



World Meteorological Organization  
Organisation météorologique mondiale

Secrétariat

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Weather • Climate • Water  
Temps • Climat • Eau

Our ref.: SG/CER/UNGA

GENEVA, 3 July 2014

Annex: 1

Subject: Report on the 68th regular session of the UN General Assembly

Action required: To take note of the report and of the resolutions relevant to WMO and NMHSs, which will be referenced to in the EC-66/Doc. 4.7 on Partnership and to take follow-up actions as appropriate

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to draw your attention to the 68<sup>th</sup> regular session of the UN General Assembly, and to the resolutions relevant to WMO and NMHSs, which will be referenced to in the EC-66/Doc. 4.7 on Partnership.

I hope you will find this information useful, and I can ensure you that WMO Secretariat will take appropriate actions for their implementation and follow-up across WMO Programmes as appropriate.

Yours faithfully,

A blue ink signature, likely of the Secretary-General, M. Jarraud, written over a horizontal line.

(M. Jarraud)  
Secretary-General

To: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services) of Members of WMO (PR-6779)

cc: Hydrological Advisers to Permanent Representatives

**Summary Report of the 68th General Assembly Key debates and resultant UN Resolutions with implications for WMO Members**

The WMO Secretary-General Mr Michel Jarraud and other Senior WMO Officials participated in the 68th Session of the General Assembly High-level segment and the following General Assembly debates. The United Nations Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki Moon emphasized the following priorities for the coming year. During the 68th session of the UN General Assembly there will be a focus on how to accelerate achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as the 2015 deadline approaches. Intensification of efforts to define a post-2015 development agenda, including with a single set of goals for sustainable development that will address the complex challenges of this new era and capture the imagination of the people of the world, as the MDGs did. The President of the 68<sup>th</sup> Session John Ashe's (Antigua and Barbuda) choice of theme for the general debate: "setting the stage" for the post-2015 agenda has outlined a set of six thematic issues upon which he intends to convene his high-level events and thematic debates during the sixty-eighth session. The UN Secretary-General announced his intention to convene a high-level summit meeting on 'Climate' with invitations to world leaders to encourage a global legally binding agreement on Climate Change in 2015. WMO indicated strong support to the success of this initiative.

**World Leaders emphasizing the Issue of Climate Change in the 68th Session General Debate High Level Segment and WMO participation:**

The 2014 International Year, and the Third International Conference on Small Island developing States to be held in Apia, Samoa, will offer strong opportunities to focus international attention on the unique needs of island nations. WMO will have a strong participation to the SIDS conference especially in relation to regionally focused Climate Services initiatives. The debate focused on the diverse concerns of Eurasian countries, some of which were acutely feeling the effects of climate change. For Small Island Developing States, the devastating impacts of climate change struck at the very heart of their survival, and without renewed political efforts to mitigate their reach, those nations would continue to suffer dramatic setbacks in their economic and social well-being, several world leaders warned. The meeting urged world leaders to make climate change a top priority on the next global development agenda. Leaders fully supported the UN Secretary-General's proposal to convene a Climate Summit in 2014 to focus political attention on the severity of the issue. Focusing on finances, the debate highlighted some commitment to addressing climate change, renewable energy and sustainable development. Fulfillment of financial pledges had not kept pace with the climate change-induced impacts on Small Island Developing States.

**Water, Sanitation and Sustainable Energy in the Post-2015 Development Agenda:**

UN-Water Chair Mr Jarraud and WMO officials participated in these important discussions at UN HQ. Important remarks on issues of extreme poverty and water and sanitation were made. Eradicating extreme poverty is the world's most urgent priority, sustainable development the guide. Universal access to safe water, sanitation and energy will be critical. In the poorest communities around the world, hundreds of millions of people, especially women and children, spend hours each day collecting firewood and water. Access to safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene must feature prominently in the post-2015 development agenda. Participants called for improvement of water quality and the management of water resources and wastewater. Climate change will exacerbate water stress and scarcity in many regions. If the current warming trend continues, it will undermine efforts to provide universal and equitable access to water and energy.

## **Selected UN General Assembly Resolutions adopted in the 68<sup>th</sup> session and connections to WMO Strategic and Programme Priorities:**

The following 28 United Nations resolutions adopted during the 68<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly which have been identified as possessing some relevance and linkages with existing WMO priorities and Secretariat activities are mentioned below:

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Committee and Plenary Sessions:**

**Resolution 68/239 C2** Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat.) This UN resolution has close linkages with WMO Programmes and activities related to climate and urban development. WMO is participating in the preparation of the Habitat III Conference and Climate Summit preparations which have important elements of city planning and impacts of extreme weather, especially flooding.

**Resolution 68/238 C2** Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. This resolution is the baseline for the development of further actions for SIDS. This action is closely connected to WMO development partnership activities and capacity building including connection to the GFCS.

**Resolution 68/234 C2** Towards global partnerships: a principle-based approach to enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners. Links to WMO partnership building and external relations, especially in relation to future implementation of development activities.

**Resolution 68/233 C2** Agriculture development, food security and nutrition. This resolution clearly links to WMO climate, water and food security activities and recent GFCS developments in relation to food security.

**Resolution 68/232 C2** World Soil Day and International Year of Soils This resolution has good linkages with drought early warning, land degradation and UNCCD activities.

**Resolution 68/231 C2** International Year of Pulses, 2016 links to WMO climate, water and food security GFCS activities.

**Resolution 68/230 C2** South-South cooperation. This action has links to regional partnership building and capacity development with WMO NMHSs

**Resolution 68/227 C2** Women in development. This resolution has some important connections related to WMO Gender Activities and future WMO Conference of Role of Gender in Weather.

**Resolution 68/226 C2** Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017) This resolution has some important links to WMO SDG and development activities and will be within the timescale of the new WMO Strategic Plan.

**Resolution 68/225 C2** Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation. This resolution has some important links to WMO LDC and partnership development activities.

**Resolution 68/224 C2** Follow-up to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries. This resolution is an important baseline action that enables progress in capacity building in LDCs and connects closely with WMO development and partnership activities.

**Resolution 68/220 C2** Science, technology and innovation for development. This action is important for WMO involvement in external relations and science policy activities especially in connection to the developing High Level Political Forum (HLPF).

**Resolution 68/218 C2** The role of the international community in averting the radiation threat in Central Asia. This important action has important connections to WMO global monitoring programmes and the World Weather Watch especially in relation to atmospheric contaminants and disaster risk reduction and preparedness activities.

**Resolution 68/217 C2** Sustainable mountain development This UN action has some important connections with WMO Programmes in the areas of climate, water and DRR activities.

**Resolution 68/215 C2** Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its first universal session and the implementation of section IV.C, entitled "Environmental pillar in the context of sustainable development", of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. This resolution is important in relation to future environmental governance and WMO partnership and external relations.

**Resolution 68/214 C2** Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development. This action is important for WMO connection with ecosystem and climate services and WCRP research activities.

**Resolution 68/213 C2** Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa. This is an important action that links to WMO drought management activities and GFCS especially due to the recent conference on national drought management policies in association with UNCCD.

**Resolution 68/212 C2** Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind. This is an action that has some links to WMO climate and water coordination activities.

**Resolution 68/211 C2** International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. This is a very important action for WMO and its Members on the further development of the post-Hyogo framework for action and the future global conference in Sendai, Japan on disaster risk reduction.

**Resolution 68/210 C2** Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. This action links to WMO development and partnership activities and elements of the Strategic Plan.

**Resolution 68/209 C2** Agricultural technology for development. This action has some important connections with WMO's agricultural meteorology and hydrology programmes and regional climate outlook activities.

**Resolution 68/208 C2** Cooperative measures to assess and increase awareness of environmental effects related to waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea. This action has some important links with JCOMM, WCRP and to the WMO Marine Meteorology Programme.

**Resolution 68/207 C2** Sustainable tourism and sustainable development in Central America. This may have some links to WMO weather services, external relations and public affairs activities.

**Resolution 68/206 C2** Oil slick on Lebanese shores. This action has some connections for WMO DRR activities.

**Resolution 68/204 C2** Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development links to WMO development and resource mobilization activities.



**Resolution 68/103 C2** International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development. This action has some important connections with WMO development capacity and DRR activities.

**Resolution 68/71 Plenary:** Sustainable fisheries, including through the 1995 Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and related instruments. This action has some close linkages to WMO marine meteorological and food security activities within the context of the GFCS.

**Resolution 68/70 Plenary:** Oceans and the law of the sea. This action is an important baseline resolution for close connection with WMO marine meteorology and Legal Counsel activities including aspects of fisheries and food security within the context of the GFCS.

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