



World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale

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Weather • Climate • Water
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Our ref.: SG/DSG/GFCS

GENEVA, 28 August 2014

Annex: 1 (available in English only)

Subject: Meeting on the Implementation Coordination of the Global Framework for Climate Services, WMO headquarters Geneva, 29 September to 1 October 2014

Dear Sir/Madam,

As you are aware, the Implementation Plan and the Governance mechanism of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) were approved by the first session of the Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services (IBCS-1) held in Geneva from 1 to 5 July 2013. IBCS-1 also approved a Compendium of GFCS projects and activities and called for their immediate implementation.

Effective implementation of the GFCS builds on contributions of various stakeholders including Members and partner agencies currently implementing activities that contribute to the five Pillars (User Interface Platform; Climate Services Information System; Observation and Monitoring; Research, Modelling and Prediction; and Capacity Development) and to the initial priority areas of the GFCS (Agriculture and Food Security; Water; Health; and Disaster Risk Reduction) and the scientific and technical expertise coming from the technical commissions, programmes and other relevant bodies of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and its GFCS partners.

To ensure the realization of our collective efforts to achieve the GFCS milestones for the 2-, 6-, and 10- year timeframes, as contained in the GFCS Implementation Plan, it is critical to ensure that the roles and contributions of the various partners and stakeholders are specified in an agreed implementation matrix or plan.

Based on the above, it is my pleasure to invite you to the Meeting on the Implementation Coordination of the GFCS to be held at the WMO headquarters in Geneva from 29 September to 1 October 2014. A Concept Note on the Meeting is attached herewith as an Annex.

Specifically, I would like to request that you provide information on the specific activities to which your Commission/regional association could contribute to, based on the initial mapping of activities identified from the Implementation Plan (available together with the instructions to fill the tables at the link <ftp://ftp.wmo.int/Documents/gfcs/Coordination%20Meeting%20background%20files/>). This information will be critical to defining the activities that will be conducted in the various timeframes (2-, 6-, and 10 years).

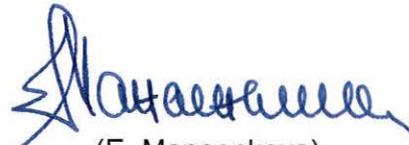
To: Presidents of regional associations (P.RA-1762)
Presidents of technical commissions (P.TC-1744)

cc: President of WMO) (for information)
Regional Hydrological Advisors)

It would be appreciated if you could consider making arrangements to fund the cost of all or part of your attendance at the consultation. If this is not possible, WMO will consider providing financial support for you, or your representative, for this purpose upon request and subject to availability of funds.

I should be grateful if you would kindly confirm your participation and provide the requested information to Mr Filipe Lúcio (flucio@wmo.int, cc: elarrode@wmo.int and msivakumar@wmo.int) as soon as possible, but preferably no later than **10 September 2014**.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'E. Manaenkova', with a stylized initial 'E'.

(E. Manaenkova)
for the Secretary-General



CONCEPT NOTE

MEETING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION COORDINATION OF THE GFCS

29 SEPTEMBER TO 1 OCTOBER 2014
WMO, GENEVA

CONTEXT

The Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) was established through a High-Level Declaration unanimously adopted by the Heads of State, Ministers and other senior government representatives attending the World Climate Conference-3 (WCC-3) in 2009, which was further developed by a High Level Taskforce (HLT) of independent advisors constituted through an intergovernmental process. The Sixteenth World Meteorological Congress, through Resolution 47 (Cg-16), endorsed the report of the HLT¹ and requested WMO to lead the development of the draft Implementation Plan of the GFCS, with the active involvement of the relevant stakeholders, including United Nations bodies.

The HLT in its report recommended that, to address the entire value chain for the production and application of climate services, the GFCS should consist of five components or pillars as follows:

- The User Interface Platform — to provide ways for climate service users and providers to interact to identify needs and capacities and improve the effectiveness of the Framework and its climate services;
- The Climate Services Information System — to produce and distribute climate data, products and information according to the needs of users and to agreed standards;
- Observations and Monitoring – to generate the necessary data for climate services according to agreed standards;

- Research, Modelling and Prediction — to harness science capabilities and results and develop appropriate tools to meet the needs of climate services;
- Capacity Development — to support the systematic development of the institutions, infrastructure and human resources needed for effective climate services.

Implementation of these components would allow the development of the required capacities to respond to the needs for tailored climate services in the four initial priority areas of the GFCS, namely: agriculture and food security, water, health and disaster risk reduction.

The Draft Implementation Plan of the GFCS contains five Annexes which depict the activities required to move the Framework forward under the five pillars of the GFCS based on the recommendations of the HLT, and four Exemplars that contain the activities required to enable better utilization of climate services under the four priority areas.



¹ <http://gfcs.wmo.int/HLT>

IMPLEMENTATION RESOURCES

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) network comprises National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), regional and global centers of excellence and eight Technical Commissions through which hundreds of experts in difference areas of weather, climate and water are engaged. Under Resolution 48 (Cg-16), the Sixteenth Session of the World Meteorological Congress requested WMO technical commissions to (a) review the technical needs of the Framework as they relate to the activities and competences of the respective commissions and assist with the implementation of the Framework to the extent possible; and (b) improve coordination of ongoing activities relevant to the Framework within and among technical commissions. The engagement of these resources constitutes one of WMO's main contributions to GFCS implementation.

In addition to the active engagement of technical commissions and WMO Members and regional and global centers, the GFCS Implementation Plan calls for the active involvement of partner agencies and various experts and stakeholders (Extraordinary Session of World Meteorological Congress Resolution 1 (Cg-Ext. (2012)). Key international and UN organizations working in areas related to the GFCS are leading implementation of the GFCS. Major programmes being implemented by these partners at country level provide a foundation on which GFCS implementation can build.

The GFCS Implementation Plan, with its five pillars and four sector/thematic exemplars, provides a blueprint for assessing the status of, and needs for, climate services including at country-level. National consultations undertaken in support of GFCS implementation have resulted in several national action plans, including two which have been completed for Burkina Faso and Niger. Additional action plans are under preparation.

OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

Now that the GFCS has moved into an implementation phase, it is critical that the roles and contributions of WMO (technical commissions, programmes, expert working groups) and of partner agencies are specified. Given that many key decisions are taken at the country level the focus will be on a group of illustrative countries as a starting point for defining the coordination needs and opportunities in implementation of the GFCS. Hence the Meeting on the Implementation Coordination of the GFCS is being organized from 29 September to 1 October 2014 in WMO, Geneva.

Taking into account the relevant ongoing activities and updating the contributions already identified in the Position Paper on the GFCS² submitted by WMO to the HLT, the objectives of the meeting are to:

- Identify major on-going or planned relevant projects and programmes in selected countries and their technical components (partner organizations);
- Identify specific contributions of technical commissions, programmes and other relevant bodies of WMO and partner agencies that will support the implementation of the GFCS;
- Map these contributions against the activities in the Annexes and Exemplars of the GFCS, identify the gaps and formulate tangible actions;
- Define the requirements for enabling the activities contained under the Annexes and Exemplars of the GFCS to commence; and
- Converge on practical mechanisms for coordination and commencement of these activities in support of the implementation of the GFCS.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Agreement on a set of concrete activities to be implemented bringing together scientific/technical inputs and programme implementation at national level by partners in order to ensure that the entire value chain for the production and application of climate services is systematically addressed for achieving the desired GFCS outcomes for 2-, 6-, and 10 years time frames.

PARTICIPATION

- WMO technical Programmes
- WMO Technical Commissions
- WMO Regional Associations
- WMO Executive Council bodies
- Programme managers, GFCS focal points and representatives from the respective technical structures of partner agencies leading/supporting the four priority areas
- Key experts and stakeholders

Dates: 29 September – 1 October, 2014

² <http://css.escwa.org.lb/sdpc/1802/r3.pdf>

DRAFT ANNOTATED AGENDA

MEETING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION COORDINATION OF THE GFCS

29 SEPTEMBER – 1 OCTOBER 2014

GENEVA

DAY 1 – ON-GOING AND PLANNED COUNTRY PROGRAMMES RELEVANT TO GFCS IMPLEMENTATION OF PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Description: Partner organizations with planned or on-going programmes in the selected countries involving GFCS elements (i.e. related to the pillars or exemplars) will present the essential details of their programmes e.g. organization, project title, goals and objectives, key activities and outputs, project duration, principal partners, budget, and GFCS relevance). Partners also present similar details for any regional programmes covering any of the selected countries' region. Partners are requested to supply this information in advance of the meeting in the form of project summary using the template provided (or existing project summaries containing this information if they already have them).

OBJECTIVES:

- To inform the participants about the key on-going and planned initiatives in selected countries
- To establish the basis for assessing synergies, opportunities, gaps and overlaps.

PROGRAMME

Welcome and introductions

Purpose of meeting and review of agenda

Brief introduction of GFCS

30 minute presentations by partner organizations and prospective donors (e.g., EC, Norway, Canada, Switzerland, US, some VCP countries, etc.):

- Global portfolio overview
- Project summaries showing essential project data for selected countries.

Discussion

Wrap-up

DAY 2 – GFCS RELEVANT ACTIVITIES OF WMO TECHNICAL COMMISSIONS AND PROGRAMMES AND PARTNERS

Description: Representatives from WMO technical commissions and programmes and partners with their relevant structures present the relevant characteristics for supporting GFCS implementation. Relevant characteristics include the name of the commission or programme or partner structure, the scientific/technical areas of expertise covered, broadly how they map onto the GFCS pillars or exemplars, how the expertise is accessed, and highlighting specific opportunities or limitations for engaging in GFCS support. Representatives are required to provide short summaries of this information in advance using the template provided.

OBJECTIVES:

- To inform the participants about the relevant scientific and technical capabilities available for GFCS implementation
- To establish the basis for assessing relevance of these capabilities for supporting implementation in specific countries, including regional and global implementation support.

PROGRAMME

Brief overview of WMO and partners scientific and technical capabilities

30 minute presentations by relevant technical commissions, programmes and partners relevant structures:

- Overview of Technical Commissions, programmes or partner structure
- Relevant characteristics for supporting GFCS implementation

Discussion

Wrap-up

DAY 3 – NEXT STEPS FOR SUPPORTING COMPREHENSIVE, COORDINATED GFCS IMPLEMENTATION IN SELECTED COUNTRIES

Description: Based on the information and discussion from the previous two days, participants identify opportunities, priorities, procedures and next steps for supporting comprehensive GFCS implementation in selected countries.

OBJECTIVES:

- To identify the measures that, if pursued, would lead to GFCS implementation in selected countries at a scale and scope sufficient to achieve measurable improvements in priority climate-sensitive societal outcomes
- To establish the next steps and coordination mechanisms.

PROGRAMME

Country-by-country summary based on information from previous two days:

- Country development priorities from PRSP, national development plans, NAP or other sectoral plans that are climate-sensitive
- Matrices showing which pillars and exemplars (columns) are covered by the partner programmes presented for each country (rows) with names of relevant commissions and programmes (in the cells)

Discussion, by topic (facilitated by selected moderator):

- Country-by-country immediate priority support needs
- Coordination mechanisms: country, regional and global level
- Mechanisms for accessing scientific and technical support
- Strengthening the long term institutional support architecture (regional and global centers, twinning with advanced NMHS's)
- Enabling policy dimensions (UNFCCC, post-2015 SDGs and ISDR)
- Financing
- Others.

Next steps and wrap-up.

For more information, please contact:

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