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FIRST MEETING  
OF THE WORLD CLIMATE CONFERENCE--3  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE (WIOC)

ITEM 2.2

GENEVA, Switzerland, 4-6 FEBRUARY 2008

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**REVIEW OF PAST ACTIVITIES AND ACTIONS LEADING TO APPROVAL  
TO IMPLEMENT A WORLD CLIMATE CONFERENCE-3**

**Review of reports and salient issues from the Provisional Organising Committee**

(Submitted by the WMO Secretariat)

**1. Background**

The Provisional Organising Committee (POC) for the World Climate Conference three (WCC-3) was established in 2005 as a result of a decision of EC-57 to study the feasibility of organising a WCC-3. It met three times and produced three meeting reports, including costed meeting plan that was submitted to EC-58. The major issues that emerged from the work of POC, included:

- **Ministerial Declaration** – Importance of having a Ministerial Segment to the Conference and defining actionable outcomes from the Conference that can be incorporated into a Ministerial Declaration;
- Developing a realistic, tractable **resource mobilisation strategy**;
- Developing **national and international support** for participation in and for the outcomes of the Conference;
- Further refinement of the **science agenda**;

**2. Ministerial Declaration**

The WMO Cg-15 “agreed that any WCC-3 should produce outcomes of comparable significance to those of the prior world climate conferences so as to merit Ministers’ interest and justify the cost and effort involved. Also, some WMO Members at Cg-15 noted “the importance of having a Conference that could raise the awareness of climate issues within their Governments”.

The POC developed “Expectations from the High-Level Segment” (See Annex 1), which illuminated some of the critical issues that needed to be considered at the WCC-3 and could be a focus for the Ministerial Segment. The POC recognised that these expectations were only a first step toward developing an action set of policy issues that could be included in a Ministerial Declaration. POC also noted that this declaration needed to be negotiated with the countries prior to the Conference to develop a consensus that could be sustained at the Conference.

Substantial work needs to be accomplished by the WIOC to define actionable outcomes from the Conference that can be the basis for a Ministerial Declaration.

### **3. Resource mobilisation strategy**

“Congress agreed that any costs for organizing and holding a WCC-3 must be funded from extrabudgetary resources and emphasized implementing efficient mechanisms for resource mobilization. It further ... urged the Secretary-General to support continuation of the work on WCC-3 through establishing an International Organizing Committee on WCC-3 funded with extrabudgetary resources”.

POC in its report estimated that a conference in Geneva at CIGG but without enhanced costs for security would cost over 3.5 million Swiss Francs. POC also noted that the venue should be Geneva unless a host country commits to cover all relevant costs, including venue, security, interpretation (if needed), and administrative support.

Further, it noted the advisability of enlisting individuals who have experience in mobilizing resources if possible. In any event, it noted that the commitment of a number of dedicated individuals would be required at the national and international levels.

The WIOC will be expected to provide further input to developing a strategy for resource mobilisation. A document on resource mobilisation has been prepared and will be presented at the meeting.

### **4. National and international support**

Achieving the objectives of a WCC-3 will require active participation by a wide array of scientists, practitioners, policy makers, and the private sector. Building this support within the WMO Member countries will require a coherent strategy for informing the necessary individuals with an interest in climate or those who recognize the need for and value of climate information and services to their country and then motivating their interest and where possible, direct participation in the Conference and its related activities. These connections should be far reaching to involve the whole spectrum of interested groups and individuals from the public and private sectors, well beyond what has been done previously for the First and Second World Climate Conferences. In particular, effective strategies for the involvement of the private sector and appropriate individuals need to be developed.

POC recognised that the desirability of having national focal points for WCC-3 within their countries. Given the need to mobilize the interest of national groups and individuals, the proposal deserves further discussion and development. The mandate of a focal point would need to be defined to maximize the impact of the individual within the context of his/her position and available time.

Providing for outreach (i.e., communications, attractive publications and video, etc.) to the national level would assist in enhancing the effectiveness of a national focal point. It would provide an information base on climate and the goals of the WCC-3 on which the focal point could utilize in informing and motivating national participation in a WCC-3.

POC recognized the need for strong interagency support for a WCC-3. It agreed that in addition to those agencies that cooperated with WMO in the Second World Climate Conference (i.e., UNEP, FAO, UNESCO and its IOC, as well as ICSU), WMO coordination for WCC-3 should encompass agencies, which have interests in climate science and applications (including UNDP,

WHO, WTO); international programmes (such as ISDR, IGBP and GEO); and the international conventions on climate, biological diversity and desertification (UNFCCC, UNCBD, and UNCCD). A number of international and intergovernmental agencies participated in the third meeting of the POC and will be participating in the first WIOC meeting.

## **5. Science agenda**

The WMO Congress in deciding to convene a WCC-3, agreed to an overall theme of “climate prediction for decision making focusing on seasonal to inter-annual timescales taking into account multi-decadal prediction”. This theme was negotiated at Cg-15 as a modification to the theme recommended by POC: “Climate Prediction for Decision Making: Focusing on Seasonal to Inter-annual Timescales”.

Consistent with its recommended theme, POC proposed to organise the science segment of WCC-3 in four parallel sessions on four sub-themes, which emphasize the importance of climate information as well as climate prediction and provide a more specific focus for the sessions. Having parallel sessions allows for greater individual participation in the conference and for greater scientific depth in some of the presentations.” The sub themes are:

- Advancing climate prediction and information science;
- Embedding climate into Hazard Early Warning Systems;
- Applications and socio-economic benefits of climate information and prediction;
- Mainstreaming climate information for development.

The further refinement of the agenda (see Annex 2), possibly in light of the modification of the theme by the WMO Congress and the programming of the experts into the agenda are tasks for the WIOC to consider.

**Climate Predictions for Decision Making:  
Focusing on Seasonal to Inter-annual Timescales**

**Expectations from the High-Level Segment**

• **Advancing Climate Information and Prediction Science**

- Promoting the development of seasonal to inter-annual climate information and prediction science;
- Facilitating a global infrastructure for strengthening regional and national capacity for a seasonal to inter-annual prediction system.

• **Embedding Climate into Hazard Early Warning Systems**

- Establishing the mechanisms and opportunities for sharing climate information and prediction products;
- Developing an effective climate Early Warning System, e.g., by recommending a menu of practical response actions to near-term climate risks, including the use of indigenous practices of early warning.

• **Applications and Socio-economic Benefits of Climate Information and Prediction**

- Developing seasonal to inter-annual climate information and prediction goals for WMO, its Members, and public and private sector entities;
- Defining strategies for the enhancement of application of climate information and prediction products for climate risk management;

• **Mainstreaming Climate Information for Development**

- Strengthening the regional and national response systems to climate variability, especially in the developing and least developed countries frequently affected by natural disasters caused by climate extremes;
- Extending available climate products to include annual prognostic analyses at the regional / global levels as well as to enhance the use of existing products by decision makers in key sectors throughout society;
- Optimising the global, regional, and national institutional mechanisms for using climate information and predictions in decision-making.

**CLIMATE PREDICTION FOR DECISION MAKING:  
FOCUSING ON SEASONAL TO INTER-ANNUAL TIMESCALES**

**Session A  
Advancing climate prediction and information science**

Revised Agenda

- Monday PM: Understanding the current state of the climate:  
Monitoring, information and analysis systems  
Climatologies in a changing climate  
Requirements for determining the current state of the climate  
Requirements for observations used by prediction systems  
Optimum Observing Systems  
Validation of climate predictions
- Tuesday AM: Understanding the future: Seasonal to Inter-annual Prediction <sup>1</sup>
- Tuesday PM: Understanding the future: Longer term prediction <sup>2</sup>
- Wednesday AM: Extreme Events and Regional Climate Variability and Change
- Wednesday PM: Economic and Social impacts of climate variability and change
- Thursday AM Plenary – Recommendations to Plenary from Session A on “Advancing climate prediction and information science”

**Session B  
Embedding climate into Hazard Early Warning Systems**

Revised Agenda

- Monday PM: Information needs for hazard early warning systems for climate
- Tuesday AM: Developing Hazard Early Warning Systems for climate
- Tuesday PM: Hazard Early Warning Systems and Emergency Response Systems for climate:  
The roles of International, regional, and national climate centers and response agencies
- Wednesday AM: Hazard Early Warning Systems for specific climate modes of variability (El Nino, Monsoons, Droughts, etc).
- Wednesday PM: Economic and Social impacts of Hazard Early Warning Systems for climate
- Thursday AM: Plenary – Recommendations to Plenary from Session B on “Advancing climate information and prediction science”

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<sup>1</sup> Discussions of climate prediction science will include by their nature, the issue of predictability.

<sup>2</sup> Long-term climate changes of 25 to 30 and of 50 year timescales will be considered as a way to investigate the effects of changes in climate on inter-annual predictions.

**Session C**  
**Applications and socio-economic benefits of climate information and prediction**

No changes to Agenda

Monday PM:	Energy and the Built Environment
Tuesday AM:	Agriculture/food security
Tuesday PM:	Water Resources
Wednesday AM:	Health
Wednesday PM:	Vulnerable Ecosystems
Thursday AM:	Plenary – Recommendations to Plenary from Session C on “Applications and socio-economic benefits of climate information and prediction”

**Session D**  
**Mainstreaming Climate Information for Development**

Revised Agenda

Monday PM:	Acting on Climate Information and Prediction: User experiences with decisions, planning, and policy
Tuesday AM:	Assessing the methodologies of translating climate information into social and economic benefits
Tuesday PM:	Climate Information for society: Mainstreaming climate information to address the Millennium Development Goals
Wednesday AM:	Evaluation of climate coordination mechanism: The governance of the climate enterprise: roles of infrastructure and institutions
Wednesday PM:	Future directions for providers of climate information and predictions: Defining, adapting, and optimizing institutions to future needs for using climate information and predictions
Thursday AM:	Plenary - Recommendations to Plenary from Session D on “Mainstreaming Climate Information for Development”

WCC-3				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>MORNING SESSION</b>				
<p><b>OPENING PLENARY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome Addresses by Hosting Government, WMO and Participating Sponsors</li> <li>Keynote Addresses</li> </ul>	<p><b>Session A:</b> Understanding the future: Seasonal to Inter-annual Prediction ☐</p> <p><b>Session B:</b> Developing Hazard Early Warning Systems for climate</p> <p><b>Session C:</b> Agriculture/food security</p> <p><b>Session D:</b> Assessing the methodologies of translating climate information into social and economic benefits</p>	<p><b>Session A:</b> Extreme Events and Regional Climate Variability and Change</p> <p><b>Session B:</b> Hazard Early Warning Systems for specific climate modes of variability (ElNino, Monsoons, Droughts, etc).</p> <p><b>Session C:</b> Health</p> <p><b>Session D:</b> Evaluation of climate coordination mechanism: The governance of the climate enterprise: roles of infrastructure and institutions</p>	<p><b>Session A:</b> Plenary Recommendations to Plenary from Session on "Advancing climate information and prediction science"</p> <p><b>session B:</b> Plenary – Recommendations to Plenary from Session B on "Embedding climate into hazard early warning systems"</p> <p><b>Session C:</b> Plenary – Recommendations to Plenary from Session C on "Applications and Socio-economic benefits of climate information and prediction"</p> <p><b>Session D:</b> Plenary – Recommendations to Plenary from Session D on "Mainstreaming Climate Information for Development"</p>	<p><b>MINISTERIAL MEETING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentations by Ministers/Heads of Delegation</li> <li>Presentation by Session Chairs</li> </ul>
<b>AFTERNOON SESSION</b>				
<p><b>Session A:</b> Understanding the current state of the Climate: Monitoring, information and analysis systems Climatologies in a changing climate Requirements for determining the current state of the climate Requirements for observations used by prediction systems Optimum Observing Systems Validation of climate predictions</p> <p><b>Session B:</b> Information needs for hazard early warning systems for climate</p> <p><b>Session C:</b> Energy and the Built Environment</p> <p><b>Session D:</b> Acting on Climate Information and Prediction: User experiences with decisions, planning, and Policy</p>	<p><b>Session A:</b> Understanding the future: Longer term prediction ☐</p> <p><b>Session B:</b> Hazard Early Warning Systems and Emergency Response Systems for climate: The roles of International, regional, and national climate centers and response agencies</p> <p><b>Session C:</b> Water Resources</p> <p><b>Session D:</b> Climate information for society: Mainstreaming climate information to address the Millennium Development Goals</p>	<p><b>Session A:</b> Economic and Social impacts of climate variability and change</p> <p><b>Session B:</b> Economic and Social impacts of Hazard Early Warning Systems for climate</p> <p><b>Session C:</b> Vulnerable Ecosystems</p> <p><b>Session D:</b> Future directions for providers of climate information and predictions: Defining, adapting, and optimizing institutions to future needs for using climate information and Predictions</p>	<p><b>MINISTERIAL MEETING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentations by Ministers/Heads of Delegation</li> <li>Presentations by Session chairs</li> </ul>	<p><b>MINISTERIAL MEETING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussion and Signing of Declaration</li> </ul>

☐ Discussions of climate prediction science will include by their nature, the issue of predictability.

☒ Long term climate changes of 25 to 30 and of 50 year timescales will be considered as a way to investigate the effects of changes in climate on inter-annual predictions.