



WMO SUBMISSION TO COP 19, WARSAW, POLAND, 2013

Outcome of the first session of the Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services with respect to GFCS implementation, July 2013

1. Introduction

This document is prepared in response to conclusions of SBSTA 37 on Research and Systematic Observation at COP 18, Doha, Qatar, 2012 which invited WMO to provide, at SBSTA 39, information on the outcome of the first session of the Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services (hereafter referred to as the Board), held 1-5 July 2013. The Board included at its very beginning a Dialogue on “Operational Climate Services: A dialogue on practical action” which stressed the need for partnerships in addressing all the elements required for effective provision and use of climate services.

Following the decision taken at the extraordinary session of the World Meteorological Congress (Cg-Ext.2012) to establish the Intergovernmental Board, the first session

- i) approved the implementation plan of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) 1 and a compendium of initial GFCS projects for immediate implementation;
- ii) agreed on the definition of processes and substructures supporting its advancement, and;
- iii) elected the Chair, two Co-Vice-Chairs and selected WMO Members forming the Management Committee of the Board.

The major outcomes of the session will guide the Board’s work, which will be reviewed at IBCS-2, until Congress XVII in 2015.

Management Committee

In order to fulfil the mandate given to the Board by Congress to oversee and provide the overall management of the development and implementation of the GFCS, the Board unanimously agreed that it shall be managed until the end of the next ordinary session of the Board, by one Chair and that the office of the Vice-Chair shall be shared by two co-Vice-Chairs. Pursuant to

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The Global Framework for Climate Services aims to enable society to manage the risks and opportunities arising from climate variability and change, especially for those who are most vulnerable. A climate service is considered as the provision of climate information in such a way as to assist decision-making by individuals and/or organizations. Effective climate services will facilitate climate-smart decisions that will, for example, better reduce the impact of climate-related disasters, improve food security and health outcomes, and enhance water resources management. All countries will benefit, but priority shall go to building the capacity of developing countries which are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and variability. The Framework will be built upon five components; namely, User Interface Platform, Climate Service Information System, Observations and Monitoring, Research, Modelling and Prediction, and Capacity Building. The Framework’s priority areas are closely aligned to the needs and goals addressed by the Millennium Development Goals, the Hyogo Framework for Action and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Resolutions 1 and 2 (Cg-Ext.(2012)), the Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services (IBCS) considered the establishment of its Management Committee and the definition of its terms of reference.

Having considered that, in accordance with its Terms of Reference, “the Management Committee shall be composed of the Chair, the Vice-Chair and Members’ representatives from each WMO Regional Association and respecting equitable geographical representation and paying special attention to gender balance”.

The Board requested the Management Committee to develop a draft recommendation to be submitted by IBCS to Seventeenth Congress on an appropriate interaction mechanism between the IBCS and WMO constituent bodies, namely the Executive Council, technical commissions and regional associations, taking into account the possible financial implications.

2. Decisions and Resolutions

The Board approved a resolution on the Establishment of the Management Committee and its Terms of Reference.

The Board further adopted the Implementation Plan of the Global Framework for Climate Services together with its Annexes on the five pillars in Resolution 4.1.1/1 and Exemplars on the four initial priorities. This represents a roadmap for the implementation of the GFCS and its Initial Priority areas.

The Board also adopted a Compendium of GFCS Projects, which includes the projects and activities contained in the initial Compendium of GFCS Projects and the criteria for funding from the GFCS Trust Fund and for the recognition of projects funded from other sources as contributing to the GFCS. The Board thereby requested Members to note the resource requirements for implementation of the GFCS including its IBCS and substructures, when pledging contributions, and requested the Management Committee to establish a process to capture the various contributions made by Members at the global, regional and national levels, which support the implementation of the GFCS. In addition, a Resolution on the process for the Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the GFCS was adopted.

Finally, in seeking to develop the principles and timeline leading to an optimal stakeholder engagement mechanism process, the Board adopted the Establishment of the Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism and Participation of such Stakeholders in the work of the Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services, which formalizes the establishment of a Partner Advisory Committee (PAC) in this respect.

3. Pillars of the GFCS

The Board noted that the Annexes to the Implementation Plan elaborate the Framework’s five functional components, or pillars, that are described in the Plan. These pillars – the User Interface Platform; the Climate Service Information System; Observation and Monitoring; Research, Modelling and Prediction; and Capacity Development – will underpin the production and delivery of effective climate services. Cutting across the initial four priority areas (agriculture and food security, water, health and disaster risk reduction), they create a matrix that forms a comprehensive picture of how the Framework will operate.

The Board discussed the Annexes to the Implementation Plan of the Global Framework for Climate Services and identified a number of additional inputs that should be included in the next versions of the Annexes, including, inter alia, the need for training in the ongoing maintenance of systems to collect and store climate data, the lack of availability of ocean data and improvements

to the structure of the Annexes. The Board requested the Secretariat to update the Annexes to the Implementation Plan taking into consideration the edits and inclusions provided by the participants.

Initial Priority Areas

The Board noted with appreciation the contribution, support and leading role played by the partner agencies leading the initial four priority areas of the GFCS in the development of the Exemplars.

The Board noted that the Exemplars are part of the User Interface Platform and provide details of activities required to enable effective climate services for the four current and future priority areas of the GFCS. The Exemplars consider how the approach proposed by the general Implementation Plan could be adapted and applied to each of the four initial priority areas. Furthermore, the Exemplars contain the essential elements that need to be put in place to ensure that climate information and services will effectively support decision-making in the four initial priority areas.

The Board noted with appreciation the offers of ongoing support from partner agencies who had been involved in the development of the Exemplars, including, UNDP, UNESCO, FAO, WHO and WFP. The Board stressed the importance of the Exemplars in the development and implementation of the User Interface Platform, especially at the national level, including the involvement of all relevant stakeholders. The Board noted that access to information was going to be a key factor in the implementation of the GFCS and that a strategic approach was called for in this regard. The Board requested the Secretariat to record any edits or inclusions proposed for the Exemplars and bring revised versions back to its next session.

On the implementation of User Interface Platforms the Board urged Governments:

- (1) To support implementation of User Interface Platforms for the initial four priority areas of the GFCS through implementation of the activities contained in the Exemplars;
- (2) To promote the use or establishment of an appropriate coordination mechanism to serve as User Interface Platforms;
- (3) To report on activities and initiatives implemented under the Exemplars to the GFCS Secretariat;

It further invited:

- (1) The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP), the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and UN-Water, with the involvement of relevant stakeholders, including other United Nations bodies, in the implementation of the activities contained in the Exemplars of the User Interface Platform;
- (2) All stakeholders that have a role to play in the initial four priority areas of the GFCS, including United Nations system entities, relevant national, regional and international organizations and entities, whether governmental or non-governmental, to be actively involved in the implementation of the activities contained in the Exemplars;
- (3) All stakeholders to report their contributions and progress on the implementation of specific activities contained in the Exemplars to the GFCS Secretariat.

4. Compendium of GFCS projects

The Intergovernmental Board noted that for the GFCS to contribute to enhanced outcomes in agriculture and food security, water resources management, health and disaster risk reduction, implementation of concrete activities and projects across the pillars or components of the GFCS and the initial priority areas must be given priority. These activities and projects should promote the required integration, interaction and capacity development across the pillars and priority areas with a view to deliver, operationally, the products and services that will support effective decision-making;

The Board recognized the interconnected and complimentary nature of the activities contained in the Compendium, which will require the coordination and involvement of various actors, stakeholders and partners.

The Board considered the activities contained in the Compendium and expressed their satisfaction with the Compendium noting that the projects provide an excellent basis for the implementation of the GFCS.

On Implementation of the GFCS Projects the Board urged Governments:

- (1) To participate actively in implementing the activities and projects contained in the Compendium by making available and maximum use of national infrastructure, expertise, institutional capabilities, and resources;
- (2) To report on activities and initiatives implemented to the GFCS Secretariat, for inclusion in the GFCS Compendium;

It further invited:

- (1) All stakeholders including United Nations system entities, relevant national, regional and international organizations and entities, whether governmental or non-governmental, to actively participate in the implementation of the activities contained in the Compendium as an integral part of the contribution to the GFCS;
- (2) All stakeholders to report their contributions and progress on the implementation of specific activities contained in the Compendium to the GFCS Secretariat;
- (3) All stakeholders to note the criteria for projects eligible for funding through the GFCS and for designation of projects as GFCS-related, as provided in the Annex to this resolution, and to report to the GFCS Secretariat their contribution and progress in a systematic manner so as to be included in the reports of the GFCS Secretariat to the Intergovernmental Board;

5. Principles for GFCS

The Principles described here is to be used by the Intergovernmental Board for deciding which projects are to be implemented and funded under the GFCS Trust Fund, with a focus on projects to be carried out over the first two years (2013-2015). The projects which satisfy these Principles are listed in the GFCS Compendium, along with additional GFCS-related projects which will not be funded through the GFCS Trust Fund but can be designated as GFCS-related.

Principles:

- (1) All countries will benefit, but priority shall go to building the capacity of developing countries most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and variability;
- (2) A primary goal will be to ensure greater availability of, access to, and use of enhanced climate services for all countries;

- (3) Activities will address three geographic domains: global, regional and national;
- (4) Operational climate services will be the core element;
- (5) Climate information is primarily an international public good provided by governments, which will have a central role in its management;
- (6) Promote the free and open exchange of climate-relevant data, tools and scientifically based methods while respecting national and international policies;
- (7) Facilitate and strengthen, not to duplicate;
- (8) The Framework will be implemented on the basis of user-provider partnerships that include all stakeholders.

These principles were used as basis for the development of the criteria for project design indicated below:

Guidelines for identification of activities/projects:

The eight Principles of the Framework, as articulated by the High-Level Taskforce and described in Chapter 1, should be used to guide the identification and implementation of all activities and projects over the life of the Framework.

Priority activities and projects implemented in the first two years should meet the following additional criteria and should:

- (1) Be aligned with at least one of the four priority areas (disaster risk reduction, water management, agriculture and food security and health);
- (2) Address at least one of the gaps in current scientific and technical capabilities as identified in Chapter 3;
- (3) Contribute to at least one of the implementation priorities identified by the High-Level Taskforce, namely:
 - Establish a secretariat;
 - Develop national capacities for providing climate services by building the User Interface Platform and/or upgrading those National Meteorological and Hydrological Services with basic climate service capabilities;
 - Develop regional capacities to assist national capacities in providing climate services;
 - Ensure access to required climate-relevant observations, for instance by filling in critical gaps, sustaining and developing observational networks, establishing data management capabilities and improving the telecommunications network;
 - Build research capacity by establishing fellowship programmes and/or innovative instrumentation research programmes and promoting multi-disciplinary research initiatives.
- (4) Take into account the following:
 - Is the activity achievable in a two-year time frame?

- Does the project involve or contribute to activities in Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States, Land-locked Developing Countries or other regions or countries highly vulnerable and sensitive to climate-related risks?
- Does the project build upon something that already exists by expanding the area, locating in a new place, making it operational or broadening its scope?
- Does the project fit within the initial budget estimate in the High-Level Taskforce report?
- Does the project address the Feedback, Dialogue, Evaluation or Outreach outcomes of the User Interface Platform?
- Does the project build upon, and not duplicate, the partnerships in place among existing organizations and groups?
- Does the project fill the objectives, agendas, work plans, goals and missions that have already been agreed to by the partner organizations?

In selecting where to implement specific projects, the Framework will bring together service providers, donors and user communities with an urgent requirement to agree to establishing projects in the priority areas to develop capacity in a sustainable manner. These projects will need to have a high likelihood of successfully delivering within the two-year time frame and be likely to provide maximum benefit in order to demonstrate progress and the success of Framework implementation. These projects can then be up-scaled for the 6- and 10-year time frames, benefiting from successes and lessons learned from the initial implementation activities.

6. Monitoring and Evaluation

The Board further noted that the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms would have to be established and agreed through the GFCS governance to foster adequate oversight for monitoring the stream flow of projects and activities, and should provide avenues for reporting to the existing governance mechanism of the Framework and stakeholders. Monitoring and evaluation would have to be integrated in the various levels of governance of the GFCS, from the global to the national level with two thrusts: (a) to assess activities' progress; and (b) to measure achievement in meeting the GFCS's larger goals for improved usage of climate knowledge in support of decision-making.

7. Implementation of the GFCS

The Board discussed the Implementation Plan of the Global Framework for Climate Services and identified a number of additional inputs that should be included in the next version of the Implementation Plan, including, inter alia, the integration of in-situ and remotely sensed observations, improving our understanding of how the climate change in the polar regions influences the climate on a global and regional level, practicalities around the establishment of national sources for authoritative climate information and the need for training of professionals in climate service development and delivery. The Board adopted Resolution 4.1/1 by which it decided:

- (1) To approve the Implementation Plan of the Global Framework for Climate Services, whose implementation should start without delay;
- (2) To report to the second session of the Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services and subsequently to the Seventeenth World Meteorological Congress, progress with the implementation of the Global Framework for Climate Services as set out in the Implementation Plan for the Global Framework for Climate Services.

The Board urged Governments:

- (1) To provide support for the implementation of the GFCS, by supporting the national, regional and global institutions and mechanisms relevant for the implementation of the Framework;
- (2) To contribute to the GFCS Trust Fund to support operationalization of the GFCS and implementation of GFCS activities and projects at national and regional level;
- (3) To support implementation of the projects contained in the compendium of GFCS projects;
- (4) To promote collaboration between countries for the optimal implementation of the GFCS in line with the vision goals and principles of the GFCS and relevant decisions from the WMO Extraordinary Congress for the delivery of high-quality climate services.

It further invited:

- (1) All stakeholders, including United Nations system entities, as well as all relevant national, regional and international organizations and entities, whether governmental or non-governmental, to actively participate in the implementation of the GFCS through participation in its specific activities and to contribute expertise and resources to its programmes, projects and activities;
- (2) The Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Food Programme, the World Health Organization, the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and UN-Water and their partners to take the lead in the implementation of the activities and projects in the initial priority areas to ensure that climate services support improved outcomes in agriculture and food security, health, disaster risk reduction and water resources management;

8. Establishment of a Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism and Participation of GFCS

The Board mindful of the modalities for the participation of observers in the work of the IBCS as set by its Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure; reaffirmed that the Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services is an intergovernmental body.

It decided to establish the **Partner Advisory Committee** as the stakeholder engagement mechanism. The Board further decided to adopt the modalities set out for the participation of the representatives of GFCS Stakeholders, in a capacity as observer, in the sessions and work of the Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services.

Membership

The Partner Advisory Committee is open to UN organizations, non-UN intergovernmental organizations, international organizations, international development partners, international non-governmental organizations in strict compliance with the UN (the agreement concluded between the UN and WMO which came into force 20 December 1951) and WMO policies and regulations (WMO Convention Art. 26 as well as paragraph 2 (f) of the Terms of Reference of the IBCS).

9. Resource Mobilization

The Board noted that to secure appropriate funding for the GFCS, support from Members and partnerships with UN and international agencies, regional organizations including regional development banks, funding initiatives supporting major global issues and GFCS-related activities under the pillars and initial priority areas, were required.

The Board noted that while these funds have been useful in enabling the development of the draft implementation plan and supporting early implementation of the GFCS, full implementation of the GFCS will require additional resources.

The Board noted that implementation of the GFCS will involve activities and projects directly supported by the GFCS Trust Fund as well as contributions and direct support from partners agencies and stakeholders based on a set of principles and criteria agreed and approved by the IBCS.

It stressed that partner organizations should play a key role by mainstreaming GFCS-related activities in their institutional mechanisms.

The Board invited:

- (1) All stakeholders, including United Nations system entities, as well as all relevant national, regional and international organizations and entities, whether governmental or non-governmental, to contribute to the GFCS Trust Fund and make resources commitment for the implementation of specific project activities as contained in the Implementation Plan and compendium of GFCS-related projects and activities;
- (2) The Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Food Programme, the World Health Organization, the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, UN-Water, the Board of the Green Climate Fund, the World Bank and regional development banks and their partners to institutionalize GFCS-related projects and activities into their working mechanism and be actively involved in resource mobilization for the implementation of the activities under their areas of responsibility;

10. Other Highlights of the Session

The Board expressed its appreciation to the governments of Australia, Canada; China; Hong Kong, China; India; Indonesia; Ireland; Norway; Republic of Korea; Switzerland and the United Kingdom who have contributed to the GFCS Trust Fund. It also appreciated the contributions of Members who have provided in-kind contributions to the GFCS, specifically, Australia, Brazil, Germany, Italy, Portugal, the United Kingdom and the USA for providing experts to the GFCS Office, supporting the writers involved in the development of the Implementation Plan of the GFCS and its Annexes and Exemplars and supporting the translation of GFCS-related publications. It noted, however, that more contributions are required to ensure successful implementation of the Framework.

The Board decided that the second session of the Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services will be held from 10 to 14 November 2014, in Geneva.

11. Additional Matters

GCOS Programme Review

SBSTA 37 expressed its appreciation to the GCOS sponsors for the support provided by them to the GCOS programme for the past 20 years, and encouraged them to continue to provide such support. It welcomed the initiative of the GCOS sponsors to undertake a review of GCOS, and invited the sponsors, through WMO, to inform the SBSTA on the outcome of that review. The GCOS programme has had substantial success in the past 20 years, but several new developments and some emerging issues have given rise to the need to re-examine the mandate and terms of reference of GCOS. The GCOS Steering Committee at its 19th session in 2011

welcomed an independent review of GCOS and appreciated the willingness of WMO to take the lead in seeking to carry this out in 2013. The review board had held its first meeting from 26 to 27 March 2013, and its second meeting from 28 to 30 October 2013. The board is chaired by Mr Wolfgang Kusch, former president of the Deutscher Wetterdienst (DWD), Germany, and is comprised out of individual experts nominated by each of the sponsoring organizations. The deliberations of the board and the report will be available to the public in the middle of 2014.