



Our ref.: 6742294/2026/DPPD

20 May 2026

Subject: Launch of the WMO Weather, Climate and Water Intelligence Commons

Action required: Engage with, promote and advocate for contributions to the WMO Commons

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have the honour to inform you that WMO has officially launched the WMO Weather, Climate and Water Intelligence Commons (“WMO Commons”) during Climate Week Zürich in May 2026.

This milestone marks the formal establishment of a new pooled financing mechanism designed to safeguard and strengthen the critical public backbone of weather, climate and water data and intelligence, the global infrastructure on which all WMO Members and billions of people worldwide depend.

### 1. About the WMO Commons

The WMO Commons is a WMO-managed pooled financing mechanism that sustains, strengthens and modernizes the globally mandated backbone and system-enabling functions of weather, climate and water data and intelligence. It ensures continuity, interoperability and equitable participation across all WMO Members.

Through voluntary contributions from sovereign governments, philanthropic organizations, multilateral institutions and private-sector actors, resources are pooled and allocated through a single financing platform to support the international infrastructure that enables national observing networks and forecasting services to operate as part of a coherent and interoperable global system.

The WMO Commons seeks to mobilize at least 100 million Swiss francs (CHF) over five years to finance global weather, climate and water monitoring, prediction and service delivery systems. This investment leverages billions in existing public sector investment, complements the growing role of private sector engagement and reinforces existing climate financing mechanisms.

The mechanism is structured around four Investment Pathways:

- **Sustain and optimize the global observing system** — closing gaps in land, ocean, atmospheric, cryosphere and greenhouse gas monitoring.
- **Strengthen global data interoperability and prediction** — modernizing data exchange infrastructure and expanding access to world-leading forecasts.

To: Permanent Representatives of Members with WMO

cc: Hydrological Advisers

- **Expand high-impact services and early warnings** — scaling up multi-hazard early warning systems and impact-based services for communities most at risk.
- **Capacity and user co-creation** — strengthening institutional capacity, education, training and active co-creation with users across sectors.

## 2. Why it matters for Members

The WMO Commons directly supports Members by strengthening the global systems on which they rely for weather, climate and water intelligence. It transforms fragmented investments into a coherent global architecture, improving efficiency, interoperability and impact. In doing so, it translates global cooperation into tangible national benefits, supporting resilience, decision-making and service delivery across all countries.

## 3. Accountability, reporting and operational guidelines

In the interest of full transparency and accountability, the following key documents are now publicly available on the WMO Commons website:

- **Operational Guidelines:** outlining the governance architecture, contribution modalities, resource allocation principles and roles of key institutional bodies, including the WMO Commons Advisory Group. The Guidelines clarify how the WMO Commons operates fully within the existing WMO regulatory, financial and governance framework.
- **Planning, Financing and Reporting Framework:** setting out how pooled contributions are integrated into WMO planning and budgeting processes, including the Annual Operating Plan (AOP); how resources are allocated through the WMO Commons Annual Workplan; and how results and financial performance are tracked and reported using the WMO Results-based Management (RBM) framework and audited financial systems.

All contributions to the WMO Commons are unearmarked and pooled, with allocation decisions taken exclusively through the WMO Commons Annual Workplan under WMO Executive Management oversight. This ensures coherence, impact and accountability in the use of all resources.

## 4. Invitation to engage, promote and contribute

The WMO Commons is a shared endeavour rooted in the principle of collective action for global public goods. The strength of this mechanism depends on the active engagement of all WMO Members, partner organizations and the broader international community.

In this spirit, I warmly invite you to:

- **Actively engage** with the WMO Commons by exploring its website, reviewing the Operational Guidelines and familiarizing yourselves with the Investment Pathways and governance structures.
- **Promote the WMO Commons** within your government, relevant ministries and among partners and stakeholders, helping to build awareness of this critical global infrastructure financing initiative.
- **Advocate for support and contributions** to the WMO Commons from your government, as well as from philanthropic organizations, multilateral institutions or private-sector actors. Every contribution, regardless of size,

strengthens the global public backbone on which all forecasting, climate services and early warning systems depend.

The launch of the WMO Commons represents a historic step forward in collective stewardship of the global weather, climate and water intelligence system. I am confident that, together, we can build a more resilient, equitable and well-financed global system — one that serves all people, in all countries, in the face of escalating climate risks.

I look forward to your active participation and support.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Saulo', written in a cursive style.

Prof. Celeste Saulo  
Secretary-General