Following the expressed needs of its members, the Commission for Hydrology decided to update and publish this, the sixth edition of the *Guide to Hydrological Practices* (Guide). This decision was made based on comments and experiences in using the fifth edition of the Guide and recognizing its great value to the National Hydrological Services and professionals working in water-related fields. More than 40 seasoned experts from around the world have contributed to the preparation of this edition. As a result, it is oriented towards practical applications and to fit within a quality management framework that is being initiated by the Commission for Hydrology. It is with great pleasure that I express the gratitude of the Commission to those experts who volunteered to be involved in the material compilation and preparation process, and enabled this enormous task to be accomplished.

I extend my deep appreciation to the members of the Review Committee established by the Commission for Hydrology that has overseen the revision of the Guide. The Review Committee headed by Karl Hofius (Germany), and consisting of Suresh Chandra (India), Denis Hughes (South Africa), Fred Kyosingira (Uganda), Paul Pilon (Canada), Marco Polo Rivero (Venezuela) and Avinash Tyagi (Director, Climate and Water Resources Department, World Meteorological Organization (WMO), was instrumental in identifying the areas in the fifth edition that required revision and updating, identifying the experts responsible for redrafting and peer review of various chapters and sections, and carrying out the review of the experts’ contributions.

I express my sincere thanks and recognition to the experts who contributed to the redrafting and revision of the Guide. The following experts contributed to the updating and revision of the chapters (indicated in brackets) of Volume I of the Guide: Svein Harsten (Chapters 2 and 5); Robert Halliday (Chapter 2); Chris Collier (Chapter 3); Karan S. Bhatia (Chapter 4); Ahmed Fahmi (Chapter 5); Anthony Navoy (Chapter 6); Anne Coudrain (Chapter 7); Albert Rugumayo (Chapter 8); John Fenwich (Chapter 9); and Matthew Fry and Frank Farquharson (Chapter 10).

Peer review of the material prepared for Volume II was carried out by the following experts: Paul Pilon (Chapter 3); Richard Muller (4.2); Ponnuswami Sooriyakumaran (4.3); Mario Fugazza (4.4); Valdemar Andrade and Denis Mosnier (4.5); Hussam Fahmy and Maha Tawifik (4.6); Jim Elliott (4.7); Christophe Ancey (4.8); Denis Hughes (4.9 and 4.10); Manuel Irigoyen and Ezio Todini (Chapter 5); Paolo Mignosa (Chapter 6); Ilmar Karro and Liljas Eric (Chapter 7). Giacomo Teruggi, John Bassier and Arthur Askew provided strong and essential support to the publication process through active coordination with the authors and performing the necessary technical editing. Above all, the publication would not have been possible without the active support of the WMO Secretariat staff.

The sixth edition of the Guide will be a living document and its Web version will be updated as and when there are significant developments in the practices in any particular field. As it is applied and used in practice, the Guide may be improved through comments and suggestions from the hydrological community. The Commission for Hydrology will endeavour to keep the Guide as up to date as possible by considering the feedback from its members.

The following experts contributed to the revision of the chapters and sections (indicated in brackets) of Volume II of the Guide: Arni Snorrason (Chapter 2); Paul Mosley (material taken from Chapter 2); Bruce Mitchell (Chapter 3); Tinus Basson (4.2); Suresh Chandra (4.3); P.B.S. Sarma (4.4); Valdemar Andrade (4.5); Denis Mosnier (4.5); Benno Droge (4.6); Carlos Tucci (4.7); Shankar B. Kulkarni (4.8); Claudio Meier (4.9 and 4.10); Kaz Adamowski (Chapter 5); Zbigniew W. Kundzewicz (Chapter 6); and Curt Barrett, Kosta Georgakakos, Ian Cluckie, Paul Pilon, Sergei Borsch and James Dent (Chapter 7). Contributions on the latest technological developments in remote-sensing were provided by Edwin Engman and Ahalam Shalaby in various chapters.

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(Bruce Stewart)
President, Commission for Hydrology