



World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale

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United Nations Framework Convention
on Climate Change
Martin Luther King Strasse 8
53175 Bonn, Germany

GENEVA, 28 March 2011

Subject: WMO Input on NWP (FCCC/SBSTA/2010/L.20, para. 5)

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find herewith attached the submission from the World Meteorological Organization to the Nairobi Work Programme as per the decision FCCC/SBSTA/2010/L.20, para. 5.

Please let me know if you need any further information in this regard.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M.V.K. Sivakumar'.

(M.V.K. Sivakumar)

Director

Climate Prediction and Adaptation Branch
Climate and Water Department

Input on Nairobi Work Programme (NWP) from World Meteorological Organization (FCCC/SBSTA/2010/L.20, para. 5)

1. Introduction

Climate information at various time scales, and projections of future climate at regional, national and local scales, form the essential knowledge base for adaptation and disaster risk management. Availability of climate information and its effective use by converting information into applicable knowledge helps prevent disasters that can result from climate extremes and support long term adaptation and mitigation strategies. The infrastructure for weather and climate observation and research built over the years should be used to synthesize information streaming from the observation, research and modelling through a network of global, regional and national institutions and to ensure the development and delivery of user oriented climate information and prediction services. National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) of WMO Member countries play a crucial role in this delivery mechanism and there is an urgent need to strengthen human resources and develop new skills in the NMHSs. Integrating climate information into decision making in all socioeconomic sectors, through an effective two way dialogue between providers and users on the range, timing, quality and content of climate products and services, will ensure that decisions relating to managing climate risks are well informed and taken into action.

2. Progress made and gaps of the Nairobi Work Programme (NWP)

2.1 Progress

Since its inception, the NWP has helped delegations better understand the key issues on adaptation, through engaging wide-ranging stakeholders, catalysing targeted adaptation action, developing and disseminating knowledge outputs and products. In 2010, before COP 16, WMO renewed its Action Pledges toward the NWP and submitted 14 new Actions which are being implemented and making progress as originally designed. In the meantime, WMO welcomes adoption of 'Enhanced Action on Adaptation' of the Cancun Agreements and believes that it provides a good basis for adaptation actions aimed at reducing vulnerability and building resilience, especially in developing countries. In this process, WMO contributes to knowledge and expertise for adaptation to ensure that it is guided by the best available science. The current efforts under the UNFCCC have been successful in bringing adaptation forward on policy agendas and making it as one of the five key building blocks. WMO will make every effort through implementation of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) to contribute to the newly growing convergence on the following elements: vulnerability assessments; national adaptation plans; enabling policy environments; arrangements for sharing knowledge (e.g. through regional centers and the UNFCCC's Nairobi Work Programme (NWP)); and tools for risk reduction as well as risk transfer and sharing, such as insurance.

2.2 Gaps

At the national level, climate risk management strategies, plans and programmes have to be built using the dispersed institutional and administrative mechanisms, projects, human and financial resources. There is a need to clearly define the roles of various institutions involved and set up a mechanism for effective coordination in the development of the climate information and products and translating them into a suite of climate services. Various sectoral users at national and local level, along with universities, research institutions and civil society, should be effectively engaged through such a mechanism.

NWP covers nine broad areas of activities, some of which (e.g. Research and Observations) and other relevant issues such as NAPAs are discussed as separate blocks in different documents. Furthermore, the scope of the NWP captures overall issues such as capacity building which is also negotiated in parallel under the LCA and SBI. It will be useful to clarify as to how negotiations and

decisions on these areas in different streams complement each other and stay closely interconnected to the objectives of the NWP. The 'Enhanced Action on Adaptation' of the Cancun Agreements provides a good basis for adaptation actions aimed at reducing vulnerability and building resilience, especially in developing countries, based on and guided by the best available science and traditional and indigenous knowledge. Nevertheless, smooth working mechanisms should be in place between the newly emerged adaptation actions and already existing programmes such as the NWP in order to promote synergy based on experience gained and engage with national, regional and international organizations, centres and networks. The catalytic role of the NWP has been successful in identifying best practices, tools as well as mobilizing wealth of science and knowledge among participating organizations for adaptation actions. However, the role of Parties in the implementation of the NWP is not yet fully clear and needs to be further elaborated.

One of the objectives of the NWP is to assist all Parties, in particular developing countries, including the LDCs and SIDSs. In this aspect, the importance and potential of this programme has remained somehow, unknown or not well-known to the Parties and user community, particularly in climate sensitive sectors such as water, agriculture, health and risk management. WMO believes that the implementation of the NWP should be further extended to make it more action oriented for the benefit of adaptation practitioners in the field at national and sub-national levels. In fact, the national-level decision makers, as well as the private sector, are interested in being engaged in the NWP but the information flow either does not reach practitioners on the ground and vulnerable communities at the local level or they lack the capacity to take advantage of data and information packages for adaptation activities. Noting that national authorities need to identify the appropriate knowledge nodes, WMO will strengthen the role and operation of such affiliated centres, e.g. Regional Climate Centres (RCCs). This initiative will allow to propose more action oriented Action Pledges and on the ground projects on data, observations, climate modelling and downscaling, especially for LDCs and SIDS.

3. Views on new activities needed to achieve the objective and expected outcomes of NWP

3.1 Global Framework for Climate Services

Following the legacy of the first and the second World Climate Conferences, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), in partnership with other UN Agencies, organized the World Climate Conference-3 (WCC-3), from 31 August to 4 September 2009 in Geneva with the theme "Climate prediction and information for decision making". The Heads of State and Government, Ministers and Heads of Delegations present at the WCC-3, through the Conference declaration, decided to establish a Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) to strengthen the production, availability, delivery and application of climate monitoring and prediction services. Indeed the decision of WCC-3 to establish the GFCS defined the directions towards "better climate information for a better future" in order to accelerate global action on adaptation and management of climate related risks while capitalizing on the associated opportunities. The Framework is being designed by a High level Taskforce (HLT), established through an Intergovernmental mechanism in January 2010, to mainstream climate science into decision making at all levels and help ensure that every country and every climate sensitive sector of society is well equipped to access and apply the relevant climate information. In two side events, organized during the COP 16, in Cancun, Mexico, WMO and its co-sponsored bodies viz., WCRP and GCOS, provided information and progress report on the GFCS, research and systematic observations. Implementation of the GFCS will help generate a better understanding of the climate system; fill information gaps at global, regional, national, and local scales; enable use of such information in various socioeconomic sectors and help in climate risk assessment and develop mitigation and adaptation measures. Implementation of the Framework will reinforce and further develop, existing institutions, their infrastructure and mechanisms to generate and deliver climate information.

Despite very significant advances made by NMHSs and their partners in providing climate information, much work remains to be done to strengthen the capacity to generate climate information and further reduce the uncertainty in global, regional and local climate predictions.

Climate change is a global phenomenon, and understanding of climate systems requires partnership across geographical, political and disciplinary boundaries. Given the complexity of, and requirements for, climate services, addressing the immense variety of user needs is beyond the capacity of any single country. Accordingly, the GFCS is proposed as a long term cooperative arrangement through which the international community will work together to facilitate generation and access to operational climate services at all levels. The Framework is conceived to have five major components: Observation and Monitoring; Research, Modelling and Prediction; a Climate Services Information System; a User Interface Programme and Capacity Building, with the objective to:

“Enable better management of climate risks due to climate variability and change and adaptation to climate change at all levels, through development and incorporation of science based climate information and prediction into planning, policy and practice.”

The Framework is being designed to be an effective, efficient and economically viable mechanism for the generation, delivery and application of climate services. It will build on and strengthen existing local, national, regional and global networks of climate observation, monitoring, research, modelling as well as operational structures and service programmes, and is conceived as an integrating set of international arrangements into an end to end product generation, service provision and application system. Many of these elements (systems, programmes, projects, institutions, etc.) are either already in place or are in the process of being established.

The coordinated Climate Services Information System (CSIS) of GFCS, which, through a network of collaborating institutions would ensure that climate information and products are generated at the global level (through a range of global climate centres) to adequately incorporate the global-scale aspects of the climate system; incorporate the regional and local climate information at a finer scale (through RCCs); and ensure that they are available and easily accessible for the application to various sectoral uses at the national and local levels. In this regard, the RCCs will play an important role in tailoring global climate products to regional needs on a sustainable operational mode, and also in supporting national requirements of NMSs where needed through mutual arrangements. Support to such centres by Parties in the context of NWP would ensure global coverage of climate services.

GFCS will facilitate collaboration between NMSs, Universities, climate research institutions, and regional and national training centres. Hence Parties are encouraged to support establishment of sustainable mechanisms for education and training for climate science and services, and appropriate credentials and good practices for the operational climate providers and ensure application of quality management framework. Partnerships with intermediary organizations that transmit information from providers such as NMHSs to end-users, as well as the various sectoral users within the countries, will undoubtedly supplement these efforts.
