



Organisation météorologique mondiale  
World Meteorological Organization

# Statement at the opening of the 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Arab Permanent Committee on Meteorology of the League of Arab States

*M. Jarraud*  
*Secretary-General*

*(Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, 19 March 2011)*

TEMPS WEATHER  
CLIMAT CLIMATE  
EAU WATER

A large, faint, light blue version of the WMO OMM logo is centered in the background of the lower half of the page. It features a globe with a compass rose and laurel wreaths on either side.



**STATEMENT AT THE OPENING OF THE 27<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE ARAB PERMANENT COMMITTEE  
ON METEOROLOGY OF THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES**

by

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**Secretary-General**

**World Meteorological Organization**

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**Excellency,**

**Mr. Djaballah Djamel-Eddine, Director of Environment, Water and Sustainable Urban Development, representing the League of Arab States,**

**Dr Saad bin Mohammed Al-Mahlafi, Chairman-elect of the Arab Permanent Committee for Meteorology of the League of Arab States,**

**Mr Abdullah Al Mandoos, Executive Director of the National Center of Meteorology and Seismology (NCMS) and Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates with WMO,**

**Distinguished Permanent Representatives of WMO Members,**

**Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a pleasure and an honour to address the twenty-seventh meeting of the Arab Permanent Committee on Meteorology of the League of Arab States. On behalf of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) I wish to congratulate the Government of United Arab Emirates, through Your Excellency, for hosting this key session in Abu Dhabi and to express my gratitude to the League of Arab States for the kind invitation made by its Secretary-General, Mr Amr Mohammed Moussa, to be present on this auspicious occasion.

I would like to thank Mr Abdullah Ahmed Al Mandoos, Executive Director of the National Center of Meteorology and Seismology (NCMS) and Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates with WMO, for his strong commitment to international cooperation in meteorology in the face of climate change and the mounting threat of natural disasters, 90 percent of which are related to WMO's mandate.

While the frequency of hydrometeorological hazards is increasing, proactive prevention can contribute to reduce the death toll, although such is not regrettably the case for geologic disasters like the one which Japan is sadly experiencing. However, WMO also has an active role to play

since, like other National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), the Japan Meteorological Agency has a lead responsibility in this area, so I urge you to contribute to the work of the WMO and its partners in the context of the Conventions on Early Notification and on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency, in particular through the Joint Radiation Emergency Management Plan of the International Organizations.

In 2004 WMO and the Kingdom of Bahrain concluded an Agreement establishing the WMO Subregional Office for Asia in Manama and I am grateful to all Permanent Representatives of Arabic-speaking countries present for their commitment to WMO, their unflinching personal efforts and their friendship. In this context, I wish to welcome the Permanent Representatives of Egypt, Tunisia and Saudi Arabia as your new Committee members and colleagues.

**Mr Chairman, Dear Colleagues,**

The RA I Ministerial conference held in Nairobi in April 2010 was also a key step towards the consolidation of programmes of cooperation between groups of League of Arab States Members, in particular by providing the opportunity to discuss common challenges, review new initiatives and projects, and adopt the necessary actions, while contributing to the protection of the environment and sustainable development.

The Arabic countries are often affected by severe droughts, flash floods and sand/dust storms, which modern developments in science and technology can contribute to mitigate by enabling the provision of timely early warnings to decision-makers and to various socio-economic sectors.

There is need to strengthen the capability of NMHSs to develop applications of meteorology and hydrology which can meet the long-term planning requirements of these sectors, in such key areas as agriculture and food security, health and combating desertification, as well as to resolve transport-, tourism-, energy- and environment-related issues.

There is also need to place increased emphasis on human resources development and to identify requirements and areas for training at the national level and at WMO Regional Meteorological Training Centres, both in the Arab Region and at other facilities which can provide training in the appropriate languages.

Over the past months, WMO and the League of Arab States have also resolved a number of outstanding issues on the use of the Arabic language in our Organization, for which your ad-hoc team visited WMO for discussions with the relevant Secretariat Departments.

**Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Four days from now, WMO will be commemorating the World Meteorological Day and the entry into force of the WMO Convention on 23 March 1950. Over this period, WMO has devoted special attention to the needs of the NMHSs of developing countries, to ensure that they have access to advanced prediction products and the capacity to use them according to their national requirements, even if all countries are vulnerable, whatever their degree of development.

WMO recently reported that 2010 was the warmest year on record, at the same level as 1998 and 2005, confirming the observed long-term warming trend highlighted by the IPCC report, since the ten warmest years were all experienced since 1998. Additionally, over the ten years elapsed since 2001, the global temperatures averaged almost half a degree above the 1961-1990 mean, which was the highest value ever recorded for any 10-year period.

You will recall that the Fifteenth World Meteorological Congress agreed to convene with partners a third World Climate Conference (WCC-3), in the spirit of the previous two historic Conferences which WMO organized in 1979 and 1990. At the end of 2010, a High-level Taskforce co-chaired by one of your dignitaries concluded the report mandated by the WCC-3 High-level Segment, including in particular its proposals for a Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS).

In less than two months, this report will be one of the key issues at the Sixteenth World Meteorological Congress, heralding a new era in the provision of climate information and services for decision-making and socio-economic benefits for all vital sectors.

In addition to the GFCS, the Congress will consider other key issues, in particular those which the Executive Council considered as priorities during its last session: aeronautical meteorology, WIGOS/WIS, disaster risk reduction and capacity building. I am indeed aware that a number of Arabic-speaking Members have specific concerns with some of these issues and so the Congress will be a welcome opportunity to reach sound long-term agreements.

Before finishing my message I would like to highlight that on 26 March, after a mandate of 2 years, Mr Isa will be relinquishing the Chair of the Arab Permanent Committee for Meteorology of the League of Arab States, and that Dr Al-Mahlafi shall take his place. I therefore wish to congratulate Mr Isa for his successful tenure and to welcome Dr Al-Mahlafi by wishing him an equally outstanding success.

And now, in concluding, allow me to once again express my appreciation to the United Arab Emirates for hosting this session and to wish all the participants a very successful meeting and an enjoyable stay in Abu Dhabi.

Thank you.

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