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| **World Meteorological Organization**  **PARTNER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  **Eighth Session** Oslo, Norway, 5 to 6 April 2018 | **PAC-8/INF. 4** |
| Submitted by: Secretariat  20.III.2018 |

## GFCS MID-TERM REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE MANGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE IBCS

### Background

1. At its third session (October 2015) the Management Committee of the Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services (IBCS), recommended that a review of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) be conducted at the beginning of the second phase of GFCS implementation (i.e., 2015-2018). The phases of implementation approved as part of the Implementation Plan of the GFCS were: Phase I (2013 - 2014); Phase II (2015 - 2018) and Phase III (2019 – 2022). The Task Team on Monitoring and Evaluation of the GFCS was requested to develop the [Framework for the Mid-Term Review](http://www.gfcs-climate.org/sites/default/files/events/Fifth%20Session%20of%20the%20Management%20Committee%20of%20IBCS/Framework%20for%20mid-term%20review.pdf) based on experiences from other reviews.

2. The purpose of the Mid-Term Review was to assess progress of implementation of the GFCS to help in providing guidance on how to further improve implementation of the GFCS and measure the success of the activities implemented so far. To conduct the Mid-Term Review a team of experts from the University of Arizona (UoA), USA, was selected. The UoA provided an inception report containing the methodology for the Review, which was considered and endorsed by the Informal Session of the Management Committee of the IBCS held in Geneva on 13 May 2017. Based on the methodology, the UoA produced the [Mid-Term Review Report](http://www.gfcs-climate.org/sites/default/files/events/Fifth%20Session%20of%20the%20Management%20Committee%20of%20IBCS/GFCS_MidtermReview_Report.pdf) which was considered by the fifth Session of the Management Committee of the IBCS (Reading, UK, 19-20 October 2017).

3. The Mid-Term Review was made possible by financial contributions from Norway, United Kingdom and the United States of America. The Task Team on Monitoring and Evaluation of the GFCS and members of the Partner Advisory Committee (PAC) contributed to the Review.

4. The Management Committee of the IBCS deliberated on the Mid-Term Review and identified considerations, provided as an annex to this paragraph, on the basis of which it took the following decisions:

**Decisions of the Management Committee**

Based on the considerations above, the Management Committee established two Taskforces:

* To address the governance, management and finances of the GFCS. The Taskforce is chaired by Mr David Grimes (Canada) with representation from the British Caribbean Territories, Japan, Russian Federation, South Africa, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. It also includes members of the PAC, namely, the European Commission (EC), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), and the World Bank. The Taskforce will be supported by a broader consultative group comprised of Management Committee and PAC members;
* To lead a strategy to enhance the implementation of the priorities of the GFCS, including the identification of the requirements for implementing the priorities. The existing Task Team on Operational and Resources Plan of the GFCS will update its ToR and membership to undertake the task.

In addition, the Management Committee established four small working groups as follows:

* Climate Service Standard Setting to review existing relevant standards and guidelines, identify standards needed which are not being addressed by existing mechanisms, and provide a proposal to the IBCS Chair to communicate to the appropriate mechanisms the needs identified. The working group will be comprised of the presidents of the Commission for Basic System (CBS) and the Commission for Climatology (CCl), and the Chairpersons of the Task Teams on the Operational and Resource Plan and Monitoring and Evaluation of the GFCS. The working group will reach out to others in discharging its functions;
* GFCS communications strategy to review and provide a strategy and prioritize communication goals to improve the visibility of GFCS, its added value, its partners, activities, and available climate services and products;
* Linkage of the GFCS with major policy agendas to provide a roadmap to ensure linkage of the GFCS with United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Paris Agreement, Sendai Framework, Agenda 2030, etc.;
* Brainstorming on the User Interface Platform to develop a small document (5 pager) to clarify and articulate the User Interface Platform, and propose functions and connections across GFCS including reconsidering the name of the UIP. The working group will be led by PAC and will explore collaborative processes and efforts to address user interface platform-related issues by the Expert Team on the User Interface Platform of CCl.

5. The full composition of the Taskforces and Working Groups is provided as Annex to this paragraph.

**Scope of the Work of the Taskforce on governance, management and finances of the GFCS**

6. The objective of the Taskforce is to provide recommendations for improving the governance of the GFCS, the management structures in place and funding of the GFCS.

Specifically, the Taskforce will:

* Review the outcomes of the Mid-Term Review and the recommendations of the PAC and the Management Committee (emanating from its 5th session, Reading, UK, 19-20 October 2017) on the Mid-Term Review to develop a proposal for the focus of the GFCS, including the purpose, roles, and scope of the GFCS in ways that strengthen the original identity of the GFCS as a framework;
* Assess strengths and weaknesses of the governance structure of the GFCS (the IBCS, the Management Committee, the PAC and the link of the WMO structures to the IBCS) and propose arrangements and initiatives that are considered as necessary changes for delivering the GFCS goals. Based on the assessment propose appropriate governance structure(s) for delivering the GFCS goals taking into account the process on reforming the WMO structure;
* Assess the sustainability of the governance structures and propose various options for the consideration of the IBCS);
* Assess the adequacy of the GFCS arrangements in place (funding, human resources for the GFCS Office) for meeting the GFCS goals;
* Provide guidance for prioritizing activities for the GFCS, given limitations of resources and the unique nature of the GFCS (strategic guidance on principles, mechanisms and opportunities for enhancing implementation of GFCS priorities given limitations of resources and the unique nature of the GFCS);
* Prepare specific recommendations, as appropriate, on the governance of the GFCS for the consideration of, and to receive feedback from members of the PAC, the meeting of the presidents of technical commissions and regional association in January 2018 and other relevant bodies;
* Finalize recommendations in consultation with PAC for the consideration of the Informal IBCS MC meeting in June 2018 and further distribution to the 70th Session of WMO Executive Council in June 2018. On the basis of feedback received, prepare recommendations for the consideration of the 3rd Session of IBCS.

**Timeline for the work of the Taskforce on governance, management and finances of the GFCS**

7. An initial draft of the report of the Taskforce will be produced for the consideration of the informal meeting of the Management Committee of the IBCS during the Seventieth Session of the WMO Executive Council in June 2018. A final document will be produced for the consideration of the sixth session of the Management Committee of the IBCS to be held in Rome, Italy, in October 2018. At this meeting recommendations will be made for the consideration of WMO Congress in 2019.

8. In the process of development of its report, the Taskforce will collect input from the meeting of presidents of technical commissions and regional associations in April 2018 and consider feedback from Seventieth Session of the WMO Executive Council.

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**Annex to paragraph 4**

1. The Management Committee of the IBCS considered the report of the Mid-Term Review of the GFCS and made the following considerations:

***Identity and focus of the GFCS***

2. The identity of the GFCS should be strengthened as a Framework, reinforcing defining characteristics such as its enabling role. In its identity, National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) should feature as central for climate services; the role of communities and sectors in the development and delivery of climate services should be reflected; and alignment of the GFCS with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Paris Agreement, and Sendai Framework should be clearly articulated.

3. GFCS priorities have already been defied, and efforts should focus on ways to more effectively implement, monitor, and communicate the activities and value-add of GFCS. A proposal was made to update the Terms of Reference of Task Team on the Operational and Resource Plan of the GFCS to lead a strategy to enhance the implementation of the priorities of the GFCS, including the identification of the requirements for implementing the priorities. The Task Team would also consider engagement needed for implementation, particularly at the regional level building on work of WMO and other partners.

4. The GFCS is well positioned to identify needs for the development of standards for climate services provision and a compendium or collection of available good practices and methodologies to guide and inform the development of climate services, particularly where they do not exist. Issues related to ethics, liability and intellectual property in relation to climate services could merit the attention of the GFCS.

***Governance of GFCS***

5. Establish a Taskforce to address the governance, management and finances of the GFCS. The Taskforce should be small in nature and should ensure regional and partners’ representation. In conducting its work the Taskforce will work on a continuous basis with the members of the Management Committee and will be informed by proposed changes in the context of the WMO reform. When considering modification to the GFCS governance and management structures, the Taskforce should identify the optimal mechanisms and opportunities to implement the priorities of the GFCS. Mechanisms to strengthen the connection between the User Interface Platform, the PAC, and the pillars of the GFCS and WMO structures are particularly needed.

6. The Taskforce should provide guidance on the level of resources needed to effectively operate the GFCS Office commensurate with the expected priority outputs of the GFCS Office, and accounting for immediate needs such as communications and monitoring and evaluation capacity. The Taskforce should make special efforts to consider how the GFCS could leverage additional management and implementation capacity through additional joint implementation agreements.

***Key Activities of GFCS Implementation***

7. The focus of GFCS as a Framework should remain facilitating coordination and enabling partnerships to support policy and strategic priorities that address gaps in the delivery of climate services; to communicate and broker knowledge; and advocate for the needs of societal sectors for climate services.

8. The GFCS is well positioned to play a unique role as an enabler, catalyst, synthesizing and sharing lessons, but also setting standards for good practice. A small group on Climate Service Standard Setting will provide a proposal to IBCS Chair for how a GFCS standard setting activity could be advanced by existing mechanisms of WMO, members, and partners.

9. Clarity on the User Interface Platform is needed. An informal consultative process to better define and optimally communicate the User Interface Platform functions and connections across GFCS, including reconsidering the name needs to be put in place. The commission of climatology (CCl) and PAC could explore future collaborative efforts to address UIP related issues, by building on the work completed by the Expert Team on the User interface Platform of CCl in 2017, and inform the formation of new CCl Expert Team in March 2018. WMO technical commissions were invited to scope potential ways forward.

10. WMO should outline mechanisms that could be used to improve connectivity between the pillars of GFCS, and connectivity between regional and national efforts.

11. For the GFCS Office to focus on its core functions, alternative project implementation mechanisms should be considered to reduce the burden of project management on limited staff. In this regard, the Taskforce on governance, management and finances of the GFCS should consider the appropriate implementation model for GFCS and recommend the most effective management arrangements to implement GFCS, including projects.

12. The GFCS Office should provide the Taskforce on governance, management and finances of the GFCS a breakdown of time resources currently spent on project management. In addition, a review of how other frameworks are implemented and funded (e.g. UNFCCC, UNISDR) should be conducted.

***Processes for Learning and Knowledge Sharing***

13. There is need to establish a small working group to review the GFCS communications strategy and prioritize communication goals to improve the visibility of GFCS, its added value, its partners, activities, and available climate services and products.

14. There is also a need to expedite development and implementation of the monitoring and evaluation process with unambiguous goals. Capacity is need in the GFCS Office to advance monitoring and evaluation, including a mechanism to conduct monitoring and evaluation which revisits the current metrics, performance indicators and criteria to track progress.

15. The GFCS Office and partners should endeavour to engage social science; including engaging mechanisms such as the Climate Service Partnership (CSP) for engagement due to the significant role they in advancing understanding and implementation of climate services related issues.

16. The PAC should form a brainstorming group to outline a roadmap for making improved linkages between GFCS and major policy agenda (SDGs, Sendai Framework, and UNFCCC Paris Agreement), and their implementation mechanisms to identify opportunities to further link work plans with investment streams, better communicate GFCS contributions, and highlight investment needs and synergies to implement the frameworks at national levels (such as the NAPs, Nationally Determined Contributions - NDCs).

The Committee also requested the GFCS Office to:

17. Support the Task Team on Operational and Resources Plan of the GFCS in updating its Terms of Reference and re-nominate new members to lead the strategy to enhance the implementation of the priorities of the GFCS.

18. Undertake a review of the existing National Frameworks for Climate Services (NFCS) in Africa and present findings to the Management Committee and the PAC.

19. Provide the Governance, Management and Finances of the GFCS Taskforce (a) a breakdown of time-resources currently spent on project management to inform the decision about GFCS Office resources, and (b) review and present how other frameworks are implemented and funded (e.g. UNFCCC, UNISDR).

20. Prepare a letter to WMO Members and partners emphasizing accomplishments, successes and benefits of the GFCS and inviting them to provide financial support to the GFCS.

**Annex to paragraph 5**

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| **Task Force on Governance, Management and Finances of the GFCS** | | | | |
| Chair | David Grimes | IBCS MC – Environment Canada |  |  |
| **Subgroups for chapters** | | | | |
| **Chapter** | **Lead Name** | **Entity** | **Contributors Name** | **Entity** |
| Governance | Manuel Keller | IBCS MC –MeteoSwiss, Switzerland | Daniel Kull | WB |
| Michiko Hama | IBCS MC –MeteoSwiss, Switzerland | Jane Wardle | UK Met Office |
| Management | Benedicte Giaever | NRC | Selvaraju Ramasamy | FAO |
| Mina Weydahl | NRC | Patrick Gremillet | UNDP |
|  |  | Uthira Ravikumar | UNDP |
| Finances | David Farrell | IBCS MC - BCT | Meredith Muth | Chair of ORP Task Force |
| Critical Success factors | Jane Wardle | UK Met Office |  |  |
| **Strategy to enhance implementation of the GFCS** | | | | |
|  | | **Lead Name** | **Entity** | |
| Meredith Muth | Chair of ORP Task Force, NOAA | |
| Jane Wardle | UK Met Office | |
| Joy Schumake-Guillemot | WMO/WHO Climate and Health joint Office | |

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| **Working Groups** | | |
|  | **Member name** | **Entity** |
| Climate Services Standards Settings | Michel Jean | President CBS |
| Roger Pulwarty | CCl focal point on GFCS |
| Chris Hewitt | Chairperson M&E Task Force |
| Meredith Muth | Chairperson ORP Task Force |
| Anil Mishra | UNESCO |
| Abdelwaheb Nmiri | IBCS MC - Tunisia |
| Communication Strategy | Tobias Fucks | IBCS MC – Germany |
| Joachim Saalmüller | EUMETSAT |
| Alexandre Caldas | UNEP |
| Joy Shumake | WHO |
| Diarmid Campbell-Lendrum | WHO |
| Mina Weydahl | NRC |
| Benedicte Giaever | NRC |
| Nicola Golding | UK |
| Linkage of GFCS with major policy agendas | PAC |  |
| Brainstorming on the UIP | PAC |  |

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