

## International organizations, agencies and secretariats

European Commission (EC)

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Global Climate Observing System (GCOS)

Group on Earth Observations (GEO)

International Council for Science (ICSU)

International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Secretariat

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC/UNESCO)

International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI)

International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) Secretariat

World Conservation Union (IUCN)

UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) Secretariat

UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Secretariat

UN Environment Programme (UNEP)

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat

World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)

World Climate Research Programme (WCRP)

United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)

World Health Organization (WHO)

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

## World Climate Conference-3 (WCC-3)

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# World Climate Conference-3 (WCC-3)



Geneva, Switzerland  
31 August – 4 September 2009



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Canada

## Vision

**World Climate Conference-3 (WCC-3) will establish an international framework to guide the development of climate services, which will link science-based climate prediction and information with climate risk management throughout the world for adaptation to climate variability and change.**

## Background

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) organized the First World Climate Conference (FWCC) in 1979 and the Second World Climate Conference (SWCC) in 1990, in cooperation with UN system partners. These Conferences were instrumental in bringing to the attention of policy makers the issue of climate variability and change.

The FWCC recommended the establishment of three international scientific and policy activities:

- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2007;
- The World Climate Programme;
- The World Climate Research Programme.

The SWCC called for the establishment of an observing system and a climate convention:

- The Global Climate Observing System;
- The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1992, adding momentum to international efforts leading on climate change.

Coping with the challenge of climate variability and change requires that societies are empowered with new tools enabling the management of a wide variety of climate risks. Scientific advances in seasonal-to-inter-annual and possibly decadal climate forecasting offer a great opportunity for the development of new climate services to a wide user community.

## The Conference

WCC-3 will be held from 31 August to 4 September 2009 in Geneva, Switzerland, under the auspices of

WMO in cooperation with other UN agencies, national governments and the private sector. It is organized as a contribution in support of the United Nations leading role in climate variability and change, and to support the work of countries in adapting their societies to the immediate challenges arising from climate variability and change in the next two decades.

The theme of WCC-3 will be “Climate prediction for decision-making”, focusing on the application of climate information and predictions to societal problems enabling adaptation to climate variability and change in areas such as agriculture, water, health and to sustainable development in general.

### Objectives

- The Conference sets the stage for nations and organizations to identify the needs of end users around the world who will directly benefit from improved climate prediction and information services.
- The Conference will address the state of knowledge and the capacity to mobilize climate science globally to advance seasonal to interannual to interdecadal climate predictions, including current gaps.
- The Conference will negotiate the principles and discuss the mechanisms by which to share new advances in science and information through global infrastructure for the benefit of end users.

### Expected outcomes

The outcomes from the Conference are expected to provide support for:

- Enhanced institutional capacity to advance climate risk management practice in relevant sectors;

- Sustained global climate observations across all relevant domains and timely data exchange;
- Stewarding the climate record and providing open access to climate information;
- Improved accuracy, resolution and scope of climate analyses and predictions;
- Providing mechanisms for widespread delivery of timely, authoritative and user-friendly predictions and assessments of their uncertainties;
- Focusing services to meet a wide variety of sectorally or regionally based vulnerabilities;
- Capacity-building for activities, including training curricula, dissemination of “best practices”, knowledge management mechanisms, etc.;
- Adequate resources to advance the scientific understanding of the climate system, climate variability and change and its impacts on the environment and society;
- Dedicated computational resources for climate analysis and prediction;
- Climate risk management and adaptation to climate variability and change.

### Participation

The Conference will comprise:

- Broad participation by governments, international organizations, the private sector and end users at local level;
- A climate segment of 3½ days and a high-level policy segment of 1½ days; and
- A Ministerial Declaration with specific policy outcomes.

The final outcomes of the Conference will strengthen the regional and national response systems to climate, especially in the developing nations and Least Developed Countries that are frequently affected by natural disasters caused by climate extremes; extend available climate products to include annual prognostic analyses regionally; enhance the use of existing products by decision-makers; and optimize the use of climate predictions by institutional mechanisms in support of decision-making.