

**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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Our ref.: 18643/2021/MS/RAM/PRs-RA-III-IV-HLL-Inv

12 August 2021

Annex: 1

Subject: Launch of the Report on the State of the Climate in Latin America and the Caribbean 2020 and High-level Conference “Working together for weather, climate and water resilience in Latin America and the Caribbean” on 17 August 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have the pleasure to invite you to participate in the Launch of the Report on the State of Climate in Latin America and the Caribbean & the High-Level Conference: “Working together for weather, climate and water resilience in Latin America and the Caribbean” on 17 August 2021 (14h00-17h00 UTC).

Please note that the high-level conference will focus on fostering climate action and will bring together policy makers and leaders from South America, North America, Central America, and the Caribbean. I am pleased to enclose herewith a brochure with further details on this important event.

As you are aware, the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) Region is significantly challenged by extreme hydro-meteorological events. Your Service has been playing a very proactive role in supporting the region to respond to climate challenges and fostering multilateral processes in support of sustainable development in the region.

The high-level conference will also provide a forum to share what regional partners are doing and seek ways to ensure that our respective work and the priorities of the WMO Members of Regional Associations III and IV are supported by decision makers and development partners in this Region, identifying ways to join forces and coordinate actions.

The Conference will have interpretation available in Spanish, English, French, and Portuguese. The agenda, information of the speakers and registration link are included in the attached brochure. Please note that the WMO’s focal point for the conference is Mr Rodney Martínez Güingla, WMO Representative for North America, Central America, and the Caribbean (rmartinez@wmo.int), should your office require further information regarding this event.

I kindly request you to extend the invitation to the authorities or decision-makers in your country who may be interested in this hemispheric event which is the first one in its nature.

To: Permanent Representatives of Members with WMO (limited distribution)

cc: Hydrological Advisers

I look forward to receiving your confirmation, very convinced that your participation would facilitate the success of this important international event and contribute to strengthening collaboration to improve weather, climate and water services in Latin America and the Caribbean regions.

I wish to thank you for your continued cooperation and support to WMO activities.

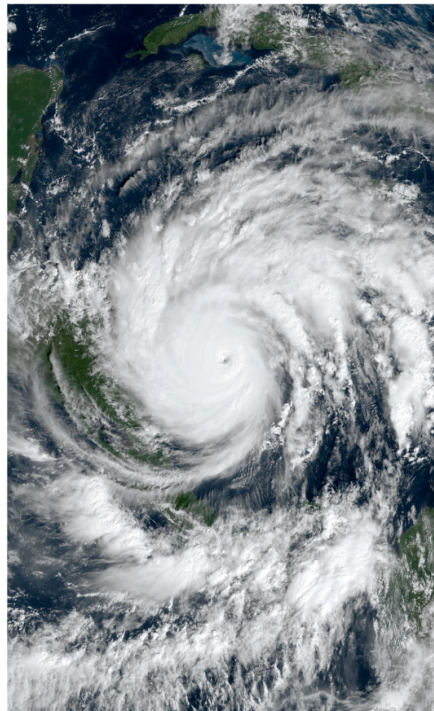
Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of fluid, connected strokes that form a stylized representation of the name Petteri Taalas.

Prof. Petteri Taalas
Secretary-General

Launch of the Report on the State of the Climate in Latin America and the Caribbean 2020

Ref.: 18755/2021-L1 MS/RAM



17 August 2021
14h00 - 17h00 UTC
[Register here](#)



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UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

UNDRR

Background and Regional Context

Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) is among the regions most challenged by extreme hydro-meteorological events. Between 1998 and 2020, climate-related and geophysical events resulted in the loss of 312 000 lives and directly affected more than 277 million people. Extreme hydro-meteorological events such as floods, storms, droughts, heat waves and related impacts accounted for 93% of all disasters that took place during this period.

The LAC region faces, and will continue to face, severe socio-economic crises due to these extreme hydro-meteorological events. In recent times this has been exacerbated by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Post-COVID-19 recovery will be challenging. One critical action to ensure recovery would be to further pursue Sustainable Development Goal 13 – “Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”, which according to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has been decelerated in many countries of the region. One way of furthering this action is to strengthen the capacities of national Early Warning Systems (EWS) and operational weather, climate and hydrological services to effectively support risk management and adaptation. In this respect, National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) are key institutions to contribute at the national, subnational and local levels.

This high-level conference, jointly hosted by WMO Regional Associations III and IV and ECLAC, has been designed to share opportunities and challenges with development partners and other organizations in identifying feasible ways to join forces and coordinate actions for the benefit of the most vulnerable communities.

Main Objective and Expected Outcomes

- Launch the Report on the State of the Climate in Latin America and the Caribbean 2020.
- Promote high-level political engagement and support to strengthened early warning systems through impact-based forecasting and risk-based warnings of extreme weather, water and climate events.

Report Overview

Climate Indicators

Ref.: 18755/2021-1.1 MS/RAM



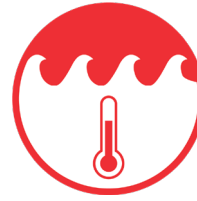
Temperatures



Precipitation



Glaciers



Ocean Heat

Extreme Events and Associated Risks



Tropical Cyclones



Floods



Drought



Cold Waves



Wildfires



Heat Waves

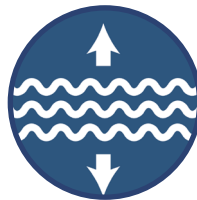
Climate-Related Impacts



**Forest and
Ecosystem Services**



**Infrastructure and
Displacement**



**Low Laying Zones
and Small Islands**



**Agriculture and
Water Resources**



Ocean Acidification

Climate Resilience and Adaptation Policies



**Ecosystem-Based
Adaptation**



**Improving Multi-Hazard Risk Early-
Warning Systems**

Report Contributors

Segment 1

Fostering Climate Action: Launch of the Report on the State of the Climate in Latin America and the Caribbean 2020

(14h00 - 15h00 UTC)



Prof. Petteri Taalas, Secretary General, WMO

Presentation of the Report on the State of the Climate in Latin America and the Caribbean 2020



His Excellency Mr. Andrew Holness, Prime Minister, Jamaica

High-Level Statement



Ms. Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and Head, UNDRR

High-Level Statement



Ms. Alicia Barcena, Executive Secretary, ECLAC

High-Level Statement

Signature of Memorandum of Understanding between WMO and ECLAC



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Segment 2

Strengthening Partnerships for Weather, Water and Climate Resilience in Latin America and the Caribbean

(15h00 - 16h00 UTC)

Ref.: 18755/2021-1.1 MS/RAM



Chair: Mr. Carlos Fuller, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Belize



Mr. Dario Soto-Abril, Executive Secretary and Chief Executive Officer, Global Water Partnership

Keynote Speech



Dr. Walton Webson, Chairperson, Alliance of the Small Island States (AOSIS), Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Antigua and Barbuda

Panelist



Mr. Gustavo Manrique, Minister of Environment, Water and Ecologic Transition, Ecuador

Panelist



Ms. Cecilia Jones, President, PLACA, Sustainability and Climate Change Coordinator, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Uruguay

Panelist



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Segment 3

Improved Cooperation and Integration of Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS) in Latin America and the Caribbean

(16h00 - 16h50 UTC)



Chair: Dr. Allan Lavell, Programme Coordinator, FLACSO, Costa Rica



Minister Joaquin Roa, National Emergency Secretary, Paraguay

Keynote Speech



Dr. Arlene Laing, Coordinating Director, Caribbean Meteorological Organization

Panelist



Mr. Milciades Concepcion, Minister of Environment, Panama

Panelist



Ms. Teresa Cristina, Minister of Agriculture, Brazil

Panelist



Mr. Marcelo Nilo, Scientific Director, Permanent Commission of the Southeastern Pacific

Panelist



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Segment 4

Closing Remarks

(16h50 - 17h00 UTC)

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Ms. Yolanda Gonzalez, Permanent Representative to WMO, Colombia,
President, WMO RA III

Closing Remarks



Mr. Evan Thompson, Permanent Representative to WMO, Jamaica,
President, WMO RA IV

Closing Remarks



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