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OUTCOME OF THE THIRD WORLD CLIMATE CONFERENCE (WCC-3)

WMO hosted the Third World Climate Conference (WCC-3) in Geneva, Switzerland from 31 August to 4 September 2009. The Conference was comprised of an expert segment which helped frame components of a global framework for climate services (GFCS), and a high-level segment which agreed upon a declaration supporting further development of this framework. The aim of this GFCS is to strengthen production, availability, delivery and application of science-based climate prediction and services.

OUTCOME OF THE THIRD WORLD CLIMATE CONFERENCE (WCC-3)

1 INTRODUCTION

The Third World Climate Conference-3 (WCC-3) was held in Geneva from 31 August to 4 September 2009. The Conference, hosted by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and its international partners, initiated a process to establish a Global Framework for Climate Services, to ensure that climate information and predictions are made available to decision-makers and sectors encountering the impacts of climate variability and change. This decision was unanimously adopted at the opening of the WCC-3 High-level Segment, which followed three days of intense deliberations by multidisciplinary international experts. Present on the occasion were the Presidents and Heads of State of 12 nations and close to 80 Ministers, as well as UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and 12 Executive Heads of UN Agencies and Programmes. Participation of more than 2500 decision-makers and experts was also unprecedented.

Based on the mandate received from Governments through the Conference High-level Declaration, WMO will convene within four months an intergovernmental meeting of WMO Members to approve the Terms of Reference for a task force of high-level, independent advisors and to endorse its composition. Then, within 12 months and following ample consultations, the task force will produce a report with the detailed Framework implementation process, which will be submitted to the Sixteenth World Meteorological Congress (Geneva, May 2011).

While WCC-3 outcomes will provide key input to the UNFCCC negotiation process, which will converge in Copenhagen in December at the fifteenth session of the Conference of Parties (COP 15), it should be stressed that the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) outreach must extend beyond WCC-3, in particular by implementing practical solutions to effectively address the inevitable impacts of climate variability and change.

Attached as Appendices to this document are the WCC-3 High-level Declaration, and the WCC-3 Conference Statement which was delivered as the Summary of the Expert Segment, held in advance of the High-level Segment.

2 CONCLUSIONS

Although it is likely premature for any specific engagement of CGMS, as an entity in and of itself, in the follow-up actions resulting from WCC-3, it will be important to remain aware of both the status and progress of GFCS.

APPENDIX 1

WCC-3 HIGH-LEVEL DECLARATION

DO 1 We, Heads of State and Government, Ministers and Heads of Delegation present at the High-level Segment of the World Climate Conference-3 (WCC-3) in Geneva, noting the findings of the Expert Segment of the Conference;

OP 1 *Decide* to establish a Global Framework for Climate Services (hereafter referred to as "the Framework") to strengthen production, availability, delivery and application of science-based climate prediction and services;

OP 2 *Request* the Secretary-General of WMO to convene within four months of the adoption of the Declaration an intergovernmental meeting of member states of the WMO to approve the terms of reference and to endorse the composition of a task force of high-level, independent advisors to be appointed by the Secretary-General of the WMO with due consideration to expertise, geographical and gender balance;

OP 3 *Decide* that the task force will, after wide consultation with governments, partner organizations and relevant stakeholders, prepare a report, including recommendations on proposed elements of the Framework, to the Secretary-General of WMO within 12 months of the task force being set up. The report should contain findings and proposed next steps for developing and implementing a Framework. In the development of their report, the taskforce will take into account the concepts outlined in the annexed [Brief Note](#);

OP 4 *Decide* further that the report of the task force shall be circulated by the Secretary-General of WMO to Member States of the WMO for consideration at the next WMO Congress in 2011, with a view to the adoption of a Framework and a plan for its implementation; and

OP 5 *Invite* the Secretary-General of WMO to provide the report to relevant organizations, including the UN Secretary-General.

APPENDIX 2

**WCC-3 CONFERENCE STATEMENT
Summary of the Expert Segment**

In the 21st Century, the peoples of the world are facing multi-faceted challenges of climate variability and climate change, which requires wise and well-informed decisionmaking at every level from households, communities, countries and regions, to international fora, including the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Those decisions will require, directly or indirectly, access to the best possible climate science and information and effective application of this information through climate services.

The first two World Climate Conferences in 1979 and 1990 laid the foundation for building research and observational activities to understand the nature of the climate challenges and to provide the scientific bases for developing comprehensive and sound climate services that are now being sought by all countries and in virtually every sector of society. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and its partners convened the World Climate Conference-3 (WCC-3) to provide nations with the opportunity to jointly consider an appropriate global framework for climate services over the coming decades that would help ensure that every country and every climate-sensitive sector of society is well equipped to access and apply the growing array of climate prediction and information services made possible by recent and emerging developments in international climate science and technology.

The purpose of the Expert Segment of WCC-3 was to engage a wide cross-section of climate scientists, expert providers of climate information and the users of climate information and services in a wide-ranging discussion on the essential elements of a new Global Framework for Climate Services for consideration by the High-level Segment of the Conference.

The 200 speakers and 1500 participants in the Expert Segment:

- *reviewed* the various elements of the shared challenge facing the climate service provider and user communities;
- *considered* the needs and capabilities for applying climate information in key climate sensitive sectors, as well as its social economic benefits;
- *examined* the scientific basis for climate information and prediction services;
- *were advised* on the needs and perspectives of a number of scientific, environmental and socioeconomic groups and organisations;
- *were informed* of the experience of a wide range of countries and climate-sensitive sectors in the implementation of climate services;
- *concluded*:
 - that present capabilities to provide effective climate services fall far short of meeting present, and future needs and benefits, particularly in developing countries;
 - that the most urgent need is for much closer partnerships between the providers and users of climate services;

- that great scientific progress has been made especially by the World Climate Programme and its associated activities over the past 30 years, which provides already a firm basis for the delivery of a wide range of climate services; and
 - that major new and strengthened research efforts are required to increase the time-range and skill of climate prediction through new research and modeling initiatives; and to improve the observational basis for climate prediction and services, and the availability and quality control of climate data;
- *called for major strengthening* of the essential elements of a global framework for climate services:
 - The Global Climate Observing System and all its components and associated activities; and provision of free and unrestricted exchange and access to climate data;
 - The World Climate Research Programme, underpinned by adequate computing resources and increased interaction with other global climate relevant research initiatives.
 - Climate services information systems taking advantage of enhanced existing national and international climate service arrangements in the delivery of products, including sector-oriented information to support adaptation activities;
 - Climate user interface mechanisms focussed on building linkages and integrating information, at all levels, between the providers and users of climate services; and
 - Efficient and enduring capacity building through education, training, and strengthened outreach and communication.
 - *supported the development* of the proposed Global Framework for Climate Services.

The WCC-3 Sponsoring Agencies agreed, therefore, that the essential findings of the Expert Segment, as summarised in this Statement, should be transmitted to the High-level Segment of the Conference for the information of delegates and other Conference participants and referred to their individual and joint executive and co-ordination bodies for follow-up action in particular in the context of the UN Chief Executives' Board (CEB) initiative on the UN System Delivering as One on Climate Knowledge.