

Terms of Reference for the High-level Taskforce for the Global Framework for Climate Services

Preamble

The High-level Declaration adopted by WCC-3 decided to establish a Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) to strengthen the production, availability, delivery and application of science-based climate prediction and services. The Declaration requested the Secretary-General of WMO to convene an Intergovernmental Meeting of Member States of WMO to approve the terms of reference and to endorse the composition of a High-level Taskforce (HLT) of independent advisers. The Declaration further decided that the taskforce should prepare a report, including recommendations for proposed elements of the GFCS as well as for the next steps to develop and implement the GFCS.

Scope of work

The HLT will undertake its work in accordance with the WCC-3 Declaration and will:

1. Develop the components of the GFCS and define the roles, responsibilities, and capabilities of the elements within the GFCS and clearly illustrate how it will assist the integration of climate information and services into national planning, policy and programmes for, among others, water resource management and development, health and public safety, energy generation and distribution, agriculture and food security, land and forestry management, desertification, ecosystem protection, sustainable development, and poverty reduction, taking into account the special needs of Africa, Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs), and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs);
2. Develop options for governance of the GFCS, ensuring its intergovernmental nature, and provide the reasoning for the preferred option(s);
3. Outline a plan for implementation of the GFCS, which includes:
 - Ensuring the central role of national governments;
 - Proposing a range of options for immediate and longer-term actions to realize the GFCS;
 - Specifying measurable indicators, with timelines, for the actions necessary to implement the elements of the GFCS;
 - Estimates of costs of implementation of these options, with clear indications of the financial resources and enhanced technological capabilities required, and their likely sources, to ensure effective global implementation; and,
 - A strategy for capacity-building in developing countries, particularly African countries, Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Countries (SIDS) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs);

4. Make findings and propose next steps in relation to:
 - i. The role of the UN System and other relevant stakeholders, as well as the mechanisms for their contributions;
 - ii. Approaches to global data policy (addressing data gaps, ownership, data protection, confidentiality, exchange, applications and usage) that would lead to enhanced capability of the GFCS, taking into account Resolution 40 of the Twelfth WMO Congress and Resolution 25 of the Thirteenth WMO Congress;
 - iii. Improving systematic in situ observations and monitoring of climate especially in data-sparse areas, in order to increase data availability, including for research and prediction;
 - iv. Approaches for reviewing the implementation of the GFCS;
 - v. Strategies for building capacity in developing countries in accordance with their needs and priorities, including their access to output of global and regional climate models and the underlying technology embedded in the models, and their ability to independently develop/improve in-country climate services capacity;
 - vi. A strategy for promoting a common global understanding of the GFCS and for coherent and coordinated messaging and information sharing;
5. Determine its own rules of procedure with consensus on the guiding principle for decision taking;
6. Be open and transparent in its functioning, making publicly available, including through the WMO Website, the following:
 - A report of each meeting held, including a list of participants;
 - Any submissions received; and,
 - Any “White Papers” generated as a part of its research activities.

Support for the Taskforce

Secretariat support will be provided by WMO, which will host its secretariat and seek funding and other support for its work.

**Membership of the High-level Taskforce
for the Global Framework for Climate Services**

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