



## **PRAIA MINISTERIAL DECLARATION**

### **Third Session of the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET-3)**

**Praia, Cabo Verde**

**13 – 14 February 2015**

**We**, the Ministers Responsible for Meteorology in Africa, who are also Heads of Delegations, participating in the Third Session of the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET-3), from 13 to 14 February 2015, meeting in Praia, at the kind invitation of the Republic of Cabo Verde;

**Having considered** the draft Decisions prepared by the Expert Meeting for the Third Session of the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology, from 10 to 12 February 2015, in particular those related to the Implementation and Resource Mobilization Plan of the Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology (Weather and Climate Services), the Constitution and Rules of Procedures, the establishment of a Regional Climate Centre in Central Africa and the Annual Budget for the AMCOMET Secretariat, among others;

**Noting** the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Convention (1947 and revised in 2007) on the rationale for the establishment of NMHSs, and which reaffirmed “*the vital importance of the mission of the National Meteorological, Hydrometeorological and Hydrological Services in observing and understanding weather and climate and in providing meteorological, hydrological and related services in support of relevant national needs, which should include the following areas: a) protection of life and property; b) safeguarding the environment; c) contributing to sustainable development; d) promoting long-term observation and collection of meteorological, hydrological, and climatological data, including related environmental data; e) promotion of endogenous capacity-building; f) meeting international commitments; and g) contributing to international cooperation*”; hence **acknowledging that investment in weather and climate services** saves lives and property and minimizes economic losses and sustains the natural environment;

**Recognizing** the Nairobi Ministerial Declaration of 2010, which established the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET) as a high-level mechanism for the development of meteorology and its applications in Africa, where Ministers Responsible for Meteorology in Africa committed themselves with one voice to strengthen and sustain National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) by providing them with all necessary resources and adequate institutional frameworks to enable them to fully meet their mandates and perform their roles as fundamental components of the national development infrastructure of their countries and of the continent;

**Recalling** that AMCOMET has been jointly established as a high-level mechanism by the World Meteorological Organization and the African Union (AU) to support its Member States in addressing the major challenges related to the delivery of weather and climate services in Africa for the development of meteorology and its applications on the Continent;

**Recalling further** that AMCOMET Decisions on all policy matters related to the provision, access and use of weather and climate services are submitted to the African Union policy organs and the WMO Executive Council and Congress;

**Noting** the African Union Decision (Assembly/AU/Dec. 227 (XII)) of 2009 that established Specialized Technical Committees (STCs); **considering** the consequences of this Decision on the visibility of the AMCOMET;

**Decide** to establish the Task Force on STC Alignment, composed of the Bureau Members and five other representatives of the sub-regions, to engage with African Union Commission (AUC) and find possible ways of synergies between the AMCOMET and appropriate STC(s), and report to the Fourth Session of AMCOMET;

**Request** Members of the Bureau and **encourage** all Ministers Responsible for Meteorology in Africa to take part in the First Meeting of the STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment in the third quarter of 2015, and to **advocate** for the establishment of a sub-committee on Meteorology under this STC and suggest to add “Weather and Climate” in the title of the STC;

**Adopt the Constitution**<sup>1</sup> and the Rules of Procedure<sup>2</sup> of the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology; **take note** of amendments proposed to the Rules of Procedures which would be examined by the AMCOMET Bureau and submitted for consideration of the Fourth Session of AMCOMET;

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<sup>1</sup> AMCOMET-3/Doc. 5.1, Rev.1

<sup>2</sup> AMCOMET-3/Doc. 5.2

**Noting** the importance of assessed contributions to WMO, as the non-payment by African countries of their assessed contributions disenfranchises African Member States of voting rights despite the number of countries on the Continent;

**Request** Member States of the Agency for Aerial Navigation Safety in Africa and Madagascar (ASECNA) and similar bodies, to develop national mechanisms to provide financial resources and assistance to NMHSs to improve the Quality Management Systems (QMS) implementation and competency qualification and contribution to WMO; and **request** the designation of national focal points for an effective coordination between ASECNA, International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), WMO and NMHSs in the delivery of aviation meteorological services;

**Approve** the Annual Budget<sup>3</sup> of AMCOMET, and **request** Member States in Africa, in order to show ownership and commitment to the AMCOMET process and give full effect to the implementation of the Constitution, to take the necessary action to contribute 10,000 USD per Member State classified as Least Developed Country (LDCs), and **a minimum of** 10,000 USD per Member States classified as Developing Country to support the operations and functions of the AMCOMET programmes and the Secretariat;

**Request** WMO to explore strategies and avenues that can facilitate receiving contributions from African Member States to support the operations of the AMCOMET Secretariat such as WMO assessed contributions;

**Commit** to pay for the sustainability and the operations of the AMCOMET Secretariat, noting with zeal, that AMCOMET is an African process fulfilling an African Agenda, and which has been endorsed by the AU Executive Council;

**Acknowledging** the Implementation and Resource Mobilization Plan of the Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology, which provides concrete ways to enhance the delivery of weather and climate services needed to build the continent's ability to respond to climate change; and **further noting** that the plan is an important tool to mobilize resources through partnerships and collaboration to build the much needed resilience of communities and economies in Africa;

**Noting further** that the African Union has designated 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, urges the designation of an Africa Meteorology Day; and **request** the AMCOMET Secretariat, in collaboration with the AUC, to develop a Concept Note for an Africa Meteorology Day, to be celebrated annually on 29 June, taking advantage of the AU Summit of Heads of State and Government, to give the much needed visibility for the contribution of meteorology (weather and climate services) to sustainable development;

**Noting** the inclusion of the Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology (Weather and Climate Services) in the Implementation Matrix of the Yokohama Action Plan of the Fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD-V); **request** the AUC, in collaboration with WMO and African Member States to take necessary steps to ensure that Member States are informed of the formalities in accessing financial support through the TICAD-V for the enhancement of the provision, use and access of weather and climate services in Africa through the implementation of the Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology (Weather and Climate Services);

**Noting** with appreciation the WMO-initiated Severe Weather Forecast Demonstration Project (SWFDP) involving five NMHSs in Southern Africa: Botswana, Madagascar, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zimbabwe together with the Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre-Pretoria, South Africa, whose objective is to strengthen capacity in NMHSs in developing and least developing countries, including Small Island Developing States (SIDS), in the prediction of high impact weather events;

**Noting further** the commitment and tenacity shown by the NMHSs in the SWFDP project to demonstrate the feasibility and societal benefits accruing from this project for the region. The SWFDP is now a Flagship Project for the sub-region and is being replicated in other sub-regions;

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<sup>3</sup> AMCOMET-3/Doc. 16

**Noting** the success of the SWFDP as a Flagship Project by Africa; **invite** all Member States to be involved in the project and make financial contributions to the SWFDP for the sustainability of the project;

**Recalling** the Benoni Statement on the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) in Africa where representatives of the AUC, the Republic of South Africa, the Regional Economic Communities (Economic and Monetary Communities of Central Africa – CEMAC, Economic Community of Central African States – ECCAS, Economic Community of West African States – ECOWAS); Intergovernmental Authority on Development – IGAD, and Indian Ocean Commissions – IOC) and the Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP Secretariat) Group of States, reaffirmed their support to the Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology (Weather and Climate Services) and committed to continue providing support for the implementation of the GFCS in their region;

**Approve** the Implementation and Resource Mobilization Plan<sup>4</sup> of the Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology (Weather and Climate Services), which lays-out a 12-year roadmap (2016 – 2027) for the effective mainstreaming of meteorology into sub-regional and national development plans, which also includes an annual monitoring and evaluation plan; and **request** the AMCOMET Secretariat, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, relevant partners and stakeholders, to prioritize the development of the Strategic Plans of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and to facilitate the development of initiatives and the implementation of existing projects in the Flagship Programmes, under the auspices of the Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology (Weather and Climate Services);

**Extend** the mandate of the current Task Force on the Implementation and Resource Mobilization Plan to provide guidance in the implementation of the Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology (Weather and Climate Services) and report to the Fourth Session of AMCOMET;

**Commend** the Central African States for approving the strategy and implementation plan for the establishment of a Regional Climate Centre (RCC)<sup>5</sup> in Central Africa;

**Noting** with satisfaction the meeting of experts in charge of meteorology of Central Africa, which took place in October 2014, in Ndjamena, Chad, which validated the Implementation Plan of a Regional Climate Centre; and plans in April 2015, in Yaoundé, Cameroon, a Conference of Ministers Responsible for Meteorology in Central Africa for the adoption of the Plan;

**Recognizing** the importance and the value of the project of the ECCAS Council of Ministers in November 2014 at the 16th Conference of Heads of State and Government, who requested the Secretary-General of ECCAS to organize a meeting of Ministers in Charge of Meteorology for its adoption;

**Recommend** Central African Ministers Responsible for Meteorology to deploy effort to personally ensure the success of the April 2015 Ministerial Conference and adopt the project, with the joint support of ECCAS and CEMAC; and to advise the Secretariat of AMCOMET, the AUC, and WMO thereafter;

**Urge** ECCAS and CEMAC, in collaboration with the AMCOMET Secretariat, the African Union Commission (AUC), WMO and other relevant stakeholders, to take the necessary steps towards the finalization of the establishment of the Regional Climate Centre for Central Africa;

**Recognizing** the AU Space Working Group, which includes representatives from the African Union Conference of Ministers in Charge of Communications and Information Technologies (CITMC), the African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology (AMCOST) and AMCOMET, to jointly develop an African Space Policy and an African Space Strategy, as the foundation for the development of space applications and technologies, which provides an opportunity for Africa to address its economic, social, political and environmental challenges;

**Noting** with appreciation the provision of data and products from satellite operators from many countries, which include, China, Europe, India, Russia and the United States; **further appreciate** the willingness of

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<sup>4</sup> AMCOMET-3/Doc. 4.0

<sup>5</sup> AMCOMET-3/Doc. 6.0

these partner countries to assist in the furtherance and sustenance of the African Regional Space Programme;

**Further noting** that the future Meteosat Third Generation (MTG) satellites are expected to provide satellite data coverage over Africa from 2020-2039, **encourage** NMHSs to initiate the MTG user preparedness activities (data access, user station), in close cooperation with European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT) and the WMO Space Programme; and in coordination with the African Regional Space Programme;

**Taking into account** the resolution on the African Regional Space Programme of the Sixteenth Session of the World Meteorological Organization's Regional Association I (Africa), which took place in Praia, Cabo Verde, from 3 to 9 February 2015;

**Endorse** the draft African Space Policy<sup>6</sup> and the African Space Strategy<sup>7</sup> with the understanding that issues of meteorology are adequately taken into account;

**Extend** the mandate of the current AMCOMET Task Force on the African Regional Space Programme to continue with the feasibility study of developing an African Meteorological Space Implementation Plan, as part of an African Space Programme;

**Taking cognizance of the progress** made by African countries in complying with ICAO and WMO technical regulations on QMS, where 56% of African countries are currently QMS compliant;

**Noting** the dire consequences to Member States for not complying to QMS and Competency Assessment requirements;

**Noting also** that a number of NMHSs in Africa had transformed into autonomous agencies and/or authorities and that consequently they had improved operations and service delivery; **urge** Member States to support NMHSs in the transformation process through appropriate legislation;

**Noting further** the One Sky Concept of the ICAO Global Air Navigation Plan calling for the regionalization of services as appropriate that will have significant impact on air navigation service provision and the sovereignty of Member States; and **urge** further consultations with stakeholders before consideration for implementation;

**Noting** challenges to cost recovery of meteorological services from users, particularly from aviation and marine sectors, which is necessary to help boost the revenue base of NMHSs and the need to develop a comprehensive framework for cost recovery for all stakeholders who are users of weather and climate data, products and services;

**Agree** to elevate QMS requirements to the national agenda, which is critical for the safety of air navigation over the African skies and a mandatory requirement by ICAO and WMO; **urge** Member States to take the necessary steps to achieve and sustain compliance with QMS requirements;

**Urge** Member States not yet QMS compliant to fast-track their QMS processes and consider twinning projects with compliant countries to aid with their certification;

**Approve** the establishment of a Task Force on QMS, Cost Recovery and Competency Assessment to provide guidance on their implementation on the continent;

**Recognizing** that impacts of weather and climate are gender differentiated;

**Acknowledging** the Statement of the World Meteorological Organization's and Partner's *Conference on the Gender Dimensions of Weather and Climate Services*, which calls upon all partners at all levels to take the

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<sup>6</sup> AMCOMET-3/Doc. 7.1

<sup>7</sup> AMCOMET-3/Doc. 7.2

necessary steps to improve the understanding of gender-specific impacts of weather and climate through the systematic collection and use of gender-disaggregated data and to pursue strategies and structures to increase the involvement of women in the development and communication of gender-sensitive weather, hydrological and climate services, among others;

**Acknowledging further** the High Level Work Programme on Climate Change Action in Africa, including the establishment of Women and Gender Programmes endorsed by the Malabo African Union Summit (2014);

**Commit** to promote gender sensitivity in developing and implementing weather and climate programmes and projects to achieve gender-responsive outcomes in all activities under AMCOMET;

**Being aware of** the outcomes of the Africa Climate Conference 2013 (ACC-2013), which took place from 15 to 18 October 2013 in Arusha, Tanzania, and the Climate Research for Development (CR4D) Strategy Meeting, which took place on the margins of the Fourth Session of the Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA-4), which acknowledges the importance of a multi-sectoral research agenda that facilitates the efforts of NMHSs to create enhanced climate services and the recommendation to the AMCOMET to recognize and to provide guidance and leadership to the African Priority Agenda for Climate Research, Services and Development; and the subsequent request to the ClimDev-Africa Programme, WMO and AMCOMET for a joint oversight of the CR4D Agenda and the important role of NMHSs in climate change research;

**Approve** the joint oversight of the Climate Research for Development Agenda by the ClimDev-Africa Programme, AMCOMET and WMO;

**Approve further** the establishment of a Task Force on CR4D to provide guidance on the implementation of the CR4D Agenda and request the Task Force to work in close collaboration with the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), the Institutional Collaboration Platform (ICP) and the Secretariat of the CR4D;

**Recognizing** the importance of collaborating with development partners and relevant stakeholders to achieve sustainable development in the field of meteorology and the much-needed continued support and active participation of international, regional, sub-regional and national institutions enhancing the work and relevance of the AMCOMET process;

**Noting** the important role that the African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development (ACMAD), expected to be designated by the 17<sup>th</sup> Session of WMO Congress (Cg-17) as a multi-functional Regional Climate Centre, plays in support of Member States; **request** ACMAD Member States to fulfill their obligations to support the operations and functions of ACMAD as a pan-African institution to enable it fulfill its regional mandate;

**Noting also** that the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) is a voluntary partnership of a total of 97 Members, 24 of which are African Member States, and 88 Participating Organizations, including the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), aimed at supporting coordination efforts to build a Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS); and taking note of the AfriGEOSS initiative, which is dedicated to linking current activities of GEO and GEO partners with existing capabilities and initiatives in Africa to enhance the region's capacity for producing, managing and using Earth observations; **welcome** the initiation of the partnership between AMCOMET and AfriGEOSS;

**Noting** that WMO Executive Council encouraged proactive engagement of AfriGEOSS with African NMHSs to further programmes and activities at the national level; **encourage** Member States that are not Members of the Group on Earth Observations to consider joining GEO;

**Recognizing** the need for AMCOMET to actively participate in regional and international forums, in particular the African Pavilion at the session of the Conference of Parties (COP) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), to take advantage of available opportunities to develop partnerships with relevant stakeholders, **urge** WMO and the AUC to facilitate such participation;

**Request** development partners to continue supporting the AMCOMET process through the on-going dialogue to ensure a mutually beneficial approach in improving the provision and use of weather and climate services in Africa that meet end user needs;

**Express appreciation** to WMO Members, particularly Australia, Canada, China, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States of America for the financial and/or in-kind support they have provided to AMCOMET and related activities in the region; and **welcome** their continued activities and support;

**Acknowledge** the Clim-Dev Africa Special Fund (CDSF), hosted at the African Development Bank (AfDB), which pools the resources mobilized from donors to finance climate-resilient development programmes across Africa, including the generation and wide dissemination of climate information;

**Request** the AUC to facilitate collaboration between AMCOMET, the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) and the African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN) on converging issues related to the sustainable development of the continent;

**Noting** with appreciation, the close collaboration between, AUC, WMO and the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) in combating the Weather and Climate related disasters in the Region; and **encourage** the need to integrate disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA) for enhanced coherence in tackling climate risks and disasters;

**Further noting** the coming to an end of Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA) (2005-2015) and the upcoming post 2015 framework for DRR that will be established during the Third World Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (Sendai, Japan, March 2015), which will emphasize the need to employ the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) in the management of multi-hazard / hydro-meteorological disaster risks;

**Urge** AMCOMET Members to participate in this important Conference in accordance with the AU Executive Council Decision of January 2015;

**Request** AMCOMET Members to work closely with the AUC, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), WMO and UNISDR for synergy in addressing weather and climate induced risks and vulnerabilities;

**Noting** that the Monitoring for Environment and Security in Africa (MESA) Programme, funded by the European Development Fund (EDF), and implemented by the AUC, through the participating RECs and Regional Implementing Centres (RICs), will upgrade over 50 PUMA 2010 satellite reception stations installed in the NMHSs and regional centres, into new PUMA 2015 stations, ensuring continuous access to satellite and various meteorological data; and **further noting** that the MESA Programme will provide training, through four regional training centres, to all beneficiary NMHSs for the operation of these stations and exploitation of the received information;

**Request** the AUC to bring this Declaration of AMCOMET to the attention of the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment; STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration; and to other relevant AU organs for inclusion in their Programmes of Work;

**Express appreciation for** the hard work of the AMCOMET Secretariat and **gratitude** to the AUC and the WMO for their continued commitment and support; and

**Further Express appreciation** to the Government and the people of the Republic of Cabo Verde for the excellent facilities and hosting of the Third Session of AMCOMET.

**Commit** to implementing these decisions and **request** the Commissioner of Rural Development and Agriculture and the WMO Secretary-General to bring this Declaration to the attention of the AU Executive Council, through the appropriate channels, and to the WMO Congress and Executive Council, respectively; **further request** partners and stakeholders to take this Declaration into consideration when developing initiatives relevant to weather and climate services in Africa; **and urge** Member States, WMO, AUC and development partners to continue their support to the AMCOMET Secretariat and its operations.

**Adopted in Praia, Cabo Verde, on 14 February 2015**