

**DRAFT WMO STATEMENT TO SBSTA 40**  
**BONN, GERMANY**  
**4 JUNE 2014**

**Update on the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) and next steps**

**Chairperson,**  
**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Last year, the 39th Session of SBSTA invited WMO to report on the outcome of the second Session of the Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services (IBCS), which will be held in November this year. In run up to that session, this is an interim progress report on the implementation of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) — a UN-system initiative to provide reliable and accessible climate services to users all over the world, with an initial focus on agriculture, water, health, and disaster management. The Framework is organized around 5 pillars, among which Observation and monitoring, Research, modelling and prediction, and Climate services information system are directly relevant to SBSTA.

At its 1st session, held last July in Geneva, the IBCS elected its Chair and two co-Vice-Chairs and agreed on a Management Committee to advise on key tasks until its next session, which will be hosted by Switzerland in November 2014. It also established a partner advisory committee (PAC) to ensure effective participation of partners and stakeholders and coordination from the global to regional and to national levels in the implementation of GFCS related activities. So far the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG), 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) have joined the PAC. With the governance mechanisms now established and the implementation initiated, the GFCS is well underway to provide crucial information for adaptation to a fast changing climate and weather extremes.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

The challenges to provide climate information for climate risk management and adaptation remain considerable. An estimated 70 nations, including most of the LDCs and SIDS, have inadequate or no climate services capabilities and are under-equipped to address natural climate variations and human induced climate change. Bridging such capability gap is even more urgent in light of the recent findings of IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report, which points to the threat of climate variability and change well before the close of this century.

It is evident that effective climate action depends on the availability of high-quality scientific information but a communication gap still exists between decision makers, vulnerable communities, development practitioners, and climate scientists, particularly in developing countries and LDCs. Closing this gap at several levels including the regional level is one of the key tasks of the GFCS

research pillar. Many research projects in various regions and countries contribute to this objective. The work is coordinated by a recently established WCRP Working Group on Regional Climate. Since SBSTA-39 several major consultations on climate research have taken place including the WCRP African Climate Conference in Tanzania in October 2013, CORDEX conference in Brussels in November 2013, the Latin America and Caribbean Conference in Uruguay in March 2014, and several others. The World Climate Research Programme is working on planning implementation of the six Grand Challenges of climate science, which are of primary importance for climate services. They encompass the following themes: provision of climate information on regional level, research on the role of clouds and circulation in climate sensitivity to an increase in greenhouse gases, cryosphere and climate, regional sea level, climate extremes, and availability of fresh water.

I am pleased to report that the initiation of the GFCS at the national level has commenced with priority projects in vulnerable countries. National dialogues as part of pilots on the GFCS have also been held with a view to facilitate the identification of needs to support development of capacity to deliver climate information and services in Belize, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Niger, Senegal and South Africa. These pilots are providing lessons that will contribute to the development of guidelines that can be used by WMO Members in setting up their national frameworks. In addition a GFCS Adaptation Programme in Africa with a focus on Malawi and Tanzania aimed at providing tailored climate services for agriculture and food security, health and disaster risk reduction was launched in October 2013. This project is hinged on multi-institutional collaboration to co-design, co-production knowledge to deliver demand-driven products and services. Partners include WMO, WHO, WFP, IFRC, CCAFS, CICERO and CHR Michelsen Institute from Norway.

At regional level, consultations were held in Bangkok for LDCs in Asia and Port of Spain for the Caribbean region and Rarotonga for the Pacific Islands. Additional consultations for Latin America, South East Europe, and Middle East are under preparation. These consultations facilitate the identification of regional priorities and needs for the production and application of climate services. With respect to research, the GFCS has been involved in the facilitation of development of the African Climate Research for Development Agenda (CR4D), adopted in October 2013, which identifies critical research questions and gaps that need to be addressed in the continent. GFCS also facilitated prioritization of climate research for Latin America and the Caribbean through a conference organized in March 2014 in Montevideo in collaboration with the World Climate Research Conference.

On the observation side, GFCS is facilitating the establishing of an Indian Ocean Data Rescue initiative to step up efforts to recover and digitize historical data from Indian Ocean rim countries and Islands that is at risk of being lost owing to the poor archiving conditions. In addition, the

GFCS is working with GCOS to identify specific observations needs for adaption and mitigation. Workshops were organized in these regards.

In conclusion, I would like to stress the potential synergies between the efforts for implementing the GFCS and activities under UNFCCC, particularly the NAP processes. The GFCS is well positioned to provide critical information to inform NAP interventions in support of Hydrometeorological services. Thus, it is imperative that synergies be identified for the implementation of concrete joint activities.

Thank you.