

WMO OMM

WEATHER CLIMATE WATER
TEMPS CLIMAT EAU



World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale
Organización Meteorológica Mundial
Всемирная метеорологическая организация
المنظمة العالمية للأرصاد الجوية
世界气象组织

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29 January 2019

Annex: 1

Subject: Invitation for participation in the workshop to advance the WMO Country Support Initiative in Geneva, Switzerland, 28 February - 1 March 2019

Action required: To confirm your availability on or **before 15 February 2019** to attend the workshop

Dear Sir/Madam,

You are cordially invited to attend a workshop co-hosted by the WMO Secretariat and Switzerland (MeteoSwiss and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation) to advance the WMO Country Support Initiative. The workshop will take place in Geneva on 28 February and 1 March 2019.

The WMO Country Support Initiative is being developed as an innovative vehicle to enhance support to the developing countries in implementing the WMO Strategic Plan, and specifically the Strategic Objective 4.3 to scale up effective partnerships in order to close the capacity gap on weather, climate and hydrological services. To achieve this objective, the Country Support Initiative seeks to increase effectiveness of hydromet investments in developing countries through providing technical support and fostering innovation to address financing needs for observations and sustained operational systems.

The workshop follows the initial workshop hosted by the UK Met Office in Exeter on 6 and 7 September 2018 which developed the approach and initial concept of the WMO Country Support Initiative. The purpose of this second workshop is: (i) to finalize approach, areas of support and delivery principles of the WMO Country Support Initiative, and (ii) to advance operational arrangements and agree on next steps towards the envisioned launch of the Initiative in 2019. These activities will be carried out in collaboration with National Meteorological and Hydrological Services from developed and developing countries and international development partners.

You will be provided with the full programme of these events and information about logistics in due course. Should you have any questions in the meantime, please feel free to contact Ms Leontine Kanziemo by email: ikanziemo@wmo.int.

I very much hope that you can accept this invitation and look forward to receiving confirmation of your participation or that of your representative at your earliest convenience but **no later than 15 February 2019**, by email: ikanziemo@wmo.int.

Yours faithfully,

(P. Taalas)
Secretary-General

To: Presidents of Regional Associations I, II, III, IV and V

Ref.: 35088/2019-1.22 CER/DPO

WMO Country Support Initiative

Closing the capacity gap: Increasing development effectiveness of hydromet investments

Ref.: 35088/2018-1.22 CER/DPO

Executive summary

This note provides an **outline of the planned WMO Country Support Initiative**, reflecting discussions at the first design workshop hosted by UK Met Office on 6-7 September 2018 in Exeter. The workshop brought together 30+ representatives from developed country National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and international development partners, including the World Bank, the Green Climate Fund (GCF), and bilateral partners. Participants significantly revised the initial concept.

The WMO Country Support Initiative is expected to become an important **building block of the Alliance for Hydromet Development**. The creation of the Alliance is spearheaded by the World Bank and WMO, and both institutions committed at the World Bank Group Annual Meetings in Bali in October 2018 to establish the Alliance within one year. The Alliance is expected to create a framework and commitment for scaled-up, coordinated and sustained hydromet development.

The Initiative is being designed as a **new vehicle aimed at supporting developing countries in implementing the WMO 2020-2023 Strategic Plan** that has as a Strategic Objective to close the capacity gap on weather, climate and hydrological services through effective partnerships.

The WMO Country Support Initiative seeks to increase development effectiveness of hydromet investments¹ in developing countries. For this purpose, the Initiative will provide technical support beyond projects and foster innovation to address financing needs for observations and sustained operational systems. More specifically, the Initiative will support developing country NMHSs and their international development partners in

- creating an **enabling environment for sustainable hydromet investments**, including supporting NMHSs in coordinating international partners' support;
- providing **WMO technical review of project proposals** promoted by countries and international development partners. WMO will review how the planned projects systemically strengthen operational systems, service delivery and NMHS capacity. Several partners, including GCF and UNDP have requested such support;

¹ The term "hydromet investments" refers to investments that strengthen meteorological, climatological, and hydrological capacity and services.

- connecting the capacity development dots by providing **short-term capacity gap filling support, longer-term mentoring, and creating the knowledge platform of the Alliance for Hydromet Development** with the Country Profile Database providing its foundation;
- exploring **country-tailored public-private engagement opportunities** to support developing countries in translating into practice the WMO Policy Framework on Public-Private Engagement, adopted by EC 70 in June 2018;
- exploring **innovative and sustainable financing options for observations and operational systems.**

The WMO Country Support Initiative will provide **demand-driven, complementary and rapid response support. Resources from the Country Support Initiative will only be drawn upon when no other funding source is available.**

Support will be provided through the **WMO Advisory Service Mechanism** that aims at harnessing knowledge and expertise from the vast WMO institutional network in a structured and efficient manner.

The Initiative seeks to **mobilize resources from bilateral partners** to provide support to developing country NMHSs.

It is envisioned to **launch** the Country Support Initiative during the eighteenth **World Meteorological Congress** in **June 2019.**
