financial systems.

The WMO Commons does not finance standalone projects. Its reporting role is therefore to provide consolidated financial and results reporting to contributors using existing institutional evidence sources.

### Results Reporting

The WMO Commons relies on existing WMO corporate performance systems and reporting arrangements. Reporting is aligned, to the greatest extent possible, with how WMO monitors implementation of its Strategic Plan and Operating Plan.

At the strategic level, results are assessed through Key Performance Indicators that track progress against the outcomes, Strategic Objectives and related Focus Areas of the WMO Strategic Plan.

Data on KPIs is collected:

- Annually — for indicators based on WMO monitoring systems and Secretariat data.
- Biennially — for indicators based on self-reported data from Members through the WMO Data Collection Campaign.

Investment Pathways provide the structured framework for grouping expenditures and presenting programmatic and financial results. They do not create separate budget silos or determine allocations independently of the WMO Commons Annual Workplan.

### Financial Reporting

Financial reporting follows pooled trust-fund practices, while ensuring traceability between contributions, Investment Pathways, and programmatic results.

Reporting includes:

- Total resources mobilized under the WMO Commons Fund.
- Allocation by Investment Pathway.
- Where needed, allocation by programmatic element.
- Expenditure by Investment Pathway, WMO Results Framework and programmatic element.

All financial reporting is:

- Fully aligned with WMO financial systems.
- Integrated into WMO consolidated financial statements.
- Consistent with WMO governance and accountability requirements.

Contributions are reported on a pooled basis and no specific outputs or activities are attributed at the individual contribution level.

The WMO Commons Results and Impact Report provides consolidated financial and results reporting to contributors, drawing on existing WMO institutional evidence sources and avoiding parallel reporting structures.

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## 9. Governance, Oversight and Fiduciary Management

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The WMO Commons operates as a WMO-managed pooled financing mechanism, fully embedded within WMO's existing governance, financial, and accountability framework. It is governed in accordance with WMO's financial rules and regulations, RBM framework, Strategic Plan and Operating Plan and audit and oversight mechanisms. As such, the WMO Secretariat retains full responsibility for financial management, programme implementation, reporting and accountability.

The WMO Commons is operationalized through a WMO Trust Fund, hereafter referred to as the WMO Commons Fund. The Fund is administered in accordance with WMO's financial rules, regulations, and oversight framework, ensuring fiduciary integrity, transparency, and compliance.

The Fund is open to contributions from a broad range of partners, including sovereign governments, philanthropic organizations, multilateral institutions, and private-sector actors, including corporations, high-net worth individuals and climate exposed industries. Contributors participate in a pooled financing model and benefit from consolidated reporting and engagement opportunities. Detailed provisions on eligibility, contribution modalities, governance, and reporting are set out in Annex II.

## 10. Advisory Group

The WMO Commons Advisory Group (WCAG) provides a platform for contributors to engage with WMO on the strategic direction and evolution of the WMO Commons, while reinforcing transparency, partnership, and collective stewardship of the global weather, climate, and water intelligence system. It complements WMO's intergovernmental governance structure by providing a systematic channel for contributor engagement, without conferring decision-making authority.

The WCAG:

- Provides strategic input on priorities reflected in the WMO Commons Annual Workplan.
- Reviews progress, results, and performance through the WMO Commons Results and Impact Report.
- Supports visibility, advocacy, and resource mobilization efforts.
- Facilitates dialogue between WMO and contributors on emerging needs, system gaps, and opportunities.

### Contribution Tiers

The WMO Commons welcomes contributions from governments, philanthropic organizations, multilateral institutions, and private-sector actors at three levels. Each tier carries a defined set of engagement and recognition benefits.

<b>Horizon Contributor</b>	<b>USD 50,000+</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acknowledgement in WMO Commons public materials (subject to contributor agreement)</li> <li>• Invitations to WMO Commons public events</li> <li>• Access to the annual WMO Commons Results and Impact Report</li> </ul>
<b>Sky Partner</b>	<b>USD 100,000+</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Horizon Contributor benefits</li> <li>• Invitations to contributor briefings and high-level WMO events</li> <li>• Early access to results and impact reporting</li> <li>• Recognition across WMO campaigns and publications</li> </ul>
<b>Stratosphere Champion</b>	<b>USD 500,000+ per year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All Sky Partner benefits</li> <li>• Membership in the WMO Commons Advisory Group (WCAG)</li> <li>• Participation in the WCAG Annual Meeting</li> <li>• Strategic input on the WMO Commons Annual Workplan priorities</li> <li>• Dialogue on emerging system needs, gaps, and opportunities</li> <li>• Co-create solutions in a priority sector or region</li> <li>• Enhanced recognition across WMO global campaigns and publications</li> <li>• Visibility opportunities at high-level UN and other events</li> </ul>

### Membership and Contribution Thresholds

Membership in the WCAG is open to Stratosphere Champion contributors who meet the minimum contribution threshold of USD 500,000. A contribution of USD 500,000 provides one year of WCAG membership, while multi-year lump-sum contributions extend membership accordingly:

Contribution	WCAG Membership Duration
USD 500,000	1 year
USD 1,000,000	2 years
USD 1,500,000 or more	3 years

Contributions below USD 500,000 do not confer WCAG membership, but are welcomed and recognized as follows:

- Horizon Contributors (USD 50,000–USD 99,999) are acknowledged in public WMO Commons materials.
- Sky Partners (USD 100,000–USD 499,999) receive enhanced recognition and engagement benefits as set out in the tier table above.

Each member may designate one principal representative and one alternate. Members participate in the WCAG Annual Meeting, which is organized and chaired by WMO. Summary records of meetings are made publicly available to ensure transparency and alignment with WMO Members.

### Process for Contributing Partners

Partners wishing to contribute to the WMO Commons typically follow these steps. The process is straightforward and typically takes four to eight weeks from initial conversation to fund transfer.

<b>01</b>	<p><b>Start the Conversation</b></p> <p>Meet with WMO to confirm how your contribution aligns with WMO Commons priorities, agree an indicative contribution level, and discuss visibility preferences and applicable tier</p>
<b>02</b>	<p><b>Complete Due Diligence</b></p> <p>Provide the information needed for WMO’s standard financial and integrity screening. For private sector entities, this includes a structured reputational risk assessment in line with WMO’s Private Sector Due Diligence Policy.</p>
<b>03</b>	<p><b>Sign the Contribution Agreement</b></p> <p>Sign a Contribution Agreement or appropriate legal instrument setting out the contribution amount, reporting arrangements, and applicable terms, in accordance with WMO financial regulations.</p>
<b>04</b>	<p><b>Transfer your contribution</b></p> <p>Transfer funds to the WMO Commons Fund. Funds are allocated exclusively through the WMO Commons Annual Workplan. You will receive consolidated financial and results reporting through the WMO Commons Results and Impact Report, and invitations to briefings and events as applicable to your tier.</p>

## 11. Communications and Advocacy

The WMO Commons will be accompanied by a dedicated global campaign to position the WMO Commons as a game-changing initiative for resilience, climate security, and international stability, ensuring its value proposition is recognized across governments, philanthropies, private-sector actors, and the public.

The campaign will:

- Mobilize champions: high-level leaders and sectoral voices who integrate WMO Commons messaging into their daily platforms, building visibility and credibility.
- Deliver professional communications support: through experts specializing in strategic messaging, branding, and global outreach.
- Promote compelling narratives: showcasing WMO's unique role as the backbone of global weather, climate and water intelligence.
- Leverage multimedia tools: including videos, social media, digital campaigns, and sector-specific materials for donors and investors.
- Ensure high-level visibility: through sustained promotion at COP, UNGA, G20, EW4All, and other strategic fora.

**The campaign transforms the WMO Commons from a financing mechanism into a global movement, expanding its reach, reinforcing its legitimacy, and securing long-term political and financial support**

## Annex I – Outcomes, Systems and Programmatic Elements

These elements reflect WMO's globally mandated systems, programmes, and operational functions, ensuring that investments reinforce the global public backbone while delivering measurable results across timescales and sectors.

### Pathway 1 – Sustain and Optimize the Global Observing System

- Drive innovation in observation technologies, from automation and digitization to integration of satellite systems and cost-effective surface-based solutions, while ensuring compliance with WMO standards.
- Close gaps in land, ocean, atmospheric, cryosphere, and greenhouse gas monitoring.
- Strengthen the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) to safeguard authoritative long-term climate records in support of climate prediction.
- Sustain the WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS), which ensures high-quality, interoperable data from the atmosphere, oceans, rivers, land surface, and ice-covered regions.
- Ensure that observing infrastructure, irrespective of funding source, meets WMO standards and complies with the requirements of the Global Basic Observing Network (GBON), so that data contributes reliably to the global system.
- Strengthen the Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW) to coordinate observation of atmospheric composition, including pollutants and greenhouse gases, and improve the understanding of interactions between the atmosphere, the oceans and the biosphere.

### Pathway 2 – Strengthen Global Data Interoperability and Prediction

- Expand and modernize infrastructure, for example, reinforcing data exchanges that enable even the smallest public weather agencies (i.e. National Meteorological and Hydrological Services) to participate fully in global real-time data sharing.
- Expand access to world-leading forecasts across timescales, from minutes to seasons to years.
- Strengthen global climate-timescale modelling and prediction/projection systems, including decadal forecasts and multi-model frameworks such as the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP), supported by the data infrastructure required for a coordinated five-year global climate projection cycle.
- Foster robust public–private dialogue on data policy, availability, and interoperability, ensuring both public benefit and private-sector value creation.
- Implement the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) on a global scale, supported by digital platforms, so that warnings are standardized, authoritative, trusted, and universally accessible.
- Apply AI responsibly to boost predictive power, extend lead times, tailor applications to diverse users, unlock value from non-traditional and underutilized observations, reduce data silos for impact-based forecasting, and allow developing countries to leapfrog traditional barriers and technologies.

### Pathway 3 – Expand High-Impact Services and Early Warnings

- Expand impact-based forecasting and multi-hazard early warning systems under the Early Warnings for All initiative, ensuring that alerts lead to concrete action at the household, community, and sectoral levels.

- Scale up operational hazard services such as severe weather forecasting, drought observatories, sand and dust storm warning, fire, heat waves, flood forecasting, ocean waves and coastal inundation. These services will also be systematically used to support the critical, life-saving operations of the United Nations and wider humanitarian system.
- Strengthen services tailored to key sectors including agriculture and food security, energy, public health, water security, finance and insurance, humanitarian operations, and aviation and marine transport.

### Pathway 4 – Capacity Development and User Co-Creation

- Strengthen NMHS capabilities to provide essential weather, climate, and water services, including through targeted training programmes, fellowships, and workforce development initiatives, alongside education and technology integration.
- Strengthen WMO-coordinated research and innovation to advance global predictive capability and ensuring that research continuously informs decision support and real-world applications. This includes advancing global climate modelling and prediction research, ensuring that scientific innovations continuously feed into operational forecasting and decision-support systems.
- Strengthen, innovate and deliver public-private partnerships to deliver weather and climate services that respect the single authoritative voice of NMHS while enabling commercial engagement in the global weather enterprise.
- Embed co-creation with users, farmers, public health authorities, water managers, humanitarian actors, financial institutions, businesses and local communities to ensure science translates into action.
- Co-creation should also support sustainable service and financing models to ensure long-term delivery and investment.

Co-develop user-driven solutions, bridging science and decision-making, for example:

- Climate services for agriculture and food security (e.g. seasonal forecasts and agrometeorological advisories).
  - Heat–health early warning systems developed with public health authorities.
  - Climate outlook forums that bring together forecasters and decision-makers at regional and national levels.
  - Renewable energy and energy transition services, such as wind, solar, and hydropower forecasting to support grid stability, energy trading, infrastructure planning, and market operations.
  - Flood and drought monitoring and alert systems to support water and disaster management agencies.
- Embed inclusion and equity by prioritizing youth, women, vulnerable communities and indigenous people in training and service design.

### Systems and Programmatic Elements

The table below provides an indicative mapping of core systems, programmatic elements, and cross-cutting enablers under each Investment Pathway.

Investment Pathway	Core Systems / Functions	Programmatic Elements
<b>Pathway 1: Sustain &amp; Optimize the Global Observing System</b>	Global observing coordination, standards, and infrastructure (atmosphere, ocean, hydrology, cryosphere, and greenhouse gases)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS)</li> <li>• Global Basic Observing Network (GBON)</li> <li>• Global Climate Observing System (GCOS)</li> </ul>

Investment Pathway	Core Systems / Functions	Programmatic Elements
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS)</li> <li>• Global Cryosphere Watch (GCW)</li> <li>• Global Greenhouse Gas Watch (G3W)</li> <li>• World Hydrological Cycle Observing System (WHYCOS)</li> <li>• WMO Space Programme (WSP)</li> <li>• Artificial Intelligence (AI) integration</li> </ul>
<b>Pathway 2: Strengthen Global Data Interoperability &amp; Prediction</b>	Global data exchange, processing, modelling, and prediction systems across timescales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WMO Information System (WIS)</li> <li>• WMO Integrated Processing and Prediction System (WIPPS)</li> <li>• Global Multi-Hazard Alert System (GMAS)</li> <li>• Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) implementation</li> <li>• Global Cryosphere Watch (GCW)</li> <li>• WMO Space Programme (WSP)</li> <li>• Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS)</li> <li>• Global Greenhouse Gas Watch (G3W)</li> <li>• World Climate Research Programme (WCRP)</li> <li>• Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW)</li> <li>• World Weather Research Programme (WWRP)</li> <li>• Artificial Intelligence (AI) integration</li> </ul>
<b>Pathway 3: Expand High-Impact Services &amp; Early Warnings</b>	Delivery of operational weather, climate, and water services and multi-hazard early warning systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Warnings for All (EW4All) implementation</li> <li>• Impact-based forecasting (IBF)</li> <li>• Severe Weather Forecasting (SWF)</li> <li>• Flood Forecasting Framework (FFF)</li> <li>• Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW)</li> <li>• World Weather Research Programme (WWRP)</li> <li>• Global Hydrological Status and Outlook System (HydroSOS)</li> <li>• WMO HydroHub (hydrometry support)</li> <li>• Integrated Drought Management Programme (IDMP)</li> <li>• Associated Programme on Flood Management (APFM)</li> <li>• Sectoral climate services (agriculture, health, energy, water, transport, humanitarian)</li> <li>• Artificial Intelligence (AI) integration</li> </ul>
<b>Pathway 4: Capacity Development &amp; User Co-Creation</b>	Institutional capacity, innovation, and user engagement across the global weather-climate-water system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity Development (training, fellowships, NMHS strengthening)</li> <li>• Regional and national Climate Outlook Forums</li> <li>• Public–private engagement initiatives</li> <li>• Co-creation platforms with sector users</li> <li>• Artificial Intelligence (AI) integration</li> <li>• Youth Action</li> </ul>

## Annex II – WMO Commons Trust Fund: Terms of Reference

### Purpose

The WMO Commons Fund is a pooled financing mechanism established to sustain and strengthen the global infrastructure for weather, climate, and water intelligence.

The Fund enables the mobilization and consolidation of financial contributions to support WMO's globally mandated systems, programmes, and services, delivering global public goods through coordinated and predictable financing. The Fund also enables the recording, monitoring and reporting of expenditures funded through the Fund based upon the WMO Commons Operational Guidelines.

### Objectives

The Fund aims to:

- Mobilize financial contributions from a diverse range of partners, including sovereign donors, philanthropic foundations, multilateral institutions, and private-sector actors.
- Finance programmatic elements and system functions in accordance with the WMO Commons Annual Workplan.
- Ensure transparent, consolidated financial and results reporting to contributors.
- Support the sustained functioning and modernization of the global weather, climate, and water intelligence backbone.

### Scope and Financing Modality

The Fund operates as a pooled financing mechanism. All contributions are:

- Financial
- Unearmarked
- Allocated exclusively through the WMO Commons Annual Workplan

Resources are applied across the four WMO Commons Investment Pathways: (1) Sustain & Optimize the Global Observing System; (2) Strengthen Global Data Interoperability & Prediction; (3) Expand High-Impact Services & Early Warnings; and (4) Capacity & User Co-Creation. This approach ensures coherence, efficiency, and alignment with global public-good priorities.

### Eligibility and Contributions

The Fund is open to contributions from sovereign governments, philanthropic foundations, multilateral organizations, and private-sector actors (including corporations, high-net worth individuals and climate exposed industries). Contributions are provided as financial resources only.

Three contribution tiers are available, each with associated recognition and engagement benefits:

Tier	Minimum Contribution	WCAG Membership
<b>Horizon Contributor</b>	USD 50,000	Not eligible for WCAG membership. Acknowledged in public WMO Commons materials.
<b>Sky Partner</b>	USD 100,000	Not eligible for WCAG membership. Enhanced recognition and engagement benefits.
<b>Stratosphere Champion</b>	USD 500,000 per year	Eligible for WCAG membership. Duration linked to total contribution (see §10 and Annex III).

Multi-year contributions are encouraged to support predictable financing and longer-term planning.

## Governance and Fiduciary Oversight

The Fund is administered by WMO in accordance with its financial rules and regulations, internal control and audit framework, and Results-Based Management system. Allocation decisions are made by WMO through the WMO Commons Annual Workplan. Contributors do not exercise decision-making authority over resource allocation, programme selection, or implementation. The WMO Commons Advisory Group provides strategic input and engagement, without conferring governance or fiduciary authority.

## Reporting and Transparency

Contributors receive consolidated reporting through annual financial reporting aligned with WMO systems and the WMO Commons Results and Impact Report. Reporting ensures traceability between contributions, allocations, and results; alignment with WMO's audited financial statements; and consistency with the WMO Results-Based Management framework. Additional updates may be provided through briefings, consultations, and WMO Commons events.

## Contributor Recognition and Engagement

Contributors to the WMO Commons Fund benefit from recognition and engagement opportunities as set out in the three-tier structure in section 10. At all tiers, engagement opportunities are designed to strengthen partnership and transparency while maintaining the integrity of the pooled financing model.

### □ Relationship with the WMO Commons Advisory Group

Stratosphere Champion contributors are invited to participate in the WMO Commons Advisory Group, in accordance with the provisions outlined in Section 10 and Annex III. Advisory Group membership is subject to a minimum contribution of USD 500,000 and follows the duration rules defined therein.

## Duration and Continuity

Contributions may be provided on an annual or multi-year basis. Continued engagement in WMO Commons activities is linked to active contributions. Multi-year contributions support continuity, predictability, and sustained system strengthening.

## Annex III – WMO Commons Advisory Group: Terms of Reference

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### 1. Purpose

The WMO Commons Advisory Group (WCAG) provides a structured platform for contributors to engage with WMO on the strategic direction, evolution, and impact of the WMO Weather, Climate and Water Intelligence Commons.

The Advisory Group strengthens partnership, transparency, and collective stewardship of the global weather, climate, and water intelligence system, while supporting the long-term sustainability of this critical global public good.

### 2. Objectives

The Advisory Group will:

- Provide strategic input on priorities reflected in the WMO Commons Annual Workplan.
- Review progress, performance, and outcomes through the WMO Commons Results and Impact Report.
- Support resource mobilization, visibility, and advocacy efforts.
- Facilitate dialogue between WMO and contributors on emerging system needs, gaps, and opportunities.
- Provide a platform for contributors to inform strategic priorities and global standards underpinning the weather, climate, and water enterprise.

### 3. Membership

Membership in the WCAG is open to Stratosphere Champion contributors who have made a minimum financial contribution of USD 500,000 to the WMO Commons Fund. Contributions are provided as pooled, unearmarked financial resources, in line with the WMO Commons financing model. Each member may designate one principal representative and one alternate representative.

Horizon Contributors (USD 50,000+) and Sky Partners (USD 100,000+) are not eligible for WCAG membership but are recognized and engaged through the benefits associated with their respective tiers as set out in Section 10 and Annex II.

### 4. Duration of Membership

WCAG membership is granted for one year per qualifying Stratosphere Champion contribution of USD 500,000. Multi-year membership is cumulative and linked to total contributions:

- USD 500,000 → 1 year
- USD 1,000,000 → 2 years
- USD 1,500,000 or more → 3 years

Membership duration is calculated based on total financial contributions to the WMO Commons Fund.

### 5. Roles and Responsibilities

Members of the Advisory Group:

- Participate in the WMO Commons Advisory Group Annual Meeting.
- Review and provide input on the WMO Commons Annual Workplan and strategic priorities and system-level needs.
- Review consolidated results and impact reporting.
- Contribute to strategic dialogue on strengthening the global weather, climate, and water intelligence system.
- Support visibility, outreach, and advocacy efforts, as appropriate.

□

Through participation, members gain a structured platform to:

- Engage in high-level dialogue on global system priorities.

- Inform the evolution of standards, services, and innovation across the weather, climate, and water enterprise.
- Contribute to shaping a more resilient, interoperable, and globally coordinated system.

## □ 6. Governance and Decision-Making

The Advisory Group serves in an advisory capacity only. It does not have decision-making authority over resource allocation, financial decisions, or programme implementation. Final decisions remain with WMO, in accordance with its financial rules and regulations, governance framework, and Results-Based Management system.

The Advisory Group complements WMO's intergovernmental governance structure by providing a structured channel for contributor engagement without creating parallel governance mechanisms.

## 7. Meetings

The Advisory Group meets once per year, with additional consultations convened as needed. Meetings are chaired by WMO. Summary records of meetings are made publicly available to ensure transparency and alignment with WMO Members.

## 8. Transparency and Reporting

Members receive consolidated reporting through the WMO Commons Results and Impact Report and financial reporting aligned with WMO systems. Reporting covers:

- Total resources mobilized under the WMO Commons Fund.
- Allocations and expenditures by Investment Pathway.
- Where needed, allocations and expenditures by programmatic element.
- Progress against relevant WMO Strategic Plan, Operating Plan and Annual Operating Plan results.

Reporting is provided on a pooled basis. Contributions are not attributed, at contribution level, to specific outputs, activities or programme results. Additional updates may be provided through briefings, thematic consultations, WMO Commons events, and targeted information notes or communications products.

This approach ensures transparency and accountability to contributors while remaining fully aligned with WMO's existing planning, financial and reporting systems, and avoiding parallel reporting obligations.

## 9. Relationship to the WMO Commons Framework

The Advisory Group operates within the broader WMO Commons architecture, which includes:

- The WMO Commons Fund (financial mechanism)
- The WMO Commons Annual Workplan (allocation and planning instrument)
- The Results and Impact Reporting framework (accountability and performance tracking)

This ensures that Advisory Group engagement is fully integrated into WMO's existing planning, financing, and reporting systems.