

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION



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

Third session

Geneva, 27 March 2010

REPORT

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

THIRD SESSION

GENEVA, 27 March 2010

1. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

1.1 Opening of the session

1.1.1 The third session of the EC Working Group on Climate and related Weather, Water and Environmental Matters (EC-WG-CWE) was opened at the WMO Headquarters, Geneva, at 9:00 a.m., on Saturday 27 March 2010.

1.1.2 Mr Jerry Lengoasa, Deputy Secretary-General welcomed the participants to the WMO Secretariat. He noted that since the Secretariat had been busy with CCI-XV and Technical Conference preceding it, it had not been possible to identify an appropriate date to hold a 3-day meeting of the EC-WG-CWE. However, he noted that a hybrid approach of e-discussion and one day face-to-face meeting proved to be successful in maximizing exchange of views on critical issues and save time for more focused discussions during the physical meeting.

1.1.3 WMO Deputy Secretary General expressed his thanks to Dr Bruce Stewart, President of CHy, who volunteered to moderate e-discussions for his excellent work in summarizing the comments. He also expressed his gratitude to members of the Group for their active participation in e-discussions which brought good progress. He referred to a number of issues which required to be clarified before EC-LXII, such as, the future of Climate Agenda and re-organization of WCP. He noted that these issues will be finally presented to Cg-XVI for approval to pave the way for implementation of GFCS.

1.1.4 Dr Noorian, the First Vice-President of WMO and chairman of the EC-WG-CWE, welcomed the members, particularly Dr Adrian Simmons, the new chairman of GCOS Steering Committee to the third session of the Group and congratulated the new WMO Deputy Secretary General on his new assignments. He noted that progress has been made during the e-discussions ahead of the face-to-face meeting and thanked the members for their cooperation and support to the work of the Group. The full list of participants in the session is listed in Annex 1.

1.2 Adoption of the agenda

The session adopted the agenda as modified during e-discussion and set the working hours of the meeting. The annotated agenda is attached as Annex 2.

2. REVIEW OF MAJOR CLIMATE AND RELATED WEATHER, WATER EVENTS AND THEIR OUTCOMES

2.1 The EC-WG-CWE was briefed on a number of major events, such as CCI-XV and Technical Conference on Changing Climate and Demands for Climate Services; GCOS Steering Committee meeting; WCRP JSC meeting; 31st session of IPCC Plenary and AR5 process and COP15. The Group also considered the progress report of 'Research Task Team (EC-RTT). The Group noted that the members of the EC-WG-CWE had exchanged information on these issues during the e-discussions.

2.2 The Group noted that the Subsidiary Body of Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) was informed of the outcomes of the World Climate Conference-3 (WCC-3) and its decision to establish the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS). The Working Group noted that SBSTA 31 reviewed the provisional update of the 'Implementation Plan for the Global

Observing System for Climate in Support of the UNFCCC' (IP-10) and that COP 15 subsequently urged Parties to work towards addressing the gaps in global observations. Moreover, it noted that COP 15 invited the GCOS Secretariat to update the Implementation Plan in time for consideration by SBSTA 33.

2.3 The EC-WG-CWE noted with appreciation that WMO Commission for Climatology and the World Climate Research Programme, in conjunction with the Fifteenth session of the Commission for Climatology (CCI), in Antalya, Turkey, organised a special joint session with the Joint Scientific Committee (JSC) for the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) on February, 18th. It welcomed the joint statement that paves the way for the CCI and WCRP to work together towards strengthened research and operations linkages for enhancing the use of climate information.

2.4 The EC-WG-CWE was informed of the outcomes of the Fifteenth session of Commission of Climatology (CCI-XV) held from 19-24 February 2010. The Group also noted the new vision, mission statement and Terms of Reference of the Commission and endorsed it for further confirmation by EC-LXII and adoption by Cg-XVI. It noted that the Commission had adopted a more flexible approach to address the evolving needs of the proposed Global Framework for Climate Services. The Group appreciated the four thematic areas in which the Commission decided to group its activities for providing improved climate services to the global community, and the establishment of four Open Panels of CCI Experts (OPACEs) that will focus on thematic areas:

- Climate data management;
- Global and regional climate monitoring and assessment;
- Climate products and services, and
- Climate information for adaptation and risk management.

2.5 The EC-WG-CWE was informed of the outcomes of the Review of WCRP undertaken by its co-sponsors. The Group noted the recommendations of the WCRP Review and the complementary and mutually supportive roles of the GCOS and the WCRP as essential elements of the proposed GFCS.

2.6 The EC-WG-CWE was informed of the progress in the preparation of the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (AR5). The Working Group was informed that the Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events has been requested by ISDR. It noted that the IPCC has currently opened the nomination period for experts to act as authors and review editors for the contributions of the three Working Groups to the AR5. The Group urged all concerned, especially Technical Commissions to contribute in the name of the Commission through WMO Secretariat to the work of IPCC, UNFCCC and others to increase the visibility of WMO. The Working Group also noted that the Chairs of the JSC for the WCRP and the SC for GCOS wrote jointly to the Chairman of the IPCC urging that AR5 explicitly identify needs for new or improved observations and new research. The Working Group noted this request and recommended that the WMO EC add its support for a stronger focus in AR5 on outstanding scientific issues and the need for improved observations and strengthened research.

2.7 The Working Group noted the recommendations of the President of CAS that will be presented to the EC Working Group on Strategic and Operational Planning and the sixty-second session of the Executive Council in June 2010. The Group noted that the recommendations suggest that WMO implementation priorities for the EC-RTT categories be based on broad criteria that capture, in order of importance, (1) WMO's mission and strategies, (2) emerging societal needs, (3) WMO Member capabilities and concerns, and (4) the feasibility of near-term accomplishments as broader goals are achieved. Further consideration should be given to the urgency, importance, cost, and potential benefit of such activities.

3. FOLLOW UP TO WCC-3: THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GFCS

3.1 The EC WG CWE was briefed on the outcomes of the Intergovernmental meeting for the High-Level Task-force (HLT) for the GFCS, organized by WMO on 11-12 January 2010 in Geneva, and on the 1st meeting of the HLT on 25-26 February 2010. The Group was concerned at the resource requirement for the work of the HLT and was informed that the Members who financially supported the WCC-3 have extended their support to the work of HLT-GFCS by agreeing to transfer of the balance from the WCC-3 Trust Fund to the HLT Trust Fund. Some additional resources have also been committed by the Members and all efforts are being made to raise extra-budgetary resources required to meet the needs of HLT.

3.2 The ECWG-CWE recommended that the Draft Position Paper should be appropriately revised within the Secretariat to include explicit reference to the summary conclusions of the expert segment of the WCC-3 as set down in the Conference Statement, and the crucial role of NMHSs in the GFCS implementation, and to make it more inclusive of all the WMO traditional partners and their co-sponsored activities which have been identified as essential elements of the GFCS. The EC-WG-CWE, expressed the urgent need for development of the user interface component of GFCS to EC-LXII.

3.3 The Working Group was also informed of the financial arrangements and the Secretariat mechanism to serve the HLT. The Group was informed that all the correspondence in connection with HLT is being taken up with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs with copy to Permanent Representatives.

4A. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GFCS: ADJUSTMENTS TO THE PROGRAMME STRUCTURE – WORLD CLIMATE PROGRAMME

and

4B. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GFCS: ADJUSTMENTS TO THE PROGRAMME STRUCTURE – OTHER WMO PROGRAMMES AND CO-SPONSORED OBSERVING SYSTEMS

4.1 The EC-WG-CWE was informed of the detailed discussion that took place during the e-discussions on the Agenda. The Group recalled that in light of the historical significance of the WCP as well as the Climate Agenda and the enormous success of WCP that triggered global attention on GHGs and contributed to the establishment of IPCC, UNFCCC, CLIPS initiative, etc., the Group, in its 2nd session in February 2009 had suggested deferring final decision on the future of the WCP and the Climate Agenda until after the WCC-3. The Group, however, had clarified in its report to the EC-LXI that the Climate Agenda would finally be retired and replaced by the Global Framework for Climate Services.

4.2 The Group felt that in view of developments of GFCS, it is important to realign the WCP and the other WMO Programmes and Technical Commissions to be able to respond to the needs of GFCS. It emphasized the need to take proactive actions so that the Congress-XVI, while considering the outcomes of HLT-GFCS, also makes decision on the re-alignment of its various WMO Programmes and Technical Commissions.

4.3 Based on the e-discussion and the discussions during the meeting, the Working Group recommended:

- It is important that a separate paper is prepared clearly bringing out the role of NMSs in the implementation of GFCS.
- The Global Framework for Climate Services, with its objective as decided to be established by the WCC-3, subsumes the objectives of the Climate Agenda

which till now forms the Integrating Framework for International Climate Related Programmes. As such the Climate Agenda should be retired along with the Inter-Agency Committee on Climate Agenda (IACCA).

- Given the larger scope of the GFCS, and its very nature as a framework which is likely to involve the NMHSs and many other partners, both within and outside the UN system, the activities under the World Climate Programme should be focused so that it can be appropriately monitored and evaluated by the WMO constituent bodies. The detailed components of the WCP, however, should be finalized as the report of HLT on the details of GFCS structure becomes available.
- That the further development of the proposed structure of future WCP be based on the essential elements of the future GFCS including GCOS, WCRP and a new world climate services programme.
- The discussion paper presented to the Group should be revised based on the comments in the e-discussions as well as the discussion during the meeting and in conjunction with the development process of the GFCS and presented for deliberations by the EC-WG-CWE after the report of the HLT is available.

4.4 EC Working Group decided that the proposal on the restructuring of WCP will be presented to the Task Team under EC-WG-SOP which is addressing the overall issue of realignment of other WMO Programmes and Technical Commissions, which in turn will make recommendation to the Cg-XVI.

4.5 The EC-WG-CWE supported the proposal of the PTC for the establishment of a two-tiered structure for the coordination of cross-cutting technical activities supporting GFCS. The PTC had recognized the need for inter-commission technical groups addressing specific issues, and set up by the Commission for Climatology or any other Technical Commission as necessary. The PTC had therefore recommended that the second tier oversight and coordination function could be more effectively and efficiently achieved by setting up an Inter-commission Group on GFCS (ICG-GFCS) that would include presidents of each commission as well as the chairpersons of steering committees of WMO co-sponsored Programmes. The PTC had further recommended the following Terms of Reference for the proposed ICG-GFCS:

- Advise the technical commissions and the co-sponsored Programmes on matters related to collaboration on cross-cutting issues, prioritizing the inter-commission activities on problem solving, optimization of resources etc. to minimize duplication of effort and promote timely responses to GFCS implementation and operation;
- Keep under review the activities of the inter-commission technical groups and set up special task teams where required to address any particular issue and ensure that all relevant recommendations and requirements are considered by the appropriate bodies responsible for WMO programmes;
- Facilitate the work of the various inter-commission expert teams on GFCS-related matters, and provide overall oversight to ensure their efficient functioning;
- Report on progress, issues, plans and achievements, on an annual basis or more frequently if required, to the Executive Council through EC-WG-CWE.

5. UPDATES ON THE UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE COORDINATION MECHANISM 'UN DELIVERING AS ONE'

5.1 The Working Group was apprised of the recent activities and outcomes of the United Nations climate coordination mechanism 'UN delivering as one', including interaction of WMO with the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) and development of a climate knowledgebase.

5.2 The WG noted the importance of including linkages to national efforts and 'information clearing houses' in the climate knowledge base and any related information portals, insofar as this information is available. The Group was informed that the outcomes of WCC-3 had recently been discussed at the Climate Working Group of the HLCP, and that it was considered as one of the three UN-'Delivering as One' outputs. Further, the Group agreed that interaction with SBSTA offers WMO a strong opportunity to showcase results of the UN Delivering as One on GCOS and WCRP accomplishments, and on implementation of the proposed GFCS.

6. REVIEW OF THE EC-WGCWE ACHIEVEMENTS UNDER ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE

6.1 In consideration of the review of the achievements of the Working Group on Climate and Related weather, water and environmental matters, the Group highlighted that the greatest effectiveness is achieved in discussions on specific topics. It was also noted that in the past, there have been a number of recommendations made, but that this record could be improved. The group noted that the EC-WG-CWE would be well placed to provide oversight on implementation on the GFCS, but that such a decision would have to be taken in conjunction with the recommendation of the PTC on establishment of an Inter-Commission group on GFCS (ICG-GFCS). It was further noted that the e-forum had enabled the duration of the face-to-face meeting to be reduced by focusing the discussion on the action items. The Group took note of the accomplishments of the EC-WG.CWE as noted in the table (see Annex 3).

6.2 The Group recommended the following:

- EC should re-establish the EC-WG-CWE to oversee the implementation of the GFCS;
- Terms of Reference of the EC-WG-CWE should be revised and appropriately aligned with those of the ToRs of the proposed ICG-GFCS to become more 'action' oriented, to ensure more recommendations are made to Executive Council;
- Future sessions of EC-WGs should make use of the mechanism for e-discussion whenever feasible and appropriate.

7. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

The chairman expressed XXXXX

The third session of the EC-WG-CWE closed at XXX on Saturday 27 March 2010.

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Third Session**

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**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WORKING GROUP ON
CLIMATE AND RELATED WEATHER, WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS
Third Session**

Geneva, 27 March 2010

AGENDA

1. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

1.1 Opening of the session

The third session of the EC Working Group on Climate and related Weather, Water and Environmental Matters (EC-WG-CWE) will be held as a hybrid session comprising of e-discussion from 1 to 20 March 2010 followed by a one-day meeting at the WMO Headquarters, Geneva, at 9:00 a.m., on Saturday 27 March 2010. Members of the Group will receive the documents by e-mail and on the webpage dedicated to the EC-WA-WA, http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/wcp/EC_WG_CWE_3.htm before 1st March.

1.2 Adoption of the agenda

The provisional agenda will be adopted by the EC-WG-CWE in the first week of e-discussion. After e-discussion, the agenda may not be normally changed.

1.3 Working arrangements

The Group members will be requested to make their comments on an e-forum on agenda items identified under item 1.2. The e-discussion process will be conducted in English and a voluntary moderator from among the members may facilitate the e-discussions.

The face to face meeting on 27 March will run from 9:00 to 12:30 in the morning and 14:00 to 18:00 in the afternoon. The meeting will be conducted in English.

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2. REVIEW OF MAJOR CLIMATE AND RELATED WEATHER, WATER EVENTS AND THEIR OUTCOMES

The EC-WG-CWE will be briefed on a number of major events, such as CCI-XV and Technical Conference on Changing Climate and Demands for Climate Services, the GCOS Steering Committee meeting, the WCRP JSC meeting, the 31st session of IPCC Plenary, the AR5 process and COP15. The meeting will also consider the progress report of 'Research Task Team (EC-RTT).

3. FOLLOW UP TO WCC-3: THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GFCS

The EC-WG-CWE will be briefed on the outcomes of the Intergovernmental meeting for the High Level Task Force for the GFCS, organized by WMO on 11-12 January 2010 in Geneva.

4A. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GFCS: ADJUSTMENTS TO THE PROGRAMME STRUCTURE – WORLD CLIMATE PROGRAMME

It is expected that, in order to fulfil the commitments under GFCS, WMO may have to make certain readjustments to its Programmes, and possibly structure of its Technical Commissions. These issues will be discussed in light of the Revised Draft Position Paper. The EC-WG-CWE will revisit its decision taken in February 2009 on WCP and make recommendations to EC-LXII in June 2010 on restructuring as required, along with other recommendations.

4B. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GFCS: ADJUSTMENTS TO THE PROGRAMME STRUCTURE – OTHER WMO PROGRAMMES AND CO-SPONSORED OBSERVING SYSTEMS

5. UPDATES ON THE UNITED NATIONS NEW CLIMATE COORDINATION MECHANISM 'UN DELIVERING AS ONE'

The Working Group will be briefed on WMO's involvement in the new UN system wide coherence on climate change activities, which brings a new coordination mechanism among UN agencies. The Group will be briefed on the latest WMO-UNESCO organized meeting on 'Climate Knowledge-base'.

6. REVIEW OF THE WORKING GROUP'S ACHIEVEMENTS UNDER ITS TERMS OF REFERENCE

7. CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

The meeting of the EC-WG-CWE is scheduled to close on Saturday 27 March 2010.

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Table: Review of ECWG-CWE Achievements under its Terms of Reference

Item	Terms of Reference	Action Taken	Remarks
(a)	Review present climate relevant activities of WMO, and to assess their effectiveness in achieving the Expected Results of the WMO Strategic Plan	The Group has considered review of WMO's climate-related programmes and their progress reports on annual basis. (Item 3 of ECWG-CWE-I and ECG-CWE-II final reports)	Item 4.4 of the report of the first meeting
(b)	Provide recommendations to promote and strengthen collaboration between and coordination of efforts among all WMO sponsored and cosponsored research and technical programmes, commissions and panels with regard to the climate and related weather, water and environment matters	- Establishment of EC-RTT by EC to report on WCRP, and CAS, as a follow up to ECWG-CWE recommendations	- Item 3, report of the first and second meeting
		- Organization of a joint Technical Conference between CCI and JSC of WCRP, February 2010. Follow up will be made to the outcomes of the Technical Conference	- Item 7, report of the second meeting
(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	- The Group has regularly considered progress report of WMO's participation in CEB, HLCP and UN Delivering As One initiative, where, WMO-UNESCO have been given leading role on 'Climate Knowledge base	Item 5 of the first meeting and 3.3 of the second meeting
		- The Group has regularly considered WMO's participation in the UNFCCC COP process and advised accordingly	
(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	- Mainly decisions of the UNFCCC SBSTA, COP and AWG meetings have been elaborated in this Group	Item 4.10, report of first meeting and item 3 of second meeting
		- GCOS SC, WCRP JSC and IPCC Plenary meetings have been elaborated in the Group and relevant recommendations are made	
(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	- The Group discussed in detail contribution of climate and related water activities to LDCs, among which, ClimDev, RCOFs and CLIPS were emphasized as priority areas	Item 4.11, report of first meeting
		- The Group in its extra-ordinary meeting, 21-23 October 2009, had in-depth discussions on the implementation of the outcome of WCC-3 and finalization of WMO Position Paper for Implementation of GFCS	Item 4.7, report of first meeting
		- The Group considered the report of International Symposium on Climate Change and Food Security, which had some implications to LDCs	

Item	Terms of Reference	Action Taken	Remarks
(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	Resource mobilization, as an independent item has only been considered for IPY projects and WCC-3	Item 4.7, report of the first meeting
(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)	- The Group has interacted with ECWG-DRR and discussed climate risk implications	Item 4.2.6, report of the first meeting
		- OPACE- IV of CCI new Structure, on Adaptation and Climate Risk Management will provide reasonable basis to address adaptation strategies, and assistance to LDCs	
(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	- The Group has made detailed recommendations on leading role of WMO-UNESCO within Climate Knowledge Base', implementation of a joint portal for climate knowledge, (UNESCO has allocated appropriate budget to share costs with WMO on this project)	Item 4, report of the first meeting
		- The Group kept a close watch on the resource mobilization efforts for WCC-3	
(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	The Group has regularly monitored progress of work on RCCs within ER2 of the Strategic Plan and made recommendations to EC	- Item 4.8, report of the first meeting - Item 8, report of the second meeting