

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION



**HIGH-LEVEL TASKFORCE
ON THE
GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR CLIMATE SERVICES
(GFCS)**

FIFTH MEETING

(GENEVA, 13 -15 DECEMBER 2010)



FINAL REPORT

1. OPENING OF THE SESSION

1.1 Remarks from the Co-Chairs

The session was opened on 13 December 2010 by Co-chair, Dr Jan Egeland, who welcomed all members and their advisers. He noted that this was the last of the five meetings of the Taskforce and had every expectation that they would be able to finalize their report at this session.

1.2 Remarks from the WMO Secretary-General

The Secretary-General welcomed the Taskforce to the WMO and provided some information relating to the GFCS and the ongoing climate-change negotiations. He noted that at COP-16, recently held in Cancun, there had been excellent progress, with international agreement on a number of key issues. In the final text of the COP-16 session there was no specific mention of the GFCS but nevertheless there has been an opportunity created for the GFCS proposal that has been developed by the Taskforce to be submitted to the UN FCCC by 21 February 2011. The Secretary-General also noted that among those familiar with the GFCS proposal there are very high expectations, and that the challenge now is to live up to these expectations.

1.3 Approval of the agenda

The agenda, as circulated prior to the meeting, was approved.

1.4 Working arrangements

The session agreed to meet from 09.00 to 18.00 with a lunch break from 12.30 to 14.00.

2. REVIEW COMMENTS AND IMPACT ON THE HLT REPORT

Around 1700 comments on the final report were received, and in the ten days available to read, consider and respond to these comments every chapter of the draft report, its introduction and glossary were updated.

In their discussion of the new draft, the Taskforce members were of the view that the quality of the draft report was enhanced through the review process but nevertheless still left some further opportunities for fine-tuning. The Taskforce was very appreciative of the time taken by the reviewers to read and prepare constructive comments on the draft report.

3. DISCUSSION OF THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Taskforce discussed a draft Executive Summary, focusing closely on aligning their recommendations and key findings with the task required of them as specified by their terms of reference. The Taskforce also reached a unanimous agreement on the title for the report.

4. CONSULTATIONS

4.1 Feedback from consultations

The session was informed of consultations and briefings that were provided to the following meetings:

- The 15th session of the WMO Regional Association I (Africa), 1-8 November 2010;
- The eighth session of the Joint WMO-IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM) Management Committee, 18 November 2010;
- The 2010 extraordinary session of the WMO's Commission for Basic Systems, 17-24 November 2010;

- Meeting of the Ibero-American Directors of Meteorological Services, Santiago, Chile, 17 – 19 November 2010;
- Meeting of Directors of Caribbean Meteorological Services, 22 – 23 November 2010;
- 16th session of the Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

At each of these meetings, presentations were made on the purpose and progress of the Global Framework for Climate Services. There has been good support for the further development of the Framework, and a willingness on the part of many UN-system agencies and programmes to participate in the next steps towards its implementation. In addition to this, there was strong interest expressed in receiving the final report of the Taskforce.

5. REVIEW OF THE WORK PLAN BEFORE 16TH WMO CONGRESS

5.1 Timeline

The Taskforce agreed the following timetable:

- 15 December 2010: Close of HLT-5
- 12 January 2011: The completed report to be transmitted by co-chairs to Secretary-General of WMO
- 12 January - mid-February 2011: The Secretary-General of WMO to arrange for translation and publication of the report in the six WMO languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish)
- Mid-February 2011: The translated report be provided to the UN Secretary-General and other partner agencies and organizations and provided to WMO Members
- Mid-February to Mid-May 2011: Taskforce members use every opportunity to promote their proposal to relevant decision makers
- 16-17 May 2011: Co-chairs present report to Congress.

5.2 Communication Strategy for the Report

The meeting tasked the Secretary-General to further develop a communication strategy based on the need to inform the following audiences of the details of their proposal:

- Those attending the WMO Congress
- Those components of the UN-system that represent climate-sensitive sectors
- Directors of national meteorological and hydrological services
- Heads of climate research centres in universities and elsewhere
- Private sector organizations with a need for climate services, including those who act as intermediaries (eg. the media) between climate service providers such as national meteorological services and end-users
- Agreement to share presentation and to further refine presentations with addition of case studies to illustrate value of climate services.

TF members offered to communicate to SG a list of events (opportunity events) at which the GFCS proposal could be promoted and explained in a cost-effective manner.

5.3 Budget

The session noted that the trust fund to support the GFCS has received around CHF 1,442,226 from generous governments in both developing and developed world, and that by the time the Report is printed and published costs are expected to be around CHF 1,530,129.

Furthermore, additional costs will be faced between mid-February and mid-May 2011, when communication of the Taskforce's proposal is to be undertaken.

The Taskforce requested the Secretary-General to seek further contribution to the trust fund so that the important task of communicating the Taskforce's proposal to decision makers could be done effectively.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

7. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

Co-chair Dr Jan Egeland closed the meeting at 12:00 on 15 December 2010.

AGENDA

- 1. OPENING OF THE SESSION**
 - 1.1 Remarks from the Co-Chairs
 - 1.2 Remarks from the WMO Secretary-General
 - 1.3 Approval of the agenda
 - 1.4 Working arrangements
- 2. REVIEW COMMENTS AND IMPACT ON THE HLT REPORT**
 - 2.1 A brief overview of Parts I, II and III of the Report
 - 2.2 Discussion of Part I and II
 - 2.3 Discussion of Part III
 - 2.4 Introduction and other parts of the Report
- 3. DISCUSSION OF THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**
- 4. CONSULTATIONS**
 - 4.1 Feedback from consultations
- 5. REVIEW OF THE WORK PLAN BEFORE 16TH WMO CONGRESS**
 - 5.1 Timeline
 - 5.2 Communication strategy for the Report
 - 5.3 Budget
- 6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
- 7. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION**

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