

World Meteorological Organization
High Level Taskforce
on the
Global Framework for Climate Services

FIRST MEETING

Geneva, Switzerland, 25-26 February 2010

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REVIEW OF OUTCOMES FROM THE WCC-3

SUMMARY

DECISIONS / ACTIONS REQUIRED:

The Taskforce is invited to note the outcomes from the WCC-3 that led to the creation of the Taskforce, as well as that the WCC-3 provides a valuable source of information for its work.

CONTENT OF DOCUMENT:

Briefing information

World Climate Conference – 3 (WCC-3)

The WCC-3 was structured in two components: (1) an Expert Segment that was informed by a series of “White Papers”, prepared by subject area experts, that identified, *inter alia*, the need for climate services and the opportunities that would arise from improved climate services delivered through a Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS); and (2) a High-Level Segment, attended by Heads of State and Ministers that took note of the outcomes of the Expert Segment and developed the Conference Declaration.

Expert Segment

2 The 200 speakers and 1,800 participants in the Expert Segment reviewed the various challenges facing the climate service provider and user communities; considered the needs and capabilities for applying climate information in key climate-sensitive sectors, as well as for social and economic benefits; and examined the scientific bases for climate information and prediction services. A number of scientific, environmental and socioeconomic groups and organizations informed the Expert Segment of their needs and perspectives, and a wide range of countries and climate-sensitive sectors reported on their experiences in the implementation of climate services. On the basis of these deliberations, the Expert Segment concluded that:

- Great scientific progress has been made over the past 30 years, especially through the World Climate Programme and its associated activities, which already provides a firm basis for the delivery of a wide range of climate services; but that
- Present capabilities to provide effective climate services fall far short of meeting present and future needs and of delivering the full potential benefits, particularly in developing countries;
- The most urgent need is for much closer partnerships between the providers and the users of climate services;
- Major new and strengthened research efforts are required to increase the time range and skill of climate prediction through new research and modelling initiatives; to improve the observational basis for climate prediction and services; and to improve the availability and quality control of climate data.

3 The Expert Segment then called for major strengthening and implementing, as appropriate, of the following essential elements of a global framework for climate services:

- The Global Climate Observing System and all its components and associated activities; and provision of free and unrestricted exchange and access to climate data;
- The World Climate Research Programme, underpinned by adequate computing resources and increased interaction with other global climate relevant research initiatives;
- Climate services information systems taking advantage of enhanced existing national and international climate service arrangements in the delivery of products, including sector-oriented information to support adaptation activities;
- Climate user interface mechanisms that are focussed on building linkages and integrating information, at all levels, between the providers and users of climate services, and that are aimed at the development and efficient use of climate information products including the support of adaptation activities;
- Efficient and enduring capacity-building through education, training, and strengthened outreach and communication. The Expert Segment concluded by supporting the development of the proposed Global Framework for Climate Services.

4 The White Papers are expected to provide a valuable resource for the work of the High Level Taskforce and can be found on the Web at: <http://www.wcc3.org/sessions.php>.

High Level Segment

5 Noting the findings of the Expert Segment, the High-level Segment adopted a Conference Declaration establishing a Global Framework for Climate Services (see Annex). The High-level Segment through the Declaration requested the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to convene, within four months of the adoption of the Declaration, an intergovernmental meeting of WMO Members to approve the terms of reference and to endorse the composition of a task force of high-level, independent advisors with due consideration to expertise, geographical and gender balance. The Declaration decided that the task force shall, after wide consultation with governments, partner organizations and relevant stakeholders, prepare a report, including recommendations on proposed elements of the Framework, to the Secretary-General of WMO within 12 months of the task force being set up, along with the proposed next steps for developing and implementing the Framework. The Declaration further decided that the report of the task force shall be circulated by the Secretary-General of WMO to WMO Members for consideration at the next WMO Congress in 2011, with a view to the adoption of the Framework and a plan for its implementation.

6 The Conference Declaration draws attention to the Brief Note (found at: http://www.wmo.int/hlt-qfcs/documents/WCC3GFCSbrief_note_en.pdf), which outlines the concept of the Global Framework for Climate Services.

**World Climate Conference – 3
Geneva, 31 August – 4 September 2009**

CONFERENCE DECLARATION

We, Heads of State and Government, Ministers and Heads of Delegation present at the High-level segment of the World Climate Conference-3 (WCC-3) in Geneva, noting the findings of the Expert Segment of the Conference:

Decide to establish a Global Framework for Climate Services (hereafter referred to as “the Framework”) to strengthen the production, availability, delivery and application of science-based climate prediction and services;

Request the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to convene, within four months of the adoption of the Declaration, an intergovernmental meeting of Member States of the WMO to approve the terms of reference and to endorse the composition of a task force of high-level, independent advisors to be appointed by the Secretary-General of the WMO with due consideration to expertise, geographical and gender balance;

Decide that the task force will, after wide consultation with governments, partner organizations and relevant stakeholders, prepare a report, including recommendations on proposed elements of the Framework, to the Secretary-General of WMO within 12 months of the task force being set up. The report should contain findings and proposed next steps for developing and implementing the Framework. In the development of their report, the task force will take into account the concepts outlined in the annexed Brief Note;

Decide further that the report of the task force shall be circulated by the Secretary-General of WMO to Member States of the WMO for consideration at the next WMO Congress in 2011, with a view to the adoption of the Framework and a plan for its implementation; and

Invite the Secretary-General of WMO to provide the report to relevant organizations and to the UN Secretary-General.
