|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **World Meteorological Organization** | **IBCS-2/Doc. 4.1** | |
| **INTERGOVERNMENTAL BOARD ON CLIMATE SERVICES** | Submitted by: | Chair of Plenary |
| Date: | 10.XI.2014 |
| **SECOND SESSION**  Geneva, 10 to 14 November 2014 | Original Language: | English |
| Status: | **APPROVED** |

## AGENDA ITEM 4: REVIEW OF THE REPORT OF THE PARTNER ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF PARTNERSHIPS

## AGENDA ITEM 4.1: REPORT OF THE PARTNER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

REPORT OF THE PARTNER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

# SUMMARY

### DECISIONS/ACTIONS REQUIRED:

### To take into account the report of the Partner Advisory Committee;

### Discuss the issues raised by the report and provide guidance on ways to further enhance the contribution of Partners for the implementation of the GFCS.

### CONTENT OF DOCUMENT:

The Table of Contents is available only electronically as a Document Map[[1]](#footnote-1)\*.

# APPENDIX: DRAFT TEXT FOR INCLUSION IN THE GENERAL SUMMARY

## 

## 4. REVIEW OF THE REPORT OF THE PARTNER ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF PARTNERSHIPS (AGENDA ITEM 4)

## 4.1 Report of the Partner Advisory Committee (agenda item 4.1)

4.1.1 The Partner Advisory Committee (PAC) held its first meeting in Rome from 27 to 28 October 2014 at the headquarters of the World Food Programme (WFP). The meeting was co-hosted by the WFP and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The meeting was attended by representatives of the following PAC members: European Commission (EC), FAO, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD), the WFP and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). Also in attendance were partners who have not yet joined the PAC, namely the International Council for Science (ICSU)/Future Earth, the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The list of participants is provided as an Annex to this paragraph.

4.1.2 In their introductory statements, Mr Stanlake Samkange, Director of the Division of Policy and Innovations of WFP; Dr Paul Munro-Faure, Deputy Director, Climate, Energy and Tenure Division of FAO; and Mr Michael Jarraud, Secretary-General of WMO, stressed the relevance and timeliness of operationalizing climate services, particularly at national level in support of the broader post-2015 development agenda.

4.1.3 The PAC noted the need to engage more partners that are playing a role in the various aspects of climate services such as academia, the private sector and others beyond the UN system. In addition the PAC agreed that it has to ensure that user perspectives are reflected in its work. In this regard the PAC agreed that, in its initial phase, it should invite relevant partners (non-members) to participate and contribute to its work with a view to informing them of the implementation of the GFCS. By so doing, the PAC would open space for effective coordination and leveraging of major initiatives.

4.1.4 The PAC noted that, prior to convening its first meeting, the WMO Secretary-General had established at the technical level a Project Oversight Board (POB) as an informal structure. Its purpose was to contribute to effective ways of cooperation and coordination between the organizations of the UN system and key international agencies that are directly involved in the planning and implementation of GFCS-related activities in alignment with their mandates and priorities and thus advance the application of climate services in the initial four priority areas. The POB was composed of the IFRC, FAO, WFP, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNISDR, the World Bank (WB), WHO and WMO. The PAC noted that the POB has contributed considerably to the planning and development of GFCS activities, particularly the development of the Implementation Plan of the GFCS that was adopted by the Extraordinary Session of the World Meteorological Congress in October 2012 and subsequently approved by the first session of the Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services (IBCS) in July 2013. It also contributed to the implementation of specific GFCS activities such as the planning of and participation in GFCS national and regional consultations, development of action plans to address priorities identified through the consultations and the design and implementation of flagship activities in Burkina Faso, Belize, Dominica, Niger, Senegal, Tanzania and Malawi. The POB met regularly on a monthly basis providing a platform for sharing of information on GFCS-related activities and updates on the overall status of GFCS implementation. The Chair of the POB rotated among its members with WMO, WFP and WHO having served as Chairs and UNISDR and FAO as Vice-Chairs. Now that the PAC was operational, the meeting agreed that the POB should cease to exist. Its coordination, planning and sharing of information roles would be taken by the PAC so as to have a simple and cost-effective structure with greater focus on what needs to be done.

***Designation of the Chair and Vice-Chair***

4.1.5 The meeting designated UNITAR as the Chair of the PAC and WFP as the Vice-Chair, who would serve for a period of one year. As per Annex 1 to Resolution 7 (IBCS-1), the Chair and Vice-Chair will be the spokespersons of the PAC to the IBCS.

***Progress on the Implementation of the GFCS***

4.1.6 The meeting reviewed progress on the implementation of the GFCS and partner’s structures and activities that contribute or are relevant to the GFCS. It also reviewed the outcome of the Meeting on the Implementation Coordination of the GFCS, held from 29 September to 1 October 2014 at the WMO Secretariat in Geneva. The PAC recognized the large volume of investments being made by the various partners in activities related to the development and application of climate services and stressed the need for enhanced cooperation and coordination at global, regional and national levels with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of these investments. In this regard, the PAC called for the replication of the coordination function that it ensures at the global level at the national level through the establishment of frameworks for climate services as the coordination mechanism that would bring together all stakeholders to collectively identify gaps in the development and application of climate services, facilitate coordinated planning and assign roles and responsibilities for addressing priorities in a systematic manner. The PAC recommended that, in order to ensure the sustainability of these frameworks, they should be anchored to existing and emerging structures, where applicable. Such structures could be the emerging national climate services frameworks or initiatives being spearheaded by National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), disaster risk reduction platforms, national climate change adaptation committees and other similar structures that bring together stakeholders. In addition, the meeting recommended that the PAC establish effective mechanisms to connect to relevant national and regional coordination mechanisms so as to maximize the effectiveness of their actions.

4.1.7 The PAC noted that to increase effectiveness in the implementation of the GFCS focus should be on implementing projects and activities in an initial set of countries to develop a “Proof of Concept” that would allow lessons to be learnt for the development of guidelines for replication in other countries and regions. This should be guided by the basic needs for climate services at national level with a view to improve the current level of capacities in those countries with limited ability for the effective production and application of climate services, while being mindful of the regional and sub-regional context when considering investments to modernize and strengthen infrastructure such as observing systems for instance. The PAC noted the important role of NMHSs in facilitating and supporting coordination and implementation of climate services at national level.

***Role of the PAC***

4.1.8 As a network composed of partners, the PAC needs to demonstrate synergies and how it can help fill current gaps in the production and application of tailored climate services. The PAC should promote more action by the partners under the pillars and priority areas to realize the overall GFCS goals, particularly through support to implementation on the ground. Given the various capacities that exist within each individual partner organization, these should be leveraged to provide support for the provision of services. Engagement of partners is needed to promote more systematic use of information that is currently available and improve production of higher quality services. In this regard, it is critical to understand what each partner can contribute to support the pillars and priority areas of the GFCS. This should be complemented by the identification of critical partners who need to be engaged. The meeting agreed that the roles of the PAC could focus on:

1. Advocacy and awareness raising in partners constituencies and beyond to ensure that climate services are part of major agendas, receive support from policy-makers and are effectively applied in support of decision-making. This should also ensure strong involvement of users in climate services development and application;
2. Leveraging of initiatives of the partners to optimize benefits and impacts of current and planned activities through improved use of available expertise and technical capabilities of each partner organization, enhanced coordination and more effective application of investments;
3. Ensuring effective integration of climate services in partner’s plans and budgets and support to more update of climate information in decision-making in the priority areas;
4. Supporting the development of guidelines for the development and application of climate services in the priority areas;
5. Resources mobilization through identification of funding opportunities, facilitation of integration of major resource needs of the GFCS into broader investments and the establishment of partnerships or consortia for the development of joint bids. The partners for each bid will depend on the nature of the call for proposals.

***Modus operandi***

4.1.9 The PAC agreed that it should operate with a light and flexible structure. It agreed to meet quarterly with the first meeting planned at the beginning of 2015 (January–February). In setting its agenda, it should be guided by the major goals set by the IBCS and the need for user requirements to feed into investment and plans under the pillars and priority areas of the GFCS. The agenda of the PAC should aim at supporting major policy agendas such as the successor of the Hyogo Framework for Action, Sustainable Development Goals, National Adaptation Plans, etc.

4.1.10 A workplan will be developed with clear deliverables for the PAC. The workplan will support the priorities of the GFCS and the overall goals set by the IBCS and should drive the emphasis of the group in supporting policy and action on the ground. The workplan should include an events calendar to highlight events that could be targeted by the PAC as a group providing a platform for advocacy and engagement.

4.1.11 PAC members will be requested to provide input for the specific agendas of each session ahead of time and, once developed, each agenda will be shared with them for comments. The meetings will be organized along key issues and deliverables with a focus on moving forward.

4.1.12 To facilitate its work, the PAC agreed that a communication strategy is critical. Communication focal points of the various agencies should coordinate action with a view to ensuring common messaging. In particular, the communication strategy should ensure the clear articulation of the benefits of climate services, why they should be provided operationally and how they contribute to current agendas such as the post-2015 frameworks (WCRDD, SDGs, etc.).

***Recommendations***

4.1.13 Based on its discussions, the PAC made the following recommendations to be included in its report to, and for consideration by, the IBCS:

1. There is a need for a mechanism to link the PAC with the Management Committee of the IBCS so as to ensure that the PAC can provide input to the work of the Management Committee and that the PAC can benefit from guidance from the Management Committee;

(b) The membership of the PAC should be broadened to include those who need to be engaged in the discussions as they relate to the production and application of climate services;

(c) A meeting of the communications officers/focal points should be organized to address GFCS communication aspects in a more coherent manner.

4.1.14 The IBCS noted the report of the PAC and agreed to discuss the recommendations of the PAC under agenda item 5. In particular, the following points were raised:

1. The support to the development of guidelines for the development and application of climate services in the priority areas should be through appropriate intergovernmental mechanisms;
2. Support to resource mobilization efforts for the GFCS should be through facilitation of integration of major resource needs of the GFCS into broader investments of partner agencies and identification of funding opportunities to support GFCS activities;
3. Any decisions on the membership of the PAC should be in compliance with IBCS resolutions; and
4. The outreach and communications efforts of partner agencies should support the communications efforts of the IBCS and its Management Committee in close collaboration with the GFCS Office.

**Annex to paragraph 4.1.1 of the general summary**

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Organization** | **Name** |
| European Commission | Christian ATZEN  E-mail: [Christian.Atzen@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Christian.Atzen@ec.europa.eu) |
| FAO | Paul MUNRO-FAURE  E-mail: [Paul.MunroFaure@fao.org](mailto:Paul.MunroFaure@fao.org) |
| FAO | Selvaraju RAMASAMY  E-mail: [Selvaraju.Ramasamy@fao.org](mailto:Selvaraju.Ramasamy@fao.org) |
| ICSU/Future Earth | Diana GREENSLADE  E-mail. [diana@icsu.org](mailto:diana@icsu.org) |
| IFRC | Robert KAUFMAN  E-mail: [robert.kaufman@ifrc.org](mailto:robert.kaufman@ifrc.org) |
| IUGG | Arthur ASKEW  E-mail: [arthuraskewge@bluewin.ch](mailto:arthuraskewge@bluewin.ch) |
| UNISDR | John HARDING  E-mail: [harding@un.org](mailto:harding@un.org) |
| UNITAR | Einar BJORGO  E-mail: [einar.bjorgo@unitar.org](mailto:einar.bjorgo@unitar.org) |
| WBCSD | Joppe CRAMWINCKEL  E-mail: [Cramwinckel@wbcsd.org](mailto:Cramwinckel@wbcsd.org) |
| WFP | Stanlake SAMKANGE  E-mail: stanlake.samkange@wfp.org |
| WFP | Richard CHOULARTON  E-mail: [richard.choularton@wfp.org](mailto:richard.choularton@wfp.org) |
| WFP | Antonella SISTI  E-mail: [antonella.sisti@wfp.org](mailto:antonella.sisti@wfp.org) |
| WFP | KaisuLeena RAJALA  E-mail: [kaisuleena.rajala@wfp.org](mailto:kaisuleena.rajala@wfp.org) |
| WHO | Marina MAIERO  E-mail: [maierom@who.int](mailto:maierom@who.int) |
| WMO | Michel JARRAUD  E-mail: sgomm@wmo.int |
| WMO | Filipe LÚCIO  E-mail: [flucio@wmo.int](mailto:flucio@wmo.int) |
| WMO | Christian BLONDIN  E-mail: [cblondin@wmo.int](mailto:cblondin@wmo.int) |
| WMO | Maxx DILLEY  E-mail: [Mdilley@wmo.int](mailto:Mdilley@wmo.int) |

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. \* In MS Word 2007 or 2003, go to “View” > “Document Map”. In MS Word 2010, go to “View” > “Navigation Pane”.   
   In MS Word on a Mac, go to “View” > “Navigation Pane”, select “Document Map” in the drop-down list on the left. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)