

**WMO OMM**

World Meteorological Organization
Office of the Secretary-General
Organisation météorologique mondiale
Bureau du Secrétaire général
Organización Meteorológica Mundial
Oficina del Secretario General

Всемирная метеорологическая организация
Бюро Генерального секретаря
المنظمة العالمية للأرصاد الجوية
مكتب الأمين العام
世界气象组织
秘书长办公室

Our ref.: 23988/2020/CSG

15 December 2020

Subject: Season's greetings from the WMO Secretary-General

Dear WMO Permanent Representative,

I would like to greet you during these unusual times of a global pandemic, which have significantly affected all of us. COVID-19 has been a challenge for our professional and social lives. The impacts on our future welfare and overall economic development is a matter of serious concern.

Here, at WMO Secretariat, we have done our best to implement the historical reform and to utilize the great opportunities it offers. I am happy to tell that the implementation of WMO reform has been progressing well despite of the special challenges caused by the pandemic. The data conference we organized in November was the largest WMO virtual zoom meeting with more than 1,200 individual participants online.

We have successfully utilized the videoconferencing means, our two new Technical Commissions, Research Board and Scientific Advisory Panel have begun their work, and the expert groups have been populated. The Infrastructure Commission had its first meeting in mid-November and agreed to a new standard for global weather observing network (GBON). It was also agreed to revise our data policy to promote larger amounts and new types of weather, climate and hydrological data for free global exchange.

We have also paid attention to the fact that about half of our Members have challenges in the provision of early warning services, and especially impact based services. We organized a major Data Conference 16-20 November to find ways to enhance the amount of data in data sparse areas, especially in WMO Regions I, III and V to enhance free exchange of weather, climate, ocean and hydrological data. We have already been able to support 58 countries in improving their early warning services through CREWS financing instrument attaining 68 M US Dollars in contributions. We are grateful, that besides already contributing seven donor countries, also Finland, Canada and European Commission have indicated their willingness to contribute to the improvement of early warning capacities of the less developed Members of WMO.

One of our major challenges is related to the global real time weather observing network. The lack of observations and low level of data delivery for global use is having a considerable negative effect on the quality of the weather forecasts in Africa, Latin America as well as Pacific and Caribbean island states. The lack of data deteriorates also the accuracy of medium and long-term forecasts worldwide. WMO has developed a new concept to improve the situation, SOFF, (Systematic Observation Financing Facility). The ultimate aim is to mobilize 400 M USD to improve the observation systems in the above-mentioned areas.

To: WMO Permanent Representatives

The impacts of disasters and climate change are, to a large degree, felt through drought, flooding, melting of glaciers and coastal inundation. WMO has been collecting a consortium ten United Nations (UN) organizations to establish a program for Sustainable Development Goal 6 (Water) implementation. We call it SDG & Water-Climate coalition, contributing overall to the UN Water SDG 6 acceleration framework with the aim to improve the water observations, exchange of data, hydrometeorological services, climate adaptation and mitigation of its negative impacts.

WMO has become one of the key climate expertise organizations, with regular scientific reports on the state of the global climate, greenhouse gases, disasters and their impacts. These reports have been jointly launched with the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres with global visibility. We have produced two United in Science reports for the UN Climate Summit and the General Assembly High Level Weeks in partnership with the Global Carbon Project, UNEP, IPCC and UNESCO including WMO data from annual Greenhouse Gas Bulletins and State of Climate reports. We have also started to publish regional state of the climate reports on Africa and future planning for South America. IPCC, which works under the hosting of WMO and UNEP, plays a complementary role in publishing large Assessment Reports every 6-7 years.

Finally, I am proud of the WMO staff and management for their enthusiasm, professionalism and dedication. After visiting all WMO departments and meeting the whole staff, I am confident that we will certainly be in a position to offer our Members considerably improved services and expertise in the future. The reform process has been a laborious exercise for all of us, but now we have a chance to concentrate on productive work. We are planning to materialize the final part of the Congress Resolution to strengthen our regional and technical expertise during the latter half of 2021. We are also preparing a dedicated management training program to enhance the professional leadership of WMO.

WMO is planning to organize an extraordinary Congress in 2021 bearing in mind the constraints of the pandemic in the organization of a physical meeting. The key items will be regional activity reform, revision of WMO data policies and the launch of the Water and Climate coalition for SDG 6 Accelerator.

I would like to wish you and your loved ones a relaxing end of year break and fruitful cooperation in 2021!

Yours sincerely,



Prof. Petteri Taalas
Secretary-General



WORLD
METEOROLOGICAL
ORGANIZATION

Season's Greetings

The Secretary-General, Petteri Taalas,
and the staff of the World Meteorological Organization
present their best wishes for 2021

Le Secrétaire général, Petteri Taalas,
et le personnel de l'Organisation météorologique mondiale
vous adressent leurs meilleurs vœux pour 2021

Генеральный секретарь Петтери Таалас и персонал
Всемирной метеорологической организации желают Вам всего
самого лучшего в 2021 году

El Secretario General, Petteri Taalas,
y el personal de la Organización Meteorológica Mundial
le desean un feliz y próspero 2021

الأمين العام، بيتيري تالاس، وموظفو المنظمة
العالمية للأرصاد الجوية يتقدمون بأطيب
الأمانى بمناسبة حلول عام 2021

世界气象组织秘书长佩特里·塔拉斯
携全体工作人员恭祝大家2021年美好幸福

World Meteorological Organization

7 bis, avenue de la Paix | P.O. Box 2300 | CH-1211 Geneva 2 | Switzerland
Tel.: +41 (0) 22 730 81 11 | Fax: +41 (0) 22 730 81 71 | Email: wmo@wmo.int

public.wmo.int