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Organisation météorologique mondiale

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Weather • Climate • Water  
Temps • Climat • Eau

Our ref.: DRA-RMDP/DRA-V/SIDS

GENEVA, 2 May 2014

Annex: 1 (available in English, French and Spanish only)

Subject: Guidance Note for the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs): Engaging with the preparations for the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Small Island Developing States “Weather and Climate Services contribute to Sustainable Development”

Dear Sir/Madam,

The 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS Conference) will be held from 1 to 4 September 2014, in Apia, Samoa, with a preparatory session from 28 to 31 August 2014, and will focus the world's attention on this group of countries that face special sustainable development challenges in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities.

The SIDS Conference will serve as a forum to build on existing successful partnerships as well as launch innovative and concrete new ones, to advance the sustainable development of SIDS.

With a view to providing the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Members with guidance on how to engage with the SIDS Conference and preparatory processes to promote the benefits of Weather and Climate Services for sustainable development of SIDS, I am pleased to share the *Guidance Note* attached herewith.

To support our collective effort, NMHSs are encouraged to use any relevant event and meeting to raise awareness on the value and benefits of Weather and Climate Services for sustainable development. NMHSs are also encouraged, with the support of WMO, to inform and engage with/be part of their National Conference Delegations and promote that Weather and Climate Services be incorporated in the SIDS dialogue.

WMO will launch a major advocacy campaign in the lead up to and during the Conference. Various communications and communication materials developed during this campaign will be shared with you for your use at the national level and to help you inform your delegations.

We appreciate your support in this important process.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Lengoasa', written over a horizontal line.

(J. Lengoasa)  
for the Secretary-General

To: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services) of Members of WMO (PR-6767)

**GUIDANCE NOTE FOR NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL AND HYDROLOGICAL SERVICES**

**Engaging with the preparations for the  
Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States  
“Weather and Climate Services contribute to Sustainable Development”**

**1. Introduction**

The United Nations Conference for Sustainable Development (UNCSD, known as Rio+20) called for, “the convening in 2014 of a third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS), recognizing the importance of coordinated, balanced and integrated actions to address the sustainable development challenges facing Small Island Developing States”<sup>1</sup>.

The 3rd International Conference on Small Island Developing States (“SIDS Conference”) will be held from 1-4 September 2014, in Apia, Samoa, with a preparatory session from 28 to 31 August, and will focus the world's attention on this group of countries that face special sustainable development challenges in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities. The SIDS Conference will serve as a forum to build on existing successful partnerships as well as launch innovative and concrete new ones, to advance the sustainable development of SIDS.

This Note is addressed to National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) to provide guidance on how to engage with the SIDS Conference and preparatory processes to promote the benefits of Weather and Climate Services for sustainable development of SIDS. Given that 2014 is also the International Year of Small Island Developing States, there will be additional opportunities and events to reinforce this message and reach key stakeholders throughout the year.

**2. Improved weather and climate services across critical economic sectors to build resilient communities in the SIDS**

Effective and tailored weather and climate products and services at relevant scales can play a vital role in supporting adaptation to climate variability and change and supporting weather and climate-sensitive sectors. Building resilience in these sectors is greatly enhanced through access to critical weather and climate information, past and present, and through anticipation of future climatic conditions. Integration of weather and climate information into decision-making would foster more effective risk management in support of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and future development objectives.

Leaders of SIDS have stated clearly that they want partnerships to be the cornerstone of the 2014 SIDS Conference. They have called for the “strengthening of collaborative partnerships between SIDS and the international community” as one of the important ways and means to address new and emerging challenges and opportunities for sustainable development of SIDS.

Launched in 2009, the Global Framework for Climate Services<sup>2</sup> fosters partnerships between governments, organizations and communities that provide and use climate information and services. GFCS aims to enable society to manage better the risk and opportunities arising from climate variability and change, especially in those countries who are most vulnerable to climate-related hazards by developing and incorporating science-based climate information into planning, policy and practice.

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<sup>1</sup> Paragraph 180 of *The Future We Want*.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.gfcs-climate.org/>

Implementing the GFCS in SIDS is a long-term cooperative endeavor in which the SIDS and various international, regional and national institutions together with stakeholders will work to achieve a new paradigm in provision of weather and climate services for sustainable development. To achieve this, the **GFCS-SIDS Partnership**<sup>3</sup> will be launched at the SIDS Conference in Apia, Samoa in September 2014.

WMO's main message for the SIDS Conference and in general for the year of SIDS is:

***“Strengthening Weather and Climate Services will promote sustainable economic development and building resilient societies in Small Island Developing States”.***

### **3. WMO Strategy for Engagement**

The goal of WMO engagement with the SIDS Conference, and with the 2014 Year of SIDS, is to raise political awareness among SIDS leaders and development partners on the value and benefits of robust weather and climate services for sustainable development of SIDS.

WMO will engage the NMHSs and regional partners in preparations for the Conference through a series of targeted meetings, SIDS Conference preparation meetings and side events at other WMO meetings (technical sessions, regional associations (RA) sessions).

At the SIDS Conference, WMO will promote the benefits of weather and climate services to high level decision-makers through a communications campaign, including major side events that will help to bring political attention to this issue.

In order to create maximum value from this opportunity a series of key messages and communications products are being developed to assist NMHSs in SIDS to show how climate services can be best utilized to achieve national priorities in areas such as disaster resilience, health, agriculture etc. These WMO communications products could also be adapted to national context and broadcast on national press, radio and TV in all SIDS.

To support our collective effort, NMHSs are encouraged to use any relevant event and meeting to bring the message forward and raise awareness on the value and benefits of weather and climate services for sustainable development. NMHSs are encouraged, with the support of WMO, to inform and engage with/be part of their National Conference Delegations and promote that weather and climate services be incorporated in the SIDS dialogue.

### **4. Key messages for SIDS Conference**

#### **1. Key WMO message for the SIDS Conference:**

“Investing in the strengthening of weather and climate services will support sustainable economic development and build resilient societies in Small Island Developing States”.

*Sector Specific Messages:*

#### ***“Weather and climate services for safer communities”***

Climate services provide critical information for prevention, preparation, contingency planning and response for climate and weather extremes that result in disasters. This includes forecasting of related hazards/risks, (storm surges, waves and coastal inundation, floods, strong winds). Collaboration between meteorological, oceanographic and emergency services leads to greatly improved early warning systems and preparedness

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.sids2014.org/index.php?type=66&menu=1507&page=view&nr=789>

***"Weather and climate services for healthy, productive and resilient oceans and seas"***

A better understanding of climate variability and change and the likely impacts on coastal and ocean fisheries is critical to the future management of these resources, which are highly valuable for both subsistence and market-based economies and cultures. Weather and climate services can assist developing countries and SIDS that depend heavily on fisheries for food consumption and export earnings.

***"Weather and climate services for improved planning in the transport, tourism and agricultural sectors"***

Transport, tourism and agriculture and food security are closely linked to or influenced by weather and climate conditions and can be negatively affected by extreme events such as droughts, heat waves, floods and storms which can lead to transport disruptions, crop failure, food insecurity, ruined livelihoods, mass migration of people, and reduced national economic growth. Weather and climate services make it possible to incorporate climate information into practices and policies for supporting these important economic sectors.

***"Weather and climate services for sustainable renewable energy"***

Weather and climate variability directly influences renewable energy yields, while climate change is expected to place greater pressure on vital resources such as water, food, and energy. Predictions of potential energy yields are vital for decisions on investments and operations for renewable energy projects such as wind, solar or hydropower. Site planning, investment analyses, contingency planning and operational management all require climate information. Tailored climate services can greatly support the renewable energy sector.

***"Weather and climate services to reduce the impact of diseases"***

Climate services can provide the information needed to anticipate the incidence of diseases influenced by climate, such as malaria, meningitis and waterborne diseases. This enables public health services to provide warnings and undertake contingency planning to reduce the impact of diseases.

***"National Meteorological and Hydrological Services are the Authoritative Voice"***

National Hydrometeorological Services are the single authoritative voice for critical information for early warnings for preparation, contingency planning and response for climate and weather extremes that result in disasters.

***"Investing National Hydrometeorological Services for improved weather and climate services reduces the costs of disasters"***

Investing National Hydrometeorological Services for improved weather and climate services brings a return on investment in the region of 5 to 7 times the investment cost in terms of reducing the costs of disasters.

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