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Communication on the atmosphere's composition – activities of the Global Atmosphere Watch Programme

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The Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW) Programme of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) is a partnership involving the Members of WMO (countries), contributing networks and collaborating organizations and bodies. Through combination of observations, data analysis and modelling activities GAW is well positioned to provide scientific information which is required to enable services and support a number of applications at the global, regional and urban scale. The GAW community aims to deliver knowledge that allows to quantify the increasing influence of human activity on the atmosphere's chemical composition on different spatial scales. This includes changes in the weather and climate related to human influence on atmospheric composition (particularly greenhouse gases, ozone and aerosols), and stratospheric ozone depletion and the increase of ultraviolet (UV) radiation on the global and regional scale, and risk reduction of air pollution on human health on the urban scale.

More than 100 countries have registered more than 800 stations with the GAW Station Information System (GAWSIS). Quality controlled data from these stations is made available and are used to deliver multiple products and services to support the user community.

Outreach and communication efforts are required to share the latest scientific knowledge on the state of the atmospheric chemical composition with policy makers and the general public, to disseminate the best practices related to observations and modelling tools, and to motivate member countries and partner organizations to undertake joint activities to achieve the objectives of GAW. For instance, the annual WMO Greenhouse Gas Bulletin provides information for policy makers on the state of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere before the meeting of the parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Additional examples are the WMO Antarctic Ozone Bulletin during the Antarctic ozone hole season and the Aerosol Bulletin. The GAW Newsletter (e-zine) provides the community with news about past and future GAW meetings, new stations and features scientific news. Communication approaches for different target groups, including current challenges, will be presented.