



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

Subject: WMO Support for United Nations Operations and Crisis Center (UNOCC),
 New York

- Actions required:
- (1) Inform the Secretariat of your interest in partnering with WMO to provide sustained weather, climate and hydrological information to UN leadership for humanitarian activities and crisis management
 - (2) Provide views on the best way to provide a regular support to the UN system with weather, climate and hydrological information
 - (3) Nominate focal points in your Service for WMO UNOCC coordination

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to request you to consider partnering with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to provide sustained weather, climate and hydrological information to United Nations (UN) leadership for humanitarian activities and crisis management.

UN humanitarian activities and crisis management and operations are highly dependent on weather, climate and hydrological conditions inferring that related information and its interpretation is important to UN operations. Following consultations with the Executive Office of the UN Secretary-General, WMO conducted a successful test with UNOCC at the UN Headquarters in New York to evaluate the benefit of having qualified WMO expert as part of the UNOCC team to provide regular briefings and analysis based on information from authoritative WMO sources to UN leadership.

This test, conducted during October 2017, involved the embedding of a WMO adviser (a Chief Meteorologist from the UK Met Office) in UNOCC who provided information from WMO Members as part of the daily situational updates sent to the UN Secretary General, Senior UN Officials and the Heads of UN Agencies. The UNOCC undertakes detailed analysis on operational threats and trends across the globe and is charged of providing situational assessment on UN operations, including crisis management. This is done on a confidential basis via daily situational assessments and the provision of immediate updates, as well through longer-term analytical assessments. I would like to refer you to the brief results of the test attached as Annex to this letter for more information.

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

cc: Hydrological Advisers to Permanent Representatives

Considering the above, I would welcome your views on the best way to provide a regular support to the UN system with weather, climate and hydrological information. I would also be interested knowing if your Service would like to join the initiative. In your response, please consider addressing the following points:

- (a) What types of remote information/products could be made available from your Service to send via WMO New York Office to support the UNOCC on a daily, weekly and/or monthly basis?
- (b) Would your Service be able to second to WMO an operational Meteorologist with global knowledge, impact-based decision support service experience and good English language skills to work in UNOCC and the WMO New York Office for a minimum of 3-6 months?
- (c) If such a secondment is not possible for your Service, what mechanism could you propose to assist WMO to provide operational support to UNOCC?

Your response at your earliest convenience but preferably no later than **7 February 2018** would be greatly appreciated. Please also consider nominating a Focal Point for further liaison on this matter.

I look forward to receiving your answer with copy to Dr Xu Tang, Director of Weather and Disaster Risk Reduction Services Department xtang@wmo.int and to Dr Paul Egerton, WMO Representative to the UN in New York, pegerton@wmo.int.

I would like to express my appreciation for your continued support in promoting the WMO Programmes and activities.

Yours faithfully,



(P. Taalas)
Secretary-General

Report on the Trial Embedding of a WMO Advisor to the United Nations Operations and Crisis Centre (UNOCC)

Background

In January 2017 the UN Secretary General (UNSG), Mr. Antonio Guterres, issued one of his first strategic decisions aiming to strengthen information management and coordination within the UN system. He immediately took steps to make the United Nations Operations and Crisis Centre (UNOCC) a fully integrated entity, reporting to his Executive Office, charged with delivering integrated situational awareness and analysis to provide a global operational picture to UN senior managers.

Building on this directive, senior members of WMO discussed with UNOCC ways of providing authoritative weather, water and climate advice in support of UNOCC operations in New York. Following a series of meetings, WMO agreed to second a meteorological advisor to the UNOCC for a one month trial period to help better understand the appetite for meteorological information and to develop a proposal in respect of a sustainable service going forward. Ahead of this secondment, the WMO Representative to the UN began acting as a conduit for authoritative WMO information on a limited ad hoc basis to provide UNOCC with some initial support, particularly through the busy period of Caribbean hurricanes.

Summary of secondment activities and findings

At the very outset of the trial, it was clear that there is a great appetite within UNOCC and the Executive Office of the Secretary General (EOSG) for the integration of authoritative meteorological information into both their reporting and analysis work. The embedded advisor provided this information drawing on a mix of publically available NMHS, RSMC, SWIC, LRF-MME and RCOF information, ECMWF data, some specially made available UKMO products and expert WMO advice.

Two immediate challenges were quickly identified:

1. The sourcing of authoritative meteorological information proved to be time consuming and it was not always clear where the latest authoritative information was;
2. The requirement to assimilate this information into the economic, political, peacekeeping or humanitarian domains to create a truly integrated assessment.

Through having access to the UNOCC's confidential portal, and by working closely with UNOCC reporting officers and their analysis team, these challenges were successfully overcome. The meteorological advisor was able to contribute authoritative WMO information to that wider integrated picture for inclusion in the UNOCC's flagship product, the Daily Report, which goes directly to the UNSG, and over 600 other UN recipients. Further in depth analysis was used in briefings to EOSG and directors, thus helping UN senior managers make better decisions and take action, whilst also giving greater visibility to WMO NMHS capabilities. In addition, many other requirements were found which could further improve the use of WMO authoritative information in wider UN activities, departments and partner agencies, e.g. UN situational assessment web tools, DESA, OCHA and FAO.

The UNOCC have expressed their wish to continue to receive WMO support and to further develop the opportunities discovered. Furthermore, the UNOCC Director has expressed his preference, given past experiences, for a long term WMO embed at UNOCC in order to deliver this.
