

**WMO OMM**

World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale

Secrétariat

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Annex: 1

Subject: Invitation to attend the Fourth Bureau Meeting of AMCOMET
(Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 21 September 2018)

Your Excellency,

On behalf of His Excellency, Mr Gilberto Correia Carvalho Silva, Bureau Chair of the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET) and Minister of Agriculture and Environment of the Republic of Cabo Verde and Her Excellency, Ms Josefa Lionel Sacko, African Union Commissioner for the Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture; I have the honour to invite you to the High Level Segment of the Fourth Meeting of the AMCOMET Bureau, which takes place on 21 September 2018 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. The meeting will be attended by Ministers Responsible for Meteorology of the Bureau Members, Heads of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and other invited officials.

Your Excellency may recall that during the Third Meeting of the AMCOMET Bureau, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 13 and 14 September 2017, one of the key decisions (Annex 1) was for the AMCOMET Secretariat to take the necessary steps to jointly organize the seventeenth Session of the WMO Regional Association I (RAI-17, Africa) and the Fourth Session of AMCOMET, and advise the Bureau on the outcomes of these consultations. To this effect, the Fourth Bureau Meeting is being convened to discuss, not only the outcomes of the consultations, but also to agree on the proposed format and agenda for the Fourth Session of AMCOMET, scheduled to be held in Cairo, Egypt, during the first quarter of 2019.

Your Excellency's participation at the High Level Segment of the Fourth Meeting of the AMCOMET Bureau is crucial in directing the AMCOMET agenda and ensuring it remains relevant as a high-level policy mechanism for the development of Weather and Climate Services and their application in Africa. This meeting will be preceded by a Technical Segment which will take place on 20 September 2018, attended by Technical Experts of the Bureau normally the Permanent Representatives with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and Heads of Regional Climate Centres (RCCs).

I would be grateful if you could communicate to the AMCOMET Secretariat (amcomet@wmo.int) with a copy to Ms Josine Umugwaneza (ajumugwaneza@wmo.int) the names of your delegation at your earliest convenience.

cc: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services) of Members of WMO (limited distribution)

I wish to thank you for your continued leadership to ensure AMCOMET fulfils its goals and objectives to make a significant contribution to improving the economies of Member States, the social well-being of communities including environmental conservation of the African Continent.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a series of fluid, connected strokes that form a stylized representation of the name P. Taalas.

(P. Taalas)
Secretary-General



Third Bureau Meeting of AMCOMET

AMCOMET BUREAU MINISTERIAL DECISIONS

Decision 1 – 2017/9: AMCOMET Governance

Recognizing the importance of ratifying the AMCOMET Constitution and providing financial support to show Member State commitment to the AMCOMET process, the Bureau **notes** the ratification of the Constitution by Tchad, Libya and Burkina Faso; and further **notes with appreciation** the financial support provided by Cabo Verde, Senegal, Mali, Kenya, Nigeria, Madagascar, Benin and Uganda; **requests** the AMCOMET Secretariat to continue liaising with Member States with regards to the ratification of the Constitution and request them to take necessary action to contribute annually to the operations and activities of the AMCOMET Secretariat, as outlined in the Praia Ministerial Declaration;

Further recognizing the necessity to keep the AMCOMET brand name, in particular as it relates to recognition, as well as the need to imbed AMCOMET as an African Union Structure, as a sub-committee of the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment; **strongly urge** the Bureau Chair to participate in the Second Conference of the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment, which takes place 2-6 October 2017 in Addis Ababa Ethiopia at the African Union Headquarters;

Decision 2 – 2017/9: Implementation and Resource Mobilization Plan

Having considered the Secretariat Report on AMCOMET activities since February 2015, the financial statement as well as the forward plan; **appreciates** the achievements in the development of National Strategic Plans for National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), Capacity Needs Assessments for Regional Climate Centres, among others; **also appreciates** the support of the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) in the validation of the National Strategic Plan Template and Guide;

Notes the progress of the African Space Programme and the Climate Research for Development in Africa; **further appreciates** the resource mobilization efforts and requests the AMCOMET Secretariat to keep the Bureau abreast of the evolution of the partnership with Department for International Development (DFID) under the Weather and Climate Information Services for Africa (WISER) Programme, in particular the implementation of the Aircraft Meteorological Data Relay (AMDAR) Programme in Kenya and the High Impact Weather Lake System (Highway) Programme;

Recognises the efforts of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) Secretary General and ECCAS Ministerial Conference on Meteorology on the progress made in the establishment and operationalization of the Climate Application and Prediction Center of Central Africa, **notes with appreciation** the support provided by

the African Development Bank, through the Satellite and Weather Information for Disaster Resilience in Africa (SAWIDRA) Programme, and **further encourages** the ECCAS Secretary General and ECCAS Ministerial Conference on Meteorology and relevant partners to continue with the momentum by mobilizing human and natural resources for the Centre's effective functioning;

Decision 3 – 2017/9: Emerging Issues

Recognizing with appreciation that African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) is a pan-African, multi-functional Regional Climate Centre, designated as a WMO Regional Climate Centre, responsible for developing regional long-range forecasts and forecasting of significant weather events over the continent; **acknowledging** the governance challenges ACMAD is currently facing; **and further recognizing** the urgent need for an institution to provide tutelage to support and sustain the important regional functions of ACMAD;

Noting the role of UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) in the establishment of ACMAD, UNECA acknowledges that as a mature initiative, ACMAD should develop appropriate management and governance systems to facilitate carrying out its mandate in an increasingly complex environment; **acknowledges with appreciation** the proposal from UNECA to be part of the Governance of ACMAD;

Requests the African Union Commission, with the support of the AMCOMET Secretariat, to explore the possibility of affiliating ACMAD as the meteorological (weather and climate) technical arm of the African Union Commission and present findings during the Fourth Session of AMCOMET;

Takes note of the recommendation of the Regional Association to designate AGRHYMET Centre as the Regional Climate Centre for West Africa; **acknowledges with appreciation** the on-going technical consultations and agreement in-principle to establish AGRHYMET as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Regional Climate Centre;

Urges Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) / AGRHYMET to continue consultations with ECOWAS to address governance and resource issues; **requests** WMO and AMCOMET to support AGRHYMET in the designation process as a WMO RCC; and **further requests** ECOWAS to take the necessary steps to endorse AGRHYMET as the Regional Climate Centre for the sub-region and present the status during the Fourth Session of AMCOMET;

Acknowledging that the growth of private sector involvement in all aspects of meteorological and hydrological services are substantially expanding both opportunities and risks for all players, especially the NMHSs, within the global weather enterprise; **convinced** that there is a need to build understanding and enhance cooperation among the public and private stakeholders to sustain and expand the weather enterprise for the benefit of African communities; **further convinced** that WMO has a critical role in facilitating public private engagements; **advises** NMHSs to call upon WMO and AMCOMET to support the development of partnerships with the private sector;

Recognizing the potential opportunities and challenges of private sector participation in the production and delivery of public goods, including climate information and services, **notes with appreciation** the proposal from UNECA, through the African Climate Policy Center (ACPC) to carry out a study on the implications of the privatization of climate services and **invites** ACPC to present its findings during the Fourth Session of AMCOMET;

Requests all Ministers Responsible for Meteorology, with the support of the AUC, to increase awareness and promote the engagement of public entities with private sector

and highlight the following guiding principles; namely to create **shared value** and seek “win-win” situations, in a **level playing field**, whereby both public entities and businesses can recognize the opportunities for innovation and growth in helping solve societal challenges; seek engagement opportunities where both sectors can provide leadership on matters critical to **sustainability** of the weather enterprise that also bridge existing gaps and enhance capacity of developing countries, Least Developing Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS); **transparency** whereby information on the nature and scope of major arrangements should be available within the concerned entities and to the public at large; and **sovereignty** whereby private sector engagements take into consideration the rights of sovereign states, as per the UN Charter on Equality on Nation States;

Noting the need for policy and decision makers participating at the UNFCCC Conference of Parties and at Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to have technical and scientific advice for informed decision-making; **requests** the Ministers Responsible for Meteorology to urge Ministers Responsible for Environment and other relevant stakeholders to ensure the participation of Directors of NMHSs, as Technical Advisors to these important meetings; **further requests** that IPCC Focal Points be domiciled in the NMHSs;

Noting the Report of the Management Group of WMO Regional Association I (Africa), while acknowledging the progress made and taking into consideration the continued challenges that some countries in the region still face with regards to Quality Management System (QMS) for aeronautical meteorological services, Competency Assessment of meteorological personnel and cost recovery, as well as data rescue;

Further noting the strong relationship between NMHSs in West and Central Africa, and Agency for Aerial Navigation Safety in Africa (ASECNA) as well as the collaborative effort made in building capacity in NMHSs;

Request Member States of the Agency for ASECNA and similar bodies, to develop national mechanisms to provide financial resources and assistance to NMHSs; and **further request** the designation of national focal points for an effective coordination between ASECNA, International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), WMO and NMHSs in the delivery of aviation meteorological services;

Noting also that a number of NMHSs in Africa had transformed into autonomous agencies and/or authorities and that consequently they had improved efficiency and effectiveness in operations and service delivery; **urge** Member States to support NMHSs in their transformation process through appropriate legislation;

Noting the specific challenges of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the urgent need to improve their capacities for early warning and to deliver climate services for socio-economic sectors with focus on services for the maritime sector for the development of the blue economy initiatives;

Requests AMCOMET to recognize the contribution of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) as a Regional Inter-governmental organization towards the improvement of meteorological services of the Western Indian Ocean Island States;

Through the AMCOMET platform, **request** to further strengthen the collaboration between the IOC, WMO with the AUC, Regional Climate Centers and Pan African Partners to enhance climate services notable on ocean, coastal and marine services for the Western Indian Ocean Island States;

Acknowledges the continued efforts of NMHSs to support the establishment of the International Center for Climate and Applied Research of Africa and the Community of

Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP) (CIICLAA) to become a Regional Climate Center for SIDS and Portuguese speaking countries in Africa; **requests** AMCOMET and WMO to recognize CICLAA as a Regional Climate Centre and provide the necessary technical support to enable it to perform its mandate;

Decision 4 – 2017/9: Fourth Session of AMCOMET

Acknowledging the need to organize the WMO's Regional Association I Meeting in conjunction with the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology to increase visibility and awareness of the important work of NMHSs; **requests** the AMCOMET Secretariat and WMO to take the necessary steps to jointly organize the 17th Session of WMO Regional Association I (Africa) and the Fourth Session of AMCOMET, and advise the Bureau on the outcomes of these consultations;

Decision 5 – 2017/9: Partners in support of AMCOMET and the implementation of the Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology (Weather and Climate Services)

Encouraged and notes with appreciation the strong show of support by political, technical and development partners and initiatives such as the Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI), African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN), Department for International Development (DFID), World Bank, African Development Bank, UK Met Office (MO), International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI), Regional Centre For Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD), European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT), IPCC Working Group 1, Météo France, Walker Institute, Inter-ministerial Conference on Health and Environment, and Kenya Airways;

Recognizing the role of civil societies, such as the Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, Care International, SIDS Youth AIMS Hub (SYAH) and other local actors in providing appropriate climate services to support community resilience in Africa;

Urge development partners, such as the African Development Bank, the World Bank and other relevant partners, to support the modernization of hydromet systems, according to the needs and priorities expressed by Member States;

Requests the AMCOMET Secretariat, in collaboration with the African Union Commission and the WMO, to take the necessary steps to concretize new partnerships and continue collaboration with existing partners to achieve the goals articulated in the Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology (Weather and Climate Services) and the overall objectives of the AMCOMET platform;

Further encouraged by the upcoming implementation of the High Impact Weather Lake System (Highway) Programme in partnership with the East Africa Community (EAC), DFID, MO and NMHSs of EAC Partner States; **requests** the AMCOMET Bureau Chair to officially launch the Highway Programme during the Ministerial Segment of the Inaugural AMCOMET Africa Hydromet Forum taking place on 14 – 15 September 2017, at the AUC Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Endorsed by AMCOMET Bureau Ministers, 14 September 2017