



World Meteorological Organization  
Organisation météorologique mondiale

Secrétariat

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Weather • Climate • Water  
Temps • Climat • Eau

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

GENEVA, 16 July 2014

Annexes: 2

Subject: Conference on the Gender Dimensions of Weather and Climate Services  
(Geneva, 5-7 November 2014)

Action required: (1) To propose conference participants **by 15 August 2014 at the latest**  
(2) To encourage participation of NMHS staff in the Web Forum  
(3) To consider providing voluntary contributions in support of the Conference

Dear Sir/Madam,

In reference to my letter SG/ASG/SPO/WGC-3 (WMO-1383) of 2 July 2013 to Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Member States of the WMO and copied to you, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to those Members who responded to our call for contributions and provided funds for the organization of the Conference on the Gender Dimensions of Weather and Climate Services which will take place in Geneva, 5-7 November 2014.

Under the motto *Universal Access – Empowering Women*, the Conference will raise awareness, showcase good practices and propose concrete actions to empower women, as well as men, to produce, acquire and use weather and climate services to make better decisions, particularly in the areas of: (1) agriculture and food security; (2) disaster risk reduction; (3) water resources management; and (4) public health.

The Conference will start with an inauguration session at which Heads of State, the chiefs of UN agencies and other prominent members of governments and partner organizations will identify the main challenges and establish the links between gender, weather, climate and the four conference themes. A half-day session will then be dedicated to each theme, consisting of a high-level plenary and breakout sessions. A special event on *Careers in Weather, Climate and Water* will also be held, which will provide information on best practices to empower women and integrate gender into education and capacity-building efforts that involve weather and climate services.

To: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services) of Members of WMO (PR-6781)

Interpretation will be provided in all WMO languages in the plenary. The modalities of the breakout sessions will be established in the coming months.

The Conference themes coincide with the four initial priority areas of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) which, having built momentum in the past year, could only benefit from the incorporation of a gender perspective into its implementation. Our goal is to have the outcomes of the Conference feed into the GFCS, generate knowledge, provide guidance, and formulate recommendations on how Members could address gender-specific needs in the provision, access and use of weather and climate services. The Conference outcomes are also expected to feed into several important international processes, as described in the attached conference flyer.

I am pleased to announce the launching of the Conference website ([www.wmo.int/genderconference](http://www.wmo.int/genderconference)) where you will find more information on all aspects of the event. I would specifically like to draw to your attention the Web Forum feature of the website, where you and your staff are able to take part in an online discussion of key Conference questions in the months preceding the Conference (July-October). I would like to assure you that your views, expertise and experience are critical for generating knowledge on an area of weather and climate services that has been unexplored so far. Your input to the Forum would also be instrumental in formulating the conference outcomes.


Most importantly, I would like to request your assistance in bringing to our attention meteorologists, hydrologists, climate scientists and practitioners from your country, who hold critical knowledge on the Conference topics and whose participation could add value to the Conference results. We would appreciate your suggestions in this respect by **15 August 2014** at the latest. Please note that a nomination on your behalf will not automatically translate into an invitation to the Conference due to limitations related to our conference facilities and budget. The Conference will be by invitation only and participants will be selected based on their profile, geographical representation and knowledge of the issues at hand. In this sense, participation of interested participants in the web Forum is strongly encouraged.

I would also like to encourage you to consider supporting the travel costs of one or more participants from your NMHS or country. While funding for some speakers and participants, particularly from least developed and developing countries, will be available, your support will help us ensure the balanced and representative participation of meteorologists, hydrologists and climate scientists at the event.

Finally, I would like to echo the call for resource mobilization expressed at the sixty-sixth session of the WMO Executive Council and urge you to consider making a voluntary financial contribution to the Gender Conference and Gender Mainstreaming Activities Trust Fund established for the purposes of the Conference and follow-up activities. Sponsors offering CHF 50,000 and above are recognized on the home page of the Conference website and relevant documentation.

I look forward to your response at your earliest convenience.


Yours faithfully,



(M. Jarraud)  
Secretary-General



5–7 NOVEMBER 2014  
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND



# CONFERENCE ON THE GENDER DIMENSIONS OF WEATHER AND CLIMATE SERVICES

UNIVERSAL ACCESS | EMPOWERING WOMEN

The World Meteorological Organization will host this groundbreaking international forum to advance gender inclusion in weather and climate services. The Conference will raise awareness and showcase good practices and concrete actions to empower women – as well as men – to produce, acquire and use such services to make more informed decisions in the weather and climate-sensitive areas of food security, disaster risk reduction, water resources management and public health. Empowerment of women is important both to improve the effectiveness of weather and climate services and to build climate resilience.

#### Participants:

- Meteorologists and climate scientists, including leading young professionals.
- UN agencies, academic institutions and NGOs working in climate change, gender equality, food security, disaster risk reduction, water resources management and public health.
- National authorities and country-level practitioners.
- National and international women's rights advocates.
- Reinsurance and communication technology companies.

Conference outcomes will feed into the post-2015 development agenda, the disaster risk reduction future framework, the Global Framework for Climate Services and other future climate action, and Beijing +20. The outcomes will specify the commitments required to enhance openness and inclusion in providing weather and climate services that better serve communities around the world, especially women, as both weather and climate vulnerability and adaptive capacity often differ by gender.



# CONFERENCE ON THE GENDER DIMENSIONS OF WEATHER AND CLIMATE SERVICES (5–7 NOVEMBER 2014)

## WEEK AT A GLANCE (TENTATIVE)

| Time          | Tuesday<br>November 4                           | Wednesday<br>November 5   | Thursday<br>November 6  | Friday<br>November 7   |
|---------------|---|---|---|--|
| 7:30          |   | Poster Set-up   |   |  |
| 9:00 - 10:30  |   | <b>Opening Remarks and Vision for the Conference</b>  | <b>High-Level Plenary 2: Weather, Climate, Health and Gender</b>  | <b>High-Level Plenary 4: Women, Climate, Agriculture and Food security</b>   |
| 10:30 - 11:00 |   | Morning Break   | Morning Break   | Morning Break  |
| 11:00 - 12:30 | Registration                                    | <b>Introductory High-Level Panel</b>  | <b>Working Session 2a<br/>Gender and Health:</b><br>Improving Access and Use of Information<br><b>Working Session 2b<br/>Gender and Health:</b><br>Ensuring Capacity and Enabling Mechanisms                        | <b>Working Session 4a<br/>Gender, Agriculture and Food Security:</b><br>Improving Access and Use of Information<br><b>Working Session 4b<br/>Gender, Agriculture and Food Security:</b><br>Ensuring Capacity and Enabling Mechanisms |
| 12:30 - 14:30 |   | Lunch Break / Side Events   | Lunch Break / Side Events   | Lunch Break / Side Events  |
| 14:30 - 16:00 |   | <b>High-Level Plenary 1: Strengthening Women's Role in Disaster Risk Reduction</b>  | <b>High-Level Plenary 3: Climate, Water and Gender Equality</b>   | <b>14:30 - 16:30<br/>Plenary Session 5:<br/>Putting Our Knowledge Together</b>   |
| 16:00 - 16:30 | 14:30 - 17:00<br>Registration and Poster Set-up | Afternoon Break   | Afternoon Break   |  |
| 16:30 - 18:00 |   | <b>Working Session 1a<br/>Gender and DRR:</b><br>Education and Capacity Building<br><b>Working Session 1b<br/>Gender and DRR:</b><br>Risk and DRR Communication | <b>Working Session 3a<br/>Gender and Water:</b> Ensuring That Climate Information Reaches Women Users<br><b>Working Session 3b Gender and Water:</b><br>Empowering Women to Participate in Water Science and Policy | 16:30 - 17:00<br>Afternoon Break<br>17:00 - 18:00<br><b>Conference Outcome and Closing Remarks</b>   |
| 18:00 - 19:30 |   | Other Events  | Other Events  |  |
| 19:00 --      |   | Opening Night Reception   |   | Closing Night Celebration  |