



WMO OMM

World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale
Organización Meteorológica Mundial
Всемирная метеорологическая организация
المنظمة العالمية للأرصاد الجوية
世界气象组织

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Our ref.: 13020/2020/I/ies/Data Conf

16 July 2020

Annex: 1

Subject: Announcement and call for abstracts for the WMO Data Conference,
16-18 November 2020, Geneva, Switzerland

Action required: To distribute the announcement to interested parties, and to submit
abstracts of papers as soon as possible, but no later than **23 August 2020**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Pursuant to [Resolution 55 \(Cg-18\)](#) - Emerging Data Issues (*World Meteorological Congress: Abridged Final Report of the Eighteenth Session* (WMO-No. 1236)), I am pleased to inform you that WMO is organizing the 2020 WMO Data Conference with the theme: *Exchange of Earth System Data in the twenty-first century*.

The WMO Data Conference will be held at the WMO Headquarters in Geneva Switzerland, from 16 to 18 November 2020.

This event is for representatives from WMO Members, space agencies, the private sector, global data users, academia, development partner organizations, other United Nations (UN) agencies and international organizations and other interested individuals.

The conference aims to provide a basis for informed decision-making regarding meteorological and earth system data exchange. This will require strengthening the private and public sector partnership through a better understanding of the role of the private sector in data provision increasing the exchange of data for global benefit through identifying the barriers and challenges and reviewing data policies with a view to developing sustainable mechanisms for data exchange.

The purpose of this letter is to announce the Conference and to invite submission of abstracts. Consideration can only be given to abstracts, in English, of less than 250 words, which are submitted via DataConference@wmo.int before **23 August 2020**. The four themes for the conference can be found on the flyer in the Annex.

Limited financial support may be available for selected participants from less developed countries who are presenting papers.

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

cc: Hydrological Advisers to Permanent Representatives

I should be grateful if you could make this announcement widely known within your respective Service and beyond.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zhang', with a stylized, flowing script.

Dr Wenjian Zhang
for the Secretary-General



The WMO Data Conference aims to develop a common understanding among entities from all sectors of society of the roles, requirements and arrangements for international exchange of observations and other data for monitoring and prediction of the Earth System environment, including weather, climate and water.

The World Meteorological Organization and its predecessor, the International Meteorological Organization, have coordinated and regulated the free and unrestricted international exchange of observations and other meteorological data for the last 150 years. Building on this exchange, dramatic progress has been made in weather forecast and climate analysis capabilities over the last few decades.

Since the establishment of WMO in 1950, the activities of the organization have expanded into areas such as atmospheric composition, hydrology and space weather, leading to a holistic approach to Earth system modelling and prediction being adopted as a strategic priority of the Organization. In parallel, the explosive growth in demand for weather, climate and other environmental data from all sectors of society has led to a dramatic increase in the involvement of entities outside the traditional group of WMO National Hydrological and Meteorological Services in monitoring and prediction efforts.

In view of these developments, it is timely to review the WMO requirements and arrangements for data exchange, and the Data Conference is intended to provide a venue for involving a broad group of stakeholders in this review.

Themes

- The changing landscape of weather and climate data
- Business models and data policy issues
- Filling the gaps in global data coverage
- Data exchange for earth system monitoring and prediction

Intended Participants

Representatives from:

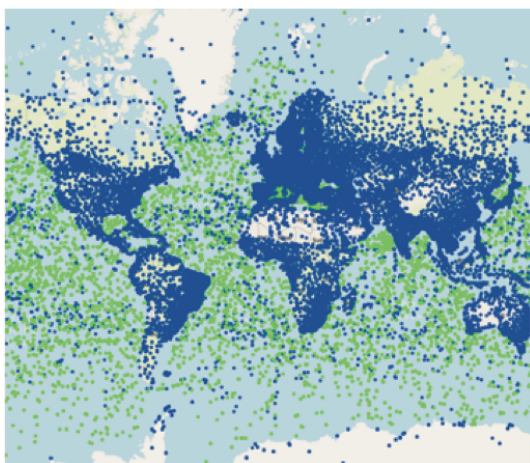
- WMO Members
- Space agencies
- Private sector
- Global data users
- Academia
- Development partner organizations
- Other United Nations agencies and international organizations

Expected Outcomes

The Conference is expected to formulate recommendations to WMO and its partner organizations and stakeholders regarding current needs and modalities for data exchange and specifically regarding the ongoing WMO review of its data policies.

The Conference is expected to lead to:

- Common understanding among all sectors of data exchange and its role in supporting the goals laid out in the WMO Convention and the global agenda as articulated in the UN Sustainable Development Goals;
- Improved understanding of the role of the private sector in data provision; stronger links between the private and public sectors;
- Identification of the main obstacles to increased exchange of data and specific opportunities or activities to try to overcome them;
- Recommendations for decision-making at the WMO Executive Council and the World Meteorological Congress in 2021.



Format

Each of four theme sessions will feature guest speakers and contributed papers, and conclude with a moderated panel discussion with audience participation.

The closing session will formalize the conference outputs.

Interpretation in official UN languages will be provided as required.

Virtual participation will be accommodated.

Abstract Submissions

Participants interested in contributing a paper should submit an abstract (max 250 words) to the email address below by 23 August.

Contact

For information, registration, or to submit an abstract, please contact:
DataConference@wmo.int

