



World Meteorological Organization  
Organisation météorologique mondiale

Secrétariat

7 bis, avenue de la Paix – Case postale 2300 – CH 1211 Genève 2 – Suisse

Tél.: +41 (0) 22 730 81 11 – Fax: +41 (0) 22 730 81 81

wmo@wmo.int – www.wmo.int

Weather • Climate • Water  
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Our ref.: CLPA/UNSG CLIMATE SUMMIT- 2014

GENEVA, 14 August 2014

Annexes: 2 (Announcement and information note on GFCS)

Subject: UNSG Climate Summit - New York, 23 September 2014

Actions required: Contribute to the statement of the Head of State on climate science and services through implementation of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS)

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to inform you that the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr Ban Ki-moon, will organize a Climate Change Summit at UN Headquarters in New York on 23 September 2014. The UNSG's office has notified that 'the Summit is meant to complement the UNFCCC process, and to be a solutions summit, not a negotiating session'. He has invited all Heads of State and Government, along with leaders from finance, business, local government and civil society. Through the Summit, the Secretary-General aims to catalyse new, substantial, scalable and replicable commitments by all stakeholders concerning actions they will take to address climate change.

I would like to suggest that you explore whether the Head of State or Government from your country will participate in this Summit. In the case of affirmative, this will provide an excellent opportunity for you as Permanent Representative with WMO to contribute to the statement in consultation with the IPCC national focal point and other responsible entities. The statement would be an opportunity to emphasize how WMO programmes and activities enable adaptation and better management of risks associated with climate variability and change through the development and incorporation of science-based climate information and prediction into planning, policy and practice on the global, regional and national scale. As the Summit is intended to promote scaled-up action, this could include a commitment towards implementing the Global Framework for Climate Services at country level.

Yours faithfully,

A blue ink signature of M. Jarraud, written over a light blue grid background.

(M. Jarraud)  
Secretary-General

To: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services) of Members of WMO (PR-6787)  
Cc: Hydrological Advisers to Permanent Representatives



## GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR CLIMATE SERVICES



### CLIMATE SERVICES

What do an air conditioning engineer, a farmer and a city planner have in common? Each uses climate information to do his or her job properly.

The engineer incorporates detailed temperature and humidity data in his or her designs; the farmer regularly reviews past records and future outlooks for rain or drought; and the planner explores the risks of floods and pollution in different districts.

Making climate data and information available to these people – and to countless millions of others facing diverse questions and decisions – is the task of climate services.

But in many places and situations, especially in developing countries, the necessary data, information and expertise is often not available. The consequences are higher impacts and costs to their communities and businesses.

### WHAT THE FRAMEWORK WILL DO

Put simply, the Global Framework for Climate Services is a globally coordinated collective of the organizations that are already engaged in producing and using climate information and services. The aim in bringing these together through the Framework is to enable producers, researchers and user organizations to join forces to lift the quality and volume of climate services worldwide, and particularly for developing countries.

Central players in climate services are the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, which already collect and exchange climate data, undertake research, and generate climate information products. Through the Framework they will help develop protocols and standards for data exchange

between themselves and other organizations as well as improve information products and service delivery. The Framework will systematically build capacity in these national organizations where needed.

The Framework will also foster stronger relationships between researchers, climate information providers and users, to improve techniques and help ensure that the right information is available to all sectors of society for day-to-day and longer-term planning.

### ORIGIN OF THE FRAMEWORK

At the World Climate Conference-3, held in Geneva on 31 August–4 September 2009, Heads of State and Government, Ministers and Heads of Delegations of over 150 countries and 70 organizations unanimously decided to establish a Global Framework for Climate Services to better serve society's need for accurate and timely information on climate.

The Conference mandated the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization to set up a High-level Taskforce of independent advisors. An intergovernmental meeting on 11–12 January 2010 endorsed the Taskforce composed of 14 high-ranking personalities. The Taskforce completed its report outlining the components of the Framework, options for governance and an implementation plan and submitted it for adoption to the World Meteorological Organization Congress in May 2011.

*Solid decisions are based on solid knowledge. The Global Framework for Climate Services will give priority to enabling end users to access state-of-the-art climate information for making the best choices.*

### WHY INVEST IN THE GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR

#### CLIMATE SERVICES?

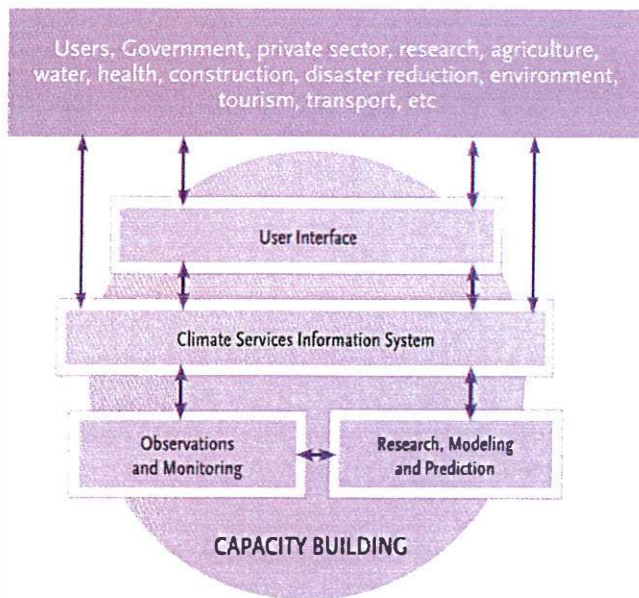
Climate services enhance development opportunities and reduce vulnerability. Climate-sensitive developing countries stand to gain the most from better climate information but are often precisely where climate services are weakest. The Framework will give priority to capacity building in these countries.

Climate services are critical to preparing for climate change. Good management of climatic risks today is the foundation for managing the changed climatic risks of tomorrow. Adaptation, renewable energy, energy conservation and mitigation actions all depend on good climate information and climate services.

Climate services can improve the lives of billions of people. The widespread influence of climate and diverse uses of climate







A schematic of the components of the Global Framework for Climate Services with capacity building occurring within, and between all other components.

information across public policy and business decision making means that even small improvements in climate services can leverage enormous impacts, saving and improving lives.

The Framework has a unique and powerful mandate to strengthen and mobilize. All those with relevant interests – governments, expert organizations and user organizations – back the Framework as the means to strengthen existing capacities and achieve synergies and leverage in climate services.

## COMPONENTS OF FRAMEWORK

- User Interface Platform – provide ways for climate service users and providers to interact and improve the effectiveness of the Framework and its climate services

- Climate Services Information System – produce and distribute climate data and information according to the needs of users and to agreed standards
- Observations and Monitoring – develop agreements and standards for generating necessary climate data
- Research, Modelling and Prediction – harness science capabilities and results to meet the needs of climate services
- Capacity Building – support the systematic development of the institutions, infrastructure and human resources needed for effective climate services

## PRINCIPLES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE FRAMEWORK

- High priority for the needs of climate-vulnerable developing countries
- Primary focus is the better access and use of climate information by users
- Framework will address needs at three spatial scales: global, regional and national
- Climate services must be operational and continuously updated
- Climate information is primarily an international public good and governments will have a central role in the Framework
- Framework will encourage global, free and open exchange of climate-relevant data
- Framework will facilitate and strengthen – not duplicate
- The Framework will be built through partnerships

## GOVERNANCE

The High-Level Task Force recommended that the governing mechanism for the Framework should be based in the United Nations and should be either (A) a new Intergovernmental Board whose members are Governments or (B) a joint Board of relevant United Nations entities reporting through their existing governing bodies. In both cases an Executive Committee aided by a number of stakeholder committees would be formed to guide the different aspects of the Framework.

For more information, please contact:

**WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION  
COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**  
Tel.: +41 (0) 22 730 83 14 – Fax: +41 (0) 22 730 80 27  
E-mail: [cpa@wmo.int](mailto:cpa@wmo.int)  
7 bis, avenue de la Paix – P.O. Box 2300  
CH 1211 Geneva 2 – Switzerland

To see the complete report, visit: [www.wmo.int](http://www.wmo.int)

of particular interest may be:

- Climate services in action, see Chapter 7
- Implementation priorities, timeframes, and resources see, Chapter 9
- Governance options, see Chapter 10

# CLIMATE SUMMIT 2014

## CATALYZING ACTION

UN HEADQUARTERS · NEW YORK

23 SEPTEMBER 2014



The Secretary-General is hosting the Climate Summit to engage leaders and advance climate action and ambition. The Summit will serve as a public platform for leaders at the highest level – all UN Member States, as well as finance, business, civil society and local leaders from public and private sectors – to catalyze ambitious action on the ground to reduce emissions and strengthen climate resilience and mobilize political will for an ambitious global legal agreement by 2015 that limits the world to a less than 2-degree Celsius rise in global temperature.

The Climate Summit will be focused on actions and solutions by both national governments and groups of governments working together with a variety of actors from the private sector and civil society to accelerate progress in areas that go far to reduce emissions and strengthen resilience – in areas such as energy; short-lived climate pollutants; cities and transportation; sustainable agriculture and forestry; adaptation and disaster risk reduction; and climate finance and the economic drivers.

The Summit is not part of the UNFCCC negotiating process, yet by promoting climate action now—more than a year before the accord will be reached in Paris—it aims to show that leaders across sectors and at all levels are taking action, thus expanding the reach of what is possible today, in 2015, and beyond.

### **The Case for Global Action**

The benefits of taking action to address climate change have become ever more compelling. Many countries and businesses have already realized the economic opportunities and reduced risks related to decreasing greenhouse emissions and strengthening resilience. They are reaping the benefits of sustainable low carbon economic growth, resilient infrastructure, new markets, decent jobs, energy independence, women's empowerment, cleaner air, and improved public health.

But only those who take action now will enjoy these benefits.

Now is the time for leaders everywhere to join the race for transformative action that can drive economic competitiveness and sustainable prosperity for all.

Countries are presently working toward a new climate agreement and a new set of global goals for sustainable development. These new agreements will be concluded in 2015. The objectives of both of these processes present an unprecedented opportunity to advance sustainable development.

Eradicating poverty and restructuring the global economy to hold global temperature rise below 2 degrees Celsius are goals that – acted on together – can provide prosperity and security for this and future generations.

To meet the full scale of the global climate challenge and seize the opportunities at hand, domestic efforts must be scaled up and simultaneously leveraged through an international framework that provides incentives. Combined, accelerated action and increased ambition will foster a 'race to the top' that can help avert the worst effects of climate change.