

**GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR CLIMATE SERVICES**  
**REPORT OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE PARTNER ADVISORY**  
**COMMITTEE (PAC-3)**

**GENEVA, 22 AND 23 OCTOBER 2015**

FINAL

13 November 2015



## **INTRODUCTION**

The Partner Advisory Committee (PAC) held its third meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, from 22 to 23 October 2015 at the Headquarters of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). The meeting was attended by the representatives of the following PAC members: European Commission (EC), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Global Water Partnership (GWP), International Federation of Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), The World Bank Group (WB), World Food Programme (WFP) and WMO. Also in attendance were partners in the capacity of Observers to the PAC, namely the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). The list of participants is provided as Annex 1.

### **1. OPENING OF THE SESSION**

1.1 In his introductory statement the chair of the PAC expressed his satisfaction with the increasing number of PAC members and their diversity, an expression of the interconnected nature of the issues around climate services and the need to engage various organizations who contribute to the many aspects of development and application of climate services. He welcomed the three new partners who had joined the PAC since its last meeting, namely NRC, UNDP and UNISDR. He also stressed the need for the PAC to agree on a systematic approach to pursue in the 6 PAC focus countries so that interventions are systematic, sustainable and able to generate meaningful and positive impacts. A systematic approach would ensure that partners would effectively contribute to filling current critical gaps in the development and application of climate services.

1.2 The Secretary General of the WMO noted the key milestones of the year 2015, particularly the adoption of major global agendas such as the Sendai Framework, the Sustainable Development Goals and the agreement that may result from COP 21 in December 2015. He highlighted the fact that climate services are critical for the achievement of these agendas, what requires the active involvement of partners in supporting their constituencies to promote the GFCS in relevant discussions and fora, and demonstrate through actions, the contribution of climate services to the broader 2030 agenda.

### **2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

2.1 The PAC adopted the agenda as provided to it.

### **3. REVIEW OF PARTNER GOVERNING BODY DECISIONS**

3.1 In reviewing Partners' Governing Body Decisions, the PAC was informed of the adoption by the World Health Assembly of a resolution on the health impacts of air pollution – the world's largest single environmental health risk. WMO informed the PAC on the Resolutions adopted by the Seventeenth Work Meteorological Congress, namely: Resolution 60 – WMO policy for the International Exchange of Climate Data and Products to support implementation of the GFCS, Resolution 61 – Governance of the GFCS, Resolution 62 – Relationship and interaction between the Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services (IBCS) and WMO constituent bodies, Resolution 63 – Energy as an additional priority area of the GFCS, Resolution 64 – Development of a results based framework for WMO support to the

implementation of the GFCS, and Resolution 6 of the Sixty Seventh Session of the WMO Executive Council on a Mechanisms to Advance WMO contribution to the GFCS.

3.2 Partners agreed on the value of internal coordination in partner agencies to streamline their contributions to the GFCS as was being done by WMO with the adoption of Resolution 64 (Cg-17) that will lead to the development of a results based framework for Wmo support to the implementation of the GFCS. Partners highlighted the challenge of accessing meteorological data at national level owing to charges for data access a factor that is leading to use of alternative or poor quality data. In some extreme cases, limitations on access to data are giving rise to independent observing networks or poor institutional collaboration. On the other hand the need for standards and protocols for sharing data particularly from the priority sectors of the GFCS was highlighted.

3.3 The World Bank Group announced a one third increase in climate financing. It also indicated that the Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience had identified 10 new pilot countries (Bhutan, Ethiopia, Gambia, Honduras, Philippines, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, Malawi, Rwanda, Uganda) where it will be supporting the development of a framework for climate resilience. Other partner agencies who had not adopted specific resolutions informed the meeting of relevant initiatives that are valuable for the GFCS.

## **4. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF THE PAC WORKPLAN**

### **4.1 Activities in the six focus countries**

4.1.1 The PAC reviewed the activities it had agreed to carry out focused around the following 5 elements:

- 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;
- 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;
- 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;
- Supporting the development of guidelines for the development and application of climate services in the priority areas;
- 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.

4.1.2 The PAC agreed to focus on the following actions in 2016:

- Organizing a communications workshop for the communications departments of partner agencies to ensure broader understanding of the GFCS and consistency of messaging by communications officers;
- Development of a White Paper to articulate the contribution of the GFCS to Agenda 2030.
- Development of guidance material and guidelines on the contribution of climate services to the NAP process and the priority areas of the GFCS.

4.1.3 The PAC considered the need for a coordinated and systematic approach in its efforts to focus action in six countries to show the benefits of collaboration and develop a Proof of Concept that would allow lessons to be learnt for replication of good practices in other countries. The PAC agreed on the following steps as basis for its action at country level:

- Baseline assessments of needs of climate services, capacities of both providers to generate and users to use climate services, and mapping of current and planned activities by partners and other stakeholders in the country;
- National consultations to facilitate dialogue, engage key stakeholders, identify needs and priorities and establish an institutionalized coordination mechanisms for addressing climate services issues;
- Development of a national action plan involving the National Meteorological and Hydrological Service and key stakeholders, including users;
- Endorsement of the national action plan by the government and partners through targeted discussions and a workshop involving key stakeholders
- Resource mobilization for the Implementation of the national action plan leveraging resources which could be available from various partners or initiatives.
- Monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the action plan.

4.1.4 The PAC agreed to implement the steps in all six focus countries (Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Dominica, Moldova, Papua New Guinea and Tanzania). In addition, the PAC encouraged the use of the approach in countries where investments are being made by partner agencies in support of climate services.

4.1.5 The PAC highlighted the role the UN system at national level can play for the success of the approach focusing on the five steps. The United National Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) was seen as a mechanism that should be leveraged and utilized to advance climate services. PAC members with resident offices at country level were urged to take a lead in representing the GFCS in each of the 6 focus countries (one partner agency as a champion for the GFCS in each country). Furthermore, PAC members agreed to provide details on their activities in the six countries as an initial step to inform the baseline assessments.

## **5. PREPARATIONS FOR THE IBCS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **5.1 Review of the Operational and Resource Plan for the GFCS for the period 2015-2018**

5.1.1 The PAC reviewed and supported the Operational and Resources Plan (ORP) for the GFCS for the period 2015-2018. The ORP provides for the foundational activities that will advance the GFCS to be undertaken. The resources requirements for the ORP are critical for the foundational activities but also for leveraging resources from other initiatives. The PAC stressed the need for the document to be contextualized under the 2013 agenda. In addition, it highlighted the value of organizing the document on a result framework basis and harmonizing it with the proposed results structure of the Monitoring and Evaluation process and criteria. To ensure effective communication of the document, the PAC highlighted the need for a streamlined document to be produced once the Management Committee has approved the document.

5.1.2 The PAC highlighted the need of ensuring linkage of the 3 objectives of the ORP as well as the need to establish a process to effectively engage users, particularly with respect to Objective 3 of the ORP.

## **5.2 Review of the Monitoring and Evaluation Criteria and Process for the GFCS**

5.2.1 The PAC also reviewed the Monitoring and Evaluation criteria and process and agreed with the approach taken for the development of the document. It suggested separating the indicators for the overall evaluation of the GFCS goals and those which should be specific to the ORP, thus providing a better linkage of the Monitoring and Evaluation process and criteria and the ORP. It also suggested the need of establishing clear baselines which will support effective monitoring and evaluation particularly when activities are taken at national level.

5.2.3 The PAC stressed the need of aligning the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework with the Operational and Resources Plan for the period 2015-2018.

## **5.3 Review of the Energy Exemplar**

5.3.1 The PAC welcomed the decision of the Seventeenth Congress of the WMO that adopted energy as the 5<sup>th</sup> priority area of the GFCS. The PAC supported the Energy Exemplar and urged its members to take lead in implementing the Exemplar as was the case for the other initial priority areas. The PAC highlighted the need to ensure that during implementation of the Energy Exemplar, the needs of the most vulnerable are not forgotten. PAC members were requested to promote energy as part of the GFCS in their constituencies.

## **6. PREPARATIONS FOR COP 21**

6.1 The PAC recognized COP 21, in December, as an important opportunity to advocate for the benefits of climate services and mobilize support for the implementation of the GFCS. The unfolding El Niño could be capitalized on. Partners agreed to take part in the development and actively participate in the GFCS event scheduled for 2 December (from 14:15 to 13:45). The event is intended to advocate the GFCS and gather support for implementation. As part of the preparations for the event, partners agreed to update fact sheets on the contribution of climate services for the priority areas of the GFCS. In addition to the GFCS event, partners are organizing various events in which the GFCS will be featured.

## **7. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

7.1 The PAC agreed to have its 4<sup>th</sup> meeting in the first half of February. UNDP offered to host the meeting in Geneva.

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## THIRD MEETING OF THE PARTNER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

(Geneva, Switzerland, 22-23 October 2015)

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