



WMO OMM

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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20 May 2020

Annex: 1 (available in English only)

Subject: Climate Coordination Panel (CCP) mechanism for WMO contributions to the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), 4 and 5 June 2020, virtual sessions

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Climate Coordination Panel (CCP) mechanism for WMO contributions to the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) will convene in two, two-hour, virtual sessions, on 4 and 5 June. These sessions will be preceded by asynchronous participant review of prepared written, power point and videotaped materials. More information regarding the meeting format and background is provided in the attached concept note.

The first session will open at 8 a.m. CEST, on Thursday, 4 June 2020 and the second session will open at 4 p.m. CEST, on Friday, 5 June 2020. Both sessions will be held in English only. Documents for the meeting will be uploaded as they become available on the WMO website:

<https://community.wmo.int/meetings/climate-coordination-panel-mechanism-wmo-contributions-gfcs-online>

For further information, please contact Ms Nadia Oppliger (noppliger@wmo.int) the Assistant in charge of this meeting.

I am confident that this meeting will be a fundamental step in the implementation of the WMO reform and therefore, I warmly invite you to participate actively in it.

Yours faithfully,

(E. Manaenkova)
for the Secretary-General

To: Presidents and vice-presidents of the technical commissions;
Presidents of regional associations; Chairperson and vice-chairperson of the Research Board;
Chairpersons of any other bodies established by Congress or Executive Council;
Chairpersons of other WMO sponsored and co-sponsored technical bodies identified by the President;
Infrastructure and Services Commissions Chairperson and/ or vice-chairperson of Standing Committees and Study Groups;
Regional Associations Working Groups on Climate;
Members of ad-Hoc Task Force on Seasonal Forecasting;
PAC members;
(limited distribution)



World Meteorological Organization

CCP-WMO-GFCS-2020/INF.1

CLIMATE COORDINATION PANEL

Mechanism for WMO contributions to the GFCS

12.V.2020

Geneva, 4 and 5 June 2020

8:00 – 10:00 am and 16:00-18:00

Ref.: 09498/2020-1.5 S/CS

Background and concept note

The Climate Coordination Panel (CCP) mechanism for WMO contributions to the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) will convene in two, two-hour, virtual sessions, on 4 and 5 June. These sessions will be preceded by asynchronous participant review of prepared written, powerpoint and videotaped materials.

The meeting will identify contributions and actions to be taken by regional associations, technical commissions, programmes and partners to strengthen operationalization of the Climate Services Information System on sub-regional scales (CSIS-R), taking account of COVID-19 impacts. Areas of activity are outlined in a project proposal focused on operationalization of objective seasonal forecasts and tailored products on sub-regional scales in support of country-level service delivery.

Follow-up to the meeting will be pursued on two tracks:

- Actions that can be implemented or enhanced immediately on sub-regional scales, through on-going activities of Regional Climate Outlook Forums (RCOFs), Regional Climate Centres (RCCs), NMHSs, partners and projects
- Follow-up through formal constituent body processes, such as regional association sessions and by technical commissions and the research board, coordinated by the Technical Coordination Committee.

This note provides brief background on the antecedents to the meeting and additional explanation on the preparations and format.

Background

Decision 16 (EC-68) established a Country-Focused Results-Based Framework and Mechanism for WMO Contributions to the GFCS. From 2016 to 2019 this Mechanism convened eight times through the regular meetings of the presidents of regional association and presidents of technical commissions under the chairpersonship of the WMO President. Regional association working groups on climate and the GFCS undertook an in-depth assessment of progress and constraints in the implementation of WMO contributions to the GFCS in each region, leading to the formulation of a checklist for Member climate services implementation. The checklist itemizes 137 functional capacities, spanning the entire climate services value-chain. To date 148 Members have completed it. The data are being incorporated into the WMO community platform. In addition to guiding climate services implementation by the Members themselves, the checklist allows a preliminary determination of whether a given Member is providing climate services at the basic, full, or advanced levels, based on criteria developed by the Commission for Climatology (CCI) endorsed by the Mechanism for this purpose. Additional efforts to obtain missing Member data are on-going.

In 2019, at the invitation of the Conference of the Parties serving of the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, WMO submitted a global report to COP 25 on the State of Climate Services for the GFCS agriculture and food security priority area. The report received widespread interest. It summarizes the percentages of Members that are providing climate services at the basic, essential, full and advanced levels in each region based on the checklist and analyzes the results. Findings include a need to improve documentation of socio-economic benefits from climate services and to strengthen the operational systems that underpin the provision of such services.¹

The operational system underpinning the provision of climate services is the CSIS. Previous meetings of the Mechanism have noted, inter alia:

- The relevance of the RCCs and RCOFs in strengthening CSIS operationalization on sub-regional scales in support of country-level service delivery
- The advantages of initially focusing on strengthening operationalization of seasonal forecasts and associated tailored products, given the decades of experience in this area acquired through the now 20+ RCOF processes worldwide, as an entry point for further operationalization of a wider diversity of products and services, including on sub-seasonal and climate change timescales
- The key roles of regional associations in supporting this process.

The meetings called on regional associations and technical commissions to prepare plans for providing the necessary support.

In June 2019, Resolution 20 (Cg-18) established the CCP. The CCP mandate includes coordination of WMO contributions to the provision of policy- and decision-supporting climate information and services in support of country-level service delivery by Members, taking into account the extant mechanism for WMO contributions to the GFCS.

Preparations and format of the current meeting

Preparations

In line with the findings and decisions of the previous meetings of the Mechanism for WMO contributions to the GFCS, and following Cg-18 restructuring of WMO constituent bodies, the Secretariat prepared a proposal for integrating the contributions of CCP members for the purpose of strengthening operationalization of the CSIS on sub-regional scales ("CSIS-R"). The proposal focuses on operationalization of objective regional seasonal forecasts and associated tailored products, based on *Guidance on Operational Practices for Objective Seasonal Forecasting*, currently in press. The Guidance was prepared by the CBS/CCI Inter-Programme Expert Team on Operational Predictions on Sub-seasonal to Longer-time Scales (IPET-OPSLS)

¹ A 2020 report on the State of Climate Services for disaster risk management and early warning is in preparation. Contributors, who also contributed to the 2019 report, as well as new ones, include the the Green Climate Fund, the Adaptation Fund, the Global Environment Facility, the World Bank, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Food Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Health Organization, the Group on Earth Observations, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Agence Française de Développement, the Climate Policy Initiative's climate finance programme and the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) and Risk-informed Early Action Partnership (REAP) initiatives.

with active engagement of the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) Working Group on Sub-seasonal to Inter-decadal Prediction (WGSIP).

As the Guidance was nearing completion, the Secretariat convened an ad hoc task force on objective regional seasonal forecasting to explore the practicalities of putting it into practice in selected sub-regions, using the RCOFs as organizing platforms. The ad hoc task force included IPET-OPSLS members and representatives of advanced NMHSs and RCCs, specialized institutions, and from CHy, to connect to on-going work on seasonal hydrological forecast operationalization. The task force identified a set of sub-regions in which there was already sufficient progress, interest, and extra-budgetary funding for replacing prevailing subjective seasonal forecast methods with operational, objective forecast systems. Steering committees were established for this purpose for GHACOF, SASCOF, PRESSAS, ASEANCOF, PICOOF and WSACOF, consisting of representatives of the respective RCCs, RAs, NMHSs, and local experts as well as ad hoc task force members. Progress was immediately realized when, in May 2019, GHACOF 52 released the first fully objective seasonal forecast ever to be generated by an RCOF in RA I, obtained by averaging multi-model ensemble and statistical model outputs.

Based on this experience, and progress in other sub-regions, the ad hoc task force and participating RCCs and RCOFs identified eight steps for putting objective forecasts and associated tailored products into operation. Some sub-regions, including GHACOF and SASCOF, have documented their progress in these areas. The steering committees that have been formed for each of the participating RCOFs will be able to use these steps to develop standard operating procedures for forecast and tailored product generation, tailored to their regions. The same steps are elaborated in a table at the end of a proposal prepared for the current meeting (see attached materials), identifying which bodies can provide associated guidance and support for implementation of each.

Format of the meeting

The meeting format is virtual and consists of three blocks. The first, which is asynchronous, will take place from 25 May-3 June. During this block, participants will be able to review posted materials, including powerpoints and videotaped presentations. These are expected to include an introduction to the *Guidance on Operational Practices for Objective Seasonal Forecasting*, selected RCC/RCOF reports on the status of implementation and on COVID-19 impacts on operations and service delivery, and an overview of the proposal for operationalization of objective seasonal forecasts and tailored products on sub-regional scales with country-level service delivery. Two video-conference segments, from 0800-1000 and 1600-1800 CEST on 4 and 5 June, will accommodate participants across a -8 to +11 hour time zone spread. The video-conference segments will be mostly “fishbowl” format, with specific participants invited to address specific questions. The WMO President will Chair; the Deputy Director of the Services Department in charge of Climate will moderate. The first will include a review and overview of the prepared materials, a panel discussion on operationalization considerations, followed by prepared interventions of 3-5 minutes each on needs and contributions by representatives of regional associations, technical commissions, the research board, programmes, and partners. These will continue into the second virtual session, followed by an open discussion, wrap-up and next steps.