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World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale
Organización Meteorológica Mundial
Всемирная метеорологическая организация
المنظمة العالمية للأرصاد الجوية
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22 March 2017

Subject: Sand and Dust Storm Warning Advisory and Assessment System Project Trust Fund

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Fifteenth World Meteorological Congress in 2007, at the request of more than 40 countries, endorsed the launch of the Sand and Dust Storm Warning Advisory and Assessment System (SDS-WAS). Thereafter, at the sixty-sixth session of the WMO Executive Council (Resolution 13 (EC-66)) a request was made for the creation of a Steering Committee as a global coordination mechanism to facilitate information exchange among the SDS-WAS regional nodes and the SDS-WAS trust fund was established. This was followed by the Seventeenth World Meteorological Congress, which in 2015 agreed that SDS-WAS "Science and Implementation Plan: 2015–2020" forms the basis for the implementation of the research component of the project.

Soon after, the United Nations General Assembly (December 2015) resolution entitled "Combating sand and dust storms" (A/RES/70/195), recognized that sand and dust storms can pose a great challenge to the sustainable development of affected countries. It acknowledged the contribution of WMO among the other international organizations towards providing early warning systems as tools to combat sand and dust storms.

Following the United Nations General Assembly's resolution, it is now even more important that the unique science-based, service orientation contribution by WMO and its Members through SDS-WAS to the sand and dust storm phenomenon, is strengthened and recognized by the new role players that are now emerging.

There is a growing demand from Members, in particular those in, around and downwind from, arid and semi-arid regions, for the products that are useful in reducing the adverse impacts of SDS and to assess the impacts of the SDS process on society and the environment.

The recent sixteenth session of Regional Association II (RA II-16/Doc. 4.7) strongly supported the SDS-WAS and requested Members to provide adequate voluntary resources to the SDS-WAS trust fund to support the global coordination of national and regional efforts, to fully action the activities in the SDS-WAS Implementation Plan and to review research progress and emerging priorities.

Resources for the SDS-WAS trust fund are particularly crucial to ensure the functioning of the SDS-WAS Steering Committee which guides the Members in the implementation of the SDS-WAS, as well as provides advice and supports training.

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

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

In view of the above, I should be grateful if you would consider contributing to the SDS-WAS trust fund, bearing in mind that any size financial contribution would assist moving this important activity ahead.

I therefore look forward to your positive response to this request and I would like to express my appreciation for your continued support in promoting the Programmes and activities of WMO.

Yours faithfully,



(E. Manaenkova)
for the Secretary-General