



Our ref: CLW/CLPA/HMNDP

GENEVA, 10 May 2012

Subject: High-level Meeting on National Drought Policy (HMNDP), Geneva, 11-15 March 2013

Action required: Comments from your country on the Policy and Science Documents by **31 July 2012**

Sir/Madam,

We have the honour to inform you that, given the current concerns with climate change, projected increases in the frequency, intensity, and duration of droughts and resulting impacts on many sectors, in particular food, water, and energy, there is cause for concern regarding the lack of drought preparedness and appropriate drought management policies for virtually all nations. The time is ripe for nations to move forward with the development of a pro-active, risk-based national drought policy.

In order to address the issue of national drought policy, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Congress at its sixteenth session (Cg-XVI) held in Geneva from 16 May to 3 June 2011, recommended the organization of a "High-level Meeting on National Drought Policy (HMNDP)".

Accordingly, WMO and the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), in collaboration with a number of UN agencies, international and regional organizations and key national agencies, plan to organize the HMNDP from 11 to 15 March 2013 in Geneva.

The first meeting of the HMNDP International Organizing Committee (HIOC) was held in Geneva from 13 to 14 December 2011, with the participation of several UN system agencies and international partners, among others. The HIOC finalized a policy document and a science document that outline the major elements that could be considered by national governments for inclusion in a national drought policy. These documents can be downloaded from the HMNDP Website:

http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/wcp/drought/hmndp/index_en.php

To: Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Member States of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO-1365)

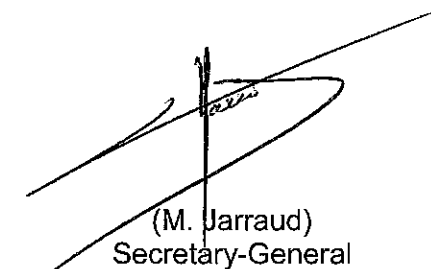
cc: Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office and other)
International Organizations in Geneva)
Permanent Representatives of Members of WMO) (for information)
Hydrological Advisers to Permanent Representatives)

HIOC proposed that comments from national governments be sought on the policy and science documents, before they are finalized for consideration at the HMNDP in March 2013.

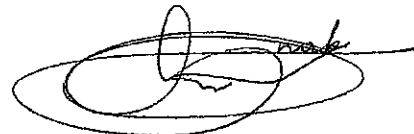
Through this letter, we therefore wish to:

- (a) Request your feedback on the policy and science documents by **31 July 2012**. Your response could be sent to Dr Mannava Sivakumar, Acting Director, Climate and Water Department of WMO at msivakumar@wmo.int
- (b) Request you to nominate a focal point from your country with whom WMO and UNCCD Secretariats could liaise while finalizing the policy and science documents and other relevant papers for the HMNDP in March 2013.

Accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of our highest consideration.



(M. Jarraud)
Secretary-General
World Meteorological Organization



(L. Gnacadja)
Executive Secretary
United Nations Convention
to Combat Desertification