



Our ref.: 09568/2021/DSG/Water-Coalition

4 May 2021

- Subject:
1. Consultation: WMO Plan of Action for operational hydrology
 2. Information on the Water and Climate Coalition
- Actions required:
1. To widely distribute the link to the consultation of the Plan of Action and to contribute to finalizing the document for approval by Congress at the extraordinary session in October 2021
 2. To distribute information about the Water and Climate Coalition and motivate representatives of national administration, private sector, civil society and scientific institutions to actively support the coalition

Dear Sir/Madam,

As you may be aware, in June 2019 the Eighteenth Session of the World Meteorological Congress ([Resolution 24 \(Cg-18\)](#) - Vision, Strategy and Organizational Arrangements for Hydrology and Water Resources in WMO) requested the development of a WMO Vision and Strategy for operational hydrology and its associated Plan of Action. The coordination of this task was assigned to the Hydrological Coordination Panel.

In September 2020, based on previously identified desired goals, outcomes and outputs, the Hydrological Coordination Panel conducted a wide consultation with Members and the hydrological community on the identification of needs and gaps relevant for the eight long-term ambitions for hydrology:

- No one is surprised by a flood;
- Everyone is prepared for drought;
- Hydro-climate and meteorological data support the food security agenda;
- High-quality data supports science;
- Science provides a sound basis for operational hydrology;
- We have a thorough knowledge of the water resources of our world;
- Sustainable development is supported by information covering the full hydrological cycle;
- Water quality is known.

Based on the valuable inputs received, the Hydrological Coordination Panel has developed, in cooperation with other relevant WMO bodies, the actual content of the Action Plan for Hydrology – a proposed list of activities and outputs.

I am pleased to inform you that five action areas supported by cross-cutting activities that are proposed in order to achieve the eight ambitions have been identified. In addition, activities are coordinated with the development of the Research Strategy for Hydrology through the WMO Research Board.

To: Permanent Representatives of Members with WMO

cc: Hydrological Advisers

To finalize the Plan of Action in a manner that will best suit and serve the needs of hydrology at the Members' level, I should be grateful if you could visit the [web page](#) set up for consultation and provide your comments, corrections, amendments and suggestions, if any, by **25 May 2021**.

Your input will be taken into consideration with a view to providing Congress with guidance for decisions related to hydrology.

I am also pleased to inform you on the Water and Climate Coalition established to accelerate activities in:

- Providing tangible action, activities and policy support, for an integrated water and climate agenda;
- Focusing on data, information, monitoring systems and operational capacity;
- Ensuring the focus on action by being a non-bureaucratic coalition.

The Coalition is set up to make impact through:

1. An activity matrix for tangible action
2. A panel that will anchor an integrated water and climate policy development.

The newest developments are accessible on the [website](#). The Coalition's action matrix is being developed and will be published on the website. A first webinar has already taken place, a second one is planned for the end of May. If you are interested in having national experts involved, please motivate them to register on the website. We hope to see many more contributing partners in the coming months.

The Water and Climate Leaders panel met for the first time on 3 March 2021 and has been officially announced in the United Nations General Assembly on 18 March 2021. The main messages are:

- Sustainable development requires integrated water, weather and climate solutions;
- Water information for saving lives is a global public good and must be freely accessible;
- International and intersectoral cooperation creates co-benefits for more resilience;
- Investing in effective long-term solutions helps preparing our planet for the future.

You can find a short summary on the [website](#) and you are kindly invited to give your feedback to waterclimatecoalition@wmo.int.

With both the Plan of Action as well as the Water and Climate Coalition, I am convinced we are on the right path to elevate hydrology in WMO and to support Members in creating resilient systems which will help us to adapt to the effects of Climate Change, namely through floods and droughts.

The next steps are to finalize and adapt the way forward into the next years at the Extraordinary Session of the World Meteorological Congress in October 2021. I am looking forward to seeing all of you online and hope we can hold key meetings in person again soon.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of fluid, connected loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Prof. Petteri Taalas
Secretary-General