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Views on the Climate Finance Work Programme

WMO is pleased to provide the following inputs to the Climate Finance Work Programme (CFWP), established under paragraph 54 of the Global Mutirão decision (FCCC/PA/CMA/2025/L.24) adopted at CMA 7, in line with Article 9 of the Paris Agreement.

Introduction

This submission draws on WMO's extensive experience supporting National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in mobilizing and accessing climate finance, including insights from the WMO Guidance Note on *Enhancing the Role of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in Mobilizing Climate Finance at National Level* (WMO-No 1365)[1] and the *WMO Submission to the Baku to Belém Roadmap to 1.3T (2025)*[2].

Delivering on the ambition to advance implementation of the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on Climate Finance through the CFWP requires not only greater financial flows, including a significant scaling up of adaptation finance, but also the institutional, technical and data infrastructure to ensure those flows are science-grounded, effective and equitable.

Many developing countries, particularly Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Middle-Income Countries (MICs), continue to face institutional, technical and financial barriers to accessing climate finance, constraining their ability to plan and implement climate action, including investments in critical climate services delivered by NMHSs.

NMHSs are uniquely positioned at the intersection of climate science and national decision-making. As authoritative providers of weather, climate and hydrological data and services, they form the scientific backbone of effective national climate strategies. Investments in observation networks, forecasting systems and climate services strengthen the efficiency, targeting and impact of all downstream climate finance. Reliable climate data is most effective when recognized and financed as foundational infrastructure for climate action, rather than as an upstream technical input, and when supported through sustained and predictable financing that may be hard to meet through short-term or fragmented funding approaches.

The CFWP presents a timely opportunity to advance the systematic integration of reliable climate information into financial architectures and decision-making processes. WMO stands ready to support this process, drawing on its global mandate and the technical expertise of NMHSs worldwide.

[1] WMO (2025), Enhancing the Role of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in Mobilizing Climate Finance at National Level (WMO-No 1365). Available at https://library.wmo.int/idurl/4/69431
[2] WMO (2025), Baku to Belém Roadmap to 1.3T Submission to UNFCCC. Available at https://unfccc.int/documents/646264.

(a) What are your overall expectations for the climate finance work programme? What concrete outputs and outcomes should the climate finance work programme deliver?

WMO considers that the CFWP has the potential to support a transformative shift in how climate finance is conceptualized, accessed, and deployed, by strengthening the integration of scientific evidence and institutional capacity considerations in climate finance decision-making, and helping to bridge the gap between finance providers and the institutions positioned to contribute to climate action at the national level, including NMHSs. This includes the balance between mitigation and adaptation finance, particularly in support of climate-vulnerable countries.

WMO encourages the CFWP to support the development of practical, actionable outputs that could be implemented by governments, financial institutions, and technical actors. In this regard, WMO suggests the following concrete outputs for consideration:

Output 1. Integration of climate science information into climate finance decision-making

The CFWP could support the systematic integration of reliable, best-available climate data and information into climate finance decision-making at all levels, so that finance frameworks, investment strategies and financial instruments are informed by science-based approaches. Climate finance decision-making is strengthened when it is informed by robust observational data – yet significant systematic observation gaps persist, particularly in developing countries. Closing these gaps is therefore a prerequisite for science-grounded climate finance. This could include:

- Strengthening the use of climate data in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and climate investment planning, including for national priority sectors.
- Supporting the application of climate risk information in project design, appraisal and implementation.
- Enhancing linkages between NMHSs and climate finance actors to improve evidence-based decision-making.

Output 2. Recognition and financing of the hydro-meteorological and climate services value chain

The CFWP could encourage institutional and financing approaches that support the interconnected components of the hydro-meteorological and climate services value chain, recognizing their foundational role in enabling climate resilience and informed investment decisions. These components include:

- Systematic observations and international data exchange as core climate infrastructure.
- Weather and climate forecasts, and early warning services that underpin risk-informed decision-making.
- Climate information services that translate data into actionable information across sectors and societal groups.
- Strengthened linkages between climate information and national investment planning, policy design and implementation.

Output 3. Improving access to climate finance for developing countries

The CFWP could facilitate more accessible and streamlined pathways for developing countries, particularly LDCs, SIDS and vulnerable MICs, to access climate finance. Foundational to this is the recognition that the generation and international exchange of basic weather, climate and hydrological data and information constitutes a global public good, and that long-term grant financing for developing countries to fulfil this function should be treated accordingly. This could include:

- Promoting simplified and harmonized climate finance application procedures.

- Supporting readiness and proposal development processes.
- Encouraging predictable and sustained financial flows, including grant financing for the delivery of basic data as a global public good.
- Enhancing coordination across funding mechanisms.
- Promoting programmatic approaches that strengthen country ownership and locally led strategies aligned with national priorities.

Output 4. Strengthening institutional and technical capacity

The CFWP could support targeted capacity-building to enhance the ability of NMHSs and relevant national institutions to engage effectively in climate finance processes. This could include:

- Facilitating access to authoritative guidance to support the development of science-driven national climate strategies and identification of appropriate funding sources.
- Building capacity in project design and engagement with funding mechanisms.
- Strengthening the institutional positioning of NMHSs within national climate governance frameworks.
- Supporting coordination between NMHSs, finance and development ministries, planning authorities and sectoral agencies.

Output 5. Promotion of innovative and coordinated finance approaches

The CFWP could support the exploration and scaling of innovative financing mechanisms. Building on existing approaches, such as the Climate Risk Early Warning Systems (CREWS) Initiative, the Systematic Observation Financing Facility (SOFF), and grant-based support mechanisms established by the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Adaptation Fund (AF) and the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), the CFWP could promote:

- Blended finance approaches that combine public and private resources, including through instruments such as the WMO Weather, Climate and Water Intelligence Commons ("WMO Commons") and the Systematic Observation Impact Bond, announced at COP30 as an integral part of the COP30 Action Agenda, in response to demand from over 100 developing countries that have committed to closing their Global Basic Observing Network (GBON) gaps[3]. Complementary pooled financing approaches can further support the global backbone and enhance the sustainability of these efforts.
- Grant-based and concessional financing for climate data infrastructure.

Outcomes

WMO anticipates the following outcomes:

1. Climate science-based approaches more systematically applied to improve the effectiveness and targeting of climate investments.
2. Scaled and diversified climate finance mobilized and innovated to close major systematic observation gaps in developing countries.
3. Increased involvement of NMHSs in national climate action planning, decision-making processes and climate finance investment pipelines.
4. Enhanced balance in climate finance distribution, so that the most vulnerable countries, LDCs, SIDS and climate-exposed MICs, receive finance proportionate to their needs, risks and adaptation burdens.
5. Strengthened institutional capacity and national coordination for climate finance access and deployment, including for NMHSs.

[3] The 193 members of the World Meteorological Congress established the Global Basic Observing Network (GBON) to define the minimum set of observations that all countries must generate and internationally exchange to improve global and local forecasts. However, LDCs and SIDS currently have the capability to share only around 10% of their required GBON observations. Closing these gaps is therefore a prerequisite for science-grounded climate finance.

6. Reduced fragmentation and improved coherence of climate finance flows, including greater private sector engagement.
7. Accessible global platforms and communication mechanisms that facilitate peer learning, exchange of experiences, and access to updated guidance and tools.

(b) What are the thematic pillars of the climate finance work programme and the related subtopics that we should address within each pillar?

Building on its mandate, the CFWP could be structured around five interrelated thematic pillars.

Pillar 1: Integrating climate science into climate finance decision-making

This pillar could provide the thematic space to address how climate science and data, particularly from NMHSs, can be more systematically embedded into climate finance frameworks, investment planning and decision-making processes. The quality of those processes depends directly on the availability of reliable observational data, making the issues addressed under Pillar 2 a necessary complement. Relevant subtopics include:

- Systematic integration of best available climate data and information into climate finance decision-making frameworks and investment planning.
- Use of climate risk and hazard information in project design, appraisal, and implementation.
- Strengthening the role of NMHSs as authoritative data providers to support climate finance decisions.
- Integration of climate science into NDCs, NAPs and sectoral investment strategies.
- Enhancing the accessibility, interoperability and usability of climate information for finance decision-making.

Pillar 2: Mobilizing and innovating climate finance to close systematic observation gaps in developing countries

This pillar would focus the work programme's attention on the financing of the observational foundation that underpins science-grounded climate finance globally. Major systematic observation gaps persist in developing countries, as frequently noted in SBSTA conclusions. Relevant subtopics include:

- Supporting all countries in meeting their requirements to generate and internationally exchange essential observations under GBON.
- Scaling up the work of SOFF to support countries in fulfilling their GBON data-sharing obligations.
- Advancing innovative climate finance instruments, including the Systematic Observation Impact Bond.

Pillar 3: Channeling climate finance to hydrometeorological systems and NMHSs

This pillar could address how climate finance can better reach and sustain the downstream services and systems, from forecasting and early warning through to sectoral climate services, that translate observational data into climate action, recognizing NMHSs as key enablers of climate resilience. Relevant subtopics include:

- Promoting sustained and predictable financing for forecasting systems and hydrometeorological and climatological service.
- Scaling up investment in multi-hazard early warning systems, in alignment with the Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative.
- Strengthening the financing of climate services delivery across sectors, including agriculture, water, energy and health, and in support of climate-vulnerable groups, including women, youth, children and Indigenous Peoples.

Pillar 4: Capacity building and institutional strengthening for climate finance access

This pillar could concentrate the work programme's efforts on the structural and institutional barriers that prevent developing countries, particularly NMHSs and relevant government institutions, from effectively accessing and deploying climate finance. While Pillar 5 addresses coherence at the level of the international architecture, this pillar focuses on building the institutional foundations that enable countries to engage with it. Relevant subtopics include:

- Enhancing the technical and institutional capacity of NMHSs to engage effectively in climate finance processes.
- Strengthening national governance frameworks for climate finance planning and implementation.
- Improving coordination between NMHSs, finance, planning and development ministries, nationally designated and direct access authorities, accredited entities and sectoral actors.
- Supporting the development of climate-informed, transformative and bankable project proposals.
- Addressing barriers facing LDCs, SIDS and MICs in accessing climate finance.
- Promoting technical cooperation, knowledge sharing and peer-to-peer learning, including through South-South approaches.
- Supporting partnership building with national, regional and international implementing partners for project development and delivery.

Pillar 5: Strengthening coherence and coordination within the climate finance architecture

This pillar could address system-level coherence across the international climate finance architecture, focusing on how multilateral funds, bilateral providers and existing initiatives can work in a more aligned, efficient and mutually reinforcing manner. Relevant subtopics include:

- Enhancing alignment and complementarity among multilateral climate funds, bilateral providers and other financing channels.
- Promoting programmatic and country-driven approaches to reduce fragmentation and transaction costs.
- Leveraging existing mechanisms such as CREWS and SOFF as platforms to coordinate early warning system investment efforts.
- Drawing on effective scale-up models such as the GCF-CREWS framework to facilitate a structured transition from upstream risk reduction to scaled investment.

(c) How should the climate finance work programme be organized to ensure that the format is inclusive, balanced, and technically robust, while addressing climate finance comprehensively and delivering outcomes that are actionable and meaningful?

WMO suggests a structured yet flexible approach that combines technical expertise with broad stakeholder engagement and a clear focus on implementation.

Recommendation 1. Broad national stakeholder engagement

The CFWP could ensure broad and meaningful participation from all relevant stakeholders, with particular attention to the perspectives and needs of developing countries, including LDCs, SIDS and MICs, as well as national institutions that provide essential technical inputs. Participation could also include multilateral development banks, climate funds, UN entities and relevant technical organizations, alongside structured engagement with private sector actors in a manner that remains aligned with

public mandates. Such an inclusive approach would help ensure that discussions reflect both global priorities and national implementation requirements.

Recommendation 2. Structured expert engagement

The CFWP could be underpinned by strong technical inputs to ensure that its outputs are evidence-based, credible and operationally relevant. This could be achieved through technical advisory panels, thematic dialogues aligned with the programme's core areas, and contributions from scientific and technical organizations, including WMO and NMHSs. Expert consultations and peer exchanges could support the development of practical guidance and tools, while facilitating the sharing of experiences and lessons learned.

Recommendation 3. Country-led dialogues linked to implementation

The CFWP could include regular, structured dialogues to capture country-level perspectives, identify barriers and reflect diverse national contexts. Drawing on experiences from ongoing initiatives such as EW4All, such dialogues could help ground discussions in operational realities and existing good practices. This could include:

- Engagement of in-country experts, including NMHSs and local civil society organizations, to provide diverse stakeholder inputs.
- A focus on actionable and implementation-oriented outcomes, including aligning CFWP outputs with the programming cycles and priorities of major climate funds such as the GCF, AF and GEF, and facilitating linkages between policy discussions and project pipeline development.
- Coordination mechanisms to facilitate alignment between global or regional initiatives and national priorities and needs.
- Feedback mechanisms to capture lessons learned and inform subsequent phases of the work programme.

Recommendation 4. Intersessional work and sustained progress

To maintain momentum, the CFWP could operate on an intersessional basis, complementing sessions of the Conference of the Parties under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. Technical and consultative activities between sessions could facilitate the iterative development and refinement of outputs, supporting continuity, progressive learning and the timely delivery of concrete results within defined timeframes.

Recommendation 5. Monitoring progress and promoting learning

The CFWP could incorporate mechanisms to track progress and promote continuous monitoring, evaluation and learning, enabling the programme to remain adaptive and results-oriented. This could include reporting on the implementation of CFWP-related actions and the establishment of Communities of Practice across countries and institutions. Strengthening knowledge exchange and identifying scalable approaches would help enhance the overall effectiveness and long-term impact of the programme.