



Organisation météorologique mondiale  
World Meteorological Organization

## WMO Statement on the Occasion of the First AMCOMET Task Force Meeting

*M. Jarraud*  
*Secretary-General*

*(Nairobi, Kenya, 23 November 2011)*

TEMPS WEATHER  
CLIMAT CLIMATE  
EAU WATER





## **WMO STATEMENT ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIRST AMCOMET TASK FORCE MEETING**

**by**

**M. Jarraud**

**Secretary-General**

**World Meteorological Organization**

**(Nairobi, Kenya, 23 November 2011)**

**Excellency, the Hon. John Njoroge Michuki, Kenyan Minister for Environment & Mineral Resources,**

**Ms Rhoda Peace Tumusiime, African Union Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture,**

**Honorable Ministers,**

**Dr Joseph Romanus Mukabana, Permanent Representative of Kenya with WMO,**

**Distinguished Permanent Representatives of African WMO Members,**

**Distinguished Representatives and Guests,**

**Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On the occasion of opening of the High-level Segment of the first African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET) Task Force Meeting, I would like to express the appreciation of WMO to the Republic of Kenya, through Your Excellency, for hosting this key session.

Through the presence in Nairobi of UNON and the WMO Office for Eastern and Southern Africa, Kenya has long demonstrated its willingness to play a pioneering role at regional level in the coordinated response of the international community to environmental challenges.

His Excellency, President Mwai Kibaki, launched in 2006 the Kenya Vision 2030 as a sustainable development blueprint, to complement at national level during 2008-2030 the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Last year, he declared 2010 the Green Year for Kenya, stating: *"We must .... do all in our powers to mitigate the effects of climate change. We now have a National Climate Change Response Strategy. .... I ... urge all Kenyans to individually take responsibility over our environment, to engage more aggressively in water harvesting and to use available water resources prudently"*.

In May 2011 the Hon. John Njoroge Michuki, Kenyan Minister for Environment & Mineral Resources, addressed the Sixteenth World Meteorological Congress. He recalled that in April 2010 Kenya hosted the First Conference of Ministers Responsible for Meteorology in Africa, noting among its key outcomes were the historic Ministerial Declaration and the establishing of the AMCOMET Bureau. He also noted that the Task Force has the mandate to set up the AMCOMET institutional framework as well as an African Strategy on Meteorology.

This ceremony provides me an exceptional opportunity to thank the African Union, through Ms Rhoda Peace Tumusiime, for the vital collaboration in the process leading to AMCOMET.

I would also like to thank Dr Joseph Romanus Mukabana, Director of Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD) and Permanent Representative of Kenya with WMO, for the warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements made to bring together the African Ministers Responsible for Meteorology and the Permanent Representatives with WMO.

**Excellencies,**

**Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Weather, climate and water are essential resources for African countries. However, the productive capacity of some of these countries, in particular of LDCs, is especially vulnerable to climate change in areas like agriculture and food security, health and water quality, transport and energy, industry and tourism, among others, as well as to the impacts of natural hazards.

Although climate science has made outstanding advances, some countries may not be capable of benefiting fully from this progress, so WMO is assisting them in modernizing their respective NMHSs and organizing Regional and National Climate Outlook Forums and other capacity building activities, including fellowships and training.

In 2009 the third World Climate Conference (WCC-3) addressed the key issues which I have mentioned by considering optimal ways to provide decision-makers with the most appropriate scientific tools, information and services. WCC-3 participation reached unprecedented levels, with 13 Heads of State and Government and more than 100 Ministers and UN Agency heads, as well as 2,500 scientists, experts and decision-makers.

It was followed by an Intergovernmental meeting which approved the composition and terms of reference of a Taskforce of High-level Advisors where your Region was represented by

Dr Mahmoud Abu-Zeid (Egypt) as its Co-chair; former President Joaquim Chissano (Mozambique); and Mr Khotso Mokhele (South Africa).

Throughout 2010, the High-level Taskforce (HLT) developed proposals for a Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), which in May/June 2011 were submitted to the Sixteenth World Meteorological Congress. The Congress unanimously agreed that the GFCS shall be developed as a major priority in 2012-2015 and beyond, for which an extraordinary Congress session will be held in October 2012. WMO looks forward to the fullest participation of all African countries in this vital meeting, for which special resources are being mobilized.

Today climate change impacts are already being experienced by some African countries and they are increasingly visible through their effects on several key socioeconomic indicators, so it is encouraging to underline that the four initial GFCS priorities will focus on disaster risk reduction, health, water and food security.

**Excellencies,**

**Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Your meeting is exceptionally timely, since it takes place just before the COP 17 session of UNFCCC which, auspiciously, will be held in Africa, and at the same time, in the months leading to Rio+20 and the extraordinary session of the WMO Congress which has a mandate to launch the GFCS implementation process. I am indeed confident that you will take advantage of this historic opportunity which the Republic of Kenya has facilitated and I am very grateful for your personal commitment to these three key issues.

I wish to reaffirm that WMO shall do the utmost to contribute to the success of AMCOMET.

Thank you.

\_\_\_\_\_