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to the United Nations Offices



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No.GEN/PMI/GFCS/2010

The Permanent Mission of India to the UN and other offices presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the High Level Taskforce for Global Framework on Climate Services and has the honour to forward a Note Verbale from the Like Minded Group of Countries for the co-Chairpersons of the High Level Taskforce and other members of the High Level Taskforce with the request that the Secretariat kindly forward the Note Verbale to the co-Chairpersons of the High Level Taskforce.

The Permanent Mission of India to the UN and other offices reiterates to the Secretariat of the High Level Taskforce for Global Framework on Climate Services the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 22 September 2010

Secretariat of the High Level Taskforce for
Global Framework on Climate Services,
World Meteorological Organization (WMO),
Attention : Dr. Buruhani Nyenzi, Manager,
7 Bis Avenue de La Paix,
CH 1211 Geneva 2.



No. GEN/PMI/GFCS/2010

The Permanent Missions to the UN of countries representing the Like Minded Group present their compliments to the co-Chairs of the High Level Taskforce (HLT) and have the honour to refer to the Reports of the HLT meetings of Geneva 25-26 February, 2010, Geneva 24-26 May, 2010 and Beijing 2-4 August, 2010 and to state the following:

1. The Like Minded Group takes note of the ongoing efforts made by the High Level Taskforce, in pursuit of fulfilling its mandate given to it by the Declaration of the Third World Climate Conference (WCC-3) and the Report of the Intergovernmental Meeting for the High Level Taskforce (11-12 January, 2010);
2. The Like Minded Group wishes to reaffirm its commitment to the WCC-3 Declaration and state that in order to be able to effectively address the requirements of all Member-States, particularly developing countries, the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS)'s development and structure must be equitable, balanced, transparent and acceptable. In this context, the Like Minded Group is concerned that all the presentations that the HLT has made, till date, fail to make any reference to the General Principles and Factors as outlined in Annex 2 of the Report of the Intergovernmental Meeting;
3. The Like Minded Group reiterates its suggestion, as made in the Annex 2 of the Report of the Intergovernmental Meeting, that the primary focus of the GFCS should be the significant enhancement of the climate prediction capability, at the national level in developing countries, to enable them to develop appropriate Climate Services. This is broadly consistent with the Terms of Reference of the HLT as contained in Annex 1 of the above-mentioned Report;
4. The Like Minded Group urges the HLT to refer to the Report of the Intergovernmental Meeting including its Annex 2 on the need to ensure the central role of National Governments in all aspects of the GFCS including its establishment, development and governance as well as its implementation and usage. The Terms of Reference of the Taskforce make a clear reference to this Principle;

5. The Like Minded Group, therefore, does not agree with the 'requirement', as attributed in HLT newsletter No.3 to a request made by the WMO Executive Council that Governments be 'included' in the governance of GFCS as 'a core component'. The 'inclusion' notion contradicts the centrality of National Governments in the governance and implementation of the GFCS, and therefore, must be set in the right perspective in the final Report of the HLT;
6. The Like Minded Group reiterates its position, as regards retaining ownership of data, that the data collected and generated in relation to the GFCS should rest with the respective national Governments, and that its sharing and application are to be inter-governmentally agreed upon in a Data Protection Agreement. Provision of data generated by GFCS on the basis of inter-governmental agreements and understanding should not result in any new commitment or obligations for developing countries, including under the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol as well as any subsequent agreements or processes;
7. The Like Minded Group underlines that the GFCS must be consistent with the principles and provisions of UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol, particularly with regard to the Principle of Equity and 'Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities', as well as the provision by developed to developing countries for (a) funding, (b) transfer of technology, and (c) capacity building;
8. The Like Minded Group would like to refer to the Report of the Second Meeting of the HLT held in Geneva (24-26 May, 2010) and emphasize the need for adhering to the procedures and deadlines that have already been established and agreed at the Intergovernmental Meeting of 11-12 January 2010. The original timeframe envisaged for the work of the Taskforce in the WCC-3 Declaration provides sufficient scope for wide consultations with Governments and relevant stakeholders. The Like Minded Group is, therefore, concerned about the intent, as indicated in Paragraph 5.2 of the above-mentioned Report, to develop a 'GFCS contribution to the COP-16 Declaration in Cancun, Mexico in December, 2010'. The Like Minded Group is not convinced as to the need for establishing such linkage with COP16 well before the Draft HLT Report on GFCS is finalised for consideration by Member-States at the WMO Congress in 2011.

9. The Like Minded Group is similarly concerned at the suggestion in Paragraph 2.2 of the Report of the Third Meeting of HLT held in Beijing (2-4 August, 2010) that the HLT's Report be shared with other organizations even before being made available to the Member-States. Furthermore, the Like Minded Group has noted the suggestion, as reflected in Paragraph 2.3 of the same Report, that the appropriate Vision for the GFCS should include the idea of "...all people to have right to access climate services that will assist them to know how climate will affect them and to know how to defend themselves from global climate impacts...". The Like Minded Group would like to state that the notion of a rights-based approach with regard to access to climate services does not derive from the Terms of Reference of the HLT. The WCC-3 Declaration sets out a clear objective for the GFCS, also reflected in the preamble of the Terms of Reference, which is, "...to strengthen the production, availability, delivery and application of science-based climate prediction and services...". The Like Minded Group would like to request the HLT to adhere to the objective of the GFCS as agreed upon by Member-States through a negotiation process.

10. The Like Minded Group is also concerned that in Paragraph 2.3 (sub-Para 3) of the same Report, while suggesting that "users should have a choice to access information from any relevant sources and within the context of national regulations, should not be restricted to a single supplier", the HLT has largely deviated from the principles outlined in Annex 1 (Terms of Reference of the HLT) and Annex 2 of the Report of the Intergovernmental Meeting of 11-12 January 2010. In this context, the Like Minded Group would like to recall the observation made in the Report of the Second Meeting of the HLT that the GFCS Information System must enable management of data to conform with the full range of national data policies and that it should not be assumed that the system could necessarily change such policies;

11. Furthermore, the Like Minded Group is concerned that, as per Paragraph 2.3 of the Report of the Third Meeting of the HLT, in developing options for governance of the GFCS, the HLT has indicated that a combination of elements of the second and fourth proposals presented to it would be the most appropriate since "...this would also provide a role to Governments, UN agencies and other entities". This again contradicts the approved Terms of Reference which stipulates that the HLT would "...Develop options for governance of GFCS, ensuring its intergovernmental nature,

and provide the reasoning for the preferred option(s)” (*Scope of work*, Paragraph 2). The Like Minded Group is concerned that the provision of a role for Governments among other entities tends to undermine the essential intergovernmental nature of the governance of the GFCS, and would urge the Taskforce to review this option in keeping with the Terms of Reference;

12. The Like Minded Group is concerned over the considerable departure and deviation from the WCC-3 Declaration and the Report of the Intergovernmental Meeting of 11-12 January 2010, and would urge the HLT to ensure that its final Report adheres to the objective of the GFCS and its own mandate defined in the Terms of Reference, including the procedures and timelines set out for developing its Report, as agreed upon by the Member-States
13. The Like Minded Group urges that the contents of this communication be transmitted to the distinguished members of the Taskforce.

The Permanent Missions to the UN of the Like Minded Group of countries renew to the co-Chairs of the High Level Taskforce the assurances of their highest consideration.

Geneva, 22 September 2010

**Co-Chairs of the High Level Taskforce
On the establishment of the GFCS
World Meteorological Organisation,
Geneva.**

Copy to:

All members of the Like Minded Group of countries.