

APPENDIX B: PROGRESS REPORT FOR INFORMATION – NOT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE GENERAL SUMMARY

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF IBCS

References:

1. Abridged Final Report of the First Session of the Management Committee of the Intergovernmental board on Climate Services, Geneva, 15 and 17 June 2014, WMO-No. 1144,
(http://gfcs.wmo.int/sites/default/files/events/First%20Session%20of%20the%20Partner%20Advisory%20Committee%20%28PAC%29/wmo_1144_en%20MC1.pdf)
2. Abridged Final Report of the First Session of the Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services, Geneva, 1–5 July 2013, WMO-No. 1124
(http://gfcs.wmo.int/sites/default/files/events/First%20Session%20of%20the%20Partner%20Advisory%20Committee%20%28PAC%29/wmo_1124_en.pdf)
3. Abridged Final Report with Resolutions of EC-65 (Geneva, 15-23 May 2013, WMO-No. 1118:
ftp://ftp.wmo.int/Documents/PublicWeb/mainweb/meetings/cbodies/governance/executive_council_reports/english/pdf/1118_en.pdf
4. Abridged Final Report with Resolutions of the Extraordinary Session of the World Meteorological Congress, Part I (Geneva, 29–31 October 2012), WMO-No. 1102, Resolution 1 (Implementation Plan of the Global Framework for Climate Services, and Resolution 2 (Establishment of the Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services):
ftp://ftp.wmo.int/Documents/PublicWeb/mainweb/meetings/cbodies/governance/congress_reports/english/pdf/1102_Part1_en.pdf
5. Abridged Final Report with Resolutions of Sixteenth World Meteorological Congress (Geneva, 16 May–3 June 2011), WMO-No. 1077:
ftp://ftp.wmo.int/Documents/PublicWeb/mainweb/meetings/cbodies/governance/congress_reports/english/pdf/1077_en.pdf
6. Report of the High-level Taskforce for the Global Framework for Climate Services:
http://www.wmo.int/hlt-gfcs/downloads/HLT_book_full.pdf
7. Global Framework for Climate Services website: <http://gfcs.wmo.int/>

1. To ensure effective coordination on the implementation of the GFCS, a meeting on the Implementation Coordination was held at the WMO headquarters, in Geneva, from 29 September to 1 October 2014 with the following objectives:

- (a) Identify major on-going or planned relevant projects and programmes in selected countries and their technical components (partner organizations);
- (b) Identify specific contributions of technical commissions, programmes and other relevant bodies of WMO and partner agencies that will support the implementation of the GFCS;
- (c) Map these contributions against the activities in the Annexes and Exemplars of the GFCS, identify the gaps and formulate tangible actions;

- (d) Define the requirements for enabling the activities contained under the Annexes and Exemplars of the GFCS to commence; and
- (e) Converge on practical mechanisms for coordination and commencement of these activities in support of the implementation of the GFCS.

2. The meeting was attended by more than 100 participants, from eleven countries, eight UN Agencies, eight International Organizations, five Regional Organizations, invited experts and representatives from WMO Technical Commissions and Regional Associations. Focusing on a set of 16 countries, the meeting received a list of 101 templates on projects being implemented by various partners in these countries. The investments on these projects amount to more than 700 million US dollars (see details for the meeting at: <http://gfcs.wmo.int/node/573>).

3. The meeting recognized that effective responses to user needs for climate services can be addressed through enhanced partnerships and coordinated approaches by governments, international and regional organizations and stakeholders, implementing activities that contribute to enhanced development and application of climate services at national, regional, and local levels. The GFCS provides opportunities to link and align initiatives in ways that increase cost-effectiveness, leverage partner investments, respond to user needs, promote exchange of information across sectors, and to more effectively share available technical expertise and climate knowledge.

4. Recommendations for three levels of GFCS coordination were put forward to enhance: (a) coordination of national level GFCS implementation; (b) coordination amongst partners and donors; and (c) coordination in the implementation of activities in the different pillars and priority areas of the GFCS.

5. Contributions to the GFCS in aggregate have been provided by the following Members: Australia (CHF 484 000), Bangladesh (CHF 1 776), Canada (CHF 5 796 000), China (CHF 200 000), Finland (CHF 52 320), France (CHF 62 000), Hong Kong, China (CHF 9 520), India (CHF 118 000), Iran (CHF 9030), Ireland (CHF 488 400), Mexico (CHF 23 843), Norway (CHF 18 885 000), Switzerland (CHF 1 250 000) and the UK (CHF 350 000). Pledges were made by Finland (CHF 400 000), Indonesia (CHF 650 000), Republic of Korea (CHF 128 000) and South Africa (CHF 20 000). China and the Republic of Korea seconded experts to the GFCS who have taken up their duties at the end of September 2014.

6. The creation of a joint interagency office for climate and health is an important achievement for WMO and WHO. This joint office demonstrates genuine ownership of the GFCS by the WHO, and facilitates consistent health engagement in both operational and political spheres of the GFCS. At WMO, it represents for the first time an in-house health expertise that can inform WMO of the most relevant health issues and serve as a liaison for coordination between WHO and the health community at large. Already in a few short months, the value of having a dedicated office is evident. Representation of health and the WHO in WMO and GFCS processes has increased, and the GFCS is more actively represented in WHO policy forums at global and regional levels. Awareness of the GFCS has increased across the health community; the rich resources of WMO networks and technical programmes are being channelled more effectively to the WHO and health actors at global, regional and national levels; linkages and communication between technical units of both agencies has strengthened; new opportunities for collaboration have been identified; and joint project implementation is occurring more smoothly.

7. WMO and GFCS actively participated in the WHO Global Conference on Climate and Health in August 2014. Conference outcomes highlighted the increasing health demand for climate and information and services. Participants agreed that an overall aim to enhance health and well-being could be achieved through increasing health-system resilience to climate change, climate

risk management to improve health protection, and promotion of health within climate mitigation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction policies. Specific outcomes reflected the increasing need for the formal health sector sufficiently account for climate risks, for example in preparedness and response to extreme weather events, and surveillance of and response to infectious disease outbreaks. Strong calls were made for health actors to collaborate with other key health determining sectors, to ensure climate resilience and health promotion through services such as water and sanitation, air quality, nutrition security, and energy access for the health sector. Health actors were encouraged to promote coordination and collaboration with other existing initiatives, specifically examples of the GFCS, and Climate and Clean Air Coalition to which WHO and WMO are jointly partnering. In response to the conference, the WHO-WMO Joint Climate and Health Office held an expert meeting to discuss how the GFCS can help mobilize necessary climate information to manage climate risks and build health resilience.

8. The Permanent Representatives of WMO (in Tunisia, Philippines, Bangladesh, and Benin) addressed the WHO Regional Committees for South Asia, Western Pacific, Eastern Mediterranean, and African Regions in October and November 2014. Statements on behalf of WMO and GFCS help to raise awareness of current GFCS health-related resources, and invited national health authorities to partner with their National Meteorological Services to benefit from climate information and services.

9. On the margins of the first meeting of the Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services in July 2013, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and WMO, which have collaborated on disaster risk reduction for many years, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Geneva. The partnership between the two organizations has been enhanced by this MoU and the continuous collaboration is playing a vital role in empowering people at the communities to respond to climate-related disasters and risks. The Chair recognized the importance of making evidence-based climate information and prediction available to vulnerable communities as highlighted and disseminated through press releases made by both organizations on the occasion of the signing of this MoU. The MoU was translated in three IFRC official languages and disseminated to National Societies to facilitate collaboration at the national level, following which, a few National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies have established partnerships with their respective National Meteorological Office, as is the case of Japan.

10. At the regional level, to improve climate information for end-users and reduce disaster risk, for example, in ten Pacific countries, the IFRC signed a partnership agreement with the Secretariat of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). The agreement was signed on margins of the United Nations Conference on Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) in Samoa. The Red Cross National Societies of the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu will be involved in the partnership with SPREP, while the implementation of the joint initiative has begun in the Cook Islands in April and in Tuvalu in July. The Red Cross and Red Crescent Climate Centre, through its Vanuatu Office, is also a key partner. This partnership at the regional level is expected to contribute to enhance the outputs of the Pacific Island Meteorological Strategy (2012-2021).

11. The IFRC Secretary-General made a commitment at the United Nations Climate Summit on 23 September 2014 to “ Support communities in at least 40 high-risk countries to use climate information across a range of timescales and activities, by the end of 2015”, including for disaster preparedness, response, and community-based risk reduction programmes. In addition, IFRC also committed within the same time-frame to scale up public awareness and education on changing climate risks by promoting a culture of preparedness among our 17 million volunteers and 189 National Societies, as well as systematically communicating to the general public about the role of climate change in major disasters. With this commitment, IFRC, with support from partners (in particular those related to the GFCS identified four priority areas) at all levels, shall

endeavour, with better climate information as one of the means, to improve the wellbeing of people and contribute to the development of their communities.

12. The WMO Strategy for Service Delivery adopted by the Sixteenth World Meteorological Congress (Cg-XVI, Geneva, May-June 2011) serves as a vital component in the implementation of the GFCS. In approving this Strategy, Congress emphasized its synergy with the GFCS and requested that an implementation plan be developed to guide Members' efforts at national level. Consequently, the sixty-fifth session of the WMO Executive Council (EC-65, Geneva, May 2013) adopted Resolution 4 (EC-65) – Implementation Plan (IP) of the “WMO Strategy for Service Delivery”. The Strategy and its IP were developed through wide consultations with the regional associations, technical commissions, experts from a number of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), as well as all the WMO Programmes. It is therefore wholesome and applicable in the implementation of GFCS, especially the User Interface Platform (UIP). Its characteristics include: the promotion of a service-oriented culture through effective engagement of users; global, regional and national approaches to its implementation; short-term, medium-term and long-term milestones to measure progress; linkages with other WMO initiatives and in particular, the GFCS.

13. Effective Communication is essential in the delivery of both weather and climate services. Particularly in the case of climate services, users need to receive the information in a language that they can easily understand and in a format they can easily access and use. In this regard, WMO through its Public Weather Services programme, has produced guidelines on communicating uncertainty to enable decision-making by users. In addition, as recommended by the sixty-sixth session of the Executive Council (EC-66), WMO has recognized that governments and the public need to know the impact of severe weather and climate hazards on their lives, livelihoods, property and economy and are demanding more than just statements of expected weather or climate conditions from their NMHSs and other climate services providers. In this regard, WMO is preparing a set of guidelines for Members on developing multi-hazard impact-based forecast and warning services.

14. Through the joint WMO-Global Water Partnership initiatives, the Associated Programme on Flood Management and the Integrated Drought Management Programme progress is being made under the water Exemplar of the GFCS. These initiatives have benefit from support provided by Canada, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Switzerland and USA. UN-Water had designated a focal point on the Global Framework for Climate Services, Mr Anil Mishra from UNESCO.

15. The Commission for Agricultural Meteorology (CAgM) is a key resource for supporting GFCS implementation in the GFCS priority area on agriculture and food security. The sixteenth session of CAgM which took place recently from 10–15 April 2014 in Antalya, Turkey took a number of decisions relevant to the implementation of the GFCS. Of particular note the sixteenth session identified a set of Global Initiatives in Agricultural Meteorological corresponding to the five GFCS pillars and the inclusion of implementation of the GFCS User Interface Platform through collaboration with international organizations such as FAO, WFP, IFAD and others in the terms of reference for CAgM Focus Area 4, capacity development in agricultural meteorology. In addition, several activities specifically targeted to support GFCS implementation are planned for the CAgM intersessional period. These include expansion of a successful online version of the Statistics in Applied Climatology training course for capacity development in agricultural meteorology developed with technical support from the University of Reading (UK) and a Soil Moisture Demonstration Project to develop standards and guidelines for global soil moisture measurements.

16. The president and vice-president of the Commission have been making specific efforts to align the CAgM working structures and activities with the GFCS and its priorities, including the president's participation in the GFCS Meeting on Implementation Coordination which took place in Geneva from 29 September-1 October 2014 and the vice president's participation in the Executive

Council Task Team on WMO Policy for International Exchange of Climate Data and Products to support the implementation of the GFCS.

17. Recognizing the central role of the Commission for Climatology (CCI) in the implementation of the GFCS and specifically the Climate Services Information System (CSIS) pillar, the sixteenth session of CCI which took place from 3-8 July 2014 in Heidelberg (see <http://cci-16.wmo.int/documents-english>), Germany, took a number of important decisions for GFCS implementation. CCI-16 adopted a new working structure consisting of five Open Panels of CCI Experts (OPACEs) spanning five thematic areas of work: (a) Climate data management; (b) Global and regional climate monitoring and assessment; (c) Climate prediction, projection and delivery mechanisms; (d) User Interface for climate adaptation and risk management; and (e) Capacity development. While each of the OPACEs supports a specific GFCS pillar, their objectives and constituent expert teams are explicitly configured to provide an overarching and comprehensive support to the CSIS pillar. To facilitate the latter, an Implementation Coordination Team on CSIS has also been established which will include representation from all the five OPACEs, and a High Level Advisor on GFCS has also been identified.

18. A Technical Conference on Climate Services – Building on CLIPS Legacy, was held from 30 June to 2 July 2014 in conjunction with CCI-16, including a joint session of CCI and the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP).

19. The Global Atmospheric Watch (GAW) efforts to provide high quality, long-term records of key atmospheric constituents have become a valued climate service informing both the public and policymakers. The new GAW efforts to monitor and assess aerosols globally, including in urban and rural environments, represent additional resources to support research in climate and health impacts.
