

**EXPERT MEETING ON SCOPING
GLOBAL SEASONAL CLIMATE UPDATES**

18.VIII.2010)

Agenda item : 2

Geneva, Switzerland, 12 – 14 October 2010

ENGLISH ONLY

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM RELATED TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. OPENING

The Expert Meeting on Scoping Global Seasonal Climate Updates will be opened at 09.00 hours on Tuesday, 12 October 2010, at WMO Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

2. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

2.1 Adoption of the agenda

The Chairperson will invite the Expert Meeting to consider the provisional agenda with the view to its adoption.

2.2 Working arrangements

The Meeting will agree on the details concerning the organization of its work, including the working hours and any other practical session arrangements. The documentation for the meeting and the meeting itself will be in English. A documentation plan has been developed (INF 1) to assist participants to prepare for the meeting, which has been posted on the WMO Web site at:

<http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/wcp/wcasp/GSCU.html>

3. INTRODUCTION: GSCU BACKGROUND AND CONCEPT EVOLUTION

The Meeting will be presented with the GSCU concept including its linkages to, and relevance for, NMHSs as well as existing climate-relevant entities and mechanisms, such as GPCs, RCCs and RCOFs, but also the GFCS. Furthermore, related background information will be provided recalling the relevant decisions of the Executive Council and statements adopted by the fifteenth session of the Commission for Climatology (Antalya, Turkey, February 2010) as well as recommendations of the CCI Management Group (Geneva, Switzerland, May 2010) and the CBS Expert Team on Extended and Long-range Forecasting (Exeter/UK, June/July 2010). The meeting will be informed on the implementation of a dedicated CCI Task Team on Global Seasonal Climate Updates including its Terms of Reference (ToR) and membership.

4. REVIEW OF USER REQUIREMENTS RELEVANT TO THE GSCU CONCEPT

The meeting will be presented with, and is invited to discuss, needs for seasonal-scale climate information of different users, amongst them the World Food Programme, the Red Cross, the Inter Agency Standing Committee's Sub-Committee on Early Warning and Early Action Reports, WMO Regional Climate Centres (RCCs) and related potential candidates, Regional Climate Outlook Forums (RCOFs), NMHSs etc.

Furthermore, the meeting will be briefed on relevant outcomes of the first meeting of the Task Team on Meteorological Services for Improved Humanitarian Planning and Response, which took place on 31 August – 2 September 2010 at WMO premises in Geneva/Switzerland.

5. REVIEW OF THE CURRENT STATUS OF GLOBAL-SCALE SEASONAL CLIMATE MONITORING AND LONG-RANGE FORECASTING ACTIVITIES

5.1 Availability of operational global-scale climate monitoring products including regional-scale products relevant to global-scale climate monitoring

The meeting will be presented with operationally available global-scale climate monitoring products including regional-scale products relevant to global-scale climate monitoring with a special focus on the seasonal scale including its production cycles, accessibility and product characteristics, such as reference climatologies used etc. The presentations include WMO climate system monitoring activities, such as the WMO Annual Statement on the Status of the Global Climate.

5.2 Availability of operational global-scale long-range forecasts including regional-scale products relevant to global-scale long-range forecasts

The meeting will be presented with operationally available global-scale long-range forecast products including regional-scale products relevant to global-scale long-range forecasts with a special focus on the seasonal scale including its production cycles, accessibility and product characteristics, such as model climatologies used etc.

5.3 Products of LC-LRFMME and LC-SVSLRF relevant to the GSCU

The meeting will be presented with operational products and services of the WMO Lead Centres for Long-Range Forecasting Multi-Model Ensemble (LC-LRFMME) and for Standard Verification System for Long-Range Forecasting (LC-SVSLRF) relevant to the generation of seasonal outlooks.

6. REVIEW OF TECHNICAL, SCIENTIFIC AND GENERAL ASPECTS RELEVANT TO, AND FEASIBILITY ASSESSMENT OF, THE GSCU CONCEPT

6.1 Review of scientific and technical aspects of WMO Climate Watch systems

The concept of climate watches is designed to provide advisories (climate watches) to inform the users, particularly those involved in natural hazards preparedness, mitigation and response on ongoing, pending and/or expected climate anomalies and their negative impacts. The meeting will be briefed on the different scientific and technical aspects involved in the implementation of climate watch systems including potential linkages to the GSCU as an important source of global-scale information.

6.2 Review of scientific and technical aspects of WMO's El Niño/La Niña Update

WMO, in close collaboration with its partners issues the El Niño/La Niña Update to inform Members as well as the general public of the latest development and most likely future evolution of the El Niño/La Niña phenomenon. The update, which is well received by the user community, is

generated through an international subjective consensus process. The meeting will be briefed on the different scientific and technical aspects, and lessons learnt, involved in the generation of the WMO El Niño/La Niña Update.

6.3 Review of communication aspects of climate monitoring and climate prediction products

Communication of climate monitoring and prediction products requires user-oriented language including dedicated consideration of aspects of uncertainty and probability. Moreover, scientists might often face questions on the potential impact of their information on societies. The meeting will be invited to share related experiences and to discuss best practices relevant to the communication of the GSCU.

6.4 Review of consensus development processes for climate monitoring and climate prediction products

Building on the experiences made in the production of the WMO El Niño/La Niña Updates as well as in RCOFs worldwide, the meeting will be briefed on the consensus development process and will be invited to consider its pros and cons w.r.t. the production of the GSCU.

6.5 Review of practical aspects of global-scale climate monitoring analyses and long-range forecasting and GSCU feasibility assessment

Based on the information given under the previous agenda items, the meeting will be invited to discuss practical aspects for generating a global-scale climate monitoring analysis and long-range forecast product relying on existing products and information considering e.g. current production cycles, comparability of reference climatologies, existing coordination mechanisms, current levels of forecast skill etc.

GPCs will be invited to share methodologies on how to synthesise model outputs in order to issue a forecast.

On the basis of the information provided so far the meeting is invited to brainstorm on, and assess the feasibility of, the GSCU concept, discuss its opportunities and strengths as well as its challenges and constraints and provide recommendations for its further concept development.

7. GSCU CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT

7.1 Content and structure of the GSCU

The meeting will be invited to discuss the content and structure of the GSCU. Discussions are expected to include elaborating a list of large-scale climate features to be addressed, indices and parameters to be used and/or targeted on, geographical and temporal coverage of the GSCU etc. Furthermore, the potential of the GSCU for, its linkages to and its potential impact on, (i) existing publications and statements, such as the WMO El Niño/La Niña Update and the WMO Annual Statement on the Status of the Climate, (ii) mandates of, and services provided by, GPCs, RCCs, and RCOFs and (iii) responsibilities and products of NMHSs are expected to be addressed during the discussions.

7.2 Working session on compiling a GSCU 'on the spot'

In a special working session, the meeting will be invited to compile a GSCU 'on the spot' using operationally available climate monitoring information and long-range forecasts.

8. GSCU PILOT PHASE

8.1 GSCU production aspects and working arrangements

The meeting will be invited to discuss aspects of producing GSCUs routinely and to recommend on information sources to be used. Specifically, the meeting will be invited to consider, and recommend on, working arrangements and responsibilities for the production of GSCUs, including identification of a lead co-ordinator, agreement on the flow of information in order to facilitate the generation of the GSCUs, production cycles, review processes, release mechanisms as well as a communication strategy for stakeholders (GPCs, RCCs, NMHSs) etc. The role of the CCI Task Team on the GSCU in the further evolution of the GSCU will be highlighted.

8.2 Implementation plan for a pilot phase of GSCU production

The meeting will be invited to discuss, and agree on, arrangements for a pilot phase for the quasi-operational production of the GSCU including the provision of a GSCU prototype to the World Meteorological Congress in June 2011.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (AOB)

The meeting may consider any other issues requiring actions or discussion by the experts.

10. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The experts will develop their joint conclusions and recommendations as appropriate.

11. CLOSING

The expert meeting on scoping Global Seasonal Climate Updates is estimated to close at 17:00 on Thursday, 14 October 2010.
