



World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale

Secrétariat

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Weather • Climate • Water
Temps • Climat • Eau

Our ref.: SG/CER/UNGA

GENEVA, 19 April 2013

Annexes: 2

Subject: Report on the 67th Regular Session of the UN General Assembly

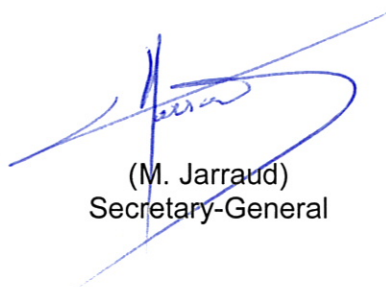
Action required: To take note of the report and of the resolutions relevant to WMO and NMHSs, and to take follow-up actions as appropriate

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to draw your attention on the 67th Regular Session of the UN General Assembly, and on the resolutions relevant to WMO and NMHSs.

I hope you will find this information useful, and I ensure you that WMO Secretariat will take appropriate actions for their implementation and follow-up across WMO Programmes and other contributions within the UN system.

Yours faithfully,



(M. Jarraud)
Secretary-General

To: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services of Members of WMO (PR-6697)

cc: Hydrological Advisers to Permanent Representatives)
President of technical commissions) (for information)

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SG/CER/UNGA, ANNEX I

Introduction:

This report relates to the 67th Regular Session of the United Nations General Assembly (New York, 18 September to 17 December 2012) which discussed issues covering major challenges facing the international community, including the post-2015 development agenda, MDGs and SDGs, climate change and DRR, and adopted 251 resolutions on them. Some 13 resolutions are of particular interest and relevance to the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) as well as to the WMO. A brief summary of those resolutions which are directly related to the activities of NMHSs and the mandate of WMO is given in Annex II. The full texts of the resolutions can be accessed at: <http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/resguide/r67.shtml>.

The General Assembly in its resolution A/RES/66/102 decided that the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Rule of Law was to be held on 24 September 2012 in New York and that the High-level Meeting should address the topic of the rule of law at the national and international levels.

Resolution A/RES/66/102 outlined the organizational arrangements of the High-level Meeting. The resolution also decided that the High-level Meeting will result in a concise outcome document. It requested that the President of the General Assembly would, in consultation with Member States, finalize the organizational arrangements of the meeting.

A report of the UN Secretary-General A/66/749 in preparation of the High-level Meeting was submitted to the General Assembly in March 2012, as requested in the resolution A/RES/66/102. In order to galvanize collective efforts to strengthen the rule of law at the national and international levels, the UN Secretary-General proposed in his report that the General Assembly adopt a programme of action for the rule of law, agree to a process to develop clear rule of law goals and adopt other key mechanisms to enhance dialogue on the rule of law. The UN Secretary-General also encouraged Member States to take the occasion of the High-level Meeting to make individual pledges related to the rule of law.

Participation in the High-level Meeting on 24th September:

The President of the General Assembly compiled a list of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, as well as a list of civil society organizations, active in the field of the rule of law, who registered to participate in the High-level Meeting. In addition, a limited number of representatives of non-governmental organizations active in the field of rule of law were invited to speak.

Statements delivered during the opening of the High-level Meeting:

- **President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Vuk Jeremic**
(<http://www.unrol.org/files/Statement%20by%20the%20President%20of%20the%2067th%20Session%20of%20the%20GA.pdf>)
- **Secretary-General, H.E. Mr Ban Ki-moon**
(<http://www.unrol.org/files/Statement%20by%20the%20Secretary-General.pdf>)
- **President of the International Court of Justice, H.E. Judge Peter Tomka**
(<http://www.unrol.org/doc.aspx?d=3254/>)
- **President of the Security Council, H.E. Dr Guido Westerwelle**
(<http://www.unrol.org/files/Statement%20by%20the%20President%20of%20the%20Security%20Council.pdf>)
- **United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms Navanethem Pillay**
(http://www.unrol.org/files/Statement_UNHCHR.pdf)

- **Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, Mrs Helen Clark**
(<http://www.unrol.org/files/Statement%20by%20UNDP.pdf>)
- **Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Mr Yury Fedotov**
(<http://www.unrol.org/files/Speech%20by%20the%20President%20of%20the%20UNODC.pdf>)

The High-level Meeting of the 67th Session of the General Assembly on the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 24 September 2012. This was a unique occasion for all Member States, non-governmental organizations and civil society represented at the highest level, to discuss and agree a forward looking agenda on strengthening the rule of law.

More than 100 heads of State or Government and Ministers participated in the Assembly's General Debate. The main part of the 67th session of the Assembly continued through December, with delegates from the UN's 193 Member States discussing issues relating to disarmament and international security; economics; social, humanitarian and cultural matters; decolonization; UN administration and budget; and legal issues.

High-level Meetings of the main 67th Session of the General attended by Heads of State and Government:

18 September – Opening of the 67th Regular Session of the General Assembly, UN Headquarters, in New York.

24 September – High-level Meeting on the Rule of Law.

24 September – High-level Meeting on Sustainable Energy for All.

25 September to 1 October – General Debate.

27 September – High Level Meeting on Scaling Up Nutrition.

28 September – High Level Meeting on Countering Nuclear Terrorism.

1 October – High Level Meeting "Fifteen years of the Chemical Weapons Convention: Celebrating success".

'Sustainable Energy for All':

The United Nations General Assembly unanimously declared the decade 2014-2024 as the Decade of Sustainable Energy for All, underscoring the importance of energy issues for sustainable development and for the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.

In adopting the resolution, the General Assembly reaffirmed its determination to make sustainable energy for all a reality. The text calls upon Member States to galvanize efforts to make universal access to sustainable modern energy services a priority, noting that 1.3 billion people are without electricity and 2.6 billion people in developing countries rely on traditional biomass for cooking and heating. It expressed concern that even when energy services are available, millions of poor people are unable to pay for them.

The resolution stressed the need to improve access to reliable, affordable, economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sound energy services and resources for sustainable development. To that end, it also highlighted the importance of improving energy efficiency, increasing the share of renewable energy and cleaner and energy-efficient technologies.

Significantly, the resolution recognized the importance of giving appropriate consideration to energy issues in elaborating the post-2015 development agenda. The Assembly called upon Governments, as well as relevant international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to combine, as appropriate, the increased use of new and renewable energy resources, more efficient use of energy, greater reliance on advanced energy technologies, including cleaner fossil fuel technologies, and the sustainable use of traditional energy resources, to meet the increasing need for energy services.

The post-2015 Development Agenda, Sustainable Development Goals and establishment of the Open Working Group:

The United Nations General Assembly established the Open Working Group tasked with advancing action towards implementing Rio+20 recommendations to develop a set of sustainable development goals. Comprising 30 countries from the world's various regions, the Open Working Group will prepare a report proposing sustainable development goals "for consideration and appropriate action" by the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly. Participation in the Open Working Group would be facilitated by an innovative rotational procedure within the regions.

Member States agreed at Rio+20 — the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro, last June — that a set of "action-oriented, concise and easy-to-communicate" goals could help drive the implementation of sustainable development. They called on the Assembly to establish a group to help develop the goals. The Rio+20 outcome document, "The Future We Want", calls for their integration into the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015.

In agreeing to the development of sustainable development goals, Member States recognized that the eight Millennium Development Goals have been useful in focusing efforts on specific aspects of a broad development vision. They have been instrumental in driving down poverty rates and increasing access to education, health care, water and sanitation, but progress has not been uniform and the United Nations is currently ramping up efforts to help countries achieve the Goals by the target year of 2015.

"The Future We Want' report and associated discussions on the Rio+20 agenda has broadened the scope for global action for people and the planet," says Mr Wu Hong Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs. "Sustainable development goals that build on the successes of the Millennium Development Goals, and that apply to all countries can provide a tremendous boost to efforts to implement sustainable development and help us address issues ranging from reducing poverty and creating jobs to the pressing issues of meeting economic, social and environmental aspirations of all".

Implementation of Post Rio+20 and Agenda 21:

In December 2012, the General Assembly adopted a resolution outlining a series of steps for implementing other aspects of the Rio+20 outcome, including preparations for the establishment of a new high-level political forum; winding down the Commission on Sustainable Development; advancing action on the 10-year programme for promoting more sustainable patterns of consumption and production; and steps towards the development of a sustainable development financing strategy, as well as options for a mechanism to promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean, environmentally sound technologies. By a text on implementation of Agenda 21, the Assembly stressed the need to develop the post-2015 development agenda. Also under the sustainable development umbrella were two annual texts stressing, respectively, the need for continued substantive consideration of the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy, and of biological diversity. Other sustainable development texts concerned the International Day of Forests and the Tree; Implementation of the International Year of Water Cooperation, 2013; Harmony with nature; Convention on Biological Diversity; and the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on its twelfth special session.

UNEP Developments in Governance:

The Assembly adopted, without a vote, the draft resolution titled "Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twelfth special session and on the implementation of section IV.C, entitled 'Environmental pillar in the context of sustainable development', of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development", which urged donors to increase voluntary funding for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), including to the Environment Fund.

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SG/CER/UNGA, ANNEX II

RESOLUTIONS OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY 67TH DIRECTLY RELEVANT TO ACTIVITIES OF NMHSs AND THE MANDATE OF WMO AS INSTITUTIONS DEALING WITH WEATHER, CLIMATE AND WATER

The full texts of the resolutions can be accessed at: <http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/resguide/r67.shtml>

1	A/RES/67/228	Agriculture development and food security: This broad GA resolution has implications for connection with the Agricultural Meteorology Programme of WMO and GFCS pilots.
2	A/RES/67/223	Promotion of ecotourism for poverty eradication and environment protection: This broad GA resolution has a connection with acceleration and achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and is connected to the WMO Goals in Partnership development.
3	A/RES/67/215	Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy: This focussed GA resolution has a direct connection with CBD and climate change issues affecting biodiversity.
4	A/RES/67/212	Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development: This focussed GA resolution has a direct connection with CBD and climate change issues affecting biodiversity.
5	A/RES/67/213	Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twelfth special session and on the implementation of section IV.C, entitled "Environmental pillar in the context of sustainable development", of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development: This important and broad GA resolution is an outcome of the Rio+20 conference and is important for the consideration of sustainable development goals (SDGs) related to the post-2015 development agenda.
6	A/RES/67/211	Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa: This important broad GA resolution is directly connected with the United Nations WMO-UNCCD-FAO initiative on national policies for combating desertification and drought policies.
7	A/RES/67/210	Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind: This resolution is connected to the issues of global climate change and therefore relevant to WMO and IPCC activities.
8	A/RES/67/209	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction: This broad GA resolution is connected to the WMO priority on Disaster Risk Reduction and the international implementation.
9	A/RES/67/208	International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon: This focussed GA resolution is related to the system of thermal anomalies in the Pacific which can cause extreme weather events.
10	A/RES/67/207	Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy: for the further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

11	A/RES/67/204	Implementation of the International Year of Water Cooperation: This broad GA resolution is directly connected to the activities of UN Water and WMO climate and water priorities.
12	A/RES/67/203	Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development: This important and broad GA resolution is related to the outcomes of the Rio+20 conference and the post-2015 development agenda, and it is therefore connected to WMO priorities in partnership with the United Nations system and development of future Sustainable Development Goals.
13	A/RES/67/200	International Day of Forests
