



## Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS)

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Climate information at global, regional and national levels and in timeframes ranging from the past, present and future climate is fundamental for planning, sustainable development and to help organizations, countries and individuals adopt appropriate strategies to adapt to climate variability and change. Based on this recognition, in 2009, the Heads of States and Governments, Ministers and Heads of Delegation representing more than 150 countries, 34 United Nations Organizations and 36 Governmental and non-Governmental international organizations, and more than 2500 experts present at the Third World Climate Conference (WCC – 3) unanimously agreed to develop the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) to strengthen the production, availability, delivery and application of science-based climate prediction and services. They requested that a taskforce of high-level independent advisors be appointed to prepare a report, including recommendations on the proposed elements of the Framework and the next steps for its implementation. The high-level taskforce produced a report which was endorsed by the Sixteenth World Meteorological Congress XVI in May 2011.

A process for the development of the implementation plan and the governance structure of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) is well under way being led by the World Meteorological Organization within the UN system. This process involves consultations that engage a broad range of stakeholders including governments, UN and international agencies, regional organizations and specific communities of practitioners. These consultations are being conducted to facilitate discussions of key issues related to the production, availability, delivery and application of climate services in the four priority sectors of the framework (agriculture, water, health and disaster risk reduction) so that the implementation plan of the Framework is a true reflection of the aspirations of stakeholders.

The GFCS is envisaged as a set of international arrangements that will coordinate the activities and build on existing efforts to provide climate services that are truly focused on meeting user needs. It will be implemented through the development of five main components:

- 1) User Interface Platform — to provide ways for climate service users and providers to interact and improve the effectiveness of the Framework and its climate services
- 2) Climate Services Information System — to produce and distribute climate data and information according to the needs of users and to agreed standards
- 3) Observations and Monitoring – to develop agreements and standards for collecting and generating necessary climate data
- 4) Research, Modeling and Prediction section — to harness science capabilities and results to meet the needs of climate services
- 5) Capacity Building — to support the systematic development of the institutions, infrastructure and human resources needed for effective production of climate services and their application.

Putting the GFCS in place will require unprecedented collaboration among agencies and across political, functional and disciplinary boundaries, and a global mobilization of effort.

This communication will provide information on benefits and the process for the development of the GFCS as well as potential entry points for stakeholders to participate. In addition, it will highlight some of the research, modelling and prediction opportunities that will require intra-disciplinary science action.