

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WORKING GROUP ON CLIMATE AND RELATED WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

First session

Geneva, 26-28 March 2008

REPORT

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WORKING GROUP ON CLIMATE
AND RELATED WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

FIRST SESSION

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1. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

1.1 Opening of the session

The first session of the EC Working Group on Climate and related Water and Environmental Matters (EC-WG-CWE) was opened at the WMO Headquarters, Geneva, at 9:30 a.m., on Wednesday 26 March 2008.

Dr A.M. Noorian, Chairman of the Group, and First Vice-President of WMO declared the meeting open and invited Mr Michel Jarraud, Secretary General of WMO to present his welcoming remarks.

The WMO Secretary General noted that climate variability and change, including climate applications, have remained major topics both scientifically and politically around the world. He stressed that this is why Cg-XV had endorsed the proposition that, for the benefit of sustainable development and emerging societal needs, NMHSs should focus on the weather-climate linkage and adaptation strategies to cope with the impacts of climate variability and change.

He welcomed the wider expertise and membership of the Group noting that it comes from relevant water and environment activities and Technical Commissions. Mr Jarraud referred to the WMO Strategic Plan and noted that it provides a blueprint of action for high-level and long-term objectives and strategies for implementation toward the next decade.

He added that WMO is trying hard to keep its visibility within the UN Chief Executives Board (CEB) and to highlight its critical role in the area of science, assessment, monitoring and early warning as a basis for informed action at high level meetings of the UN. Mr Jarraud wished the Group a successful meeting.

In his opening remarks, Dr A.M. Noorian welcomed the members to the first session of the Executive Council Working Group on Climate and Related Water and Environmental Matters, which was established by Resolution 8 (Cg-XV) in place of the former Executive Council Advisory Group on Climate and Environment (EC AGCE), with updated terms of reference.

The full list of participants in the Session is listed in Annex 1.

1.2 Adoption of the agenda

The chairman invited the meeting to a closed session to consult with members on the revised version of the agenda. The meeting adopted the Rev. 3 of the agenda (Annex 2).

1.3 Working arrangements

The session decided that it would run from 9:30 to 12:30 in the morning and 14:00 to 17:00 in the afternoon.

2. REVIEW OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE (ToR) OF THE GROUP FOR REGULAR OPERATION AND INPUT TO EC

2.1 The EC-WG-CWE reviewed its Terms of Reference and its reporting process to the Executive Council. It noted that based on the decision of EC-LIX, the ToR of the Group had been revised in consultation with the Chairman and relevant WMO programmes. It further took note that the original items of the ToR had been aligned and focused on the Strategic Plan and its relevant Expected Results.

2.2 Members debated on WMO's leadership role in climate within the mandate given by its Convention. The Working Group noted that due to rapid developments in the climate field, which has gone much beyond the climate science and is now linked to policy, economy and social sciences, the issue now encompasses a range of disciplines. According to the WMO Vision Statement, the WMO Vision is to provide world leadership in expertise and international cooperation in weather, climate, hydrology and water resources and related environmental issues and thereby contribute to the safety and well-being of people throughout the world and to the economic benefit of all nations. However, the meeting emphasized that effectiveness of performance, efficient partnership and networking are equally important. It is important that WMO's leadership role on climate matters become more widely understood in the community since this will, inter alia, enhance the influence and contribution of NMHSs at the national level. The meeting urged the Secretary General to spell out WMO's role in climate activities strongly, e.g. in the upcoming publication of a new statement on the Role and Operation of NMHSs for Directors, especially to ensure optimum collaboration with government agencies and the user sectors.

2.3 Referring to paragraphs 5.12 and 5.13 of the EC-LIX and Resolution 8 of the Cg-XV, the Group recognized that the Climate Agenda, which emerged from the Intergovernmental Meeting in 1993, with many elements, inter-agency issues and climate practices under the four components of the World Climate Programme (WCP), was still valid and composed the backbone of the scientific and policy level of global climate activities. The EC-WG_CWE noted that due to rapid developments in climate change arena, the UN High Level Committee of Programme under supervision of the UN Chief Executive Board (CEB) has taken a more dynamic strategy to bring all UN-related organization involved in climate activities under one umbrella (for additional discussion refer to item 5).

2.4 The Group deliberated on the role of partnership within the UN system, but also emphasized that climate issues touch partners beyond UN agencies. It noted that item (c) of the ToR provides an inward looking perspective, while more reliable interdisciplinary interaction beyond the UN system requires interaction with many other international organizations such as ICSU which are not under the UN umbrella.

2.5 Finally, the Group remarked that while keeping climate as its prime focus, it is a reality that the interactions do not only happen with water and the environment, but also with weather. So the Group proposed that whenever the expression "climate and related water and environmental matters" appears in the TOR's, it be replaced by "climate and related weather, water and environmental matters". The group also suggested that this change should be reflected in the name of the working group, and its name should be changed into "...Working Group on Climate and Related Weather, Water and Environmental matters". Noting the broad scope of the ToR of the Group, it will define expected results and deliverables of its work with a focus on climate implications of the above-mentioned areas.

3. NEW STRUCTURE OF THE SECRETARIAT WITH A FOCUS ON CLIMATE AND RELATED WATER AND ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMMES

The Working Group was informed that the adoption of the Result Based Management approach by the Cg-XV expresses the desire of the Members for a change in the manner in which the Congress expects WMO to report on its actions, activities and achievements. The restructuring of the secretariat was a response of the secretariat with a view to align structure to WMO strategic direction, improve integration of plans and programmes, streamline management and decision making and optimize use of resources. The Group was also informed of the progress on the WMO Integrated Global Observing Systems (WIGOS) in the WMO Information System (WIS) context that was also adopted by the Cg-XV.

The group deliberated extensively on the new Secretariat structure, and the new alignment of departments, in particular, the merging of the World Climate Programme (WCP) and Hydrology and Water Resources (HWR) as one department. It noted that this merging will dilute the issue of climate which at this juncture should be made stronger and stand on its own and believed that the same reasoning goes for water issues.

4. REVIEW OF THE RELEVANT EXPECTED RESULTS OF THE WMO STRATEGIC PLAN TO ENSURE ACHIEVEMENT IN THE CLIMATE AND RELATED WATER AND ENVIRONMENT AREAS

4.1 GCOS within the new structure

4.1.1. The Chairman of the Steering Committee of GCOS presented his views on the GCOS within the new WMO structure and asked the WG to discuss the role of GCOS and its component systems in meeting the climate observation related needs of the WMO Strategic Plan 2008-11 and the climate related needs of the global community.

4.1.2 The Working Group agreed that the original concept of the WMO-IOC-UNEP-ICSU Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) which emerged from the 1990 Second World Climate Conference remains valid. GCOS is being developed as an integrated system of observing systems which coordinates, builds on and strengthens the climate-relevant components of the various global observing systems of its sponsors to meet the full range of international and national needs for climate-related observations. While it was originally designed to meet these needs and achieve its ultimate objectives by supporting all aspects of the World Climate Programme (WCP) and related international programmes, its end-user focus has progressively broadened to include support for the assessment role of the WMO-UNEP Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the international policy role of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and all of the climate-sensitive Societal Benefit Areas (SBAs) of the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS).

4.1.3 The Working Group was convinced that the successful implementation of the WIGOS concept would contribute significantly to the success of both GCOS and GEOSS by ensuring that all of the WMO-sponsored observing systems in the atmospheric, oceanic and terrestrial observation domains would be more effectively coordinated and focused on serving climate (as well as other) end user needs. It noted, however, that this would require both:

- (a) Strong integrated support from within the WIGOS and WIS Branches of the Secretariat for the climate-related Expected Results 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 of the WMO Strategic Plan 2008-11; and
- (b) Redefinition of the role of the GCOS Joint Planning Office (JPO) to place greater emphasis on its role in coordination of the climate component of WMO systems embraced within WIGOS (especially the climate-related elements of the World Weather Watch, GOS, GAW and the WMO hydrological observing

systems) with those of the climate-related oceanic and terrestrial observing systems sponsored and co-sponsored by UNESCO/IOC, UNEP, ICSU and other observing system partners such as FAO.

4.1.4 The Working Group agreed that (a) the housing of the joint WMO-IOC-UNEP-ICSU GCOS JPO with the new WMO Observations and Information Systems would require the establishment of an effective cross-cutting climate-focused coordination mechanism within the Secretariat linked to the coordinating role of the EC-WG-CWE itself; and that (b) the above would be greatly facilitated by making clear that the primary role of the GCOS Steering Committee and JPO will, in future, focus more on ensuring effective coordination of WIGOS with the observing systems of the other co-sponsors of GCOS.

4.2 Preliminary discussions on climate activities of WMO such as World Climate Programme (WCP), World Climate Research Programme (WCRP), etc.

4.2.1 The Working Group reviewed the potential contribution of all four components of the World Climate Programme to the Expected Results of the WMO Strategic Plan. It considered in particular the activities of:

- The World Climate Data and Monitoring Programme (WCDMP) which is now supported by the Observing and Information Systems Department under the guidance of the Commission for Climatology and in support of ER 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9;
- The WMO-IOC-ICSU World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) which is supported by the Joint Planning Staff (JPS) within the Research Department under the guidance of the Joint Scientific Committee (JSC) and which contributes to ER 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 as well as to the work of WMO-UNEP IPCC and the UNFCCC;
- The World Climate Applications and Services Programme (WCASP) which is now supported by the Climate Prediction and Adaptation Branch under the guidance of the Commission for Climatology in support of ER 2, 3, 6, 7, 8 and 9 and especially also the adaptation agenda (the Nairobi Work Programme) of the UNFCCC; and
- The World Climate Impact and Response Strategies Programme (WCIRP) which is formally the responsibility of UNEP, has essentially lapsed as an international framework for work on impacts, adaptation and mitigation and which is not reflected explicitly in the new WMO Secretariat structure or in the Expected Results of the WMO Strategic Plan.

4.2.2 The Working Group held a wide-ranging discussion on the future of the World Climate Programme and the Climate Agenda as a framework for WMO sponsored and co-sponsored work on climate. The Group considered a range of options and concluded that WMO should retain "The World Climate Programme" as the overarching framework for all its activities in support of climate relevant Expected Results in the Strategic Plan. The Working Group believed, however, that it is time for a major refocusing of activities carried out under the WCP broadly in line with the major thrusts of the Climate Agenda.

4.2.3 The Working Group agreed that to facilitate both the delivery of climate information and services, and to be more visible beyond WMO, both in the UN system and beyond, requires a coherent end-to-end set of climate activities. These activities need to build upon existing activities within WMO and its Members and, in addition, will require strengthened partnership with other players active in the broad climate field.

4.2.4 The Working Group understood that the bulk of the data and climate monitoring activities hitherto carried out under the auspices of the WCDMP would, in future be handled

within the WIS Branch (for data) and the activities carried out under the Climate Prediction and Adaptation Branch (for climate system monitoring) of the Secretariat.

4.2.5 The WCRP role in the path forward is to underpin the provision of new and improved services, both analysis and prediction, through the development of improved understanding, analysis and models and the reduction of uncertainty. This is being pursued through the WCRP Strategic Framework with the goal: "to facilitate analysis and prediction of the Earth System variability and change for use in an increasing range of practical applications of direct relevance, benefit and value to society".

4.2.6 To deliver on this goal requires directly addressing the seamless prediction problem and increasing the quality, comprehensiveness and resolution of climate models. Essential elements include:

- Improved and more comprehensive satellite and in situ observations,
- Improved understanding of underlying processes,
- Inclusion of weather and extremes in climate simulations,
- The projection/analysis/attribution of climate change on time scales of decades to centuries,
- The prediction/analysis of climate variability and change on time scales of months to decades,
- Greater focus on regional and local scales,
- Greater disciplinary breadth to the science areas included, particularly through the inclusion of chemical and biological components of the climate system and closer links to the socio-economic sectors, and
- The design of tailored products required by users (definition may require the research community to be fully engaged in an active (two-way) dialogue with users, in addition to working with existing WMO mechanisms such as Public Weather Services (PWS), Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), the World Climate Programme (WCP), the World Climate Applications and Services Programme (WCASP) and the Commission for Climatology).

4.2.7 A direct result of WCRP developments over the last several years is, in partnership with WWRP and GAW, the call for "an Enhanced Weather, Climate and Environmental Prediction Framework: A Way Forward", (cf item 4.3). WCRP progress will require continuing and strengthened support from WMO and partnerships with other research sponsors, particularly the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and the International Council for Science (ICSU).

4.2.8 The Working Group considered that much of what has previously been carried out under the auspices of the WCASP and the WCIRP would in future be coordinated through the WMO Climate Prediction and Adaptation Branch, building on the output of all relevant observing programmes embraced within GCOS and the research carried out under the auspices of the WCRP and other international research programmes.

4.2.9 Consistent with the conclusions of EC-LIX that the Climate Agenda and World Climate Programme remain valid and compose the backbone of the scientific and policy level of global climate activities, the Working Group agreed that both the redefinition of the role of GCOS and the refocusing of the World Climate Programme in line with the WMO Strategic Plan and the new Secretariat structure would be greatly facilitated if the forthcoming WCC-3 and WMO Congress XVI were to revalidate the World Climate Programme with foci on:

- Observations: The globally coordinated activities of the observing systems embraced within the joint WMO-IOC-UNEP-ICSU GCOS;
- Monitoring: Globally coordinated data management and climate system monitoring and analysis carried out through relevant programmes;

- Research: The totality of climate research activities carried out through the WCRP and related activities of the ESSP; and
- Services: The provision of the full range of climate information and prediction services and application including those in support of adaptation to climate change and sustainable economic development.

4.3 The State of Progress in WMO Research Activities related to Seamless Climate-weather Prediction

(Submitted by Dr M. Béland president of CAS, on behalf of presidents of Technical Commissions)

4.3.1 The EC-WG-CWE agreed with the recommendation of the Presidents of WMO Technical Commissions (annual meeting 18-20 February 2008) to promote the initiative taken by experts of the world weather and climate research community summarized in a presentation by Dr Béland, president of CAS. The general consensus was that the current “vision” document initially published and presented at the GEO Summit in November 2007 can be considered as an overarching vision. It is seen as an important step in a collective process building on this initiative and other complementary ones such as the European GMES, the newly proposed ESA initiative in support of climate change monitoring or the legacy of the GOOS/GODAE project.

4.3.2 The EC-WG-CWE recognizes the opportunity for WMO to lead in the development and implementation of a strengthened initiative related to delivery of enhanced weather, climate and environmental prediction services and products. Meteorological (including climatological), oceanographic and hydrological services could take advantage of the best that science can offer and balance this with support of observational systems and relevant operational structures. A well-defined medium-term initiative that tackles the immediate requirements of society to address the problems of immediate concern related to climate and environment predictions needs to be developed. Essential characteristics of such a WMO-led global initiative could:

- Be directed to address societal needs (e.g. as defined by the Bali UNFCCC climate change conference and in the Madrid Action Plan),
- Focus on advancing the effectiveness of predictions, and
- Address users’ needs through delivery of tailored products.

4.3.3 Such an initiative could strengthen and build upon:

- (a) An end-to-end structure in which user needs are addressed by a linked system of research, development, operations and applications delivery,
- (b) The concept of “seamless” weather, climate, water and environmental predictions, and
- (c) The existing network of centres of excellence.

4.3.4 The EC-WG-CWE recognizes that WMO is the most appropriate organization to coordinate enhanced climate, water and environmental prediction services through the development and implementation of “An Enhanced Weather, Climate and Environmental Prediction Framework”. The “framework” would address, inter alia, improved climate change and variability impacts and adaptation information, the development of risk management tools and consider the outcomes of the World Modeling Summit on Climate Prediction. Such a framework may be further developed through the World Climate Conference-3 (WCC-3) and in particular, its high-level policy segment. The EC-WG-CWE recommends the following process for initiating the development and establishment of the framework:

- (a) Discuss the framework with the Joint Scientific Committee (JSC) of the WMO/CAS World Weather Research Programme and the JSC of the

Environmental Pollution and Atmospheric Chemistry as well as with the JSC of the joint WMO/ICSU/IOC World Climate Research Programme;

- (b) Discuss the framework at the World Modeling Summit for Climate Prediction at ECMWF, May 6-8, 2008;
- (c) From those preliminary discussions, CAS, WCRP and CCI produce with appropriate consultation a document for consideration by EC LX that will: i) suggest the formation of a small group of representative experts, taken from across the required disciplinary bodies and organizations, and ii) task them, under the leadership of WMO, to prepare a detailed way forward path;
- (d) This path should have as its end point the WCC-3. The document prepared by the group, after due approval process by participating organizations and WMO EC LXI, should propose a set of appropriate recommendations for approval at a WCC-3 high level segment;
- (e) These recommendations would ensure the implementation under the leadership of WMO of the vision (or parts thereof), expressed in Annexes 4 and 5 over a 10 year time period.

4.4 The WMO Strategic Plan

4.4.1 The EC-WG-CWE noted that the WMO Strategic Plan includes 3 Top Level Objectives, 5 Strategic Thrusts, 11 Expected Results and 211 deliverables within around 2000 projects. The Group further took note that Expected Results 2, 3, 6, 7, 8 and 9 are more relevant to its Terms of Reference. At this stage, a Secretariat-only Operating Plan (SOP) 2008-2011 is available in lieu of the WMO-wide OP (WMO OP).

4.4.2 The Group recalled that according to a Cg-XV decision the next round of the Strategic Plan should:

- Take into account the evolution of societal needs;
- Build on experiences gained in the implementation of the current SP;
- Improve the alignment of the Programmes to the strategic goals; and
- Improve the Key Performance Indicators.

4.4.3 It noted that the Secretariat proposal for main scientific/technical strategic thrusts is as follows:

- Climate adaptation;
- Service delivery and DRR;
- Improved quality of services through integrated; and
- Strengthened infrastructure systems.

4.5 Feedback from ECWG-SOP on the work of Technical Commissions and WMO programmes in the area of climate and related water and environment matters.

The Group was informed by the president of the Commission for Climatology about the need for broadening the Operating Plan from the Secretariat Operating Plan to a WMO-Operating Plan. A Draft WMO Strategic Plan should be available by the end of 2008. It was also informed of the preparation process for the Strategic Plan 2012-15, which should incorporate the inputs of the technical commissions (TC), regional associations (RA) and steering

committees of the Joint Programmes (JSC) from the outset. A Draft WMO Operating Plan 2012-2015 should be available by end of 2009.

4.6 CHy Advisory WG- 3rd session

4.6.1 The Group was informed by the president of the Commission for Hydrology of the major thrust areas that the Commission would most likely be addressing during the next intersessional period.

4.6.2 It noted that the Commission at its next session in 2008 would consider climate and water as one of its focus areas of activity. Accordingly, the Commission would, inter alia, compile guidance material on seasonal flow forecasting and on the potential use of the current capabilities in regional climate modeling (RCM) for water resources management, as well as soliciting feedback from operational hydrology groups on their requirements for climate information. This will assist NMHSs in adapting to water-related aspects of climate variability and change. The Group was informed that it is proposed to replace WCP-Water by a joint task team from CHy and CCI to develop up a set of joint activities and build on the achievements of WCP-Water. The Group approved this mechanism.

4.6.3 The Group noted that addressing climate and water related issues in a joint manner was important, because in the climate change policy community, adaptation to changes in the availability of water will be one of the most important natural resources issues that society will need to address.

4.6.4 The meeting noted that water research is within the domain of UNESCO and that WMO's activities are mainly related to operational hydrology. The Group was informed that CHy and CBS are collaborating under the WMO Flood Forecasting Initiative (endorsed by Cg-XV) on issues related to quantitative precipitation estimation and forecasting and flood forecasting. Other aspects such as river operations and water management based on weather products could be improved in the longer term. Both of these initiatives will need to consider the impact of climate change on extreme weather events.

4.6.5 The Group recognized that a subset of the GCOS Implementation Plan is the hydrological component and noted that CHy is responsible for leading the implementation of the WMO contribution to this component as requested by Resolution 3.2.3/1 of Fifteenth Congress. In this respect it encouraged the President of CHy to consult with the Commission for Climatology and the GCOS Steering Committee and Secretariat to demonstrate the importance of hydrological networks for climate purposes and help persuade NHSS of the potential value added to their water resources management activities through strong support for implementation of GCOS.'

4.7 IPY meeting in January (ER2)

The Group was informed of the progress on the activities related to the IPY. The Group welcomed close collaboration between WMO and ICSU to secure the legacy of IPY; nevertheless, it noted that resource mobilization for data management within the IPY is still a challenge.

4.8 Follow up to the implementation of RCCs (ER2)

4.8.1 The WG was informed about the latest developments in implementation of Regional Climate Centres (RCCs), as discussed during the CCI Implementation-Coordination Team meeting (Geneva, Switzerland, October 2007) and the CCI-CBS Intercommission Technical Meeting on Designation of RCCs (Geneva, Switzerland, January 2008). It was noted that a comprehensive set of functions that will be mandatory for all "designated" WMO RCCs and RCC-Networks has been drafted, and is undergoing review by the CBS Expert Team on

Extended LRF (April 2008). Following all CCI-CBS processes, the amendment to the Manual on the GDPFS is expected to be finalized by EC-LXI in June 2009. The Group endorsed this timeframe and urged all Regions to move forward to establish RCCs to deliver these mandatory, and also many highly-recommended activities such as data rescue.

4.8.2 The meeting noted that at Cg-XV, the intent of the Beijing Climate Centre (China), the Tokyo Climate Centre (Japan) and the North Eurasia Regional Climate Centre (Russian Federation) to be identified by RA II as WMO RCCs was indicated. Since Cg-XV, WMO has been informed that the Islamic Republic of Iran and India have also expressed strong interest in joining the pilot project in RA II for eventual WMO designation. RA VI, in addition, has launched a pilot RCC-Network which will consist of 4 nodes to address the mandatory RCC Functions for LRF, Climate Monitoring and Data Services, and a further Centre for Climate Applications.

4.8.3 The Group noted the importance of intra-regional collaboration between RCCs, and also urged all RCCs and RCC-Networks to collaborate with neighboring centres in adjacent regions.

4.8.4 The Group further noted the high-level global interest in climate and climate change through UNFCCC and other Conventions, and urged that activities related to climate change be taken on by as many RCCs as possible.

4.9 The first meeting of WCC-3 International Organizing Committee (WIOC-1)

4.9.1 The Working Group noted that the World Climate Conference-3 (WCC-3) will be held from 31 August to 4 September 2009 in Geneva, Switzerland, under the auspices of WMO in cooperation with other UN agencies, national governments and the private sector. It is organized as a contribution in support of the United Nation's leading role in climate variability and change, and supports the work of countries in adapting their societies to the immediate challenges arising from climate variability and change in the next two decades.

4.9.2 The theme of WCC-3 will be "Climate prediction and information for decision-making", focusing on the application of climate information and predictions to societal problems enabling adaptation to climate variability and change in areas such as agriculture, forests, water, health, infrastructure, city management and sustainable development.

4.9.3 The Working Group was provided with the status of the preparations in respect of the WCC-3. The Group recalled that the SWCC had triggered the establishment of GCOS and felt that WCC-3 should take stock of progress with GCOS implementation and reinforce the role of climate observations in supporting seasonal to interannual climate forecasting and the adaptation agenda. It further noted that GCOS is represented in WIOC and strongly disseminates the messages of GCOS community through the WIOC sub-committees.

4.9.4 The Group noted that the legacy and major expectation of the WCC-3 still needs to be further developed to become mature. The Working Group felt that WCC-3 should have practical outcomes of direct relevancy to policy makers, the private sector and the public. As reported in item 4.3, the Working Group agreed to propose 'An enhanced weather, climate and environmental prediction framework: A Way Forward' as a possible legacy of WCC-3. It further urged the President of CAS, CCI and the chair of the Joint Steering Committee of WCRP to notify the WIOC chair Dr Maclver, as well as the chair of Sub-committee on Programme, Dr Martin Visbeck of this decision, so that space is created in the programme to present and discuss this proposal.

4.9.5 The meeting noted that new dates for WCC-3 will be 31 August-04 September 2009 which will conflict with the holy month of Ramadan in Islamic countries. It noted that this will largely restrict participation and possible contribution of such countries in the WCC-3.

4.10 WMO's contribution to the UNFCCC process (ER2 and 8)

4.10.1 The meeting noted that Members will soon be invited to report on progress with the implementation of GCOS against the new SBSTA approved reporting guidelines as a basis for the 2009 GCOS Secretariat Report to SBSTA. The Group welcomed WMO's strengthened partnership and contribution in the work of UNFCCC. It also noted that participation of delegates from NMHSs to the UNFCCC COP and SBSTA sessions have increased significantly. It emphasized the need to employ efficient mechanisms to facilitate access of NMHSs to adaptation funds and exploring closer links between NMHSs and the Environment Ministries within countries and to work with UNEP on initiatives related to adaptation to climate variability and change.

4.10.2 The meeting noted that GCOS Implementation Plan will impact on NMHSs in the long and short terms, through providing progress reports on implementation of the plan to the UNFCCC. The ultimate objective will be to gradually gain political and resource support for sustained operation of enhanced climate networks.

4.11 Contribution to climate and related water and environment activities in LDCs

The Working Group was informed of the various issues that will need to be addressed by the Least Developed Countries, particularly in regards to climate and related weather, water and environment issues. The Group welcomed the ClimDev project as a strong initiative to strengthen the climate related structure of LDCs in Africa. It further noted that CLIPS and RCOFs are among key mechanisms that especially establish the link between the science and applications and particularly address the needs of the LDCs. It also noted that CLIPS and RCOF process contributes to adaptation to climate variability and change, and is a useful mechanism in terms of capacity building for LDCs. The Working Group recommends that more resources should be made available to these activities.

5. CONSIDERATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS' NEW APPROACH TO WORLD CLIMATE CHANGE ACTIVITIES

5.1 The Working Group was informed of the various coordination mechanisms that are presently being developed within the UN System as a follow up to the IPCC 4th Assessment Report, the preparation of the COP 13 and the follow up actions under the way forward after Bali. The UN Secretary General has given top priority to the Climate Change agenda. The Group was informed that WMO and UNESCO have been identified as the lead agencies that would co-convene the science, assessment, monitoring and early warning: the knowledge base of climate (See Annex 4).

5.2 The meeting recalled that Resolution 8 of Cg-XV entitled: "World Climate Programme and its Coordination" provide a strong basis for moving forward on climate related issues within the UN system and other international agencies to contribute to science, monitoring and services. It further recognized that the Climate Agenda continues to be a feasible step in a process for more effective and efficient integration and management of the international climate related programmes in order to meet stakeholders' requirements. (See also paragraphs 2.3 and 2.4).

5.3 The Working Group recognized that the climate issue was much wider than the limited scope of the word since it now encompasses climate change issues including not only monitoring and assessment but also mitigation and adaptation that require a multidisciplinary approach. Climate risks are an intrinsic part of the development agenda. It was noted that the knowledge base of climate was taken for granted and there was a lack of appreciation at the political level of the work that is being done by the NMHSs and is required to be continued if mitigation and adaptation have to be carried out in a cost-effective manner. The knowledge base provides the foundation for both mitigation and adaptation. Both climate change

adaptation and mitigation, not only require financial mechanisms, but also capacity building and technology transfer. The Group recognized the need for the additional resources that would be required for assuming the new role of coordinating the knowledge base activities.

5.4 The Group was informed that the WMO Bureau, at its 59th meeting recommended:

- Organization and coordination of regional climate predictions and seasonal forecasts;
- Coordination of sustainable and accurate observations including specific information for adaptation needs;
- Research on climatology of natural disasters;
- Narrow uncertainties and more precise quantitative forecasts at regional and local level;
- Developing methodologies for adaptation activities.

5.5 The meeting was also informed that the issue would be brought before the Executive Council LX under item 9.1.

5.6 The members stressed the need for greater efforts to obtain due recognition of the WMO's role in climate issues at the UN level. At the same time, WMO should forge ahead with new initiatives that should be built upon the past experience, duly recognizing the new challenges, which among others included the scarcity of financial resources, recognizing the zero nominal growth budget scheme that the WMO Secretariat has to work with.

5.7 The Group was concerned with the situation that the decisions of the WMO Congress and other constituent bodies were not finding due recognition at the national level as compared to the resolutions and decisions of other UN agencies such as UNEP. It recommended that the EC should urge the Permanent Representatives to represent the interest of different sectors in the deliberations in WMO constituent bodies. This will also help raise the profile of WMO with the other sectors within the countries.

6. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION

The Group considered tentative venue and dates of its next meeting and noted that an appropriate date will allow timely input for preparation of relevant document of the Executive Council. It proposed the second meeting (2009) be organized in Geneva around mid-February 2009.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting noted that advisory bodies to the Executive Council provide important input to the work of the Council and sufficient funding should be available in the WMO Regular Budget to ensure annual meetings of such Groups. It recommended that the Council consider this issue as a priority.

8. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

The Group expressed its appreciation for the various briefings provided by the Secretariat and thanked the Chairman for his chairing of the Session.

The first session of the EC-WG-CWE closed at 13h15 on Friday 28 March 2008.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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ANNOTATED AGENDA

1. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

1.1 Opening of the session

The first session of the EC Working Group on Climate and related Water and Environmental Matters (EC-WG-CWE) will open at the WMO Headquarters, Geneva, at 9:30 a.m., on Wednesday 26 March 2008.

1.2 Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda will be submitted to the EC-WG-CWE for approval at the opening of the session and may be amended at any time in the course of the session.

1.3 Working arrangements

The session will run from 9:30 to 12:30 in the morning and 14:00 to 17:00 in the afternoon. The meeting will be conducted in English.

2. REVIEW OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE GROUP FOR REGULAR OPERATION AND INPUT TO EC

The EC-WG-CWE will review its Terms of Reference to explore priorities and gaps for its reporting process to the Executive Council. The meeting may also decide to assign certain members from the Group to follow up and serve as a rapporteur on specific items on the ToR.

3. NEW STRUCTURE OF THE SECRETARIAT WITH A FOCUS ON CLIMATE AND RELATED WATER AND ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMMES

The working group will be informed of the new Secretariat structure including the WMO Integrated Global Observation System (WIGOS).

4. REVIEW OF THE RELEVANT EXPECTED RESULTS OF THE WMO STRATEGIC PLAN TO ENSURE ACHIEVEMENT IN THE CLIMATE AND RELATED WATER AND ENVIRONMENT AREAS

4.1 GCOS within the new WMO structure

4.2 Preliminary discussions on climate activities of WMO such as WCP, WCRP, etc.

4.3 The state of progress in WMO research activities related to seamless climate-weather prediction
(Submitted by *Mr Béland, president of CAS*)

4.4 The meeting will note the relevant expected results of the WMO Strategic Plan, including main thrusts that will ensure achievement in the climate, water and environment areas programmes and activities.

- 4.5 Feed back from ECWG-SOP on the work of Technical Commissions and WMO programmes in the area of climate and related water and environment matters. (Submitted by the *president of CCI*)
- 4.6 CHy advisory WG- 3rd session, (WCP-Water implications) (ER2, 3)
- 4.7 IPY meeting in January (ER2)
- 4.8 Follow up to the implementation of RCCs (ER2)
- 4.9 WIOC-I meeting (just for information) (ER2)
- 4.10 WMO's contribution to the UNFCCC process (ER2 and 8)
- 4.11 Contribution to climate and related water and environment activities in LDCs (ER2, 9)

5. REVIEW OF THE UNITED NATIONS' NEW APPROACH TO WORLD CLIMATE CHANGE ACTIVITIES

The meeting will be informed of recent developments at the UN level of activities and decisions on global climate change issues. It will further comment on the WMO's strategy and policy toward new approaches within the un system on climate change.

6. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT SESSION

The Group will be invited to set a venue and tentative dates for its next session.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Any other item(s) that members consider to be worthy of discussion will be taken up under this agenda item.

8. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

The first session of the ECWG-CWE is scheduled to close in the afternoon on Friday 28 March 2008.

**EC - WORKING GROUP ON CLIMATE AND
RELATED WEATHER, WATER AND ENVIRONMENT ACTIVITIES**

REVISED TERMS OF REFERENCE

- (a) Review present climate-relevant activities of WMO, and to assess their effectiveness in achieving the Expected Results of the WMO Strategic Plan;
- (b) Provide recommendations to promote and strengthen collaboration between and coordination of efforts among all WMO sponsored and co-sponsored research and technical programmes , commissions and panels with regard to the climate and related weather, water and environment matters;
- (c) Advise on how to further strengthen and increase the effectiveness of WMO's partnerships with other UN agencies, international agencies and regional bodies involved in climate matters –including the water-related aspects of climate;
- (d) Review decisions of other international organizations and conventions related to the functioning and activities of all climate-related programmes of WMO; assess the implications and recommend appropriate actions;
- (e) Review outcomes of conferences dealing with climate and related weather, water and environmental matters taking into account the needs of developing and least-developed countries and recommend appropriate actions;
- (f) Collaborate with the Executive Council Working Group on Capacity Building and with the Resource Mobilization Office (RMO) to mobilize resources in support of sustained climate services, input for and adaptation strategies, particularly for developing and least developed countries;
- (g) Review WMO Climate and related weather, water and environment activities associated with disaster risk reduction in close collaboration with the EC Working Group on Disaster Risk Reduction and Service Delivery and the Disaster Risk Reduction and Service Delivery Branch (DSD);
- (h) Identify opportunities and recommend appropriate actions to leverage outside resources to support achievement of WMO's expected results in the area of climate, including through innovative public-private partnerships;
- (i) Identify challenges and opportunities related to the development of the network of Regional Climate Centers, enhance the capacities of NMHSs through CLIPS and advise EC and Members on ways to expedite the RCCs' becoming operational.

CEB Coordination Structure - UN-Climate

Area (Issue)/Sector	SUPPORTING GLOBAL ACTION			
	ADAPTATION	MITIGATION	TECHNOLOGY	FINANCE
Areas coordination body:				
Negotiations	UNFCCC	UNFCCC	UNFCCC	UNFCCC
Global action Implementation	HLCP	HLCP/EMG	HLCP	HLCP
Regional action Implementation	RCS	RCS	RCS	RCS
National action implementation	UNDG	UNDG	UNDG	UNDG
SCIENCE, ASSESSMENT, MONITORING, EARLY WARNINGS - WMO, UNESCO				
	↓	↓	↓	↓
Sector	Convener(s)			
ENERGY	UN-ENERGY			
AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES	FAO			
FRESH WATER	UN-WATER			
OCEANS	UN-OCEANS			
HEALTH	WHO			
FORESTRY	FAO			
TRANSPORT	IMO, ICAO, UPU			
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION	ISDR, WMO			
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS	UN-HABITAT			
EDUCATION	UNESCO			
INDUSTRY	WIPO			
GREEN UN	EMG/UNEP			
	↓	↓	↓	↓
PUBLIC AWARENESS RAISING - UNCG, UNEP				