



12 آب/ أغسطس 2020

الرسالة رقم: 15637/2020/MS-PRAs

عدد المرفقات: 1 (متوافر بالإنكليزية فقط)

تحية طيبة وبعد،

الغرض من هذه الرسالة ومرفقها هو مواصلة موافاة رؤساء ونواب رؤساء الاتحادات الإقليمية ورئيسي اللجنتين الفنييتين بالمقترحات المقدمة بشأن تسيير أعمال الاتحادات الإقليمية وعقد دوراتها خلال هذه الفترة المالية.

لعلكم تتذكرون أن المؤتمر العالمي الثامن عشر للأرصاد الجوية قد أوصى، وفقاً للجدول الزمني المبين في المرفق 2 – الجداول الزمنية لدورات الهيئات التأسيسية خلال الفترة المالية، للقرار 7 (Cg-18)، بعقد نوعين من الاجتماعات للاتحادات الإقليمية خلال الفترة المالية المقبلة: الدورات "المعتادة" للاتحادات الإقليمية في فترة السنتين الأولى، والمؤتمرات الإقليمية في الفترة المالية الثانية.

وإضافة إلى ذلك، طلب القرار 6 (Cg-18) – الاتحادات الإقليمية التابعة للمنظمة العالمية للأرصاد الجوية (WMO) (المؤتمر العالمي للأرصاد الجوية: التقرير النهائي الموجز للدورة الثامنة عشرة (مطبوع المنظمة رقم 1236)، أن تكون دورات الاتحادات الإقليمية أكثر إنتاجية وفائدة لأعضائها، وأن تهدف إلى تعزيز الأولويات الإقليمية، وأن تسفر عن نتائج واضحة تسمح باتخاذ إجراءات وعن مداخلات في الخطط الاستراتيجية والتشغيلية المستقبلية للمنظمة (WMO)، وأشار إلى أن السعي إلى موازنة هياكل جميع الرابطة الإقليمية من شأنه أن يعزز النهج المشتركة والتعاون بين الأقاليم.

وينص كذلك المرفق - تعديل الاختصاصات العامة للاتحادات الإقليمية (المرفق الثاني باللائحة المالية)، للقرار 6 على أن يقوم كل اتحاد إقليمي بما يلي:

- كفالة إبراز صورة المنظمة (WMO) وقيمتها في إقليمه، وإشراك أصحاب المصلحة في المبادرات والمشاريع الإقليمية المتصلة بالأولويات الاستراتيجية للمنظمة؛
- تعزيز التعاون والكفاءة من خلال إنشاء شبكات ومرافق إقليمية على أساس الاحتياجات الإقليمية المحددة، بالتنسيق الوثيق مع اللجنة الفنية المعنية؛
- بناء وتعزيز التعاون والشراكات مع المنظمات الإقليمية ذات الصلة، بما في ذلك اللجان الاقتصادية الإقليمية التابعة للأمم المتحدة، وهيئات الأمم المتحدة الأخرى، والمنظمات دون الإقليمية، والشركاء الإنمائيين، والمنظمات غير الحكومية، والاتحادات المهنية، والمنظمات الأكاديمية والبحثية؛
- القيام، من خلال الرئيس، وبالتعاون مع الهيئات الإقليمية السياسية والاقتصادية، بتأييد الدعم السياسي والمالي اللازم لقدرات الأعضاء لضمان تقديم معلومات وخدمات حيوية بشأن الأرصاد الجوية والمناخ والهيدرولوجيا والمعلومات والخدمات الأخرى البيئية ذات الصلة، وضمان الوصول لهذه المعلومات والخدمات، ودعم الممثلين الدائمين في مساعيهم مع حكوماتهم في هذا المجال.

في فترة السنتين الأولى، وبسبب أوضاع فيروس كورونا (COVID-19)، من المتوقع أن تُعقد معظم دورات الاتحادات الإقليمية، إن لم يكن كلها، بشكل افتراضي. فستُعقد دورات الاتحادات الإقليمية الثالث والرابع والسادس في عام 2020، ودورات الاتحادات الإقليمية الأول والخامس والثاني في عام 2021 قبل الدورة الاستثنائية للمؤتمر (Cg-Ext.(2021)) (افتراضياً، أو وجهاً لوجه، أو ربما مزيج بين الاثنين أو كلاهما معاً).

وفي فترة السنتين الثانية، يقترح أن يكون لشكل ووظيفة دورات الاتحادات الإقليمية تأثير سياساتي وسياسي أقوى على الصعيد الإقليمي. ويُقترح أن تكون مدة الدورات من 3 أيام إلى 3.5 يوم، بحيث يُخصص يوم واحد

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ومع ذلك، سوف نستغل دورات الاتحادات الإقليمية التي سَتُعقد في فترة السنتين الأولى لبدء عملية التعاون مع الشركاء واختبار المفهوم/ الشكل الجديد للدورات من خلال دعوة شركاء الأمم المتحدة الإقليميين والشركاء الإقليميين الآخرين للمشاركة في الدورات باعتبارها مرحلتنا التحضيرية للمؤتمرات رفيعة المستوى التي سَتُعقد في فترة السنتين الثانية.

وتوضح المذكرة المفاهيمية المرفقة بمزيد من التفصيل هذا الموضوع في إطار متابعة المناقشات التي دارت في مختلف اجتماعات أفرقة الإدارة التابعة للاتحادات الإقليمية التي عقدت مؤخراً (الاتحادات الإقليمية الأولى والثاني والثالث والرابع والسادس)، وفي اجتماع كل من لجنة التنسيق الفني واللجنة الاستشارية للسياسات (PAC). كما سَتُطرح المذكرة المفاهيمية لمناقشة تفصيلية في الاجتماع المقبل لفريق الإدارة التابع للاتحاد الإقليمي الخامس (20 آب/ أغسطس 2020)، وفي الدورة الثانية والسبعين للمجلس التنفيذي (أيلول/ سبتمبر 2020)، وفي دورات الاتحادات الإقليمية الثالث والرابع والسادس التي سَتُعقد في الفصل الأخير من عام 2020.

وهذه المسألة مدرجة أيضاً على جدول أعمال الاجتماع الثاني للجنة (PAC).

ومن المقترح عقد اجتماع رؤساء ونواب رؤساء الاتحادات الإقليمية في وقت مبكر من أيلول/ سبتمبر لمواصلة مناقشة هذا الموضوع وغيره من المسائل المتعلقة بإصلاح الاتحادات الإقليمية، في الفترة التي تسبق الدورة الثانية والسبعين للمجلس التنفيذي.

وأرجو من رؤساء الاتحادات الإقليمية أن يتشاوروا مع أفرقة الإدارة التابعة لهم ومع جميع الأعضاء الإقليميين، لإبداء تعليقاتها والتحسينات التي يقترحونها. وإضافة إلى ذلك، أطلب من الاتحادات الإقليمية أن تعيد ترتيب الأولويات و/ أو أن تضيف مجالات مواضيعية محتملة لمؤتمراتها الإقليمية رفيعة المستوى، وفقاً للمرفق الثاني للمذكرة المفاهيمية.

وتفضلوا بقبول فائق الاحترام،


الدكتور وبنيان تشانغ
عن الأمين العام



World Meteorological Organization

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Seventy-Second Session

28 September to 2 October 2020, Videoconference

EC-72/INF. 3.3(3)

Submitted by:
Secretary-General

16.VII.2020

CONCEPT NOTE

MEETING OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS IN THE POST REFORM ENVIRONMENT

Proposed Format for Regional Associations (RA) Session in 2020-2023

References

- (1) EC – 72 /Doc. 3.3 (2) Draft 1
- (2) [Resolution 6 \(Cg-18\)](#) – WMO Regional Associations,
- (3) [Resolution 7 \(Cg-18\)](#) – Establishment of WMO Technical Commissions, for the Eighteenth Financial Period - **Annex 2**
- (4) [Resolution 8 \(Cg-18\)](#) - Research Board,
- (5) [Resolution 11 \(Cg-18\)](#) – WMO Reform – Next phase,
- (6) [Resolution 4 \(EC -71\)](#) – Climate Coordination Panel,
- (7) [Resolution 11 \(EC-71\)](#) – Rules of Procedure for the Constituent Bodies,

During its Eighteenth Session, the World Meteorological Congress adopted [Resolution 6 \(Cg-18\)](#) - WMO Regional Associations, in which it was decided:

- (a) To continue to review the role and functions of regional associations;
- (b) To amend the General Terms of Reference of regional associations in Annex II to the General Regulations, as provided in the Annex to [Resolution 6 \(Cg-18\)](#);
- (c) That the regional associations should meet as often as necessary, in line with the WMO Congressional meeting and planning cycles —as defined in the Annex 2 to [Resolution 7 \(Cg-18\)](#) - Establishment of WMO Technical Commissions for the Eighteenth Financial Period (see [Figure 1](#))— which should be more productive and useful for its Members, aimed at advancing regional priorities and producing clear action-oriented outcomes and inputs to future WMO strategic and operational plans;
- (d) That the regional associations influence and seek to align with all the relevant constituent bodies and structures in supporting the strategic goals of the WMO Strategic Plan.

Furthermore, pursuing harmonized structures among all regional associations would promote common approaches and better cross-regional cooperation.

- (a) Congress requested the presidents of the regional associations and the management groups, to lead a comprehensive review of their activities and working

mechanisms and make recommendations to the seventy-second session of the Executive Council for enhanced regional and inter-regional cooperation and partnerships, resource mobilization and plans for resolving existing capacity gaps and deficiencies;

- (b) Congress requested the presidents of the regional associations to coordinate closely with the presidents of the technical commissions and the Secretariat in conveying regional priorities to be considered in the work of technical commission.

As per the timeline of the Annex I to this document (annex 2 to Cg-18 Res 7), the Eighteenth World Meteorological Congress (Cg 18) recommended holding **two sessions** of Regional Associations (RA) during the upcoming financial period. "Ordinary" RA Sessions in the first biennium and Regional Conferences in the second biennium.

In the first biennium, due to the COVID-19 situation, it is anticipated that most, if not all RA Sessions will be virtual with RAs III, IV and VI taking place in 2020 and RAs I, V and II in 2021 prior to the Extraordinary session of Congress (virtually, face-to-face or possibly hybrid or both).

In the second biennium the format and function of Regional Associations (RAs) sessions will have a stronger regional policy and political footprint. It is proposed that the sessions should be 3 to 3.5 days with 1 to 1.5 days (beginning or end of session) devoted to RA business and 2 days in Conference Format with the regional political and economic entities and development partners. The High-Level Conference should have senior level political engagement (Ministerial level or higher) and be focused around key thematic areas of critical importance to the respective region and also with links to the global agenda.

(1) High-Level Regional Conference

Example: Regional DRR Platforms (UNDRR) and Regional Climate Weeks (UNFCCC)

RAs with WMO Secretariat support, should engage regional economic and political organs, regional development partners and donors in the High Level Regional Conference (HLC) associated to the RA sessions to increase the visibility of WMO, the RAs and the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) and their work in contributing to Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Sendai Framework, Paris Agreement implementation and other specific regionally relevant agendas.

A key foundation for the HLC could be the release of a Regional Climate Report as the main drawcard to attract regional partner participation.

The themes for each session of the HLC (no more than 4 per session) should be informed by the regional priorities but with strong linkage to WMO Global Priorities as articulated in WMO SOP. As a starting point some of the following thematic could be considered (not exclusive):

- (a) Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR);
- (b) Contribution of Weather, Water and Climate Services to achieving SDGs and how WMO can support partner investments and projects (Hydromet Alliance, RAS);
- (c) Engagement of the private sector – Regionalize the Open Consultative Forum towards implementation Resolutions 79 / 80 (Cg-18) on Geneva Declaration;
- (d) Climate and Health;
- (e) Food security;
- (f) Clean, affordable and secure energy;

- (g) Global Basic Observation Network (GBON) – importance of investment in the networks (Systematic Observations Financing Facility - SOFF);
- (h) Water security;
- (i) Science behind regional climate change, extreme events and their impacts;
- (j) The full-value chain climate service delivery (observation, monitoring, prediction, sectoral applications and adaptation planning) – Climate science for action;
- (k) The role and contributions of NMHSs to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement;
- (l) Other topics as proposed by the regions.

Expected Outcomes

Expanded or stronger WMO influence on Member policies, high-level policy processes, partner activities and hydro-met investments;

The Conference could conclude with:

A statement and call for action, reflecting the Conference Meeting outcomes, and expressing the importance of regional cooperation across all sectors.

Next steps

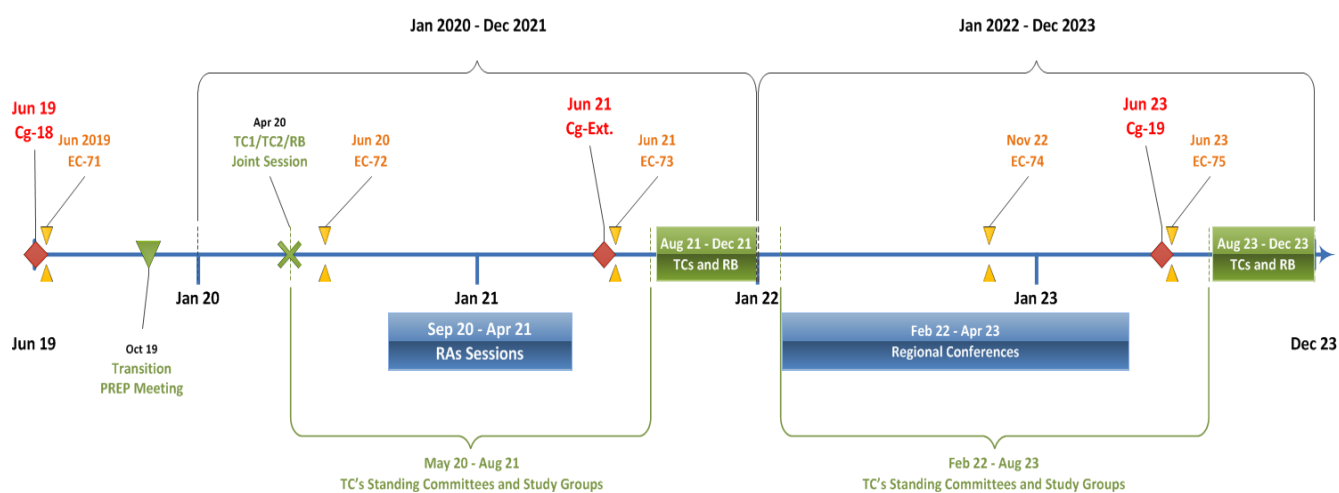
In addition to the steps for planning the RA sessions outlined in Annex II, selected additional next steps to incorporate the additional dimensions of the high-level conferences and Regional Climate Reports include:

- (a) Elaboration of a more detailed timeline for RA /HLC during the first biennium RA Sessions and in the coming 12-18 months, based on Annex I, and development of a tailored plan for each, including required resources and roles and responsibilities;
- (b) Formation/designation of various task teams and expert groups needed to undertake various aspects of the planning, complementing those focused on the RA / HLC outlined in [Annex II](#);
- (c) Identification of an appropriate steering mechanism, at WMO - the Board of Directors; (in the event of a climate focus for the conferences, the Steering Committee on Climate Activities with links to the Climate Coordination and Hydrology Panels, the Capacity Development Panel and at regional level the PRA and RA Management Groups and relevant subsidiary committees.

ANNEX I

Figure 1: Timelines for Constituent Body sessions during a financial period

(Annex 2 to [Resolution 7 \(Cg-18\)](#) - Establishment of WMO Technical Commissions for the Eighteenth Financial Period)



ANNEX II POTENTIAL THEMATIC AREAS FOR REGIONAL CONFERENCES

(Not intended to be exclusive at this point)

(1) Climate

Regional Climate Reports as a vehicle to address Member and partner organization concerns about climate change, associated impacts and disasters:

Climate and environmental change and the increase of weather and climate extremes has become an overarching global concern, manifested by head of state level engagement and billions of dollars in investments through dedicated financing mechanisms. Thanks in part to the concerted efforts between the WMO Secretariat and 193 Member States, their contributions across the weather, water, climate and environmental domains are increasingly acknowledged in the climate change policy arena. Climate change thus provides a broad “umbrella” under which WMO can position itself and its contributions across a wide range of climate and environmental conventions, as well as sector-specific and functional areas. These include but are not limited to UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS); climate services for water resource management, agriculture and forestry, energy, tourism, health; infrastructure, greenhouse gas monitoring and air quality; ocean and cryosphere issues; and the full-value chain operational systems – from observations to science to socioeconomic benefits – that underpin these services.

Expanding on regional Statement on the State of the Climate envisions a set of Regional Climate Reports with an expanded scope. These Regional Climate Reports would include updates on the state of the climate in each region based on standard WMO state of the climate indicators. Additional elements could include:

- (a) Expanded coverage of impacts – from the regional offices of the partner organizations that contribute to the global report and from Members, linked to WMO catalogues of hazardous weather and climate events and associated losses and damage;
- (b) Regional climate change projections – could also include climate predictions for the next 5 years as provided by the UK Met Office, from IPCC and/or generated from the Structured Access Platform developed by the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI) under a letter of agreement with WMO funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF);
- (c) Featured meteorological, climatological, hydrological and environmental data on trends in the region – from WMO long-term observing stations;
- (d) Data rescue activities from archives to facilitate the recovery, extension, quality control & consolidation of historical instrumental surface data;
- (e) Syntheses of regional adaptation and mitigation priorities – drawn from Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) submitted by Parties to UNFCCC;
- (f) The status across the region of the operational hydro-met systems and associated services for addressing countries’ priority needs, as well as gaps;
- (g) Featured tailored products and innovations – being introduced to address identified priorities;
- (h) Policy recommendations for the strengthening of the weather, water, climate products and services value chain.

The above combination of ingredients would facilitate a number of key linkages:

- (a) With UNFCCC and other science-driven policy processes – equipping Members/Parties with scientific and authoritative information to bring into climate negotiations and policy implementation processes, including on needs for investments in their regions; this information could feed directly into the Paris Agreement global stocktake, facilitated by WMO's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the UNFCCC Secretariat;
- (b) With the enhancement of operational systems – including through the RA sessions themselves, the Regional Climate Outlook Forums, and by providing information to inform hydro-met investments by countries, development partners and financing mechanisms;
- (c) Through strengthened relationships with WMO partner organizations – contributing to greater programmatic and policy support alignment.

(2) Disaster Risk Reduction including Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems

2.1 Key messages:

DRR aims to prevent new and reduce existing disaster risks and to contribute to strengthening resilience. Disaster Risk Management (DRM) comprises processes and actions to achieve this objective as well as to manage and transfer residual risks and to minimize losses and damages during hazardous events. DRR is a high priority for WMO – the NMHSs of its 193 Members play a key role in DRM and contribute significantly to DRR. The DRR Activity Area focuses on strengthening the capacities of the NMHSs to support (1) risk assessments, (2) prevention and mitigation, (3) preparedness (through early warning of a wide range of weather-, climate- and water-related hazards), (4) response and humanitarian assistance, recovery, (5) disaster risk financing and transfer, and (6) overall DRR governance. Through a coordinated approach, and working with its partners, WMO addresses the information needs and requirements of the DRM community in an effective and timely fashion, closely linked to all climate change adaptation (CCA) efforts. DRR is also a priority area of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) and thus a key component of regional and national frameworks for climate services and adaptation plans.

2.1.1 *Effective governance of national (multi-hazard) early warning systems and regional and global support mechanisms*

National governance plays a crucial role in the implementation and sustainability of MHEWS, taking into account the fundamental information on all risk dimensions (hazard, exposure, vulnerability and coping/adaptive capacity), regulatory frameworks and policies, institutional partnerships, and ensuring that warnings are received, well understood and actionable by the intended audience. It needs to:

- (a) Develop legal and policy frameworks which clarify roles and responsibilities of each actor, reinforce coordination and accountability;
- (b) Ensure that governance mechanisms provide flexibility to adapt MHEWS to users' needs, incorporate new technologies, emerging hazards and learning from past experiences;
- (c) Implement effective partnerships between and among the scientists and practitioners, public and private sectors, and humanitarian and development actors;

- (d) Increase donors and investors' confidence in investing in MHEWS (especially in developing countries) through demonstration of their value in the reduction of loss and damage and for increasing resilience;
- (e) Ensure that traditional, indigenous knowledge is incorporated.

2.1.2 *Science, technology and innovation are essential building blocks to improve all components¹ of an (MH)EWS*

- (a) It is through scientific research and application of technology that we can improve our knowledge of hazards to allow us to be more precise when warning about potentially catastrophic hazards and improve our knowledge of societal issues that are essential when aiming to improve the Early Warning Early Action (EWEA) chain;
- (b) Technology offers a platform in which diverse information can be brought together in a simple and manageable way to allow risk reduction managers and communities better understand their past, current and potential future hazard profiles;
- (c) Better links among operators of MHEWS and the scientific, technology design and innovation communities lead to improved MHEWS;
- (d) Technology offers ways to better disseminate the same MHEWS information to different users reaching greater scales faster;
- (e) Communications and working in partnership is key otherwise technology is not really useful.

2.1.3 *An effective (MH)EWS produces shared socioeconomic benefits and contributes to poverty reduction*

- (a) It needs to be supported by the generation of knowledge on how to measure early warning effectiveness and its contribution to the SDGs and to achieving the targets set in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030;
- (b) It needs to monitor effectiveness as part of the feedback mechanism for system improvement;
- (c) It is an essential component of DRM, CCA and resilience building.

2.2 Key Marketing Pitch

Impact-based, people-centred and multi-hazard early warnings enable early actions that can save lives and mitigate disaster losses.

2.3 Potential regional partners

- (a) All UN Regional Commissions;
- (b) UNDRR, WFP, FAO, UNDP, UNESCO, UN-Habitat, UNEP, OCHA, etc. (central /regional offices) ;
- (c) Regional intergovernmental organizations (e.g. CDEMA, ADPC, RIMES, ASEAN, SPC, SPREP, AUC, EU, etc.);

¹ (1) disaster risk knowledge based on the systematic collection of data and disaster risk assessments; (2) detection, monitoring, analysis and forecasting of the hazards and possible consequences; (3) dissemination and communication, by an official source, of authoritative, timely, accurate and actionable warnings and associated information on likelihood and impact; and (4) preparedness at all levels to respond to the warnings received. These four interrelated components need to be coordinated within and across sectors and multiple levels for the system to work effectively and to include a feedback mechanism for continuous improvement. Failure in one component or a lack of coordination across them could lead to the failure of the whole system.

- (d) Other international (e.g. IFRC) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs);
- (e) Global and regional multi- and bilateral development banks, funds, etc.;
- (f) Insurance sector;
- (g) Broadcasting unions, regulators, etc.

DRR-related high-level events that RA sessions could link to include global, regional and sub-regional platforms and ministerial conferences for DRR, regional fora for sustainable development, and other multi-hazard policy and scientific conferences (on topics such as resilience building, MHEWS, DRR/DRM and CCA, e.g. World Congresses on Disaster Management, European Civil Protection Forum, Adaptation Futures, etc.) and hazard-specific events (e.g. World Landslide Fora, International Conferences on Flood Management, etc.)

(3) Clean affordable and secure energy

3.1 Key messages:

- (a) Sustainable social and economic development requires access to reliable and affordable energy. National energy systems need to be resilient to weather extremes, climate variability and climate change;
- (b) The sustainable development agenda for 2030 calls for universal access to sustainable energy (Goal 7). To achieve this goal will require a radical transformation of the way we produce, distribute and consume energy. This transformation is taking place against a variable and changing climate, and involves a substantial increase of share of renewable energy in the global mix;
- (c) The Paris Agreement calls for nations to reduce GHG emissions to limit global warming below 2 degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial level. Energy generation from burning fossil fuels account for 50% of all anthropogenic GHG emissions. Countries can lower their emissions by providing energy generated with renewable sources (hydro, solar and wind). Renewable energy has a strong dependence on weather and climate.

WHAT

- (a) Robust weather and climate-based tools are needed to support energy planners, regulators, policymakers and investors. Such tools are developed using the state-of-the-art data and knowledge in meteorology, hydrology and climatology to assess: 1) ways in which energy supply and demand are affected by the spatial and temporal variations of their weather and climate drivers; 2) how scenarios with different energy supply mixes can meet national demand with the lowest prices.

HOW

- (a) Engaging with regional energy stakeholders to understand the needs and challenges;
- (b) Mobilize the network of national, regional and global centres to generate highly localized specific weather and climate information and expected changes in temperature, precipitation, wind speed, solar radiations, humidity, mean sea level pressure, all factors that modulate the performance of energy generation, distribution and impacts on demand;

- (c) Link with existing projects and investments to provide technical assistance and innovative science-based solutions to add value and generate socioeconomic benefits;
- (d) Unlock additional resources from Green Climate Fund and Development Banks by showing science-based evidence for climate action.

3.2 Marketing Pitch

Design a future energy mix resilient and adapted to the local climate variability and based on renewable sources.

3.3 Potential regional partners

Development Banks, GCF, IRENA, GEIDCO, IHA, SE for ALL.

(4) GBON, SOFF and WMO Data Policy

Key Messages

- (a) Links to donor funding;
- (b) Global and national benefit;
- (c) Economic value.

4.1 Key Marketing Pitch

WMO wants to increase the quality and availability of data products to its members through GBON: clarifying the requirements for global observations, data policy: outlining what data is exchanged and SOFF: assisting those members who lack the resources to do this on their own.

4.2 Potential regional partners

- (a) Global and regional development and funding agencies;
- (b) Equipment manufacturers and suppliers;
- (c) National aid agencies.

5. Water

“The role of National Hydrological and Meteorological Services in supporting sustainable water resources management”

Sustainable water resources management and related challenges on floods, droughts, water quality, transboundary resources sharing, are vital for all regions of the world. All of them are strongly impacted by climate, economic and societal changes. Therefore, water-related decisions must be supported by reliable and timely information coming from data and models.

WMO promotes the concept of a sustainable and seamless value chain to connect data collection and management to decisions making through programmes and projects on water monitoring, modelling and forecasting, and delivery of services, supported by regulatory material, and capacity building programs. These supporting pillars are developed through its Technical Commissions, based on requirement from Regions, which are expected to implement new developments for the benefit of their population. NMHS have a clear leading role in the

identification of user requirements and implementation, and to transform theory into practice, together with national and regional partners, including basin organizations, private sector (e.g., navigation, hydropower, etc.), NGOs and academia, among other potential partners and users.

Furthermore, in order to equitably and sustainably share water resources among all uses and users, partners must share information and knowledge.

Objectives

The conference objectives are understanding regional user requirements and capacities, as well as at identifying gaps and priorities, raising the awareness of the need for hydrological services, and supporting data and forecasting system, stimulating the exchange of experiences and solutions, defining common regional goal and action plans to achieve them, and sensitizing the development partners to the need of supporting to the whole hydrological value chain.

The actions to be identified shall enable the development of a full range of services, covering:

- floods and droughts early warning systems,
- water management for food security (water storage, irrigation) services and guidance, integrated with agrometeorological services (monsoon forecast, plantation guidance, rainfed agriculture),
- information on status and trends, also long term, in river basins.
- the creation of the necessary regional partnerships to ensure long term sustainability of these endeavours, for instance through the implementation of HydroSOS

The action identified will be implemented by regional hydrological groups established under the Regional Associations and supported by Technical Commissions in their respective domains of competence.

Session format, participants and partners

The sessions will be attended by representative of the NHSs, as well as of international basin commissions, regional UN Economic Commissions, and other regional economic groupings and intergovernmental institution (e.g. IGAD, ECOWAS, SADC). National policy and decision makers will also attend. All these partners will also contribute to the implementation, together with professional or citizens associations.

Each session may consist of one or two key note speeches on the issues related to the regional implementation of one / some of the eight long term ambitions, followed by a panel discussions (or other forms of knowledge sharing such as world café, fishbowl conversation, Open Forum, etc.) to identify high level political objectives and draft a possible future activity plan to be endorsed by RA.
