



Africa Meteorological Day

Propose to be celebrated annually on the 29th June

1. Background

The AU Summit of Heads of State and Government in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia endorsed AMCOMET's **Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology** (Weather and Climate Services) in January 2013. The Strategy is a key policy document which aims to highlight the role of NMHSs as key components of national, sub-regional and continental frameworks for sustainable development in Africa.

The Strategy has five interrelated Strategic Pillars (SPs) which aim to improve the capacity and capability of NMHSs to provide more accurate and timely weather and climate services that meet the needs of end-users from various sectors. These strategic pillars are:

- **SP1:** Increase Political Support and Recognition of NMHSs and related WMO Regional Climate Centres;
- **SP2:** Enhance the Production and Delivery of Weather and Climate Services for Sustainable Development;
- **SP3:** Improve Access to Meteorological Services in particular for the Marine and Aviation Sectors;
- **SP4:** Support the Provision of Weather and Climate Services for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation;
- **SP5:** Strengthen Partnerships with Relevant Institutions and Funding Mechanisms.

The Strategy's complementary Implementation and Resource Mobilization Plan ¹, approved on 14 February 2015 during the AMCOMET-3 in Praia, Cabo Verde, lays out a 12-year (2016-2027) roadmap for delivery of the Strategy and provides concrete ways to enhance the delivery of Weather and Climate services needed to build the continent's ability to respond to climate variability and change and build the much needed resilience of communities and economies in Africa to cope with the extremes.

2. The Africa Meteorology Day

One of the key activities proposed in line with the Strategy's First Pillar (*Increase Political Support and Recognition of NMHSs*), and as called out on the Praia Ministerial Declaration², approved by Ministers Responsible for Meteorology on 14 February, 2015, is the annual celebration of **Africa Meteorology Day (AMD)** to give the much needed

¹

http://www.wmo.int/amcomet/sites/default/files/field/doc/events/doc.4.0_approved_implementation_and_rm_plan_en.pdf

²

http://www.wmo.int/amcomet/sites/default/files/field/doc/events/doc_17_praia_ministerial_declaration_final_en.pdf

visibility for the contribution of meteorology (weather and climate services) to sustainable development on the continent. This is in line with the African Union (AU) designation of specific days to increase awareness of sectorial themes, such as the Africa Environment and Wangari Mathai Day, the African Food and Nutrition Day and the African Water Week. It is further proposed that the Africa Meteorology Day be celebrated annually on 29 June, taking advantage of the AU Summit of Heads of State and Government which normally meets during the same period.

2.1. Objective

The overall objective in the annual celebration of the Africa Meteorological Day (AMD) is to serve as a rallying point in augmenting political and financial support to address traditional and contemporary challenges in the field of meteorology (weather and climate) in Africa.

AMD would be one of the key platforms, taking advantage of the presence of Heads of State and Government and other high-level officials at the AU Summit, to share experiences, knowledge and mutual learning, as well as measure progress in the advancement of weather and climate services provided by Member States and African Regional Climate Centres and their impact in communities and to the overall socio-economic development and disaster risk reduction /management in the continent.

2.2. Expected Outcomes

The Africa Meteorology Day is expected to provide pertinent information, including case studies, on the importance and influence of meteorology (weather and climate services) in various economic sectors of the African continent with a view to:

- Demonstrating the contribution of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in the socio-economic development of the Members;
- Demonstrable political commitment by African leaders to address the development and strengthening of weather and climate services and associable programmes;
- Demonstrable commitment by Africa's development partners and stakeholders to align, harmonize and coordinate programmes that ensure mutual accountability for results;
- Demonstrable commitment by Member States, supported by Development Partners, to develop national capacities for better data and information management on meteorology (weather and climate services);
- Increasing the level of awareness of the value-added products generated by an enabled National Meteorological and Hydrological service (NMHS);
- Increasing the awareness of the need for adequate national budget allocation to allow NMHSs perform and meet their mandates;
- Enhancing the appreciation of the importance of investing in weather and climate services to attain sustainable development and the need for support from international development partners, noting studies which indicate that investing 1 USD in NMHS infrastructure has an economic return of 7-10 USD;
- Contribute to the accomplishment of AU Agenda 2063 on "the Africa we want", New Partnerships for Africa's Development (NEPAD), COP-21 Paris Agreement on

Climate Change, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA), among others;

- Awareness to the benefits of Public Private Engagement (PPE) in the development and operations of NMHSs; and
- Draw attention to existing partnerships and facilitate the consolidation of best practices, strategies and innovative initiatives that support African NMHS's ability to improve the development, production, delivery and uptake of key weather and climate products and services.

2.3. Main activities

The Africa Meteorological Day (AMD) is set to have specific different themes for every year, which will correspond to that of the AU Summit theme and focused on the urgent issues in the African continent.

With different themes every year, AMD will, among others include:

- Reports from the Head of States on the subject or theme including the World Meteorological Day;
- Reports / presentations from relevant institutions, private sector and development partners on the status of related projects or programmes;
- Sharing of experience between Member States;
- Sharing of best practices and strategies that successfully addressed the various issues related to development, provision and uptake of sector-specific weather and climate services;
- Discussions on potential joint initiatives or programmes between Members, relevant institutions and development partners; and
- Lectures from invited experts in the related subject and field.

2.4. Partners

The Africa Meteorological Day (AMD) is to be co-organized by AUC and WMO – AMCOMET Secretariat. Expected participants include Heads of State and Government, Ministers Responsible for Meteorology, Directors of African NMHSs, representatives from Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Regional Climate Centres (RCCs), UN Bodies, academia, international and continental Development Partners and Stakeholders as well as and other relevant institutions.

2.5. Estimated Budget

The Africa Meteorological Day (AMD) will take advantage of the AU Summit of Heads of State and Government participants, hence budgetary consideration is limited to participation of representatives from AMCOMET representatives, including RECs, RCCs and the AMCOMET Secretariat, exhibitions and equipment rental and interpretation. Should the need arise, financial support for special speakers and experts would also be considered. This budget is estimated at 80,000 USD.