



**World Meteorological Organization**  
**Organisation météorologique mondiale**

Secrétariat

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Weather • Climate • Water  
Temps • Climat • Eau

Our ref.: RES/ARE/WWR

GENEVA, 5 October 2015

Subject: Establishment of a Trust Fund related to the Sand and Dust Storm Warning Advisory and Assessment System (SDS-WAS) Programme

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Sand and Dust Storm Warning Advisory and Assessment System (SDS-WAS) was established in 2007 in response to the request of 40 WMO Members to have more reliable sand and dust storm forecasts. Sand and dust storm forecasting products may substantially contribute to risk reduction in many areas of societal benefit. This advisory and assessment system will rely on real-time delivery of products from atmosphere dust models.

More than 15 organizations currently provide daily dust forecasts in different geographic regions. The SDS-WAS brings together research and user communities (e.g. medical, aeronautical, agricultural users). SDS-WAS is established as a federation of partners organized around regional nodes. At the moment three nodes are established: the Northern Africa-Middle East-Europe Node (hosted by Spain), the Asian Node (hosted by China) and the Pan America Node. The SDS-WAS mission is to achieve comprehensive, coordinated and sustained observations and modelling capabilities of sand and dust storms in order to improve the monitoring of sand and dust storms to increase the understanding of the dust processes, to enhance dust prediction capabilities and effectiveness of desertification measures and to improve applications of the forecasts e.g. to reduce health effects and damages of sand and dust storms.

Detailed information about SDS-WAS can be found on the WMO WWRP website ([http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/arep/wwrp/new/Sand\\_and\\_Dust\\_Storm.html](http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/arep/wwrp/new/Sand_and_Dust_Storm.html))

The WMO Executive Council, at its sixty-sixth session, through Resolution 13, approved the establishment of the SDS-WAS Programme to be supported by voluntary contributions and requested the Secretary-General to establish a trust fund.

Dr Paolo Ruti, Chief of the World Weather Research Programme (e-mail: [PRuti@wmo.int](mailto:PRuti@wmo.int)) would be pleased to provide further information.

To: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services) of Members of WMO (PR-6870)

cc: Hydrological Advisers to Permanent Representatives )  
Presidents of regional associations ) (for information)  
Presidents of technical commissions )

In view of the above, I would be grateful if your Service would consider providing financial support to the Trust Fund of the SDS-WAS programme to ensure its effective implementation.

I, therefore, look forward to your response at your earliest convenience.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'J' followed by a horizontal stroke and a small flourish.

(M. Jarraud)  
Secretary-General