



**WMO STATEMENT TO SBSTA 39
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Update on the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) and next steps

Background:

At the 18th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC/COP-19), the 37th Session the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) invited WMO to report on the outcome of the 1st Session of the Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services (IBCS), established to provide the oversight and management of the implementation of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS).

The GFCS is an initiative of the United Nations system, Governments and various stakeholders to provide reliable and accessible climate services to users all over the world, with an initial focus on agriculture and food security, water, health and disaster risk reduction.

The establishment of the GFCS was unanimously approved by the World Meteorological Congress in 2011, followed by the establishment of the IBCS through an extraordinary session of the World Meteorological Congress in 2012.

Progress in Implementation:

National

Since then, considerable progress has been made on the implementation of the GFCS, including the initiation of projects in Malawi and Tanzania and pilot projects for the development of frameworks for climate services at the national level in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Niger, South Africa and Belize. Other countries such as China, Germany and United Kingdom have already established their National Frameworks. These projects and initiatives are providing important lessons that are being used in the development of guidelines that will support the rapid upscale of climate services delivery around the world.

Regional

Implementation of the Framework has gained momentum at regional level. The first Africa Climate Conference 2013 (ACC2013), organized by the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP), the Africa Climate Policy Centre (ACPC), and the University of Dar-es-Salaam, in Arusha, Tanzania in October 2013, which brought together climate scientists and user sectors and in its conference statement acknowledged that climate action depends on the availability of high-quality scientific information was a pioneering initiative. It recognized that communication gaps currently exists between decision makers, vulnerable communities, development practitioners, and climate scientists in the world, particularly in developing countries and LDCs. To this end the conference and climate scientists involved have committed to acting in concert to address the identified knowledge gaps of climate science in Africa working closely with the end-user community to address identified needs.

Regional Climate Outlook Forums have now been established world-wide (with latest additions being the Mediterranean Climate Outlook Forum (MedCOF), Caribbean Climate Outlook Forum (CARICOF), ASEAN Climate Outlook Forum (ASEANCOF) and South West Indian Ocean Climate Outlook Forum (SWIOCOF). Formally designated WMO Regional Climate Centres (RCCs)/RCC-

Networks are now established and operational in Asia and Europe, with demonstration phases underway in Africa and South America.

Global

There is also growing global momentum, thanks to the active involvement of UN organizations, the World Bank, many other development agencies, international organizations and the international Red Cross and Red Crescent movement, which are factoring climate services into their sectoral and development work. Contributions and pledges to the GFCS total over 30 million Swiss Francs to date, and are growing. However, additional financing of the Framework from other sources including the Green Climate Fund will be an advantage to support this concerted and coordinated global effort to make climate information, products and services accessible to all in support of decision-making.

Other important developments include the establishment of a joint WMO/WHO project office on health and climate to accelerate implementation of the health component of the GFCS. Also, a joint WMO/Global Water Partnership (GWP) project office on integrated drought management has been established to partner the Associated Programme on Flood Management in addressing the water component of the GFCS.

Governance

At its first session, held from 1 to 5 July 2013 in Geneva, the IBCS, elected Dr Anton Eliassen, Director-General of the Norwegian Meteorological Institute, as the Chair of the Board, and as co-Vice-Chairs Dr Laxman Singh Rathore, Director-General of the India Meteorological Department and Linda Makuleni, Chief Executive Officer of the South African Weather Services. The Board agreed on a Management Committee of 28 members to provide advice on a number of key tasks until its next session, which will be hosted by Switzerland in November 2014.

The IBCS took a number of important decisions to ensure maximum coordination between the global, regional and the national levels, to engage all stakeholders, and strengthen interactions with the entire UN system, World Bank and other partners.

To this end, the IBCS established a Partner Advisory Committee to facilitate the continued active participation of UN organizations, international organizations, non-governmental organizations and development partners, in order to optimize and maximize accelerated implementation of the Framework at national, regional and global levels.

Next Steps

The challenges to enable provision of climate information for climate risk management and adaptation remain considerable. An estimated 70 nations, including most of the Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States, have inadequate or no climate services provision capabilities and are under-equipped to meet the challenges of both natural variations in the climate and human induced climate change. Bridging the capability gap is even more urgent in light of the recent findings of the IPCC in its, Fifth Assessment Report that points to the very imminent threat of climate variability and change

With the Governance mechanisms already established and the Implementation Plans and Annexes approved, the Global Framework for Climate Services is well underway to provide crucial information required for adaptation to a fast changing climate and extremes of weather. With the right level of support from donors and funds the momentum to achieve the 2, 6 and 10 year targets for the Framework will be achieved on time.