

## **BRIEFING ON THE FOLLOW-UP TO THE WORLD CLIMATE CONFERENCE – 3: CREATION OF THE HIGH LEVEL TASKFORCE (HLT) ON THE GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR CLIMATE SERVICES (GFCS)**

The Heads of States and Governments, Ministers and Heads of Delegations present at the World Climate Conference-3 (WCC3), held from 31 August to 4 September 2009 in Geneva, through the Highlevel Declaration (attached to Doc. 3), called for the establishment of a Global Framework for Climate Services (hereafter referred to as “the Framework”). The task force, consisting of highlevel independent advisors will be setup through an intergovernmental process, and will be tasked to recommend the proposed elements of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS).

The Declaration calls for:

“....the Secretary-General of 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;

**OP 3** *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 a Framework. In the development of their report, the taskforce will take into account the concepts outlined in the annexed Brief Note;

**OP 4** *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 a Framework and a plan for its implementation;..”

### *Timing of the Intergovernmental Meeting*

At the session that negotiated this Declaration it was clear that some countries wanted to move on establishing the HLT immediately whereas others wanted to wait and see what outcomes flowed from the Copenhagen meeting (7 to 18 December, 2009). The compromise is seen in the Declaration with a call for the Meeting within four months of adoption of the Declaration – which occurred on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 2009. So, in effect, the Meeting must be held after Friday 18 December but on or before Monday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of January 2010. The Secretary-General is proposing 21 – 22 December, 2009, here in Geneva at the CICG. I expect him to sign letters to this effect tomorrow, letters that will go to:

- Permanent Representatives;
- Governments (Departments of Foreign Affairs);
- Executive Heads of UN organisations that participated in the WCCC-3; and
- Heads of NGOs that have observer status at WMO Congress.

Registration will begin at 09.00 at the CICG on the 21<sup>st</sup>, the meeting will open at 14.00 hours and continue until 17.00 hours. There will be a reception at the CICG between 17.30 and 19.00 hours and the Meeting will resume from 19.00 to 22.00 hours. The Meeting will then resume, if required, at 10.00 hours on the 22<sup>nd</sup> with two three-hour sessions possible. Simultaneous translation into all six WMO languages will be available.

The Secretary-General's letters will invite governments to consider holding the Meeting on the alternative dates of 11 – 12 January, 2010, but notes, implicitly, that he can only convene the Meeting after the four-month interval if there is strong government support for such a change in schedule.

### *Conduct of the Meeting*

Decisions will be by consensus of the government delegations and so we will be seeking credentials, including a list of national delegates and identification of the principal delegate and his/her alternate. Organizations with observer status will be able to provide advice to the meeting at the discretion of the chair. As regards chairing of the Meeting; noting that it is to be convened by the WMO one possibility is that the president of WMO chairs the meeting, possibly assisted by two co-chairs, one from the developing and one from the developed world. Clearly this matter of session chairing is not yet settled. My understanding is that the Secretary-general is consulting broadly on this issue.

At the Meeting the Secretary-General will present his proposal for the composition of the HLT. He will follow the guidance in the Declaration and I expect around 12 names to be put forward as a package.

The Secretary-General has now prepared draft Terms of Reference (ToR) for the HLT (annexed to this Document). These will be provided to all those invited to the meeting as soon as possible. Again, it is expected that the Secretary-General will sign letters

tomorrow that allow for their immediate distribution to Permanent Representative and governments.

*Draft ToR for the HLT*

The draft ToR for the HLT will be subject to discussion between governments between now and the Meeting. It is expected that the version of ToR presented with this Document will evolve substantially over the next two months. Hopefully there will not be a great deal of discussion of the ToR at the December meeting.

The WMO is very keen to hold informal discussion on the ToR over the next two months if missions here in Geneva are able to engage in such a process.

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**ANNEX**  
**Draft Terms of Reference**  
**for the**  
**High Level Taskforce**  
**for the Global Framework for Climate Services**

The High Level Declaration adopted by the WCC-3 decided that a Global Framework for Climate Services (the Framework) should be established to strengthen the production, availability, delivery and application of science-based prediction and services. The Declaration requested the Secretary-General of the WMO to convene an Intergovernmental Meeting of member states to approve the terms of reference for a High Level taskforce (HLT) and endorse the composition of the HLT. The Declaration further decided that the HLT should prepare a report, including recommendations, on proposed elements of the Framework.

Consistent with the outcomes of the WCC-3, including the WCC-3 Declaration and the Brief Note referred to in Paragraph 3, the objectives of the Taskforce are to:

- 1) Further develop and refine the roles, responsibilities, and capabilities of the basic elements within the Framework;
- 2) Develop options for governance of the Framework and provide the reasoning for the preferred option(s);
- 3) Outline a plan for the implementation of the Framework, which includes:
  - Proposing a range of strategies (including Conceptual Models) for immediate and longer-term actions to realize the Framework;
  - Specifying measurable indicators, with timelines, for the actions necessary to implement the elements of the Framework;
  - Estimates of costs of implementation
- 4) Undertake broad consultation on implementation strategies of the Framework with all governments ensuring that developing countries are fully represented, with UN agencies and international financial institutions (IFIs) , with a broad range of sectoral users of climate information, and with interested private sector organizations including appropriate non-governmental organizations (NGOs), business, and industry;
- 5) Promote a broad consensus on a blueprint for action by the UN system, International Financial Institutions and other international organizations, national governments,

civil society and private sector organizations to move forward on implementing the elements of the Framework.

6) Recommend, *inter alia*:

- (i) mechanisms for coordinating future actions to implement the Framework that would involve contributions by the UN system, national governments and other relevant users and providers of climate services;
- (ii) strategies for building capacity in developing countries;
- (iii) strategies for resourcing the elements of the Framework at the international, regional and national levels with particular attention to the needs of developing countries; and,
- (iv) a strategy for promoting a common global understanding of the Framework and for coherent and coordinated messaging and information sharing.

Other important considerations

Taskforce Membership: The Taskforce will be composed of individuals who are independent of government but who have long experience in successfully dealing with complex issues of global significance including, but not only, those associated with climate change.

Consultations: The Taskforce will consult broadly with a range of experts, including with UN system partners and representatives from various communities interested in climate and climate services as well as policy and decision-makers, for information on the specific elements within the Framework and on the actions to implement these elements.

Support for the Taskforce: Secretariat support will be provided by WMO, which will host its secretariat and seek funding to support its work. Very senior experts may be associated to the process, in order to provide ongoing advice to the HLT in particular areas, for example, for the development of the User Interface Programme, the development of implementation costs for new components of the GFCS, etc.