



**Fifth Session of the  
African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology  
(AMCOMET-5)**

17 March 2021 (VIRTUAL Meeting)

**Report of the Ministerial Segment**

AMCOMET Secretariat  
WMO Regional Office, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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## AMCOMET-5 Session report

### 1. Introduction

The fifth Ordinary Session of the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET-5) took place virtually on 17 March 2021. The Ministerial Session was preceded by the experts' segment on 16 March 2021. During the experts' segment, the revised integrated African strategy on meteorology (Weather and Climate Services) was presented and validated. The experts also prepared the draft Ministerial Declaration for consideration and for endorsement by the Honourable Ministers together with the validated strategy.

The main objectives of the AMCOMET-5 session were to:

- receive reports from the AMCOMET Secretariat on matters arising from AMCOMET-4;
- consider and endorse the revised integrated African strategy on meteorology (Weather and Climate Services);
- elect the new AMCOMET Bureau;
- consider other pertinent issues that have emerged since the fourth AMCOMET Session, and
- adopt the Ministerial Declaration.

The outcomes of the session will be submitted to the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (ARDWE) which is scheduled to take place in October 2021.

### 2. Participation

The meeting was attended by the Ministers responsible for meteorology in Africa, WMO, the African Union Commission and invited guests (European Commission, European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT), African Development Bank (AfDB), the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)) as observers.

### 3. Opening ceremony

Prof. Petteri Taalas, Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization, H.E. Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, African Union Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment, and H.E. Mohamed Manar Anba, Minister of Civil Aviation of the Arab Republic of Egypt (outgoing Chair of AMCOMET), delivered opening statements.

**Prof. Petteri Taalas** welcomed participants and thanked the AMCOMET Chair, and the Government and People of the Arab Republic of Egypt for their leadership. He thanked the Government of Ethiopia for hosting the WMO Regional Office and AMCOMET Secretariat and the African Union for their strong partnership. Prof. Taalas provided a brief overview of the issue of climate change in Africa and the associated increase of extreme weather and climate events.

Prof. Taalas reported that WMO, in collaboration with the African Union Commission and the African Regional Climate Centres (RCCs) is now producing the annual State of Climate in Africa Report, which can be a strong tool for decision makers. Population growth in many cities in Africa and the occurrence of extreme events pose more challenges. As such, there is a need to pay more attention to adaptation and invest in early warning services. WMO launched the Global Multi-hazard Alert System (GMAS) but its implementation in Africa is challenging. Moreover, there are major observational gaps in Africa, making the availability of early accurate warnings difficult. WMO has defined new standards for observations through the Global Basic Observation Network (GBON) and is in the process of establishing with various partners the

Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) to sustainably finance GBON. The inability to deliver data for global use has a negative impact on global and regional forecasts. WMO is also working to improve the hydrological observing system. Finally, he mentioned the WMO Reform and the strengthening of the regional offices to better serve Members, particularly the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and the Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Ongoing initiatives and projects such as Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) and Intra-ACP Climate Services and Related Applications (ClimSA) will be a big step towards closing capacity gaps in the region. He expressed his commitment and that of WMO to the further development of meteorology in Africa.

In her statement, **H.E. Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko** reminded participants of the negative impacts of climate change, variability, extremes and the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather and climate events that are devastating African economies and threatening a reversal of development gains. The COVID-19 pandemic is currently compounding the situation. She observed that increasing climatic hazards have become a real threat to achieving Agenda 2063: "The Africa We Want". The Commissioner stressed the significant role the meteorology sector must play in order to support other development sectors. This will ensure that efforts made to attain the Pan African vision and aspiration of becoming "an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena", as articulated in Agenda 2063, pay dividends. H.E. Sacko noted that the success of the meteorology sector relies on strong political will and support. She then urged the sector to take advantage of this strong political commitment to raise the profile of meteorology. Joining Prof. Taalas, she also applauded the good collaboration that exists between the African Union (AU) Commission, the WMO Regional Office for Africa and the AMCOMET Secretariat. This collaboration has been instrumental in the revision of the integrated African strategy on meteorology (Weather and Climate Services) which was considered by the Honourable Ministers. The Commissioner thanked all partners including the European Union, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, and the World Meteorological Organization for their long-standing support to Member States through various projects, enabling the delivery of weather, water and climate services. She looked forward to the endorsement of the revised integrated African strategy on meteorology (Weather and Climate Services) and called upon Member States and partners to ensure effective and coordinated implementation of the strategy.

H.E. Mohamed Manar Enabah thanked all participants for attending the fifth AMCOMET session, taking place virtually because of the COVID-19 pandemic. He stressed the importance of the meteorology sector in providing support to policy makers and the key role it plays in the economic and development agenda. He referred to the fourth session in Cairo where AMCOMET and AUC committed to cooperating with Member States to revise and update the strategy. He expressed gratitude for the updated strategy being presented and approved by Member States in all regions of Africa through virtual meetings held in November 2020. The Chair looked forward to the adoption of the revised strategy during the session. He called upon the AUC to support its implementation and publicize it among all relevant stakeholders in various sectors. He also hoped that all National Meteorological and Hydrological Services would be able to develop services in line with their users' needs.

#### **4. Organizational matters**

##### **Election of the Bureau**

The following were elected into the Bureau:

Chair: Cameroon

First Vice Chair: Sudan

Second Vice Chair: Niger

Third Vice Chair: Mozambique

Rapporteur: Egypt

## **Message of outgoing Chair**

H.E. Mohamed Manar Anba, Minister of Civil Aviation, Arab Republic of Egypt, thanked the participants, WMO, AUC and the Bureau members, for the efforts that led to the revision of the strategy.

He hoped that the work carried out by the outgoing Bureau was fruitful and the desirable objectives were achieved despite the pandemic challenges which impacted meetings, restricting discussions to virtual meetings with substantial internet connectivity problems. He wished the participants a successful meeting.

## **Message of incoming Chair**

H.E. Mr NGALLE BIBEHE Jean Ernest Masséna, Minister of Transport, Cameroon, thanked the participants for their confidence in nominating him. He then thanked the outgoing Chair, H.E. Mohamed Manar Anba, Minister of Civil Aviation, Arab Republic of Egypt, and the Bureau for their leadership which has led to the revision of the integrated African strategy on meteorology. He stated that advances in technological development have allowed for a virtual meeting during which discussions on important issues of meteorology took place despite the pandemic. African nations are particularly vulnerable to climate change and extremes, and adequate mitigation and adaptation policies should be put in place. As such, putting in place early warning systems with reliable information should be a priority for African governments. Conscious of that, the Government of Cameroon has engaged, through its development strategy 2020—2030, to modernize the meteorology sector and opened specialized training courses in meteorology in polytechnical national schools. He reminded participants of the urgency to establish and operationalize the national framework for climate services, as weather and climate services are important for decision making and key for sustainable development. It is also important for the Regional Climate Centre for Central Africa, in Douala, to be running and fully operational. Finally, he called on his colleagues and partners to support the new Bureau, its actions and the implementation of the revised strategy.

## **Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda of the ministerial segment ([Annex 2](#)) was approved without any amendments.

## **5. Report of the technical segment**

The Chair of the technical segment, Mr Simplicé Tazo, Permanent Representative of Cameroon to WMO, presented the report of the technical segment which took place on 16 March.

The agenda of the technical segment ([Annex 3](#)) was approved without any amendments.

The report included the decisions of the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (STC-ARDWE) relative to meteorology and AMCOMET, which took place in October 2019, as well as activities of AMCOMET including the revision of the integrated African strategy on meteorology. Specific mention was made of:

- (a) The endorsement of the Cairo Declaration in the AMCOMET-4 Report. The request for ACMAD to be one of the African Union centres of excellence was referred to the Bureau of the STCs;
- (b) Progress on the Abidjan Declaration since its adoption in 2018; The Joint Working Group (JWG) for the implementation of the Abidjan Declaration was established in October 2019. The JWG is composed of RECs and their technical experts, RAIDEG Chair, AUC as Chair, AMCOMET Secretariat and EUMETSAT as co-secretariat, and the WMO Space Division as observers. The JWG has since

met five times (one physical meeting and four virtual meetings). The JWG has achieved the following: (i) identified regional priorities; (ii) developed a Concept Note on MTG-AMSAF; (iii) Prepared a Resource Mobilization Framework; (iv) Commenced engagements with the EU on resources mobilization;

(c) Preparations for the launch of the MTG and progress on the African Meteorological Satellite Applications Facility (AMSAF); The objective is to ensure a smooth transition from MSG to MTG and establish an African Meteorological Satellite Facility (AMSAF) to develop tailored products for users. As with previous projects (PUMA, AMESD, MESA) there will be an upgrade of PUMA stations for NMHSs, to enable them to continue their nowcasting and forecasting services and other thematic services for specific regions depending on their priorities and interests. Eight thematic areas have been agreed:

- THEMA 1: Transport (maritime, fluvial, air, etc.)
- THEMA 2: Agriculture/pastoralism (including water management)
- THEMA 3: Environment (Ecosystem)
- THEMA 4: Energy (water, wind, solar power potentialities, dams)
- THEMA 5: Blue Economy (Coastal and Marine)
- THEMA 6: Desertification, land degradation and drought (DLDD)
- THEMA 7: Disaster Risk Reduction (Natural risk disasters including cyclones, drought, floods, fires, etc.)
- THEMA 8: Health (including air pollution)

(d) The AUC-WMO AMCOMET Secretariat joint webinar on the impacts of COVID-19 on NMHSs, and the Ministerial Decisions of the special session of Ministers responsible for environment and natural resources including meteorology under the auspices of the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture Rural Development, Water and Environment (STC-ARDWE) on COVID-19 (November 2020); The recommendations of the joint webinar established the foundation for, and composition of, the AMCOMET-5 Declaration. The AUC emphasized its commitment to implementing the meteorology-related decisions contained in the Ministerial Declaration and encouraged Member States to also implement the recommendations.

## **6. Adoption of the revised integrated African strategy on meteorology (Weather and Climate Services)**

AMCOMET Secretariat presented the revised integrated strategy on meteorology (weather and climate services). The revised strategy now includes the following emerging issues: data, research, public-private partnerships and a gender dimension as requested by members. Five strategic pillars (SP) were highlighted:

SP1: Increased political support and recognition of NMHSs, as well as implementation of WMO and AU gender policy

SP2: Improved observational networks, data access and processing

SP3: Enhanced capacities for the production and delivery of tailored weather, water, climate and climate change services as well as early warning systems for sustainable development

SP4: Research, innovation development and training

SP5: Strengthened partnerships with relevant institutions, the private sector and civil society

The new strategic pillars are better aligned with the WMO reform and show clearly the need for data and infrastructure, service production and delivery through capacity building, research and partnerships, and strong political support. The implementation plan will be updated. Resource mobilization is in line with AUC and WMO funding mechanisms. However, there will need to be effective collaboration and coordination for successful implementation.

The strategy was fully endorsed by the session. Many Ministers including those from Burkina Faso, Mali, Guinea, Comoros and Togo, as well as Commissioners of Regional Economic Communities expressed their satisfaction with the revised strategy and commended the AMCOMET Secretariat. It was noted that the Regional Economic Communities had already endorsed the revised strategy during the subregional validation webinars.

H. E. Vincent T. Dabilgou was particularly pleased with the revised strategy and the coherence of its pillars. He underlined the relevance of Strategic Pillar 4 because of the aging staff in NMHSs and the need to replace them. Moreover, it is important to have quality experts in Africa to produce tailored weather and climate information. He also emphasized the importance of Strategic Pillar 5, and praised the commitment and support of technical and financial partners who have enabled some advances in the meteorology sector in Africa. However, he noted the need to find sustainable resources to finance and maintain long-term national investments in meteorological infrastructure. He finally stated that Burkina Faso fully supports the SOFF, initiated by WMO and its partners.

## **7. Report of the AMCOMET Secretariat**

AMCOMET presented a brief summary of the report which was also presented during the experts' segment. The status of countries who have signed the constitution and the status of contributions was presented. The process is still slow but promising.

Activities focused on the implementation of the Cairo Declaration as summarized below:

- Participation to STC3: Endorsement of Cairo Declaration. The experts and Ministers were encouraged to attend these sessions and defend their sector;
- Participation in the Africa Regional Forum for Sustainable Development (ARFSD), February 2020: a side event with ACPC on 'the critical role of NMHSs to deliver climate services' was organized. Niger, Mozambique and Zimbabwe attended the AFRSD. Attendance at these fora is highly recommended in order to increase the visibility and recognition of meteorology for the development agenda;
- Co-organization with AUC of a webinar on the impacts of COVID-19 on NMHSs, in June 2020. The recommendations were included in the Ministerial Declaration of the special Session of Ministers responsible for the environment and natural resources including meteorology under the auspices of STC-ARDWE on COVID-19 (November 2020);
- Support to WMO and AUC for the launch of the State of the Climate in Africa Report: the AMCOMET Chair, H.E. Mohamed Manar Enabah, Minister of Civil Aviation, Arab Republic of Egypt participated;
- Revision and update of the integrated African strategy of meteorology: the revised document has been shared with AUC and WMO and their comments included;
- Organization with AUC of the validation webinars with RECSs and Member States, 23-27 November 2020: the strategy was approved with minor comments that were included;

- Organization of the Bureau meeting on 25-26 January 2021 with the main objective of validating the revised integrated African strategy on meteorology and preparing the AMCOMET-5 session. The Bureau validated the strategy and the organization of AMCOMET-5;
- Organization of a conference on leadership and management by WMO, November 2019;
- Establishment of the JWG of the Abidjan Declaration: AUC Chair, AMCOMET & EUMETSAT co-Secretariat, the other members are RECs and their technical advisers as well as RAIDEG Chair. A project concept is being developed with the objective of operationalizing the Abidjan declaration and ensure a smooth transition to MTG and the establishment of an African Meteorological Satellite Facility (AMSAF).
- Establishment of AfDB AMCOMET Facility Fund (AFF): this is still pending but promising with recent commitments of the AfDB. The bank has been overwhelmed with the pandemic but foresees a SOFF access window for AMCOMET.

## **8. Interventions by RECs and Ministers**

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commissioner for Agriculture, Environment and water resources, H.E. Sékou Sangharé recalled the extreme events and the lack of capacity and infrastructure for early warnings and disaster risk management. Nevertheless, he noted some significant progress in West Africa: the recognition of AGRHYMET as the Regional Climatic Centre, the Hydromet Initiative, and the implementation of National Frameworks for Climate Services in many countries. He stated that the revised integrated strategy incorporated all Member States' needs to improve observational networks, data access and provision of climate services. He supported the endorsement and called for resource mobilization for effective and coordinated implementation. He called on partners to support the implementation so that countries develop their capacity to deliver and use climate information services for early warning actions to prevent disasters on the continent.

Prof. Vêlayoudom Marimoutou, Secretary-General of the Indian Ocean Commission, expressed his pleasure and satisfaction at participating for the first time in an AMCOMET session. He indicated that the issues being discussed were vital: the lives of our populations in the face of climatic hazards which are real threats to the organization of our societies, their resilience, their ability to foresee, mitigate, and manage risks. National Meteorological and Hydrological Services have a pivotal role to play in delivering tailored weather water and climate services to development sectors such as agriculture, water, health, transport, territory planning and disaster risk reduction, although this is not well understood by decision makers, economic partners and even some development partners. He emphasized the need to address this challenge and reinforce and modernize NMHSs, providing them with adequate legal and institutional frameworks, human and financial resources, equipment, data processing and forecasting tools. He stated that the Indian Ocean region is the 3rd most vulnerable region, and he has witnessed the devastating impacts of the hydrometeorological hazards in Small Island Developing States. The Indian Ocean Commission is conscious that hydromet hazards and their devastating impacts are threats to development and it is engaged in supporting its NMHSs. He thanked all partners including AUC, ACP, WMO, AFD, EU, and GCF for their support and commended the AMCOMET Secretariat. He finally reassured all that their actions are aligned with the integrated African strategy on meteorology, the Paris agreement, the Sendai Framework and the Samoa Pathway.

The 3rd vice chair of AMCOMET, Dr Janfar Abdoulai, Minister of transport and communications, Mozambique, talked about the impacts of climate change, variability, extremes and tropical cyclones in Africa and the low capacity to adapt due to limited access to technology, skills development and economic resources. He noted the increase of climate refugees, forced displacements and potential resource conflicts due to a drinking water shortage or destruction of crops as a result of floods or drought. He gave the example of recurrent tropical cyclones and



tropical storms in Mozambique over the last three years, namely *Idai* and *Kenneth* (2019), *Chalane* (December 2020), *Eloise* (January 2021) and *Guambe* (February 2021). The government of Mozambique recognized the brilliant work of the national meteorological service but thinks more needs to be done in Africa. Therefore, he supports the development and operationalization of the integrated strategy on meteorology which can be used to harmonize regional and national strategies and also serve as a resource mobilization tool. As the third vice chair, he reaffirmed his commitment to support the implementation of the strategy, particularly in ensuring the implementation of quality management systems. He finally called on his peers who have not yet ratified the AMCOMET constitution to do so and regularize their contributions to ensure the sustainability of AMCOMET.

The Honourable Nancy G. Tembo, MP, Minister of forestry and natural resources of Malawi, pointed out the impacts of climate change and hydrometeorological hazards on African societies and economies, undermining the governments' efforts to achieve the sustainable development goals. Africa is badly hit by climate change, yet less than 20% of sub-Saharan NMHSs can provide weather and climate early warning information to their people due to various challenges. Interventions are therefore needed to build the capacity of NMHSs in Africa to provide weather, water and climate services to their respective Member States. She acknowledged the milestones achieved by AMCOMET including the integrated African strategy on meteorology. Malawi did align its national meteorology policy developed in 2019 with the first strategy. This policy supports the successful implementation of various related policies, such as the Malawi climate change policy, by ensuring proper utilization of weather and climate services to enhance early warning systems including those at community level. She thanked all partners for the improvements in meteorological services during the past decades. Despite this progress, Malawi still needs more support in infrastructure and in the provision of weather and climate services.

## **9. Decisions and declaration**

The session approved the recommendations of the technical segment and ended their deliberations with the AMCOMET-5 Declaration ([Annex 4](#)).

## **10. Closing ceremony**

Closing statements were delivered by Prof. Petteri Taalas, Secretary-General of WMO, Dr Godfrey Bahiigwa, Director of Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, AUC, who represented H.E. Josefa Sacko, Commissioner of Agriculture, Rural development and the Blue Economy (ARBE), and H.E. Mr NGALLE BIBEHÉ Jean Ernest Masséna, Minister of Transport, Cameroon, the new Chair of AMCOMET.

Prof. Petteri Taalas congratulated the new AMCOMET Chair and the Bureau members. He assured them of his support and looks forward to a fruitful collaboration. He stated that WMO is driven by the Permanent Representatives, and so he was happy to be able to interact with Ministers during the AMCOMET session. The impacts of disasters are visible in African populations and their economies. Therefore it is urgent to invest in weather, water and climate services, including early warning services — the backbone of which are observations, an appropriately skilled human resource base and attendant infrastructure. This will ensure considerable economical gains. WMO has established the SOFF to bring in external resources. He called on Ministers, key players in the climate change and adaptation agenda, to play their role in sharing data and ensuring the sustainability of the observations. He thanked the AU Commissioner H.E. Josefa Sacko and all partners for their cooperation. He is finally reassured that the WMO Secretariat will provide all necessary assistance.

Dr Godfrey Bahiigwa, African Union Commission Director for Rural Economy and Agriculture, congratulated the Republic of Cameroon for being elected as Chair of AMCOMET and wished the new Chair a successful tenure in office. He conveyed appreciation to the Arab Republic of Egypt for successfully steering the affairs of AMCOMET during its tenure. He expressed gratitude to the Honourable Ministers for the successful session and outcomes of their

deliberations, which inter alia, included the endorsement of the revised integrated African strategy on meteorology (Weather and Climate Services) which provides the needed strategic direction in the development and application of meteorology in Africa. He noted the interest of the meteorological community in the Africa space programme. He give assurances that AUC is advancing a comprehensive agenda on space matters and welcomed the collaboration of WMO, EUMETSAT and other partners. The Director noted that it is the combined effort of all that will allow Africa to achieve the 2030 SDGs and realize the aspirations of Agenda 2063. He finally thanked WMO and the AMCOMET Secretariat for their support in organizing this successful session and reassured the Member States, the RECs, the regional organizations and the AMCOMET chair of the AUC commitment to continue to support advancing meteorology.

H.E. Mr NGALLE BIBEHE Jean Ernest Masséna thanked all participants for their active participation and the quality of the discussions. He expressed his satisfaction to the AMCOMET Secretariat for the good organization of the session and the excellent documents presented. He congratulated AMCOMET experts for the quality of the work of the technical segment and of the documents submitted to Ministers. This has allowed the approval of the revised integrated African strategy on meteorology, agreement on recommendations and publication of the AMCOMET-5 Declaration. This declaration should mark a decisive turning point in the consideration of the meteorological sector in Africa. He directed the Secretariat to pay particular attention to monitoring the implementation of the recommendations. He guaranteed his availability and that of the entire Bureau to work for this new dynamic which is in line with the vision of the Heads of State for the sustainable development of the continent and closed the session.

**Acronyms**

AfDB	African Development Bank
AFF	AMCOMET Facility Fund
AFD	Agence Francaise de Développement
AMCOMET	African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology
AMSAF	African Meteorological Satellite Facility
AMESD	African Monitoring of the Environment for Sustainable Development
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
DREA	Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
FCDO	Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
EAC	East African Community
ECOWAS	Economic Community of the Western African States
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
EU	European Union
IOC	Indian Ocean Commission
GCF	Green Climate Fund
MESA	Monitoring for Environment and Security in Africa
MTG	Meteosat Third Generation
PUMA	Preparation for the use of Meteosat second generation in Africa
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SOFF	Systematic Observations Facility Fund
STC	Specialized Technical Committee
WMO	World Meteorological Organization



**Fifth Session of the African Ministerial Conference  
on Meteorology (AMCOMET-5) - 16—17 March 2021**

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

(Ministerial Segment -17 March 2021 - 1300—1600 hrs EAT (GMT +3))

<b>Time</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Speaker/ Moderator</b>
1300	Brief on the online session	CNF/WMO
1310	<b>Session 1:</b> Opening Ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prof. Petteri Taalas, Secretary-General, World Meteorological Organization</li> <li>• H.E. Amb. Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment, African Union Commission</li> <li>• H.E. Mohamed Manar Enabah, AMCOMET Chair, Minister of Civil Aviation, Arab Republic of Egypt</li> </ul>	Moderator (AUC)
1330	<b>Session 2:</b> Organizational Matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Election of the Bureau</li> <li>• Remarks by the outgoing Chair, Egypt</li> <li>• Remarks by the incoming Chair</li> <li>• Group photograph</li> </ul>	Chair: Egypt
1350	Adoption of the Agenda	Incoming Chair
1355	<b>Session 3:</b> Report of the Technical Segment	Chair, Technical Segment
1405	<b>Session 4:</b> Adoption of the revised integrated African strategy on meteorology (Weather and Climate Services)	AMCOMET Secretariat
1435	<b>Session 5:</b> Report of the AMCOMET Secretariat	AMCOMET Secretariat
1445	<b>Session 6:</b> Interventions by RECs including IOC Brief interventions by (COMESA, EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS, IGAD, IOC, SADC, UMA, ...)	
1515	<b>Break</b>	
1525	<b>Session 7:</b> 7.1 Session Decisions and Recommendations 7.2 Ministerial Declaration	Rapporteur
1545	<b>Session 8:</b> Closing Ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prof. Petteri Taalas, Secretary-General, World Meteorological Organization</li> <li>• H.E. Amb. Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment, African Union Commission</li> <li>• H.E. Mr NGALLE BIBEHE Jean Ernest Masséna, Minister of Transport, Cameroon, New Chair of AMCOMET</li> </ul>	Moderator (AUC)



**Fifth Session of the African Ministerial Conference  
on Meteorology (AMCOMET-5) - 16—17 March 2021**

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

(Technical Segment -16 March 2021 - 1300—1600 hrs EAT (GMT +3))

<b>Time</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Speaker/ Moderator</b>
1300	Brief on the online session	CNF/WMO
1310	<b>Session 1: Opening Ceremony</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Amos Makarau, Director AMCOMET Secretariat/ WMO Regional Office for Africa</li> <li>• Director, African Union Commission</li> <li>• Major General Hesham Hassan TAHOUN (Chair), Egyptian Meteorological Authority, Arab Republic of Egypt</li> </ul>	Moderator (African Union Commission)
1330	<b>Session 2: Organizational Matters</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Election of the Bureau (5 BOGs)</li> <li>• Remarks by the outgoing Chair, Egypt</li> <li>• Remarks by the incoming Chair</li> <li>• Group photograph</li> </ul>	Chair
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adoption of the Agenda</li> </ul>	Chair
1445	<b>Session 3: Abidjan Declaration</b> 3.1 Brief on implementation of the Abidjan Declaration and STC-ARDWE Decisions	African Union Commission
	3.2 Presentation of the Concept Note of AMSAF and MTG transition preparations	Secretariat of the Joint Working Group
1500	<b>Session 4: Consideration of the revised integrated African strategy on meteorology (Weather and Climate Services)</b>	AMCOMET Secretariat
1515	<b>Session 5: Reports</b>	AMCOMET Secretariat Outgoing Chair
	5.1 Report of the AMCOMET Secretariat 5.2 Report of AMCOMET Bureau meeting	
1530	<b>Session 6: Urgent issues</b>	AMCOMET Secretariat & AfDB
	6.1 AMCOMET Facility Fund 6.2 Minamata Convention – status and way forward	
1540	<b>Session 7: Recommendations of the technical segment</b>	Rapporteur
1550	<b>Session 8: Closing Ceremony</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Amos Makarau, Director AMCOMET Secretariat/ WMO Regional Office for Africa</li> <li>• Director, African Union Commission</li> <li>• AMCOMET Chair</li> </ul>	Moderator (AUC)

## **Ministerial Declaration**

### **Fifth Session of the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET-5)**

**WE**, the Ministers responsible for meteorology in Africa, meeting virtually for the fifth session of the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET) on 17 March 2021:

**Note** with appreciation the progress made since the fourth session of AMCOMET, particularly the revision of the integrated African strategy on meteorology (Weather and Climate Services), the implementation of the Abidjan Declaration (2018) on Next Generation Satellite Products for Weather and Climate Services in Africa including, inter alia, the establishment of an African Meteorological Satellite Application Facility (AMSAF);

**Note** with concern, the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic on the operations of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) including cost-recovery disruptions from the aviation sector;

**Acknowledge** the efforts of the African Union Commission (AUC) and the AMCOMET Secretariat in jointly organizing a webinar involving Member States on understanding the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on operations of meteorology and building resilience of the African meteorological sector to pandemics;

**Note** with appreciation the efforts made by the AUC to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic including the convening of a special session of African Ministers responsible for the environment and natural resources including meteorology under the auspices of the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (AU STC-ARDWE) on the pandemic and its impacts on NMHS operations;

**Note** also with appreciation the recognition of meteorology as a sectoral sub-committee of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (AU STC-ARDWE) by AU STC-ARDWE-3 in 2019;

**Recognize** the unprecedented increase in the frequency and severity of extreme weather events and impacts of climate change and the need to address them if Africa is to meet the desired targets of the African Union Agenda 2063, the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, and the UN Agenda 2030 on the Sustainable Development Goals;

**Acknowledge that** NMHSs are essential in, among others, the provision of early warnings for natural disasters and attendant hazards, the resilience of climate sensitive sectors and the socioeconomic development of countries and that they require more support to enable them to fulfil their national mandates, and regional and global obligations;

**Concerned** with observation and infrastructure gaps in Africa limiting the capacity of NMHSs to deliver tailored weather, water and climate services to all users and for effective adaptation to climate and resilience actions;

**Conscious** of the value of data in generating hydrometeorological information;

**Mindful** that the Minamata Convention on the banning, transportation and use of mercury has come into force;

**Welcoming** the establishment of the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in collaboration with international organizations, including the members of the Alliance for Hydromet Development;

**Taking** into perspective evolving technological innovations and the expansion of the private sector into the meteorological and hydrological sectors and the need for win-win engagements;

**Note with appreciation** the investments of development banks, particularly the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the World Bank in the hydrometeorological sector, particularly their support of the implementation of weather and climate initiatives;

**Further noting with appreciation**, the unwavering and continuous support of WMO to AMCOMET since its establishment; and

**Appreciating** even further that the WMO Reform currently taking place will bring more benefits to developing countries and, in particular, to Africa noting that it is aimed at bridging the development gap that exists between WMO Member States, with a special focus on LDCs;

**Having considered** the recommendations of the meeting of experts, which took place on 16 March 2021;

**Decide to:**

**Reaffirm** our commitment to fulfil all outstanding decisions of AMCOMET-4, including facilitating the transformation of NMHSs towards semi-autonomy, adopting gender mainstreaming practices, promoting and investing more into research and innovation;

**Commend** the AUC for its leadership in mitigating the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the meteorological sector, as well as the convening of a special session of African Ministers responsible for the environment and natural resources including meteorology under the auspices of the Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment (AU STC-ARDWE) on COVID-19 and its impacts on NMHS operations;

**Commit** to implementing the meteorology-related decisions of the special session of African Ministers responsible for the environment and natural resources, including meteorology, that took place on 13 November 2020;

**Endorse** the revised integrated African strategy on meteorology (Weather and Climate Services) and **call** upon the AUC, in collaboration with the AMCOMET Chair, to present the strategy to the 4th STC-ARDWE for adoption;

**Call upon** the AUC to support Member States to align the integrated African strategy on meteorology (Weather and Climate Services) on a national level and ensure coordinated implementation of the strategy in Africa;

**Request** the AUC, in collaboration with Member States to develop a monitoring and reporting framework for the implementation of the integrated African strategy on meteorology (Weather and Climate Services);

**Request** the AMCOMET Secretariat, in collaboration with WMO and the AUC, to continue with efforts for mobilizing resources, including under the AfDB CDSF (Climate Development Special Fund) AMCOMET Facility;

**Request** the AMCOMET Secretariat and the AUC to strengthen collaboration with partners to support the implementation of the revised integrated African strategy on meteorology (Weather and Climate Services);

**Commend** the AUC and the AMCOMET Secretariat for jointly organizing a webinar involving Member States on understanding the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on operations of meteorology and building resilience of the African meteorological sector to pandemics;

**Request** the AMCOMET Secretariat to collaborate with the Secretariats of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) and the African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW) to create strong synergies in co-designing and co-implementing common initiatives for effective and efficient implementation;

**Request** Members to expedite the ratification process of the constitution and contribute to the AMCOMET Trust Fund;

**Urge** Member States to support their NMHSs with legal frameworks to facilitate diverse cost-recovery mechanisms and public-private engagement;

**Request** Member States to provide extra support to NMHSs during the COVID-19 pandemic, considering the decline of resources from the aviation sector;

**Urge** Members to support NMHSs in replacing their meteorological instruments, equipment and plants in line with the Minamata Convention on Mercury (Treaty of 2013 that came into force on 16 August 2017);

**Urge** Member States to continue supporting NMHSs to comply with the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) requirements for ISO Certification of meteorological services to the aviation sector as well as ensuring that quality management frameworks are updated;

**Urge** Member States to attend STC-ARDWE;

**Urge** bilateral and multilateral development partners as well as climate finance partners to consider funding the SOFF initiative;

**Request** the AUC and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to support the implementation of the Minamata Convention on Mercury;

**Request** the AUC and RECs to continue providing political support and seek resources to operationalize the AMSAF and ensure a smooth transition to Meteosat Third Generation (MTG), so that NMHSs can continue exploiting satellite observations to deliver operational services, early warning information and tailored African products, in line with the 2018 Abidjan Declaration on Next Generation Meteorological Satellites;

**Request** the AMCOMET Chair, in collaboration with the AUC, to bring this Declaration to the attention of the 4th STC-ARDWE and facilitate its endorsement and implementation.

Adopted 17 March 2021 (Virtual meeting)

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