



World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale

Secrétariat

7 bis, avenue de la Paix – Case postale 2300 – CH 1211 Genève 2 – Suisse

Tél.: +41 (0) 22 730 81 11 – Fax: +41 (0) 22 730 81 81

wmo@wmo.int – www.wmo.int

Weather • Climate • Water
Temps • Climat • Eau

Our ref.: SG/ASG/SPO/WGC-3

GENEVA, 2 July 2013

Annex: 1

Subject: Invitation to sponsor the Third WMO Gender Conference “*Gender Dimension of Weather and Climate Services: the Benefits of Working Together*”

Sir/Madam,

I have the honour to inform you that ten years after the Second Conference on Women in Meteorology and Hydrology, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) would like to reconvene this forum with the aim of generating discussion on the need for taking into account the gender dimension of weather and climate services, providing a platform for hearing the voice of women and men as users and providers of weather and climate information, and advancing a cooperative approach to gender mainstreaming. To this end, the Executive Council (EC) endorsed organising a Third WMO Gender Conference entitled ‘*Gender Dimension of Weather and Climate Services: the Benefits of Working Together*’ in the autumn of 2014.

Attached you will find a conference concept note developed by the EC Advisory Panel of Experts on Gender Mainstreaming. The document provides some background information, lays out the purpose and rationale of the event, as well as outlines its major objectives and expected outcomes, while linking its scope to the four priority areas of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCs). It also reflects the emphasis placed by Cg-XVI on gender mainstreaming.

The EC encouraged Members to support the conference through voluntary contributions and nominations of suitable participants. As a follow-up, I hereby invite you to provide financial support for the event. I trust that its scope and objectives match your interests and priorities.

As a next step, a conference organizing committee will be established. I will keep you informed of any further developments and details in due course.

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.

A blue ink signature, likely of the Secretary-General, M. Jarraud. The signature is stylized and written over a horizontal line.

(M. Jarraud)
Secretary-General

To: Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Member States of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO-1383)



World Meteorological Organization
Weather • Climate • Water

Third WMO Gender Conference

"Gender Dimension of Weather and Climate Services: The Benefits of Working Together"

3rd WMO Gender Conference

Rationale and Purpose

As concluded by the Gender and Climate Forum of the World Climate Conference-3 (WCC-3), drivers and consequences of climate change are not gender-neutral. Women and men are distinct carriers, providers and users of climate information. They may be affected differently by climate impacts, and therefore benefit from more contextualized climate services for resilience. They should also enjoy equal access to available climate information. In this respect, WCC-3 recommended that the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) reflect a gender perspective in all its components and that the collection of gender disaggregated data be enhanced.

At a time when WMO and its partners in the GFCS are forging ways to provide such user-driven, custom-tailored information, it is essential to hear the voice of men and women, both as users and providers of climate services, with regard to their needs, gender-specific issues, and possible approaches of addressing them.

Apart from advancing the analysis of the gender dimension of climate services, the Conference will promote the implementation of the WMO Policy on Gender Mainstreaming and echo the decision taken at UNFCCC COP 18 to advance gender equality and improve the active participation of women in climate action. It will also be in line with the consideration of gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment in the context of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda.

Vision

The gender perspective of WMO's vision is to realize fully the professional and human potential of both women and men through equal employment opportunities, and to provide improved environmental services that are responsive and sensitive to women's and men's needs and will make a difference to their lives.

www.wmo.int/pages/themes/gender

In collaboration with:

FAO, ITU, IUCN, OHCHR, UN Women, UNESCO, UNFCCC, WHO, and other partners

Scope

Given the four GFCS initial priority areas, it will be useful to generate discussion on the gender nuances of climate variability and climate change adaptation as well as explore the ground for the applicability of climate services, taking equally into account the needs of women and men in the areas of health, food, water, and disaster risk reduction. The following are only a few examples that illustrate the specific ways in which women are affected by climate change in these areas:

Food Security. Women provide up to 80 per cent of agricultural labour and produce 45 to 90 per cent of domestically consumed food, depending on the region. In the context of climate change, traditional food sources become more vulnerable, and women face potential loss of income as well as harvests. Related increases in food prices make food more inaccessible to poor people, in particular to women and girls whose health has been found to decline more than male health in times of food shortages. Overall, women's scarcer economic resources, lower adult literacy, and smaller involvement in decision-making lessen their capacity to respond in situations of environmental risk to food security. At the same time, they play an important role in terms of family subsistence and managing the risk to global food supply in the face of an unprecedented world population growth.

Water Management. Gathering and transporting water typically falls on women and girls in a number of developing countries, a task that is taking increasingly more hours as a result of climate change, especially in drought prone areas. As it takes more time to provide water, the available time for education or other socio-economic activities for women and girls decreases. The longer travelling distance further heightens the risk of being exposed to violence. Women also play an important role as educators at the family and community level on the efficient use of water.

Disaster risk reduction. Female-headed households are often among the poorest and most vulnerable to disaster and climate change, as they may have little choice other than to live in precarious locations such as flood-prone lands or on steep slopes. Studies have shown that disaster mortality rates are higher for women than for men, and that this is caused by differences in vulnerability as a result of socially constructed gender roles. As mothers, community leaders, teachers, activists, social workers and role models, women are invaluable in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation processes.

Gender and Youth

The Conference is expected to highlight issues specific to girls and equity, including education in meteorology, following up on the theme of the **2014 World**

Meteorological Day:

"Weather and climate: engaging youth".

Female early career scientists will be strongly encouraged to participate.

Health. Many of the health risks that are likely to be affected by on-going climate change show gender differentials. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), natural disasters such as droughts, floods and storms kill more women than men. Some diseases that women and children are especially vulnerable to, such as malaria and diarrhoea, are also expected to increase in prevalence as temperatures rise or as a result of floods and water contamination. Air pollution and climate change are also tightly linked, with close to two million premature deaths caused annually, mostly of women and children in developing countries, due to the inefficient use of organic materials for cooking. Other climate-sensitive health impacts, such as under nutrition, also show important gender differences.

Objectives

- ❖ To provide a forum for hearing the voice of men and women as users and providers of climate information;
- ❖ To stimulate discussion and advance thinking on the need for gender-specific climate services for safety, sustainability and peace;
- ❖ To raise awareness of the specific ways in which men, women and children are affected by climate change, but also break existing stereotypes by:
 - Promoting their function as service providers and active agents of change in climate change mitigation and adaptation; and
 - Demonstrating their role in and contribution to meteorology, climatology and hydrology;
- ❖ To promote gender parity and equal participation of women in research and education;
- ❖ To empower women meteorologists, climatologists and hydrologists and to apply their knowledge and capacity in placing and addressing issues on the global agenda;
- ❖ To promote meteorology, climatology and hydrology as exciting, challenging and rewarding professions for young female career scientists;
- ❖ To strengthen and expand existing networks of meteorologists, hydrologists and climatologists as well as foster new partnerships;
- ❖ To facilitate the exchange of good practices in gender mainstreaming at all levels of WMO as well as follow up on gender-related decisions and recommendations of the WMO Congress, its constituent bodies and prior conferences.



Expected Outcomes

- ❖ Better understanding of gender aspects in the provision, access and use of weather and climate services for resilience;
- ❖ Enhanced dialogue on gender-related climate services in the context of the four GFCS priority areas;
- ❖ Improved awareness of women's role and contribution to the delivery of weather and climate services;
- ❖ A network of professionals and gender focal points across regions and disciplines;
- ❖ Momentum built for increased commitment and investment in the gender dimension of climate services;
- ❖ Conference Statement/ Recommendations / Proceedings.

History

1995: the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace, organized in Beijing by the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action for the advancement and empowerment of women in relation to women's human rights, women and poverty, women and decision-making, the girl-child, violence against women and other areas of concern.

1997: WMO convened the first Meeting on the Participation of Women in Meteorology and Hydrology in Bangkok, where a set of recommendations to women professionals, NMHSs and the WMO Secretariat was adopted.

2003: the Second WMO Conference on Women in Meteorology and Hydrology took place in Geneva, which reviewed and reaffirmed the recommendations of the Bangkok meeting as well as stressed the need for their implementation and accountability. It was further agreed that a number of actions should be taken by women professionals, such as promotion of, and participation in, the process of career development. The Conference also considered the gender-sensitive aspects of the activities of NMHSs such as the application of climate information by rural women and the special roles women play in water management and disaster response.

2007: the Fourteenth World Meteorological Congress introduced the WMO Policy on Gender Mainstreaming and requested the Executive Council to advise and regularly report on implementation of WMO activities on gender at all levels. The WMO gender focal points network was initiated.

2007: the WMO Executive Council established the EC Advisory Panel of Experts on Gender Mainstreaming to contribute effectively to efforts in promoting, encouraging and facilitating gender equality across WMO.

2009: the Gender and Climate Forum was held during the World Climate Conference-3.

2011: the Sixteenth World Meteorological Congress adopted the WMO Policy on Gender Mainstreaming and requested Members and presidents of regional associations and technical commissions to actively implement the Policy.

Organization

The Organizing Committee with the support of the Secretariat's gender focal points will work on finalizing the conference concept, determining the format and programme, identifying keynote and plenary speakers, and tending to the successful organization and implementation of the event.

Time

Autumn 2014

Venue

Geneva

Participants

Up to 250 meteorologists, hydrologists, climatologists and users from WMO Members, including relevant policy makers/supervisors of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and early career scientists

Resources

CHF 450,000 for a 3-day conference, including support for participants from least developed and developing countries, and an additional CHF 100,000 for translation, interpretation and production of materials.

References

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Gender and Climate Forum*, Report of the World Climate Conference-3, 2009, WMO-No. 1048

UN Women, *Facts and Figures on Women and Climate Change*, January 2012,
http://www.unifem.org/partnerships/climate_change/facts_figures.html

UN Women, *Fact Sheet: Women, Gender Equality and Climate Change*, 2009

World Health Organization, *Gender, Climate Change and Health*, 2011

World Health Organization and World Meteorological Organization, *Atlas of Health and Climate*, 2012

World Meteorological Organization. *Sixteenth World Meteorological Congress: Abridged Final Report with Resolutions*, WMO-No. 1077, 2011

World Meteorological Organization. *Working Together Towards a Global Framework for Climate Services*. Report of the World Climate Conference-3, 2009, WMO-No. 1048

World Meteorological Organization. *Fifteenth World Meteorological Congress: Abridged Final Report with Resolutions*, WMO-No. 1026, 2007