



CONCEPT NOTE

WORKSHOP ON THE ROLE OF CLIMATE INFORMATION AND SERVICES IN SUPPORT OF DECISION MAKING IN THE CONTEXT OF CLIMATE CHANGE & REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS ON CLIMATE SERVICES IN THE ARAB REGION 4-6 OCTOBER 2016, CASABLANCA, MOROCCO

INTRODUCTION

Climate data and information are the basis for climate change detection and attribution, monitoring, understanding and prediction. They provide the evidence for rising international awareness with respect to climate change challenges and the needs and urgency for decisions and actions in order to limit global warming and related negative impacts. Within the context of a changing, the need of climate services is becoming increasingly important due to the benefits they provide in support of climate risk management, adaption to climate change and sustainable development of many socio-economic sectors.

In order to guide effective development and application of climate services around the world, the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) was established in 2009 at the World Climate Conference-3 organized by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) with other United Nations (UN) agencies, Governments and partners. 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 to such risks through the development and incorporation of science-based climate information and prediction into planning, policy and practice.

The Implementation Plan of the GFCS adopted in July 2013 targets five priority areas (agriculture and food security, water resources, public health, energy and disaster risk reduction) and builds upon the following components or pillars in order to address the entire value chain for the production, management, delivery and application of climate information and services in support of decision making in the priority areas:

- *User Interface Platform*: a structured means for users, climate researchers and climate information providers to interact at all levels;
- *Climate Services Information System*: the 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 across a wide range of climate-sensitive activities and enterprises;



- *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;
- *Coordination and Capacity Development:* to address the mechanisms for coordination and networks needed across information providers and affected communities and capacity development, such as needed to interpret, translate and use climate information to support decision making and for enabling GFCS-related activities.

Effective implementation of the GFCS will lead to enhanced quality, consistency and application of climate services around the world and to better management of the risks and opportunities arising from climate variability and change. This will be achieved through the strengthening of national observation networks and information management systems, the improvement of national capabilities for climate services development and application as well as considerable increase in user-provider interaction and capacity building at the national, regional and global levels.

With this background and in order to shed lights on the role of climate data, information products and services in support of decision-making in climate sensitive sectors, in the one hand, and to give an effective impetus to climate services development and application at the regional and national level within the Arab region, benefiting from existing best practices, expertise and infrastructure, on the other hand, the GFCS Office, the Direction de la Météorologie Nationale (Morocco) and the UNISDR (United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction) are organizing the Workshop on the role of climate information and services in support of decision making along with the regional consultations on climate services in the ARAB Region from 4 to 6 October 2016.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

This workshop is composed of two parts: the first will focus on the role of climate data, information products and services in support of decision making in climate sensitive sectors; and the second part will focus identification of priorities and gaps with a view to defining mechanisms for enhancing effective development and application of climate services in the Arab Region. Priority Climate Services needed for addressing typical /representative needs in climate –sensitive sectors in the region will be prepared by workshop participants during the event. The workshop will bring together a large number of participants (Experts from the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in the Arab region, representatives from several socio-economic sectors and key decision-makers and practitioners, representatives from UN and International organizations, academia, NGOs, media, and other relevant stakeholders).



The specific objectives of the workshop are:

- To highlight and discuss the role of climate data, information products and services in support of decision making for climate risk management and adaptation to climate variability and change
- To assess user needs and expectations with respect to climate services benefiting from the participation of a wide range of socio-economic users and key stakeholders.
- To review the current status of generation and application of climate information and services in the Arab countries region;
- To identify priority actions, including capacity development to address specific needs for climate services focusing on priority socio-economic sectors (agriculture and food security, water resources, public health, energy and disaster risk reduction) at the national and regional levels;
- To review the current mechanisms of interaction between providers and users of climate services with a view to identify efficient measures for improvement;
- To discuss and recommend enhanced cooperation for sharing of expertise and capabilities for improved climate predictions and assessment of impacts in priority sectors;
- To identify and propose ways to promote community understanding and awareness of climate variability and change, and associated risks for improved climate risk management.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THE WORKSHOP

Improved awareness of the role, importance and need of climate data and information for detecting, monitoring, understanding, predicting and establishing actions and decisions related to climate change

- Enhanced understanding of the needs for climate services in different user sectors;
- Clear understanding and definition of capacity development needs to implement the GFCS at regional and national level;
- Strategic guidance on institutional arrangements, partnerships and processes required to operationalize the GFCS at the regional and national level;
- A set of indicative concept notes for implementation of priority climate services needed in the region.