



World Meteorological Organization  
Organisation météorologique mondiale

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Weather • Climate • Water  
Temps • Climat • Eau

Our ref.: SG/CER/MFA

GENEVA, 11 December 2012

Subject: Intergovernmental Board for Climate Services

Action requested: Declaration of membership and designation of principal member and other members of the Intergovernmental Board for Climate Services by **15 January 2013**

Sir/Madam,

I have the honour to inform you that the extraordinary session of the World Meteorological Congress held on 29 and 31 October 2012 (Cg-Ext.(2012)) took important decisions which are now the basis to proceed with the implementation of the Global Framework for Climate Services.

The provisional report of Cg-Ext.(2012) can be accessed through the WMO Website at <http://cg-ext-2012.wmo.int/>. The final report will also be announced on this Website.

Congress approved a resolution to establish an Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services to ensure coordination at the regional and global levels and to engage the entire UN system and other stakeholders to deliver needs-based climate services all over the world. It will seek to ensure that the programmes of partners and the activities of the GFCS are aligned, and that a broad range of expertise is mobilized in order to serve the users' interests. The Board will operate under the authority of the World Meteorological Congress. In addition, the GFCS implementation could benefit from contributions from multilateral funds, including the Green Climate Fund, and I trust that given the flexibility created in this fund through decision of the Conference of the Parties (COP 17) in Durban, the GFCS could be considered favourably to ensure short- to medium-term achievements of results in making climate services a reality.

Congress also approved a resolution on the implementation of the Global Framework for Climate Services. Eight fast track projects described in the Implementation Plan will serve to showcase the benefits of climate services for the improvement of livelihoods. The implementation structure includes five components across which activities will be coordinated and integrated:

To: Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Member States of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO-1374)

- User Interface Platforms (forums for the engagement of climate providers and users);
- Climate Services Information System;
- Observations and Monitoring;
- Research, Modelling and Prediction;
- Capacity building.

A third resolution dealing with budgetary issues was also approved, stating the immediate importance for voluntary contributions by Member States to secure quick wins for the Framework. A strong desire was expressed for the sustainability of resources – a deliberation which will certainly continue at the seventeenth session of the World Meteorological Congress in 2015.

By this letter, I wish to follow up more specifically on the resolution with respect to the establishment of the Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services.

In this regard, the relevant parts of this resolution are the following:

**Decides:**

- (1) *To establish the Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services (the Board) as an additional body accountable to the Congress under the Article 8 (h) of the Convention of the WMO;*
- (2) *To approve the terms of reference of the Board as set out in Annex 1 to this resolution, noting that the Board shall meet at least twice before the seventeenth World Meteorological Congress;*

**Invites Members:**

*To designate members of the Board, as set out in the terms of reference of the Board;*

**Requests the Secretary-General:**

*To make the necessary arrangements for the establishment of the Board,*

The membership of the Intergovernmental Board is defined in the Article III of the adopted Terms of Reference:

**III. Membership**

*Each Member of WMO is entitled to designate individual(s) to serve as member(s) of the Board and to appoint a principal member, who will normally come from the National Meteorological and Hydrological Service, who shall be regarded as a main focal point of a Member for the matters relating to the Board. With the view to securing the widest possible knowledge and expertise pertaining to the GFCS into the functioning and decision-making of the Board, governments should appropriately consider designation of member(s). A letter signed by, or on behalf of, an appropriate governmental authority of the Member sent to the Secretary-General shall be regarded as appropriate credentials for participation of individual(s) named therein in all activities of the Board.*

I should be grateful if in compliance with this resolution of the Congress, you would inform me on the willingness of your Government to participate in the Intergovernmental Board for Climate Services, and to that effect, inform me of the name and contact details of your principal member as well as the name(s) and contact details of other member(s).

The resolution dealing with the budget "*Urges Members to make voluntary contributions to the GFCS trust fund for the resources needed for institutional and secretariat support of the Board.*" The widest possible representation of Members willing to participate in the Intergovernmental Board for Climate Services meetings is highly desirable and it is sincerely hoped that your Government will find it possible to make pledges or even execute a money transfer in this regard to facilitate the attendance of developing and least developed countries.

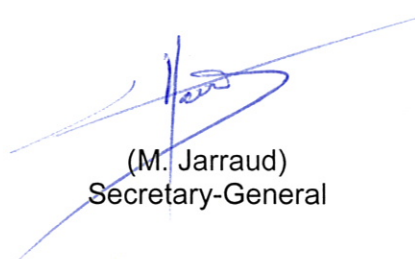
I would like also to seize this opportunity to encourage your Government to advocate, as appropriate, that projects with elements supporting or linked to the GFCS could benefit from financial support of the Green Climate Fund and the Adaptation Fund and be recognized as such, in order for the Intergovernmental Board and the GFCS Office supporting it to get the best overall picture of engagements of Members in the implementation of the GFCS.

Finally, I wish to draw to your attention that the first meeting of the Board is planned to take place at the International Conference Centre of Geneva (CICG) during the first week of July 2013. Invitations will be sent in due time and all documentation and information on the material arrangements for the first meeting of the Board will be posted on the Internet via the WMO Website ([www.wmo.int](http://www.wmo.int)) and made accessible when they become available.

In compliance with the usual practice of WMO, this notification letter will seek designation of your delegation to the first session of the Intergovernmental Board for Climate Services, with an indication of your principal delegate and role of other members of the delegation.

A copy of this letter is being sent to the Permanent Representatives of Members with WMO.

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



(M. Jarraud)  
Secretary-General