

Date / Time: 21.02.2019 14:30 – 15:30	Session 5: Ministerial Dialogue (Panel Discussion)	Responsibility: Jay Wilson Chair: Egypt
Room: Plenary	<i>The Imperative for strong investment in national meteorological and hydrological services (NMHSs)</i>	Moderation: AUC
<p>Abstract:</p> <p>Reliable and accurate weather and climate services, provided by National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), enable policy-makers to take adequate measures to prepare for and respond to the changing weather and climate and related disasters. This science-based and user-specific information and services help manage risks, save lives, protect the environment and support sustainable development.</p> <p>It is therefore important for national governments to provide the necessary financial and political support required for NMHSs to perform their public service mandate. It is equally important that they have adequately trained professional staff and leadership.</p> <p>The benefits of the scientific and technological revolution in weather and prediction have not been sufficiently embraced in many parts of the African continent. There is still considerable capacity and technological gaps, in particular in service delivery to key productive and economic sectors. Technology transfer, knowledge sharing and regional cooperation are essential for African NMHSs to access and apply the existing knowledge used globally to ensure the provision of high quality services.</p> <p>Consequently, immediate steps need to be taken to improve and maintain observation networks and drastically improve the acquisition and international exchange of observational data¹ over Africa. These are the fundamental blocks that will strengthen and modernize NMHSs to perform their public functions. Building on this public sector investment, NMHSs can then exploit the potential to provide value added commercial services in support of national economic development in collaboration with the private sector as appropriate.</p> <p>To complement national investment in their hydromet services, WMO’s Country Support Initiative seeks to increase effectiveness of hydromet investments providing the best of WMO technical expertise to increase effectiveness of projects promoted by African countries and their partners. Furthermore, World Bank and WMO are spearheading the creation of the Alliance for Hydromet Development that will bring together development partners and countries beyond a collective commitment and framework for increased and improved support.</p> <p>Political will and commitment are essential to achieving the above ambition. AMCOMET, as the high-level policy mechanism for the development of weather and climate applications in the continent, and an organ of the African Union, provides the pathway to helping policy makers understand weather and climate related issues and their implications to the African people and the continent’s economic future.</p> <p>Objective</p> <p>The objective of the Session is to acknowledge the political, economic and human interest imperatives of building well-functioning hydro-meteorological services in Africa and to secure the necessary ministerial support decision for escalation of this issue to the highest organ of the African Union. Taking into consideration the substantially increasing weather, climate and water risks for the African region, the Session aims at creating a strong commitment among African Ministers to scale up national action to strengthen national and regional capacity to deliver high quality weather forecasts, early warnings and climate information in collaboration with international partners.</p> <p>The decisions provided in the approved Ministerial Statement will be further escalated to the highest organ of the African Union.</p>		

¹ Provisions for the Global Basic Observing Network (GBON) are proposed for approval by the 18th World Meteorological Congress in June 2019

Outcome:

Endorsed Ministerial Statement for AU Heads of State approval.

Format:

Introduction of the panelists by the Chair, followed by the introduction of the Session by the Moderator, who will then invite each speaker for their intervention.

Moderator will lead Q&A session and summarize key points. Chair makes the Closing Remarks.