



ECOWAS HYDROMET FORUM AND DRR SUB-REGIONAL PLATFORM

Communiqué

Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire
21 September 2018

We, representatives of ECOWAS Members States institutions, Members of the Bureau of AMCOMET and other stakeholders in building disaster and climate resilience; representing the Meteorology, Hydrology and Disaster Risk Management practices in West Africa, delegates at the ECOWAS Hydromet Forum and DRR Sub-regional Platform, convened from 19 to 21 September 2018 in Abidjan by ECOWAS and the Government of Cote d'Ivoire with the support of development partners;

Appreciate the hospitality and warm welcome accorded to the conference delegates by the Government and the people of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire and commend them for their commitment towards disaster risk reduction;

Recognizing that 70% of disasters in the ECOWAS region are caused by severe weather and climate events; that hydromet (weather, water and climate) services are transboundary and multi-disciplinary; that there is increasing demand for customized weather, water and climate services to build resilience in communities and economies and provide effective early warning for the ECOWAS region;

Convinced that modernizing every aspect of the entire value chain of hydromet systems and services with advanced numerical weather prediction techniques will bring innovation to the ECOWAS region to better respond to end user needs; **further noting** that targeted capacity building for national meteorological and hydrological services through an end user-oriented approach focused on service delivery and the last-mile connectivity is central to the provision of weather, water and climate services for sustainable development and climate resilience;

Considering the comparative advantages, mandates and capacities of different stakeholders; who collectively aim to enhance the production, delivery and utilization of weather, water, climate and early warning services to reduce extreme poverty and build shared prosperity, through promotion of socio-economic sustainable development to cope with the impacts of climate change in the ECOWAS region;

Acknowledging the continued need for adequate investment in modernizing and integrating hydromet systems, programs and partnership initiatives such as the Africa Hydromet Program, which is a joint partnership of the World Bank, WMO, AfDB and other organizations, and the current achievements in the ECOWAS region on effective climate outlooks and early warnings, notably the Harmonized Framework for Food Security, PRESAO, collaboration on weather, water and early warning, informed by various national and regional policies;

Recognizing that private sector, academia, civil society, media and other non-state stakeholders have a key role in strengthening regional and national hydromet, early warning and disaster risk management services;

Noting the importance of hydromet and disaster risk management services to meet the objectives of the ECOWAS DRR Strategy and ECOWAS DRR Plan of Action 2015-2030, ECOWAS Water Resources Policy, ECOWAS Environmental Policy, ECOWAS Agriculture Policy, ECOWAS Early

Warning Strategy; the ECOWAS Hydromet Program and building on the Africa Agenda 2063, the Sustainable Development Goals, Africa Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Agreement commitments;

Having considered the extensive discussions and recommendations of international, regional and national stakeholders and experts who participated in the Forum;

- **Urge** Development Partners, including the World Bank, the African Development Bank, European Union and UN Organizations, among others to scale up support for the modernization of hydromet and disaster risk management services, according to the needs and priorities expressed by ECOWAS, CILSS, river basin organizations and national governments in West Africa;
- **Call for** further support from the respective governments to ensure that national meteorological and hydrological and disaster risk management services (NMHSs) have the necessary political and financial enabling environment to adequately perform their mandate, which underpin sustainable and resilient development of all sectors of the economy and all segments of society, particularly towards the vulnerable and the poor;
- **Request** relevant regional partners to work closely towards the convergence of meteorological, hydrological and early warning systems and services; **further request** a robust cooperation from other regional organizations working in the field to maximize synergy, economies of scale and efficiency for the benefit of West African communities and populations;
- **Call for** a stronger horizontal and vertical integration of policies, strategies and programs in support of weather, water, climate and disaster risk management at national, ECOWAS regional and Africa continental levels, as well as stronger collaboration among institutions and promotion of partnerships, in particular among ECOWAS, CILSS and River Basin organizations; and for establishing CILSS/ AGRHYMET as the Regional Climate Center for the ECOWAS and other communities in West Africa and the Sahel;
- **Urge the promotion of** a conducive environment for building and exchanging academic and research expertise as well as continued professional education on weather, water, climate and disaster risk reduction in the ECOWAS Member States;
- **Promote robust** and meaningful gender mainstreaming and the inclusion of youth, community based organizations in the design and implementation of integrated approaches for weather, water, climate and disaster risk management services in support of sustainable development;
- **Reaffirm our support** to promote national and regional ownership for strengthening of national meteorological, hydrological and disaster risk management services; **further commit** to ensure that the modernization of hydromet services is included among the priorities in National Development Plans and to work with our respective governments and organizations to ensure sustained resourcing of this priority;
- **Request** the Commissioners of ECOWAS present at the Forum to bring this Communiqué to the attention of the President of ECOWAS Commission and the President of the ECOWAS Parliament for endorsement and action;
- **Request** the African Union Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture and the Chair of the AMCOMET Bureau to bring this Communiqué to the attention of the Fourth Session of AMCOMET and the AU Heads of State and Government for endorsement and action;
- **Unanimously adopt** this Communiqué to show collective commitment to support the development of sustainable and reliable weather, water and climate services and their delivery to end users in West Africa; fully considering national development priorities, regional and global meteorological strategies and other relevant frameworks.

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