

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

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

Item: 5

Original: ENGLISH

GENEVA, 27 March 2010

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

**ACTION PROPOSED:**

The EC Working Group may advise on the way forward.

**CONTENT OF THE DOCUMENT:**

**APPENDICES:**

Appendix 1: Report to the EC-WG on Climate and Related Weather, Water and Environmental Matters

Appendix 2: Draft Layout of the Climate Knowledge - Science for Action on Climate Change

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

### **5.1 Background**

The United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) submitted a document to COP-14 in Poznan, December 2008, entitled '*Acting on Climate Change: The UN System Delivering as One*' through its High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP). <http://www.un.org/climatechange/pdfs/Acting%20on%20Climate%20Change.pdf>. This document brings together information on climate-related activities undertaken throughout the United Nations system, including its agencies, funds and programmes, as contributed by the respective entities. The initiative brings together expertise and ongoing work in diverse areas ranging from science and technology to agriculture, transport, forestry and disaster risk reduction, to address both mitigation and adaptation. It also brings together the normative, standard setting and knowledge sharing capacities of the system with its operational reach in order to support the most vulnerable. The overall objective is to maximize existing synergies, eliminate duplication and overlap, and optimize the impact of the collective effort of the UN system. The convening agencies including WMO have been asked to work in close collaboration with the UNFCCC Secretariat.

### **5.2 WMO-UNESCO Coordinates on "Climate Knowledge-Base"**

WMO and UNESCO jointly take the lead on United Nations system coordination in the area of "Science, assessment, monitoring and early warning (knowledge base)" as a key cross-cutting area within the United Nations system. The second meeting of 'Climate Knowledge Base' under the UN Delivering as One was held at the IOC-UNESCO Headquarters, in Paris on 09 November 2009. Participants in the meeting represented, UNESCO, WMO, UNU, WHO, ICSU, UNFCCC, IFRC, UN-HABITAT, and ILO representative connected through teleconference.

WMO briefed the meeting on the World Climate Conference - 3 (Geneva, 31 August-4 September 2009) and its outcome including follow-up activities; such as information on Task Force and Intergovernmental Meeting. The meeting discussed development of 'UN Climate Knowledge Portal' including a draft outline (please see concept and outline in Appendix 2). The meeting made a number of proposals to improve the outline and make it ready for next steps. Major proposals included the following:

- The Portal should serve as a capacity building facility, e.g. to teach users how to use the information,
- The Portal should have targeted audience, e.g. the public, the scientists, gender specific and children,
- Due to sophisticated nature of the user community the Portal can offer information such as supermarket. The user can pick it up based on its requirement,
- IPCC web portals and materials were considered as good examples,
- World Water Development Report was proposed as another good example,
- The portal will not serve as an inventory of subjects and activities,
- The portal should not create many links that may not work or misguide the user,
- Subtitles for 'Social and human dimensions of climate change should be defined by a competent body. UNESCO expressed willingness to take this responsibility,
- The Portal should not duplicate the UNFCCC Nairobi Work Programme on adaptation issues but to complement it and other similar programmes,
- Climate Change impacts should also be taken into consideration among the titles,
- The portal should be an interactive webpage,
- To keep session B1 and C separate for scientists and lay persons,
- Classify theoretical and practical issues in the portal,

- The portal should stimulate exchange of information between producers and users,
- Some unknown areas such as uncertainties in climate prediction/projection, scientific limitations, man-made versus natural climate change and similar issues should be addressed in the portal.

Under Climate Knowledge Base WMO distributed a brief publication on climate science update for policy-makers for COP-15. It included a set of publications and documents such as IPY, GHG, Ozone bulletins, Annual Statement on the Status of Climate, WCC-3 outcome, and individual fact sheets.

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**Draft Layout of the Climate knowledge page linked from UN Gateway  
Version 14 December 2009**

**Science for Action  
On Climate Change**

**“Science for Action” would:**

1. Provide easy access to scientific data and information that are clear and useful to global and regional international organizations, national governments including all their sectoral development institutions, local governments and other user communities for assessment and applications;
2. Serve as a repository of early-warning of high impact weather and prediction and projections of climate so that users can adapt their decisions and actions appropriately;
3. Strengthen the links between science, policy and action by providing policy makers and other stakeholders with appropriate information in a timely manner;
4. Harness international science and technology and provide tools for decision making in various sectors;
5. Strengthen capacities of countries to better utilize available information resources for response planning including disaster risk reduction;
6. Draw upon systems that provide critical data and information on weather, climate, biodiversity, water and biomass resources and human welfare;
7. UN Agencies and Programmes should take responsibility of updating, and ensuring the quality of the information in each of the sections or sub-sections.

**Proposed Contents**

**A. IPCC Reports**

**B. Understanding the climate system**

1. What is climate, Earth's energy budget, circulation patterns, influences on the Earth's climate, past climates etc.
2. Climate variability vs climate change
3. Climate-related hazards such as storm surges, mid-latitude winter storms, droughts and dust storms, floods, thunderstorms and hailstorms, heat waves and cold waves/frosts (with examples)
4. Significant natural climate fluctuations: shorter time scales (El Niño, La Niña and the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO), Madden-Julian Oscillations (MJO), Inter-tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ), North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO) and other oscillations)
5. Significant natural climate fluctuations: longer time scales (Milankovich cycle and other astronomical cycles)

**C. Observing, monitoring and predicting climate**

1. Climate data networks and climate observations
2. Climate monitoring and watches (global, regional, local)
3. Historical climate data (Global climate data centres, climate database management, climate normals)
4. Climate prediction information and products (global, regional, local)
5. Seasonal forecasts:
  - a. Regional Climate Outlooks
  - b. El Niño and la Niña Updates

**D. Climate change and climate research**

1. Proximate causes of global warming (greenhouse gas, ozone depletion, aerosols in atmosphere)
2. Elements of climate change (temperature, precipitation, cryosphere, sea level rise)
3. Climate Impacts
4. Climate Research (climate projections, climate models, decadal prediction, climate reanalysis)
5. Earth system modelling
6. Science of mitigation: Geoengineering (changes to radiance, carbon sequestration (IGCP)), REDD (IUCN, UNEP, FAO)

**E. Social and human dimensions of climate change**

1. Ultimate causes of global warming
  - a. human population increase (UNFP)
  - b. increased consumption levels (Worldwatch Institute, IBRD)
2. Consequences
  - a. population displacement/migration (UNCR, UNU)
  - b. breakdown in social structures (IHDC)
  - c. changed relationship of people to the Earth (spirituality, psychology)
  - d. national security
3. Issues
  - a. ethical principles as basis for decision making (human rights, fairness, justice, intergenerational equity, definition of a good life, etc.) UNESCO COMEST, UNCHR
  - b. gender equality UNDP, UNESCO, FAO, GGCA
  - c. economics of mitigation and adaptation options
  - d. vulnerable groups (including statistics to demonstrate which groups actually are at more risk (UIS, Forum on Indigenous Peoples)

**F. Climate deliverables for decision-makers (sectoral applications)**

Each section will discuss the influence of climate on sectoral activities, the requirement for climate information products and services and examples of practical applications for avoiding risks and seizing opportunities induced by climate. Following agencies will contribute in developing the knowledge base in different sectors as follows:

1. Health—WMO, UNICEF
2. Water—UN-Water, IHP, WWDP, IMI (a CGIAR centre)
3. Agriculture—FAO, WFP, IFAD, CGIAR, CCAFS

4. Fisheries—FAO, CITES
5. Energy—IEA, IAEA, UNIDO, DESA, World Bank
6. Tourism
7. Urban building, planning and design—UN-HABITAT
8. Transportation—IMO, ICAO
9. Finance and Insurance—IBRD, especially MIGA, IFC
10. Coastal zone planning—IOC
11. Nature conservation (species and ecosystems—IUCN, CBD)

**G. Managing climate risks**

1. Preventing loss of life and property  
(Definition, the Disaster Risk Reduction cycle, the value of climate information in decision-making)
2. Assessing social and human vulnerability  
(Definition, factors influencing human vulnerability)
3. Managing climate extremes  
(Floods, droughts, heat waves, cold waves (frosts), tropical cyclones, ...).

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