



Ref.: 27299/2022-1.4 S/CS

Our ref.: 27299/2022/S/RCP

11 November 2022

Annex: 1

Subject: Introductory Forum for National Climate Services Information System (CSIS) Focal Points of WMO Regional Association V (RA V), 23-24 November 2022

Action required: **Confirm your participation at the above-mentioned Forum preferably by 16 November 2022**

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Climate Services Information System (CSIS) is the principal mechanism of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) to routinely collate, store and process information about past, present and future climate. It comprises a physical infrastructure of institutes, centres and computer capabilities that, together with professional human resources develop, generate and distribute a wide range of climate information products and services to inform complex decision-making processes across a wide range of climate-sensitive activities.

WMO Congress and Executive Council recognizing that the CSIS implementation at the national level requires coordination and communication both within the countries and with regional and global entities of the System, and recommended to establish a network of National CSIS Focal Points (NCFPs). Their role is essential to ensure the alignment of climate services developed by National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) with the WMO guidelines on climate services, and to address the required actions arising from the decisions of relevant WMO Constituent Bodies, including WMO Technical Commissions, the Executive Council and the WMO Congress.

Given the recent remarkable progress in climate services, including operationalization of CSIS, WMO in collaboration with the Expert Team on Climate Services Information System Operations (ET-CSISO) of the Standing Committee on Climate Services (SC-CLI) under the WMO Commission for Weather, Climate, Water and Related Environmental Services and Applications (SERCOM) initiated a series of introductory Forums for NCFPs for each of the WMO Regional Associations (RAs). The main objective is to update NCFPs on recent developments, and to actively engage them in CSIS implementation at the national level.

I am pleased to inform you that the Introductory Forum for NCFPs of the WMO Regional Association V (South-West Pacific) will be held online on 23 - 24 November 2022, from 04:00 to 07:00 AM CET (16:00 - 19:00 Apia, Samoa time). The forum will bring together NCFPs of the WMO RA V, members of the RA V Working Group on Services and Expert Team on Climate Services, experts of ET-CSISO, other invited experts. More details on the Forum are provided in the attached Concept Note.

I am further pleased to invite you to participate in the forum in your capacity as a National CSIS Focal Point. I would appreciate it if you could confirm your participation to Ms. Anahit Hovsepyan (ahovsepyan@wmo.int) at your earliest convenience, but not later than **16 November 2022**.

To: National Climate Services Information System (CSIS) Focal Point of WMO Regional Association V
cc: Permanent Representatives of Members with WMO (limited distribution)

The agenda and information about logistical arrangements will be provided in due time. For further information, please contact Mr Wilfran Moufouma Okia (wmokia@wmo.int), Head, Regional Climate Prediction services (RCP) Division and Ms Anahit Hovsepyan (ahovsepyan@wmo.int), Scientific Officer, RCP Division at the WMO Secretariat and Mr Simon McGree (simon.mcgree@bom.gov.au), at ET-CSISO.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support to WMO activities on climate services and look forward to your active participation in and contribution to the Forum.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Stander', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr Johan Stander
Director
Services Department

Concept Note

Introductory Forum of National Climate Services Information System (CSIS) Focal Points Online session

23 – 24 November 2022

Background

The Climate Services Information System (CSIS) is the principal mechanism of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) to routinely collate, store and process information about past, present and future climate. It comprises a physical infrastructure of institutes, centres and computer capabilities that, together with professional human resources develop, generate and distribute a wide range of climate information products and services to inform complex decision-making processes across a wide range of climate-sensitive activities.

The implementation strategy of the CSIS is based on a three-tiered structure of collaborating institutions at the global, regional and national levels that will ensure climate information and products are generated, exchanged and disseminated.

WMO Congress and Executive Council recognized that the CSIS implementation at the national level requires coordination and communication both within the countries and with regional and global entities of the System. Therefore, it was recommended to establish a network of National CSIS Focal Points (NCFPs), who will:

- act as the primary contact points for the implementation of the System at the national level, including for the relevant interactions with WMO bodies and relevant entities;
- review the emerging features of CSIS within the implementation of the GFCS at the national level;
- promote the generation and dissemination of climate information and services at the national level, and facilitate access to and use of global and regional climate information, and to enhance user interface mechanisms; and
- strengthen national CSIS mechanisms including through the identification of capacity development needs

The Terms of Reference (ToR) of the CSIS Focal Points approved by the EC at its 70 session ([Annex to Resolution 5 \(EC-70\)](#)) provides a list of key functions that the Focal Points should carry out.

Introductory Forum of National CSIS Focal Points

Since 2019, WMO Secretariat has made a great effort to pursue the designation of Focal Points, and as of 23 September 2022, the network comprises 175 designated NCFPs from 169 countries (<https://community.wmo.int/activity-areas/climate/csis/national-csis-focal-points>). Their role is essential to ensure the alignment of climate services of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) with the WMO guidelines on various aspects of climate services, and to address the required actions arising from the decisions of relevant WMO Constituent Bodies, including WMO Technical Commissions, the Executive Council (EC) and the WMO Congress (Cg).

Furthermore, there has been remarkable progress in various activities related to climate services, including the operationalization of CSIS, implementation of a Quality Management System (QMS) in Climate Services, enhanced visibility, effectiveness and implementation of the Global Framework for Climate Services, as well as unprecedented response to the WMO Checklist on Implementation of Climate Services.

Given the above mentioned, WMO initiates a series of introductory Forums for NCFPs for each of the WMO Regional Associations (RAs), to update them on recent developments, and to actively engage them in CSIS implementation at the national level through linkages to the regional and global systems and entities.

Key objectives and outcomes of the Forum

It is expected that the Forum will:

- a. Raise awareness on the key concepts related to climate services,
- b. Facilitate Members' contribution to sessions of the WMO Constituent bodies, including the Commission for Weather, Climate, Water and Related Environmental Services & Applications (Services Commission or SERCOM);
- c. Facilitate regular updates of WMO Checklist for Climate Services Implementation;
- d. Improve understanding of WMO Quality Management System (QMS);
- e. Raise awareness on WMO activities and projects related to climate services in the relevant sub-regions, RAs.

Participants

The participants of the Forum include all nominated National CSIS Focal Points of the concerned WMO RA, members of RA subsidiary body(ies) dealing with climate services, experts of relevant Expert Teams of WMO Technical Commission(s), invited Subject Matter Experts (SME), staff from relevant units at the WMO Secretariat.

Format and key agenda items

The 2-day Forum will be held virtually through Zoom (3 hours per day), with English as the working language.

The Forum will comprise presentations by the experts of relevant Expert Teams of WMO Technical Commissions, including the Expert Team on CSIS Operations (ET-CSISO) (SERCOM), other Subject Matter Experts, and WMO Secretariat staff on the following topics related to climate services:

- a. Global Framework for Climate Services Next Generation (Resolution 1 (EC-75))
- b. Climate Services Information System (CSIS): the operational core of the Global Framework for Climate Services GFCS (concept, key functions, operationalization)
- c. The WMO Commission for Weather, Climate, Water and Related Environmental Services & Applications (Services Commission or SERCOM), including the SERCOM-2, 17 – 21 October 2022
- d. WMO Checklist for Climate Services Implementation: the goal, objectives, status of completion, and regular updates
- e. Quality Management System (QMS) and integration of a QMS approach to enable the effective and efficient delivery of climate services
- f. WMO activities and projects related to climate services in the relevant sub-regions, RAs

There will be a moderated open discussion by the end of each session to answer the participants' questions.

Annex to Resolution 5 (EC-70)

Recommendations of the Commission for Climatology at its seventeenth session

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL,

Having considered Commission for Climatology: Abridged Final Report of the Seventeenth Session (WMO-No. 1216),

Decides to endorse the report and to take action on the recommendations in it as follows:

(12) Recommendation 12 (CCI-17) – National focal points of the Climate Services Information System

- (a) Approves the recommendation;
- (b) Approves the terms of reference for national focal points of CSIS presented in the annex to the present resolution;
- (c) Urges Members to establish national focal points of CSIS and facilitate their work in meeting their terms of reference;
- (d) Requests the Secretary-General to support the provision of the necessary guidance, tools and training for the national focal points of CSIS, in close coordination with CCI and GFCS.

Annex to Resolution 5 (EC-70)

NATIONAL FOCAL POINTS OF THE CLIMATE SERVICES INFORMATION SYSTEM

TERMS OF REFERENCE

National Focal Points of the Climate Services Information System (CSIS) are closely engaged with technical aspects of climate services implementation at the national level. Their designation does not supersede other technical focal points working on other technical aspects.

Key functions include:

(1) Facilitate the functioning of the mechanism for WMO contributions to the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) and the activities including to:

(a) engage with partner organizations seeking to support the implementation of climate services,

(b) implement the activities and outputs of the country-focused results based framework for WMO contributions to the GFCS Objective 1 (Institutional, technical, financial and human resources mobilized for climate services planning, implementation and results monitoring targeting climate-sensitive national priorities),

(c) prepare products relevant for high-level climate-related policy processes and United Nations system joint action, such as catalogues of high-impact events for tracking associated losses and damage, preparation of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement, and National Climate Monitoring Products,

(d) keep under review the emerging features of the CSIS within the implementation of the GFCS at the national level and regularly report on the status and priority needs through updates to the checklist for climate services and WMO surveys contained in the WMO Country Profile Database,

(e) prepare short- and long-term action plans for national level implementation of the CSIS,

(f) monitor capacity needs for CSIS operationalization and identify, and coordinate access to, relevant capacity development resources to address those needs, including through staff training, twinning arrangements with advanced services and expert deployments, national deployment of the Climate Services Toolkit (CST), and engagement with Regional Climate Centres (RCCs) and Regional Climate Forums (RCFs),

(2) Act as the primary contact point for liaising with WMO entities engaged in supporting climate services implementation at the national level – e.g. WMO and co-sponsored programmes, technical commission focal points, regional association working groups and focal points on climate and the GFCS, RCCs, and Global Producing Centres (GPCs) – and promote the alignment of the contributions of these entities towards addressing national climate services related technical priorities and needs.