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

ITEM 4

GENEVA, Switzerland, 4-6 FEBRUARY 2008

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**NEXT STEPS IN IMPLEMENTING THE WCC-3**

**Consideration of items 4.1, 4.2, and 4.3:  
Scope, Science Agenda, and High-level Segment of the WCC-3**

(Submitted by the WMO Secretariat)

**4.1 Further refinement of Conference scope and objectives, including desired outputs and outcomes from Conference**

The POC has made a good start on defining the objectives and scope of the WCC-3 focusing on the theme of Climate Prediction for Decision Making: Focusing on Seasonal to Inter-annual Timescales. However, in light of the differing views expressed at the POC meetings and at the Congress as well as by others, it is important for the WIOC to re-examine these issues in light of the current environment and the agreed desires of the WMO Congress.

Members of the Committee have already raised issues related to the scope and objectives that will need to be discussed at the first WIOC meeting.

Among the issues that might be considered are:

- Whether the change in the statement of the theme to climate prediction for decision-making focusing on seasonal-to-interannual timescales taking into account multi-decadal prediction from that recommended by POC would change in any major way the scope of the WCC-3;
- Although the theme of the WCC-3 does not focusing on climate change issues, in what ways might the output of the WCC-3 be useful to the UNFCCC and the climate change issues, such as adaptation. And if so, how should these results be communicated to the appropriate users.

To the extent that any adjustments may be required, the Committee should define a means to incorporate these adjustments into the appropriate elements of the WCC-3.

**4.2 Further development of the scientific agenda and participation**

The WCC-3 will have a scientific segment consisting of 3 days with four parallel sessions, focusing on scientific sub-themes, plus a half-day Plenary. The POC has developed a scientific agenda consistent with the agreed theme for the WCC-3. Document 2-1 provides a copy of the final agenda from the POC for further consideration by the WIOC.

The Committee will be invited to:

- Further define the content of these sessions;
- Ensure that the agenda is relevant to the outputs of the Conference as expressed in the Ministerial Declaration; and
- Develop a plan for the detailed programming, including selection of experts, to achieve the goals of the Conference. A key requirement for the WIOC will be to define the final details of the sessions and recruit the best scientific experts to become involved in the scientific sessions.

The Committee will need to establish a mechanism (e.g., working group, task team with specific dates for completion) to develop a final agenda. This must be concluded in a timely fashion to ensure that invitations to experts to participate are issued well in advance of the conference.

### **4.3 Development of issues for the High-Level Segment and of a Ministerial Declaration**

The Committee will be invited to further discuss the development and refinement of the policy issues for consideration at a 1½-day high-level segment of the Conference. The POC developed a set of expectations from the High Level (Ministerial Level) Segment for each of the sub-themes. These are:

#### **4.3.1 Advancing climate information and prediction science**

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

#### **4.3.2 Embedding climate into hazard early warning systems**

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

#### **4.3.3 Applications socio-economic benefits of climate prediction**

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

#### 4.3.4 Mainstreaming Climate Information for Development

- (a) 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;
- (b) 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;
- (c) Optimising the global, regional national institutional mechanisms for using climate predictions in decision-making.

At the **High Level Segment**, the Ministers will consider a brief (1-2 page), pre-negotiated Declaration providing for basic recommendations to bolster the Plan of Action from the science conference. This Declaration would include specific actionable items that would improve performance of an end-to-end climate services system and that the parties to the Declaration would commit to furthering to the extent possible. The outcomes from the conference should call generally for better implementation and coordination of the delivery of services, not for major new programmes.

- These action items should represent coordinated and possibly cooperative actions by countries, national and international organizations and where feasible, private and NGO groups;
- The nature of these actions would relate to specific objectives that would further the aims of the WMO Member States, the science and practice of climate prediction, especially on the seasonal to inter-annual time scales, and the application of seasonal to inter-annual climate predictions to socio-economic problems and issues at the international, regional, and national levels;
- One major focus for these action items will be to accelerate activities to integrate climate into hazard early warning systems and improve the scope and responsiveness of these systems that are currently part of the forecast, warning and dissemination activities of the NMHSs.

The Committee may wish to discuss other proposed outcomes (i.e., other applications of climate predictions, say, to adaptation) for the WCC-3.