

## **Speech for Dr Bedritsky during WCC-3 Opening**

Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to address you this morning for the start of this landmark Conference. World Climate Conference-3 has been more than 30 years in the making – 30 years of commitment by the World Meteorological Organization to comprehensively address climate science. Over the last three decades, WMO has mobilized the international community around the climate issue. In 1976, three years before the First World Climate Conference, WMO issued the first authoritative statement on the accumulation of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and the potential impacts on Earth's climate.

Since then, climate scientists have unequivocally concluded that human activities have contributed to an increase in global temperatures over the past century. Throughout this pivotal time period in our understanding of the global climate, WMO and the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services of its 188 Member States and Territories have built a foundation of observations, research and scientific assessment to understand climate variability and change.

The observed climate change, marked by a 0.75 degree Celsius increase in average surface temperatures globally over the past century, is altering the frequency and intensity of weather and climate extremes, such as floods, droughts, heatwaves and sandstorms. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change – itself one very successful result of a process that began with the Second World Climate Conference – predicts that such extremes will continue to increase in frequency and intensity. This trend affects all people, but especially in developing and climate-vulnerable countries. Changing regional and local temperature and precipitation trends likewise have a widespread impact on economic development.

To help all regions adapt to the changing climate, the global community must come together to develop and disseminate the climate information and predictions based on the best-available science. WMO and its Members have been rising to this challenge, developing climate research and products to help policy-makers and decision-makers prepare for changes in climate and respond with actions informed by the best available science. This work was the impetus for holding World Climate Conference-3 now, at a time when the science has advanced to the point that climate services are now possible across a range of applications.

The discussions this week will be critical in accelerating and progressing this work. The presentations by climate scientists and service providers, as well as experts in food, water, energy, disaster risk reduction, tourism, transport, the environment, will identify priority areas for developing climate services that address user needs. They will also provide an important snapshot of the state of observations, research and assessments at both the national and regional scales.

The recommendations from the Expert Segment will provide vital input to the Global Framework for Climate Services, which will be endorsed by the High-Level Segment later this week. The Framework must be based on reliable and robust climate observations, research, and predictions provided through National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, as well as regional and international organizations. The number of UN agencies, international organization and institutions attending and supporting this Conference is a testament to the level of commitment needed to successfully initiate and implement the Global Framework.

The strength of our partnerships to address the global climate issue gives us an unprecedented opportunity to adapt to the already occurring impacts of climate variability and change while planning and preparing for future changes. Investing now in climate information and predictions is the best way to ensure that our generation and future generations have the ability to manage the risks and realize the opportunities associated with climate variability and change.

WMO, as the UN System's leader in the field of climate knowledge along with UNESCO, is grateful for the broad support of the Conference from so many countries and organizations. Thank you

especially to the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services for their continuing work to protect people and the planet through weather, water and climate information.

I look forward to fruitful deliberations this week.