



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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Annex: 1 (available in English only)

Subject: Invitation to the Celebration of World Water Day and World Meteorological Day 2020 (23 March 2020)

Action required: Confirmation of your participation

Excellency,

We have the honour to invite you to a joint celebration of World Meteorological Day and World Water Day, taking place on 23 March 2020 at the World Meteorological Organization headquarters in Geneva.

This year, World Water Day (22 March) and World Meteorological Day (23 March) share the theme "Climate Change and Water", offering a unique opportunity to twin these observances and bring the issues and solutions to the attention of policy makers.

Participants in this event will have the opportunity to learn more about water and climate change, focusing on the positive aspects and possibilities of managing them in a more coordinated and sustainable manner. The event will highlight the role of water at the very heart of mitigation and adaptation to climate change and as the crucial link between the climate system, human society and the environment. A copy of the draft agenda is attached for your information.

We look forward to your participation in this important event.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

(Petteri Taalas)
Secretary-General, WMO

(Gilbert F. Hounbo)
Chair, UN-Water and President IFAD

Climate Change and Water

Celebration of World Meteorological Day and World Water Day

Concept and Draft Agenda **Monday 23 March 2020**

Venue: World Meteorological Organization, Salle Obasi and Floor -1

In 2020, World Water Day (22 March) and World Meteorological Day (23 March) share the same theme: Climate Change and Water. This provides an important opportunity to twin the two international observances and bring the issues and solutions to the attention of policy makers.

Background

Climate change is inextricably linked to water. It causes the variability of the water cycle to undergo significant change, inducing extreme weather events, reducing the predictability of water availability, affecting water quality, thus increasing fragility and threatening sustainable development and biodiversity worldwide.

Growing demand for water increases the need for energy-intensive water pumping, transportation, and treatment, and has contributed to the degradation of critical water-dependent carbon sinks such as peatlands. Some climate change mitigation measures, such as the expanded use of biofuels, are further exacerbating water scarcity.

Despite the obvious links, water is not always highlighted in the climate change discussions and is not what the public usually associates with climate change. Oftentimes, the associations go to greenhouse gas emissions, global warming, pollution, ozone, etc. Water needs to have a stronger presence - both in the minds of policy makers and in the minds of the public. Increased water stress and meeting future demands will require increasingly tough decisions about how to allocate water resources between competing water uses. This will have an immediate impact on vulnerable populations who are often the most affected by water related climate change, and citizens who need to be aware and empowered to act.

World Water Day and World Meteorological Day 2020 will focus on the positive aspects and possibilities of managing climate and water in a more coordinated and sustainable manner, with water at the very heart of mitigation and adaptation to climate change, and as the crucial link between the climate system, human society and the environment.

Draft agenda

Part 1: From challenge to opportunity

09:00 – 12:00

C1 and C2

Following a month-long youth engagement based on three case studies on flooding, drought and sea level rise, students will meet with experts and Member States to finalize their presentations on how to mobilize, demand urgency and supercharge ideas to solutions as part of the Decade of Action. They will make their presentation in the afternoon session.

12:00 – 13:30

Lunch and registration

Part 2: Everyone has a role to play

13:30 – 13:50

Salle Obasi

Welcome

- Prof Petteri Taalas, WMO Secretary-General
- Mr Gilbert F. Houngbo, UN-Water Chair and IFAD President
- Ms Olga Algayerova, UNECE Executive Secretary
- Ms Audrey Azoulay, UNESCO Director-General (TBC)

13:50 – 14:10

Setting the stage – Climate change and water: A global issue

Moderator: Mr Stuart Orr, Global Freshwater Leader, WWF International

- H.E. Ms Nazhat Shameem Khan, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Fiji to the United Nations in Geneva (TBC)
- H.E. Mr Coly Seck Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations in Geneva (TBC)
- Mr Henk Ovink, Special Envoy for International Water Affairs for the Kingdom of the Netherlands

14:10 – 14:35

Launch of the UN World Water Development Report on Climate Change and Water

- Mr Abou Amani, Coordinator a.i of the UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme

14:35 – 14:50

Announcement of the winner of the Stockholm Water Prize

- Mr Torgny Holmgren, Executive Director, SIWI

14:50 – 15:40

We cannot afford to wait: Water solutions to climate change

Part 2

Students presenting solutions to climate change and water and interactive discussion with the audience

- Moderator: H.E. Ms Sally Mansfield, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations in Geneva (TBC)

15:40 – 16:00

Everybody has a role: Companies elevating ambition

Moderator: Mr André Villaça Ramalho, UN Global Compact, CEO Water Mandate Water Resilience Coalition Coordinator

[placeholder for three international companies that will talk about the water resilience pledge]

16:00 – 16:25

Coherence across global processes

- Ms Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (TBC)

- H.E. Ms Miriam Shearman, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Geneva
- Ms Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and Head of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

16:25 – 16:30

Way forward

- Moderator: H.E. Mr Michael Freiherr von Ungern-Sternberg, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations in Geneva (TBC)

16:30 – 16:45

Closing remarks

- Prof Petteri Taalas, WMO Secretary-General