



Our ref.:19934/2020-MS/TSC

16 October 2020

Annex: 1

Subject: Invitation to online Launch of the Report of the State of the Climate in Africa

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to refer to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Statement on the Global Climate, which has been providing information on the global climate, significant weather and related trends, events at global level and their impacts for the past 25 years. Although climate change is a global phenomenon, it is at regional and local levels where impacts are felt and where action to adapt to and mitigate its effects are required.

In responding to the need of a current and regularly updated science-based knowledge to support adaptation and mitigation action on climate variability and change at regional and local levels, WMO has collaborated with a number of regional and national partners to produce the State of the Climate in Africa in 2019. These include the African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC), WMO designated Regional Climate Centres in the continent, namely the African Centre for Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) and National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS). The development of the report also benefited from the contribution of WMO Global Data Processing and Analysis Centres, as well as United Nations (UN) partners and International Organizations.

This report is the first of its kind for Africa and provides a snapshot of climate trends, observed high impact events and associated risks, impacts on key sensitive sectors, as well as policy recommendations to build resilience against high-impact weather and climate events.

I therefore would like to invite you to attend the online high-level launch of the report on 26 of October 2020, details of which are provided in the attached pamphlet "State of the Climate in Africa 2019". In addition, I would also like to request you to share the information about the event to relevant stakeholders.

The launch will be in the format of a panel discussion with the participation of partner organizations supporting climate action in the continent, such as the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Union Commission (AUC), African Development Bank (ADB), UN and International Organizations, and Government Ministers responsible for Meteorology.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

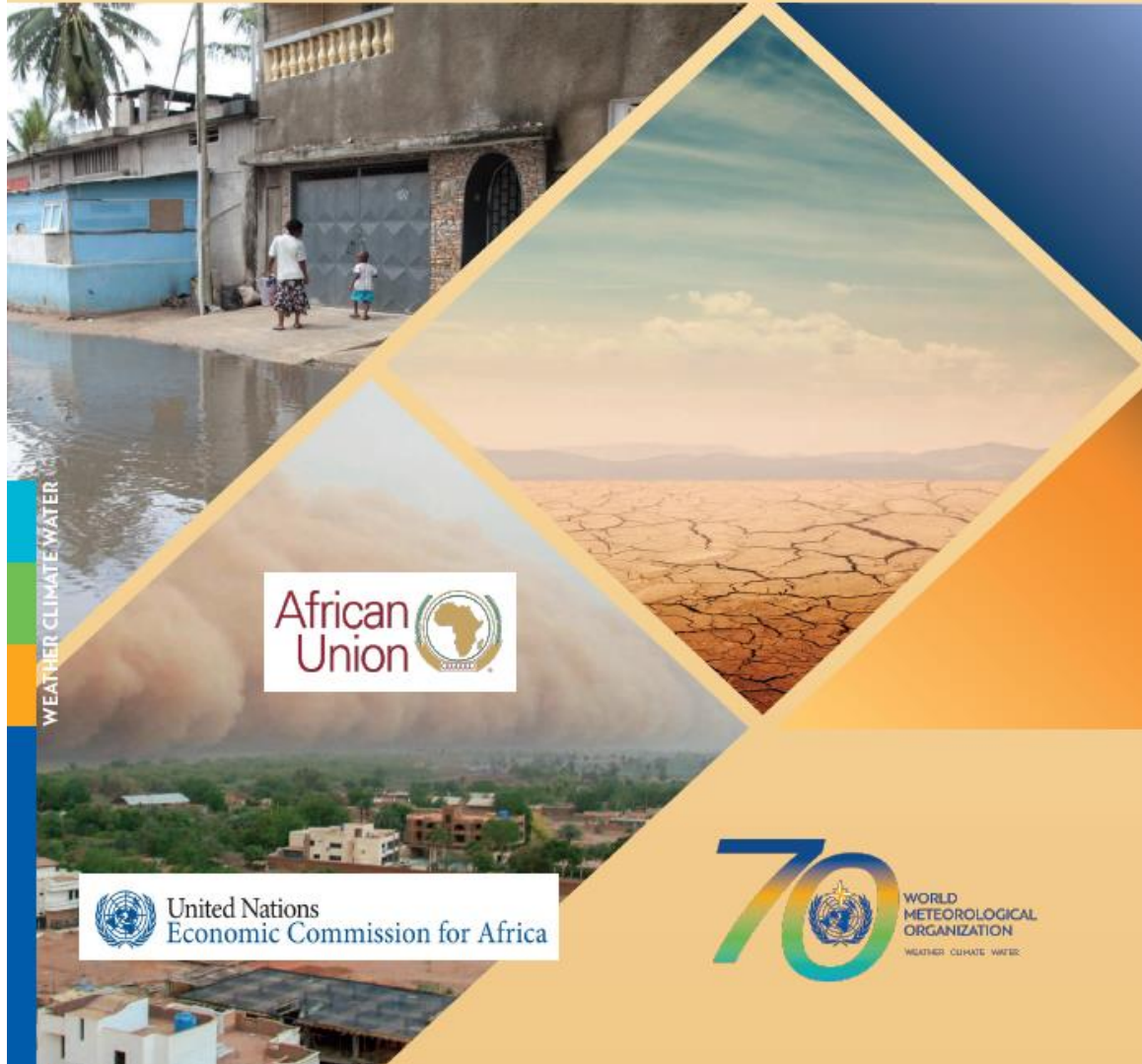
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Taalas', written over a horizontal line.

Prof. Petteri Taalas  
Secretary-General

To: Permanent Representatives of Members of WMO Regional Association I (limited distribution)

# State of the Climate in Africa

2019



## High-Level Launch

26 October 2020

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM (CEST)

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[CLICK HERE TO PARTICIPATE](#)

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# State of the Climate in Africa, 2019

*26 October 2020 (2:00 -4:00 pm CEST)*

Impacts and risks associated with climate change are felt at regional and local levels. To enable effective action to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change and extreme weather, governments and individuals must have access to science-based knowledge that is regularly updated and derived from robust data.

The State of the Climate in Africa 2019 report is the first report of its kind. It is a multi-agency effort led by the World Meteorological Organization in partnership with key international and continental organizations. It provides a snapshot of climate trends, extreme weather, and associated risks and impacts in key sensitive sectors. The report highlights lessons for climate action in Africa and identifies pathways for addressing critical gaps and challenges.

The high-level launch will bring together scientific organizations, policy and decisions makers, development partners and practitioners to reflect on the urgency of climate action in Africa and the current state of capacity to achieve this.

The launch will start with interventions of Prof. Petteri Taalas, Secretary General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), H.E. Josefa Sacko, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union Commission (AUC) and Dr. Vera Songwe, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the three co-hosting institutions, followed by the high-level panel discussion. The event will conclude with a Q & A session. Dr James Murombedzi in charge of the African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) of UNECA will moderate the event.

## Opening Statements

- Prof. Petteri Taalas, WMO Secretary General
- H.E. Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture of the AUC
- H.E. Vera Songwe is Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

## Panel Discussion

- H.E. Barbara Creecy, Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, South Africa (in her capacity as President of AMCEN)
- H.E. Mohamed Manar Enabah, Minister of Civil Aviation, Egypt, Chair AMCOMET Bureau
- H.E. Gilberto Silva, Minister of Agriculture and Environment of Cabo Verde
- Mr. Ovais Sarmad, Deputy Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC
- Ms Maria Elena M. Q. Semedo, Deputy Director General, FAO
- Prof. Anthony Nyong, Director for Climate Change and Green Growth, African Development Bank
- H.E. Sékou Sangare, Commissioner for Agriculture, Environment and Water Resources, ECOWAS Commission
- Mr. Amjad Abbashar, Chief Regional Office for Africa, UNDRR
- Mr. Muhammed Mukhair, Regional Director, IFRC
- High level representatives of IOM (to be updated)

## Q & A