



## **WMO SUBMISSION TO COP 20, LIMA, PERU, 2014**

### **Outcome of the second session of the Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services with respect to implementation of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), November 2014**

#### **1. Introduction**

This document is prepared in response to conclusions of SBSTA 39 on Research and Systematic Observation that invited the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to provide, at SBSTA 41, information on the outcomes of the second session of the Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services, held from 10 to 13 November 2014, in Geneva, Switzerland.

#### **2. Implementation of the GFCS**

2.1 The Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services (the Board or IBCS) noted the significant progress made with the implementation of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS).

2.2 Members and Partners have been contributing to the GFCS, which enabled various GFCS activities to be undertaken. In particular, financial contributions were provided by the following Members: Australia; Bangladesh; Canada; China; Finland; France; Hong Kong, China; India; Iran; Ireland; Mexico; Norway; Switzerland and the UK. In addition, in-kind contributions were made by the Republic of Korea who seconded experts to the GFCS Office.

2.3 Partners have been contributing to the GFCS through their participation in GFCS-related activities such as national and regional consultations, thematic workshops and design and implementation of specific projects at national level.

2.4 Implementation of the priority projects identified in the Implementation Plan of the GFCS include the organization of regional and national consultations facilitating the identification of gaps and priorities for action at regional and nation levels (see <http://gfcs.wmo.int/events>) and the implementation of specific projects such as:

(a) The "*Climate Services Adaptation Programme in Africa*" a partnership aimed at co-designing and co-producing climate services involving WMO and partner agencies. This first multi-agency initiative implemented under the GFCS with funding from Norway (10 million USD) was launched in October 2013. The programme will build capacities of producers and users to develop and apply information and knowledge to support decision-making in food security and nutrition, health and disaster risk reduction with Malawi and Tanzania as the two focus countries. The project is hinged on multi-agency collaboration involving the following agencies:

- CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS);
- Centre for International Climate and Environmental Research – Oslo;
- Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI);

- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) including The Netherland Red Cross and Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre;
  - World Food Programme (WFP);
  - World Health Organization (WHO);
  - World Meteorological Organization (WMO);
- (b) The Programme for Implementing the GFCS at Regional and National Scales focusing on Pacific Island countries, countries in the Caribbean and South Asia, including Arctic and Polar Regions;
- (c) Organization of pilots on national climate outlook forums in Mozambique, Belize and Yemen providing an opportunity to identify specific user needs that could benefit from the use of climate services through a participatory process;
- (d) Support to data rescue activities such as the Indian Ocean Data Rescue Initiative (INDARE) that will accelerate identification of data that need to be rescued and digitized, including historical records that are not held in the participating countries.

### **3. Partnerships**

3.1 The GFCS Implementation Plan, a result of several years of planning and effort, provides a coherent roadmap for GFCS implementation at all levels, including country level. At the current stage of development and implementation of the GFCS, strengthening coordination and the engagement of partner agencies and relevant stakeholders in support of the GFCS and ensuring that GFCS is mainstreamed in their agendas is a major focus. The agencies that have joined the PAC are growing and include: the European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT), the European Commission (EC), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG), the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), the World Food Programme (WFP), and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

3.2 As part of successful partnerships under the GFCS, in May 2014 a joint WHO-WMO Climate and Health Project Office was established as an important step to further accelerate the co-development and use of climate services in the health sector. The Office, located at the WMO Secretariat, has been established on an interim two-year basis to advance the GFCS Implementation Plan, including its Annexes and Exemplars as they correspond to health, and to steer the creation of a formal, more sustainable WMO-WHO Programme for Climate and Health that can ensure WMO provides more systematic support to the health community. In the first months of activity of this Office the need for additional opportunities to coordinate across the GFCS priority areas has become clear. The health sector requires not only collaboration with the meteorological and climate community, but active coordination with the water sector to provide safe drinking water, the DRR sector to manage extreme weather risks, and with agriculture to ensure nutritional security.

3.3 Synergies are being sought with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa through its ClimDev Programme, European Commission, Green Climate Fund, World Bank, UNDP and UNFCCC to ensure that their initiatives and investments are informed by GFCS priorities and needs. This is exemplified by the cases of Burkina Faso and Niger where Action Plans developed to address gaps and needs identified as part of the implementation of the GFCS are being used to plan World Bank future investments in these countries. The Green Climate Fund in particular is a possible funding mechanism that would enable knowledge generation for adaption.

3.4 Support is being provided by the GFCS to facilitate and advance implementation of the Research, Modelling and Prediction Pillar of the GFCS, through the development of the Climate

Research for Development Agenda for Africa (CR4D) that emerged from the Africa Climate Conference 2013 (Arusha, October 2013). In tandem, efforts are on-going for the development of the regional climate research priorities for Latin America and the Caribbean, following the WCRP conference in Latin America and the Caribbean (March 2014). Vigorous continuing action is needed to attract and develop the next generations of both researchers and climate service professionals in support of the GFCS.

#### **4. Key Decisions of IBCS-2**

4.1 IBCS-2 took the following decisions, among others:

##### ***Governance***

- (a) Elected Mr Jens. SUNDE (Norway), as the Chair of the IBCS, and Mr Luxman Singh RATHORE (India) and Ms Linda MAKULENI (South Africa), as its Co-Vice-chairs. The Chair and Co-Vice-chairs will lead the IBCS for the next 4 years;
- (b) Agreed to have one ordinary plenary meeting of the IBCS every four years prior to WMO Congress (with the next planned for the third quarter of 2018) and for the Management Committee to meet once a year to provide advice, oversight and management of the implementation of the GFCS in the intersessional period (with the next meeting scheduled after the WMO Congress 2015). This *light touch approach* of the governance structure reflects greater emphasis on the implementation of projects and activities;
- (c) Approved the revised terms of reference of the PAC specifying the functions, membership, mode of operation and financing of the PAC. The revised terms of reference provide for a wider participation of partners in the planning and implementation of the GFCS;
- (d) Agreed on the mechanism through which GFCS Partners and Stakeholders with technical capability can play a role in the implementation of the GFCS including those of the WMO.

##### ***Implementation of the GFCS***

- (a) Agreed to focus on implementation of concrete projects at regional and national levels in an initial set of countries to learn lessons and develop a *proof of concept* that could be replicated across regions and in other countries;
- (b) Agreed to include urban activities related to climate as a specific cross-cutting element within the priority areas of the GFCS;
- (c) Agreed to develop an Energy Exemplar with a view to presenting a proposal to the Seventeenth World Meteorological Congress for consideration of Energy as an additional priority sector for GFCS;
- (d) Agreed to create an ad hoc Task Force or Working Group on Monitoring and Evaluation to oversee the update the Monitoring and Evaluation process and criteria for the GFCS;
- (e) Agreed on the resources plan for the GFCS for the period 2015-2018 to support implementation of projects and activities, the functioning of the governance structure of the GFCS and secretarial supports. For successful implementation during the period 2015-2018 almost USD 140 million will be required through direct contributions to the GFCS Trust Fund or through contributions of various partners to the implementation of GFCS related projects and activities;

- (f) Agreed on the need to integrate gender-related considerations in the implementation of the GFCS.

In addition to the meeting of the Intergovernmental Board, a meeting on Coordination of the Implementation of the GFCS was held from 29 September to 1 October at the WMO Secretariat. Nearly 100 programme managers from the United Nations and international agencies, GFCS focal points and representatives from the respective technical structures of partner agencies leading/supporting the four priority areas (Agriculture and Food Security, Water, Health and Disaster Risk Reduction) participated. The meeting reviewed over 100 projects currently being implemented in 16 countries in which some project components directly support implementation of GFCS pillars (i.e. User Interface Platform; Climate Services Information System; Observation and Monitoring; Research, Modelling and Prediction; and Capacity Development) and/or priority areas. The projects reviewed have a combined budget of over USD 700 million. This review country-level programmes brought into sharp focus a number of clear needs:

- (a) The need to effectively coordinate and link the activities of various agencies who are supporting climate services-related initiatives at global, regional and national levels;
- (b) The need of a dedicated mechanism through which partners, including members of the Partner Advisory Committee (PAC), can coordinate technical, scientific, advisory services and planning support for designing and implementing climate services at the national level more systematically.

## **5. Conclusions**

Through selected national projects the GFCS is supporting the integration of climate services in the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and contributes to relevant technical areas under the Nairobi Work Programme on Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change. The GFCS also offers a platform to bring relevant stakeholders together to address all aspects of systematically producing and effectively applying climate services.

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