

AMCOMET



Second Session of the African Union Conference of Ministers Responsible for Meteorology / African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET)

Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe
15-19 October 2012

Report of the Expert Segment held on 15-17 October 2012

I. Introduction

1. The Expert Segment of the Second Session of the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET) was held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe on 15-17 October 2012.

II. Participation

2. The following 37 African countries participated in the Conference: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Congo Democratic Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe.
3. The following agencies, organizations and institutions also participated: African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development (ACMAD), African Development Bank, African Union Commission, Africa Risk Capacity, European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT), IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), United Nation's International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR), Southern African Development Community (SADC), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), China Meteorological Administration (CMA), Korea Meteorological Agency (KMA) and United Kingdom Meteorological Office (UKMO), UN World Food Program (WFP).

III. Opening Ceremony

4. The Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe with WMO, Mr Amos Makarau made a welcoming statement followed by Statements by: Mr Camille Loumouamou, PR of Congo with the WMO representing the AMCOMET Third Vice-Chair, Mr Robert Masters, representing the WMO Assistant Secretary General and Ms Olushola Olayide of the African Union Commission. Mr Munesu Munodawafa, Secretary of Transport, Communications and Infrastructural Development officially opened the Conference.

IV. Organizational Matters

5. The Expert Group adopted the agenda attached as Annex I.

V. Keynote Address: Enhancing Weather and Climate Service Delivery in Africa

6. Mr A. Makarau, Vice-President of WMO's Regional Association for Africa (RAI, Africa) provided an overview of the current landscape and emerging issues linked to the provision of weather and climate services.
7. Mr Makarau then outlined the necessary elements and enablers of service delivery. He emphasised that the onus is on the National Meteorological Services to ensure that they are appropriately developed and resourced if they are to be relevant in socio-economic development of their countries. In so doing, it becomes necessary for governments to take into consideration climate and weather services in national development plans.
8. The Session expressed appreciation to Mr Makarau for the excellent presentation. It agreed that the development of NMSs is mainly the responsibility of national governments and that the products of the NMSs are mostly public goods. The experts further acknowledged that the meteorological information should be tailored to users needs and determined by the users. It recognized that sensitization workshops and seminars should be organized for the decision makers and the users.
9. The Session noted that it was time for Africa to develop an African Regional Space Program to enhance data availability from remote and inaccessible areas such as the Sahara desert and Congo Forest, among others. It was also noted that African Union is already developing an African Space Policy and would encourage Member States wishing to develop a satellite program.
10. The Session expressed appreciation for the work of EUMETSAT in capacity building in the area of satellite meteorology enabling NMS access satellite data from METEOSAT second generation satellites. It looks forward to continuing to collaborate with EUMETSAT and other satellite providers, as well as other related organisations in the development of the African Space Programme.

VI. Overview of AMCOMET Activities: 2010 - 2012

11. Dr Joseph R. Mukabana, on behalf of the AMCOMET Chair, provided the rationale for the inception of a Ministerial Conference on Meteorology in Africa as well as an overview of the various AMCOMET activities since the establishment of AMCOMET in April 2010. The highlights included the:
 - a. Establishment of the AMCOMET Secretariat at the WMO, with the support of the AUC;
 - b. Decision of the Executive Council of the AU Summit on the establishment of AMCOMET;
 - c. Presentation of the AMCOMET process to WMO organs, which included the Regional Association for Africa, Executive Council and WMO Congress;
 - d. The meetings of the Bureau and Task Force, which highlighted that AMCOMET is an African mechanism and as such should be owned by African governments. They also provided guidance for the AMCOMET implementation process;
 - e. Development of the Draft Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology (Weather and Climate Services);

- f. Development of the draft Constitution and Rules of Procedures of AMCOMET;
 - g. Preparation of the Second Session of AMCOMET.
12. The participants thanked the Chair of AMCOMET for the significant results and success achieved since the establishment of AMCOMET in April 2010. Special thanks were expressed to the Government of Kenya appreciating the progress made under the able leadership of the late Minister for Environment and Mineral Resources, Hon. John N. Michuki who passed away in 2012. Similar appreciation was expressed to the World Meteorological Organization for the support given, especially in supporting and hosting the AMCOMET Secretariat and funding the preparation of the draft: Constitution, Rules of Procedure and the Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology (Weather and Climate Services). The Session was grateful to the African Union Commission (AUC) for their continuous support to the AMCOMET Secretariat and for the guidance to the AMCOMET implementation process. It was noted that the Second Session of AMCOMET was organized through the financial support of AUC, EU, WMO, Government of Zimbabwe and partners.
 13. It was noted that there were significant challenges in resource mobilization initiatives in the implementation of the AMCOMET process, in particular sustaining the operations of the AMCOMET Secretariat. It was therefore strongly suggested that Members States should endeavour to contribute to the AMCOMET Trust Fund. Furthermore, the Session urged AUC and WMO to continue with initiatives for Resource Mobilization in support of AMCOMET.

VII. Presentation on the African Monitoring of Environment for Sustainable Development (AMESD); ClimDev Africa Programme, and Monitoring of Environment and Security in Africa (MESA) Programme:

14. The AMESD and MESA programmes are managed by the African Union Commission. A steering committee provides guidance to the programme, composed of five Regional Economic Communities (RECs) (ECOWAS, SADC, CEMAC, IGAD and, IOC), AUC, ACP Secretariat, with the Regional Implementation Centres (RICs), the EU, WMO, UNEP, FAO, EUMETSAT and other Development Partners, as observers. The programme's objectives are to help African governments in designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating their regional and continental policies through the use of Earth Observation products towards sustainable development and increase the information capacity of African regional and national institutions. The Financing Agreement for the MESA programme is signed. MESA is expected to continue and strengthen the services provided through AMESD after its expiration in 2013 and includes a new theme focused on climate services.
15. The ClimDev-Africa is a programme mandated by the African Heads of States and Government through a decision adopted in January 2007. It aims to construct a solid foundation in Africa for the response to climate change based on: 1) building solid science and observational infrastructure; 2) enabling strong working partnerships between government institutions, private sector, civil society and vulnerable communities; and 3) creating and strengthening of knowledge frameworks to support and integrate the actions required. The Programme brings together political leadership and the convening power of the AUC, the knowledge generation and capacity building strengths of the UN Economic Commission for Africa, and the financial and technical expertise of the African Development Bank (AfDB). The programme has three arms: AUC (Climate Change and Desertification Unit (CCDU)), AfDB (Clim-Dev Special Fund (CDSF)) and UNECA (African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC)).
16. The experts expressed their support the implementation of ClimDev Africa, African Monitoring of Environment for Sustainable Development (AMESD), Monitoring of

Environment and Security in Africa (MESA), and Institutional Support to Africa Climate Institutions (ISACIP) to strengthen the capacity of the regional climate centres and associated regional and sub-regional programmes. They further expressed their appreciation to the three institutions (African Union Commission, African Development Bank and UN Economic Commission for Africa), and the development partners, particularly, European Union and Sweden who provided the necessary resources and noted that they are referred to as good examples of successful partnerships.

VIII. Panel Discussion: Weather and Climate Services in Support of Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation in Africa

17. The panel discussion was chaired by ACMAD with panellists from UNISDR, WMO, ICPAC and Africa Risk Capacity (ARC). The following highlights key messages of the panellists:
 - a. ISDR representative highlighted the importance of climate science in anticipating disasters. ISDR further expressed that due to climate change past disaster record does not always explain the future. In this regard, there is need for better dialogue and synergy between scientists and disaster risk managers. ISDR further highlighted the Programme of Action for the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy on DRR (2006-2015) adopted by the AU Summit in January 2011, as well as ISDR/ACMAD partnership;
 - b. ISDR representative further highlighted the role of Climate Outlook Forums in Africa as a space for dialogue between climate service providers and end users to enhance the use of climate knowledge for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation programmes;
 - c. WMO representative stressed that Africa has been greatly affected by different types of hydro-meteorological disasters causing critical human, economic and environmental casualties setting back national development progress, while NMHSs still operate with a lot of constrains and data scarcity in Africa. Investing in hydro-meteorological observations, infrastructure and forecast and early warning systems would enhance preparedness and mitigation;
 - d. WMO representative underlined that NMHSs in Africa need strong political and financial support, as single designated national authoritative source of warnings on weather, hydrological and climate-related hazards. WMO representative further called on raising awareness and recognition of hydro-meteorological and climate services as enablers of sustainable development and security in national priorities, including national climate change response policies;
 - e. ICPAC expert noted that the reduction of the climate vulnerability in poorer communities needs efficient and realistic adaptation strategies. The expert further noted the importance of strategies to strengthen early warning systems, improvement of communications and information system to the end-users and mainstreaming of climate risk management into development including credible interpretation, accessibility, translation and utilization. He further noted that the core requirement for effective early warning were: observations network, attitude change and collaboration with stakeholders;
 - f. The expert from ARC explained that ARC is a key AU project to improve current responses to drought food security emergencies and to build capacity within AU member states to manage drought risks. ARC is a good example of best practices collaboration in early response mechanism, while offering an African solution to one of Africa's most pressing challenges. The AU Summit in July 2012 adopted a decision on the establishment of ARC as a Specialized Agency of the AU;

- g. Participants reflected and concurred on issues raised by panellists. In particular:
 - i. Participants noted that Africa is most vulnerable to climate risks and about 90% of natural disasters are caused by hydro-meteorological hazards, affecting the development, food, water and other key African activities, 60 % of which are related to weather and climate;
 - ii. Financing is required to generate data/ information/forecast products and deliver disaster risk reduction and other services;
 - iii. Early Warning Systems need to be operational in all countries and strengthened;
 - iv. Transboundary issues require regional approach;
 - v. Evaluation and assistance to NMHSs in post-conflict countries should be performed;
 - vi. Insurance and risk transfer mechanisms should be used in particular in agricultural sector;
 - vii. NMHS should broadly and timely communicate their information;
 - viii. Partnerships should be strengthened;
 - ix. Communication and dissemination networks should be adequate and media should be engaged in dissemination of weather and climate information to people.

IX. Consideration of AMCOMET Institutional and Governance Mechanisms: Draft Constitution and Rules of Procedures

- 18. The Nairobi Ministerial Declaration (2010) established a Task Force mandated to prepare the governance structure of AMCOMET. The Task Force, with support of WMO and AUC, prepared a draft Constitution and draft Rules of Procedure for consideration by the Session. The AMCOMET Secretariat, on behalf of the Task Force, presented the document to the Session.
- 19. The Session expressed appreciation to the AMCOMET Task Force for preparing the draft Constitution and Rules of Procedure. Following numerous interventions, the Session noted there were several aspects of the Constitution that required legal review and opinions. In this regard, the Session agreed to postpone consideration of the documents to give Members time to consult with their respective legal counsels and decided that:
 - a. AMCOMET Members should submit their written concerns, recommendations or proposals to the AMCOMET Secretariat on the drafts by April 2013. During this process the draft documents will be reviewed by respective Legal Counsels of Members, AUC, WMO and RECs;
 - b. AMCOMET Secretariat was requested to make the electronic versions of the documents available in word format;
 - c. The AMCOMET Secretariat was requested to consolidate all the received comments and inputs and send to Member States and RECs by end of May 2013;
 - d. The AMCOMET Task Force to meet by June 2013 to consider all comments and produce the revised drafts of Constitution and Rules of Procedure;

- e. The AMCOMET Bureau to meet by August 2013 to consider the final drafts of the constitution and Rules of Procedure for submission to AMCOMET-3.

X. Consideration of AMCOMET in the Context of a Specialized Technical Committee

- 20. AUC representative presented the relevant AU Assembly Decisions relating to Specialized Technical Committees, including;
 - a. Assembly/AU/Dec. 227 (XII) of the African Union Assembly at its twelfth ordinary session on the Specialized Technical Committees (STCs), adopted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in February 2009;
 - b. Assembly/AU/Dec.365 (XVII) of the African Union Assembly at its seventeenth ordinary session held in Malabo Equatorial Guinea, on July 2011, deciding that each of the STC should meet at the level of ministers and experts once every two years, and further deciding that the Commission be responsible for convening and servicing all the meetings of the STCs in order to ensure synergy with other Organs and in particular with the Executive Council as well as other institutions, and further requesting the Commission to operationalize the STCs from January 2013 and that thereafter the Sectoral Ministerial Conferences be abolished;
- 21. The Experts recommended that a Task Force be established to consider all the issues involved taking into consideration the roles of AUC and WMO.

XI. Consideration of the Integrated African Strategy for Meteorology (Weather and Climate Services)

- 22. Expert Segment recommended the adoption of the Integrated Strategy on Meteorology (Weather and Climate Services), with the following modifications:
 - a. Add other sectors such as water resources management and development including coastal zone management, in the challenges experienced in Africa;
 - b. Elaborate on the role of the African Development Bank within the strategy;
 - c. Expand on the role and implementation of GFCS as appropriate in the Strategic Pillar 4;
 - d. Addition of the Addis Ababa Declaration of support for the implementation of GFCS in Africa.
- 23. Expert Segment recommended to establish a Task Force to draft the Implementation Plan for the Integrated Strategy on Meteorology (Weather and Climate Services) with detailed annual operational plans.
- 24. The Segment also recommended the drafting of the Resource Mobilisation Strategy for the Implementation Plan.

XII. Consideration of Specific Aspects of the Implementation of the Nairobi Ministerial Declaration

- 25. Regional Climate Centre for Central Africa
 - a. The Segment noted that the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) contacted the WMO to be informed of technical measures to be taken for the creation of a regional climate centre. ECCAS is also in the process of making arrangements to include the establishment of a regional climate centre in its action plan for 2013 and mobilize partners around the project;

- b. The Commission on Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC), reiterated, through a written message that the First Conference of Ministers Responsible for Meteorology, in its declaration highlighted the need for a regional climate centre for Central Africa, with the approval of the WMO and AUC;
 - c. The Commission further insisted on the establishment of a regional climate centre for Central Africa as it is the only sub-region that does not have such an institution;
 - d. The participants concurred with the requests from CEMAC and recommended further consultations between CEMAC, ECCAS, AUC, WMO and development partners to make progress towards the establishment of an RCC in Central Africa.
26. Compliance with ICAO Requirements on Quality Management Systems
- a. The session was informed of the dead line given by the ICAO for Members to implement a properly organized QMS in aeronautical meteorological services to International Air Navigation is November 15, 2012. At the time of the session only 5 countries out of 54 in the continent had been certified;
 - b. It was noted that this is a very alarming situation for the continent. A risk analysis performed by WMO Task Team for QMS implementation had identified a number of Significant, Major and Severe residual risks to the Member, Service provider and WMO for not meeting the deadline;
 - c. The meeting endorsed the WMO recommendation that Members should expedite implementation by providing the required resources as a matter of urgency. Where it is completely impossible then they should file a difference with ICAO as is normally required.

XIII. The Implementation of the Global Framework for Climate Services in Africa

- 27. The meeting noted progress with the development of the Global Framework for Climate Services, a global partnership of governments and organizations that produce and use climate information and services. It seeks to enable researchers and the producers and users of information to join forces to improve the quality and quantity of climate services worldwide, particularly in developing countries.
- 28. The vision of the Framework is to enable society to manage better the risks and opportunities arising from climate variability and change, especially for those who are most vulnerable to climate-related hazards. This will be done through developing and incorporating science-based climate information and prediction into planning, policy and practice.
- 29. The Framework will prioritise developing and delivering services in four initial priority areas that address issues basic to the human condition and which present the most immediate opportunities for bringing benefits to human safety and well-being. These priority areas are Agriculture and Food Security; Disaster Risk Reduction; Health; and Water Resources. As the Framework evolves, the needs of users in other sectors will be addressed.
- 30. Central players in climate services are the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, as well as regional centres, which already collect and exchange climate data, undertake research, and generate climate information products. Through the Framework they will help develop protocols and standards for data exchange between themselves and other organizations as well as improve information products and service delivery. The Framework will systematically build capacity in these national and regional organizations where needed. The Framework will also foster stronger relationships between researchers, climate information providers and users, to improve

techniques and help ensure that the right information is available to all sectors of society for day-to-day and longer-term planning.

31. The Draft Implementation Plan of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) developed through an extensive consultation and review process involving experts nominated by governments, UN and International Organizations, regional Organizations and various communities of practice has been finalized and will be considered by the Extraordinary Congress of the World Meteorological Organization that will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 29 to 31 October 2012. Preceding this Congress a “Dialogue for Climate Services Users and Providers: Towards implementation of the Global Framework for Climate Services” will be held from 26 to 27 October.
32. The Dialogue will (i) further understanding of how GFCS implementation will assist decision making “on the ground” and how to better work across communities to maximize benefits of GFCS from Global to National Levels, (ii) provide an opportunity for climate services users and providers to learn from one another about the challenges and opportunities ahead, thus paving the way for effective implementation, and (iii) share lessons and good practices on development and application of climate services.
33. The delegates were briefed on the Addis Ababa Declaration in support to the implementation of GFCS in Africa, which was signed by the AUC, Regional Economic Communities and the Secretariat of the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, under the auspices of the Ethiopian Minister of Water and Energy. The delegates acknowledged the strong political support to the implementation of GFCS in Africa and requested for the declaration to be included in the outcome of the Second Session of AMCOMET.

XIV. Consideration of the Implementation of and Resource Mobilization for the Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology (Weather and Climate Services)

34. The experts were briefed by WMO representative and highlighted that the key factors for a successful resource mobilization strategy are adequate institutional arrangements and dedicated financing.
35. The meeting stressed that to attract resources; there is a need to improve visibility and relevance of climate and weather services at regional, national and local levels.
36. The experts agreed that mobilizing resources in the context of crises and scarcity is challenging but noted the potential opportunities to bring this Strategy to the attention of partners with a view to seeking financial, technical and political support for the implementation of the Strategy. They included:
 - a. European Commission Horizon 2020 process;
 - b. European Commission and the ACP Secretariat initially through the 10th European Development Fund before its expiry closes in December this year and in the 11th EDF process;
 - c. Partnership on Climate and Environment of the Joint Africa-EU Strategy (for example, through the European Development Fund and Global Climate Change Alliance);
 - d. Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V) 2013;
 - e. China Meteorological Administration; and

f. Korea Meteorological Agency.

ANNEX I: EXPERT SEGMENT ADOPTED AGENDA

Expert Segment, 15-17 October 2012

1. Opening Ceremony
2. Organizational Matters
 - 2.1. Adoption of the Agenda
 - 2.2. Organization of Work
3. **Keynote Address:** Enhancing Weather and Climate Services Delivery in Africa
4. Overview of AMCOMET Activities 2010 – 2012
5. Presentation of the African Monitoring of Environment for Sustainable Development (AMESD) Programme; ClimDev Africa Programme, and Monitoring of Environment and Security in Africa (MESA) Programme
6. **Panel Discussion:** Weather and Climate Services in Support of Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation in Africa
7. Consideration of AMCOMET Institutional and Governance Mechanisms
 - 7.1. AMCOMET Constitution
 - 7.2. AMCOMET Rules and Procedures
 - 7.3. AMCOMET in the Context of Specialized Technical Committee
8. Consideration of Specific Aspects of the Implementation of the Nairobi Ministerial Declaration:
 - 8.1. Compliance with ICAO Requirements on Quality Management Systems (QMS)
 - 8.2. Regional Climate Centre in Central Africa
9. The Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) and its Implementation in Africa
10. Consideration of the Draft Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology (Weather and Climate Services)
11. Consideration of the Implementation of and Resource Mobilization for the Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology (Weather and Climate Services)
12. Partner Statements in Support of the AMCOMET process
13. Consideration of the Draft Conference Statement, Recommendations and Conclusions
14. Closure of the Expert Segment

SIDE EVENTS:

Discussion on the World Meteorological Organization Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS) and the WMO Information System (WIS) and their relevance for data availability and exchange in Africa

Global Framework for Climate Services – the way forward