

WCC-3
DRAFT HIGH LEVEL DECLARATION
25 August 2009
Chair's version

[DECLARATION OPENING]

DO 1 We, Heads of State and Government, Ministers and Heads of Delegation attending the High-level segment of the World Climate Conference-3 (WCC-3) in Geneva, having consulted those involved in the production and use of climate prediction and information services and having considered the findings of the Expert Segment of the Conference;

[PREAMBULAR PART]

PP 1 *Recognising* that all countries, in particular developing countries and specially least developed countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and a number of other countries are highly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate variability and change, and that adaptation is an urgent and immediate priority; and emphasizing the urgent need of countries and societies to adapt to the impacts of climate variability and change and to improve management of climate risks;

PP 2 *Recognising* that coping with the increasing challenge posed by climate variability and change requires that countries and societies are empowered with new tools and capacities including better observation and understanding of climate variability, climate change and risks, awareness, education and dissemination of information, improved prediction and information services enabling the identification and management of a wide variety of climate risks and opportunities, ~~including for nationally appropriate mitigation actions and adaptation;~~

PP 3 *Recognising* that the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) are committed to enhance cooperation, including with relevant organizations, on adaptation to the impacts of climate change and on research and systematic observation; and that the Parties to the UNFCCC working under the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) invited the participants of this Conference to take note of the needs of the UNFCCC, in particular with respect to research and systematic observation, and invited the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to share the outcomes of this Conference to inform the work under the UNFCCC;

PP 4 *Recognising* that in order to effectively and efficiently support countries and communities to reduce and manage risks from climate change and climate variability and increase capacities for adaptation to climate change in all sectors, including ecosystems, biodiversity, agriculture, water, oceans, forests, health, energy, industry, transport and tourism, local, national, regional and international organisations, in particular development and humanitarian organizations, financial institutions, various stakeholders and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) require relevant and timely climate information;

PP 5 *Noting* the progress that has been made since the first and second World Climate Conferences that led to the establishment, inter alia, of the World Climate Programme (WCP), the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Global Climate Observing system (GCOS); and their contribution to the negotiation of the three Rio Conventions: the UNFCCC, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD);

PP 6 *Recognising* and appreciating the work of the WMO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the UN World Food Programme (WFP), the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Council for Science (ICSU), through their individual and jointly sponsored climate observing and research programmes, including especially the WMO-IOC-UNEP-ICSU GCOS and the WMO-IOC-ICSU WCRP, and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) to enhance the availability of climate observations, improve the understanding of climate processes, develop state-of-the-art climate models and provide climate information and prediction services to support decision making for adaptation and mitigation;

PP 7 *Recognising* the efforts, the important role and the increasing technological and financial needs of National Meteorological Services and other national research and service organizations in observation, in monitoring and in research and modelling of the climate system, as well as their contribution to the scientific understanding of climate and its evolution;

PP 8 *Noting* that the World Climate Programme (WCP) has fostered the development of a range of global, regional and national climate services through Global Producing Centres (GPCs), Regional Climate Centers (RCCs), Regional Drought Monitoring Centres (RDMCs), Regional Climate Outlook Forums (RCOFs), and the Climate Information and Prediction Services (CLIPS) Project;

PP 9 *Recalling* the mandate of the IPCC to provide decision-makers and others interested in climate change with an assessment of the latest scientific, technical and socio-economic literature worldwide relevant to the understanding and quantification of the risks of climate change, observed and projected impacts and options for adaptation and mitigation, and its recent findings that project continuing and escalating impacts and risks associated with climate change dependant on global mitigation efforts;

PP 10 *Recognizing* the efforts by the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) to enhance coordination of earth observation, modelling and derived information within the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) and, thus, facilitate use of such information by end-users and decision-makers and achieve societal benefits related to disaster reduction, health, energy, climate, water, weather, ecosystems, agriculture and biodiversity;

PP 11 *Recognising* the efforts and achievements of the UNFCCC Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, including identification of needs related to climate services through its various activities, and the efforts undertaken by the LDCs in preparation and of their National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPAs);

PP 12 *Recognising* efforts to prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system and to adapt to climate change, and *underlining* the urgent need to step up these efforts and our commitment to an agreed outcome at the upcoming fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the UNFCCC in Copenhagen in December this year in accordance with the Convention's objective, principles and commitments;

PP 13 *Recognising* that improved climate prediction and information services and broad assessment of climate impacts are key for targeted adaptation and risk management measures and strategies, and would facilitate the mainstreaming of adaptation into sustainable development strategies at local, national and regional scales;

PP 14 *Recognising* that recent scientific advances in seasonal to inter-annual prediction and multi-decadal climate projection and current developments in high-resolution regional climate models offer a sound basis for the continued development and application of new tools and climate services to support the management of activities of a broad user community and that further research, resources and capacity building are needed to deliver further progress, particularly in LDCs, SIDS and in a number of other countries;

[OPERATIVE PART]

OP 1 *Decide* to develop the Global Framework for Climate Services (hereinafter referred to as the "Framework") in order to enable better management of the risks of climate change and variability as well as adaptation to climate change at all levels, through development and incorporation of science-based information and prediction into planning, policy and practice. The Framework will strengthen the production, availability, delivery and application of science-based climate prediction and services in the timeframe from months to several decades through provision of an effective interface between climate service providers and users. The Framework will build on and strengthen existing local, national, regional and global networks of climate system observation, monitoring, research, modelling and service programmes, including those of WMO. The Framework is outlined in the annexed Brief Note;

OP 2 *Invite* the Secretary General of WMO to convene an *ad hoc* taskforce of high-level independent advisers with due consideration to expertise, geographical and gender balance informed by a broad-based network of experts to further develop the

proposed Framework outlined in OP1 in wide consultation with Governments, partner organisations and relevant stakeholders;

OP 3 *Request* the taskforce to develop and propose an action plan for the development and implementation of the Framework, addressing inter alia governance of the Framework, resource implications, a timeline for proposed actions and measurable indicators for success of the implementation of the Framework, in line with the annexed Brief Note, and taking into consideration relevant outcomes of the fifteenth Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the UNFCCC. The taskforce is requested to report within 12 months of the WCC 3;

OP 4 *Direct* the taskforce to submit the findings and proposed next steps for developing and implementing the Framework to the Secretary-General of WMO who shall then provide the report to Governments. The Secretary-General of WMO will propose to Governments a process through which these findings and proposed next steps would be jointly considered and adopted;

OP 5 *Request* the Secretary-General of WMO to then also send the report to relevant organisations as well as to the UN Secretary-General as the chair of the United Nations Chief Executive Board for Coordination (CEB);

OP 6 *Urge* Governments, organisations and institutions, including financial institutions, the private sector, and the international community to foster international cooperation in support of the development of the Framework and the goals it aims to achieve, including through the enhanced role and involvement of national meteorological services and regional centres, as well as greater participation of other stakeholders and centres of excellence across relevant socio-economic sectors, particularly in developing countries and specially in LDCs, SIDS and in a number of other countries;

OP 7 *Urge* developed countries and other stakeholders to facilitate effective participation of developing countries, particularly LDCs, in the Framework;

OP 8 *Urge* WMO, Governments and relevant International Organizations to continue to support capacity building, effective North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation for the mobilization of resources, including financial resources, and for the development, deployment and transfer of technology related to meteorological services in developing countries, particularly in LDCs, SIDS, in order to adapt to, reduce and better manage climate risks;

OP 9 *Recommend* to Governments, organisations and institutions to strengthen user-oriented climate services for prediction and information through enhanced support of integrated climate observation, monitoring, research, modelling, integrated vulnerability assessments and integrated climate-related service programmes;

OP 10 *Urge* Governments to consider the outcome of the WCC-3 in informing the discussions in relevant processes, in particular at the fifteenth Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the UNFCCC, ~~with the aim of contributing to an ambitious and comprehensive agreement on enhanced action on climate change.~~