

## Third Meeting of the Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-3)

20-24 July 2015  
Nuku'alofa  
The Kingdom of Tonga

### [ADD1] Agenda Item 6.4: Climate Services - Climate Services in the Pacific Region (PICS Panel)

#### Purpose

1. To present the [Global Framework for Climate Services \(GFCS\)](#), its governance, implementation plan, priorities, and current and future activities in the Pacific Islands region.

#### Background

2. The phenomenon of global climate change features prominently in the discussion on climate and disaster risk management in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) because of the likely regional and local sectoral impacts. Climate change increases disaster risks in two ways. First, climate change will likely increase the frequency and/or severity of weather and climate hazards. Second, climate change through slow onset processes will simultaneously increase communities' vulnerability to natural hazards due to the combined effects of ecosystem degradation, reduced availability of water for ecosystems and agriculture, and changes in peoples' livelihoods.

3. Considering that weather, climate and water related events and climate change have significant impacts on the socio-economic development of the LDCs and SIDS, the GFCS was established in 2009, through a high-level declaration at World Climate Conference-3 organized by World Meteorological Organization (WMO), other United Nations (UN) agencies, Governments and partners to guide the development of climate services worldwide. The vision of the GFCS is to enable society to better manage the risks and opportunities arising from climate variability and change, especially for those who are most vulnerable through the development and incorporation of science-based climate information and prediction into planning, policy and practice.

4. The GFCS builds upon the following five pillars to address the entire chain for the production, management, delivery and application of climate information and services in support of decision-making, addressing initially five priority areas (agriculture and food security; water; health; disaster risk reduction; and energy):

- **User Interface Platform:** a structured means for users, climate researchers and climate information providers to interact at all levels;

- **Climate Services Information System:** mechanism through which information about climate (past, present and future) will be routinely collected, stored and processed to generate and deliver products and services that inform often complex decision-making;
- **Observations and Monitoring:** to ensure that climate observations and other data, including metadata, required to meet the needs of end users are collected, managed, disseminated and its utility assessed;
- **Research, Modeling and Prediction:** to foster research towards continually improving the scientific quality of climate information and services, providing an evidence base for the impacts of climate change and variability and for the value of using climate information; and
- **Coordination and Capacity Development:** to interpret, translate and use climate information to support decision making; identified in the other pillars and, for enabling GFCS-related activities.

5. At the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in Apia, Samoa, September 2014, WMO pledged to support the development of climate services for SIDS.

#### GFCS governance

6. The first Extra-ordinary Session of the World Meteorological Congress held in Geneva in October 2012, decided to establish an Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services (IBCS) as a new reporting organ to the WMO Congress. The IBCS is composed of all WMO Member States and has the following subsidiary bodies: 1) a Management Committee that is tasked to carry out the decisions and requests of the Board during the intersessional period; 2) a Partners Advisory Committee with the mandate to discuss GFCS Stakeholders issues relating to the implementation of the GFCS.

7. The IBCS held its first session in July 2013 where it approved the GFCS Implementation Plan, the establishment of the Management Committee and the Partners Advisory Committee, and elected its chair (Norway) and two vice-chairs (India and South Africa).

8. The IBCS Management Committee held its first meeting in June 2014 focusing on the decisions of IBCS-1, the preparation for IBCS-2 and IBCS recommendations to the Seventeenth World Meteorological Congress (Cg-17).

9. At its second session in November 2014 the IBCS approved the revised terms of reference of the Partner Advisory Committee; agreed on the interaction between the IBCS and the constituent bodies of WMO; agreed on the further development of the energy exemplar and on presenting a proposal to Cg-17 for consideration of energy as an additional priority sector for GFCS; requested the IBCS Committee to incorporate gender-related recommendations into the GFCS; elected the Chair, two Co-Vice-Chairs and kept the membership and composition of the Management Committee of the Board as approved by IBCS-1; agreed to have ordinary plenary meetings of the IBCS only once in the intersessional period prior to WMO Congress sessions (tentatively in the last quarter of 2018); and for the Management Committee to meet once a year to provide advice, oversight and management of implementation of the GFCS in the intersessional period.

10. The second meeting of the IBCS Management Committee in November 2014 established the two task teams that IBCS-2 had called for on Monitoring and Evaluation and on Operational and Resource Plan; and agreed on the items to report to the WMO Congress.

11. The Partner Advisory Committee met for its first session in October 2014 and appointed the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) as its Chair and the World Food Programme (WFP) as the Vice-Chair to serve for a period of one year. It agreed to meet on a quarterly basis.

12. At its second meeting in March 2015 the Partner Advisory Committee decided to demonstrate the value of working together in the following six pilot countries: Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Dominica, Moldova, Papua New Guinea, and the United Republic of Tanzania. It also discussed its draft work plan and further refined activities.

13. The Task Teams on Monitoring and Evaluation and on the Operational and Resources Plan met in April 2015 and are tasked to complete their document for the third meeting of the Management Committee in October 2015.

#### **Decision of the Seventeenth World Meteorological Congress with respect to GFCS**

14. Decisions of the Seventeenth World Meteorological Congress (Cg-17) are presented below.  
*(a) Frequency of IBCS and its Management Committee sessions:* Decides to hold ordinary plenary meetings of the IBCS only once in the Congress inter-sessional period prior to Congress sessions and for the Management Committee to meet once a year to provide advice, oversight and manage implementation of the GFCS;

*(b) Relationship and interaction between IBCS and WMO constituent bodies:* Decides to adopt the following arrangements:

(1) *Executive Council:* The IBCS Chair, with the Vice-Chair as alternate, unless they are WMO Executive Council members themselves, shall be invited to inform the Executive Council at its sessions, on progress and requirements and needs of the IBCS. The Executive Council shall designate a representative to attend IBCS sessions as well as the IBCS Management Committee sessions;

(2) *Regional Associations:* Regional associations shall invite the IBCS designated representative to their sessions, to inform the Associations on progress, requirements and needs of the IBCS for the specific Regions as appropriate. The IBCS shall delegate the responsibility to a member of its Management Committee from that Region or to the Chair or Vice-Chair/Co-Vice-Chairs as appropriate;

(3) *Technical Commissions:* Technical commissions shall invite the IBCS designated representative to their sessions, to inform the Commissions on progress and requirements and needs of the IBCS as appropriate. The IBCS shall delegate the responsibility to a member of its Management Committee or to the Chair or Vice-Chair/Co-Vice-Chairs as appropriate. The Chair of the IBCS shall invite the presidents of the technical commissions, as deemed appropriate, to attend the IBCS as well as the Management Committee sessions;

(4) *Technical Commissions and Programmes:* Relevant technical commissions and WMO Programmes should identify a GFCS Liaison. These individuals can report through the Technical Commission Management Groups on ways to better align technical operating

plans with GFCS activities and, conversely, inform the IBCS of relevant technical commission activities that support the GFCS;

(5) *Secretary-General*: WMO should reach out to the technical commissions (or equivalent) of GFCS partner organizations, as needed, for input into IBCS Partner Advisory Committee activities. The Secretary-General should also submit relevant activities as GFCS contributions via the existing process(es) established for other partners;

(c) **GFCS governance resource requirements**: Congress decided to include the costs of conference services for IBCS sessions as reflected in Resolution 8/1 in the WMO regular budget subject to availability of funds;

(d) **Energy as an additional priority area of the GFCS**: Congress supported the inclusion of energy as a fifth priority area of the GFCS. Cg-17 also recognized the role of energy in supporting the initial four priority areas and a low carbon development path. Cg-17 indicated the need for resource mobilization in support of the Energy Exemplar implementation which could come from the energy sector itself through effective engagement with relevant stakeholders.

(i) To adopt energy as the fifth priority of the GFCS;

(ii) To develop the Energy Exemplar as a means of guiding the enhanced provision of climate services for the energy sector and engaging the relevant stakeholders; and

(iii) To pilot interventions identified in selected countries with the support of the Members and partners to inform the process of Exemplar development and implementation.

(e) **With regards to other areas such as tourism and transportation**, Cg-17 noted the relevance of IBCS considering them in the future and recommended that additional prioritization on these be taken at regional and national levels. Congress encouraged Members to inform the Secretary-General of cases where implementation of the GFCS focuses on such areas such as the case of the Caribbean which decided on energy as a priority;

(f) **Approach in implementing GFCS**: Cg-17 endorsed the recommendation of the IBCS to focus on the development of a Proof of Concept in the first years so as to facilitate the development of guidelines to support further implementation of the GFCS by Members and partners.

#### **Decisions of the 67<sup>th</sup> Session of WMO Executive Council**

15. Decisions on the Sixty-Seventh Session of WMO Executive Council are presented below.

(1) To establish the Inter-Commission Coordination Group for WMO's contribution to the GFCS (or alternatively the WMO Coordination Group for the GFCS (WCG-GFCS)) with Terms of Reference as follows:

(a) Align and coordinate work plans and schedules related to GFCS amongst technical commissions, regional associations, WMO Programmes and relevant co-sponsored activities (such as DRR, GCOS, WIGOS, WCRP, WWRP, etc.) in the context of a results-based framework for WMO's contribution to the GFCS;

(b) Collect and develop coordinated specifications of requirements for the development of well-targeted and, to the extent possible, integrated GFCS projects and ensure coordination of WMO contribution to the projects;

- (c) Collect and develop coordinated specification of requirements for the development of GFCS information, underpinning research, products and services across the identified priority sectors and ensure coordination of WMO contribution to them;
- (d) Develop relevant regulatory material and guidance to assist Members in the implementation of GFCS activities, taking into account the GFCS pillars and identified priority areas;
- (e) Reflect through all aspects of its work, guidance from Executive Council in relation to the implementation of WMO's contribution to GFCS, including relative priorities for specific projects, products and services, and capacity development activities;
- (f) Report regularly to the Executive Council and amend its terms of reference as required in accordance with Executive Council directions; and
- (g) Report regularly to the IBCS;

### GFCS Activities in the Pacific Islands Region

16. In April 2014 a [Regional Stakeholder Consultation](#) was convened in Rarotonga, Cook Islands to identify the capacity gaps and to develop a plan of action for the implementation of climate services in the region. As a result, the Pacific Islands Climate Services (PICS) Panel was endorsed by the second Pacific Meteorological Council (PMC-2) in July 2013 and established in April 2014 at the Special Session of the Pacific Meteorological Council, in Rarotonga, Cook Islands. PMC also decided to pilot National Climate Outlook Fora in Papua New Guinea, Tonga and Kiribati through the [WMO Programme on implementing GFCS at the National and Regional Scales](#) funded by Environment Canada. This programme also funds Pacific Islands Climate Services (PICS) Panel meetings as well as a variety of their Priority Actions and Recommendations..

17. At the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in Apia, Samoa, September 2014, WMO pledged to support the development of climate services for SIDS. In support of this WMO has established a [SIDS Programme](#) at Cg-17.

### Recommendations

4. The Meeting is invited to:

➤ **Note**

- (a) The ongoing efforts of the GFCS to establish partnerships and coordination mechanisms to enhance the production, delivery and use of climate services at global, regional and national levels;
- (b) The substantial efforts made by Environment Canada and the WMO in the Pacific and in particular towards:
  - I. the process of establishing a Regional Climate Center Network for the Pacific region;
  - II. holding the first physical Regional Climate Outlook Forum in the Pacific region with a special focus on water managers;
  - III. initiating and guiding the process on National Climate Outlook Forums and other User Interface Platforms;
  - IV. ongoing capacity development and training efforts provided to NMHSs staff in the Pacific islands region;

➤ **Recommend**

- (a) NMHSs and users of climate services in the region to engage, support and advocate the efforts made;
  - (b) NMHSs to undertake NCOFs and National Climate Frameworks (NCFs), based on the best practices and expertise of other countries of practice and to seek national and international support to ensure the sustainability of the results achieved
- **Urge**
- (a) the PMC members, SPREP, development partners and donors to support and guide the GFCS and related climate services activities initiated in the Pacific region, in order to ensure the sustained and continuous development of climate services in the Pacific SIDS.

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**Attachments**

Nil

14 July 2015