



Organisation météorologique mondiale  
World Meteorological Organization

**Statement on the Occasion of the  
Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the Parties to the  
Montreal Protocol on Substances That Deplete  
the Ozone Layer and Twenty-Fifth Anniversary  
of the Protocol**

*M. Jarraud*  
*Secretary-General*

*(Geneva, Switzerland, 16 November 2012)*



EAU    CLIMAT    TEMPS    WEATHER    CLIMATE    WATER

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**STATEMENT ON THE OCCASION OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH MEETING OF THE PARTIES  
TO THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL ON SUBSTANCES THAT DEplete THE OZONE LAYER  
AND TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PROTOCOL**

**by**

**M. Jarraud  
Secretary-General  
World Meteorological Organization  
(Geneva, 16 November 2012)**

**Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a great pleasure for me to address the 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on this special occasion, the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Protocol.

The Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol are recognized as the most successful examples of multilateral environmental agreements: the number of ratifications — 197 — represent a record in the history of the United Nations and also it has contributed to a reduction of 97% in the global use of ozone depleting substances.

In joining the congratulations for this unique achievement, I would like to underline the contribution of observation and research to this success and the effectiveness of the collaboration between WMO and UNEP.

Isolated ozone observations date back to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century but it was only in 1957 that, in preparation of the International Geophysical Year, the WMO Global Ozone Observing Network (GO<sub>3</sub>OS) was established. The data collected through the network became essential for understanding the state and changes of the ozone layer. This was instrumental in providing the evidence that CFCs and other gases were causing the destruction of the ozone layer, with serious implications on human health and the environment.

In 1977 WMO published a seminal scientific report, “Modification of the Ozone Layer Due to Human Activities and Some Possible Geophysical Consequences”. Two years later, WMO and UNEP organized together the intergovernmental meeting in Washington that prepared the first International Plan of Action for the Protection of the Ozone Layer.

Many steps have been taken since that historical meeting and today we can celebrate 25 years of progress in this area.

WMO plays an essential role in coordinating observations of and research on the ozone layer. Thanks to a global network of ozone monitoring stations and satellites, WMO bulletins on the state of the Antarctic ozone layer are issued at two-week intervals from August to November.

With UNEP, periodic meetings are organized for the Ozone Research Managers of the Parties to the Vienna Convention. Every four years, in cooperation with UNEP, NASA, NOAA and the European Commission, WMO publishes the Scientific Assessments of Ozone Depletion. This is the information upon which the Parties to the Vienna Convention base their decisions regarding the protection of the stratospheric ozone layer.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Allow me now to emphasize the role of climate change on the state of the ozone layer. In spite of the efforts to phase out ozone depleting substances, global warming may well lead to a weaker ozone layer in the tropics, as we heard during the Seminar last Sunday. In addition, we have heard that nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), one of the most important long-lived greenhouse gases, and whose atmospheric burden is increasing steadily, might represent a threat to the ozone layer later this century. There is also evidence that the annually recurring Antarctic ozone hole has a direct influence on the surface climate in Antarctica.

In the past three decades, advances in understanding the Planet Earth system, coupled with improved computing capabilities, have enabled the provision of climate predictions on time scales from seasons to decades and even beyond, leading also to improved weather forecasts. These forecasts and predictions offer great benefits for many socioeconomic sectors, even if there are uncertainties related to them. Uncertainties should not be a reason for not applying such information in decision-making. All this reinforces the need for a global mechanism to enable the systematic production and application of climate services in a coordinated and integrated way, from the global to the national and local level.

The Global Framework for Climate Services — GFCS — was unanimously called for by the third World Climate Conference held in Geneva in 2009 to provide such a mechanism, building on existing initiatives and infrastructure to address the full value chain from observations, research, prediction and product development to service delivery and application in support of decision-making in climate sensitive sectors.

The World Meteorological Congress, at its Extraordinary Session held on 29-31 October this year, adopted, unanimously again, an Implementation Plan and a Governance Mechanism for the GFCS.

The vision of the GFCS is to enable better management of the risks of climate variability and climate change through the development and incorporation of science-based climate information and prediction into planning, policy and practice at the global, national and local scale.

In its initial phase, the GFCS will focus on four priorities: agriculture and food security, disaster risk reduction, health, and water resources.

The GFCS is an ambitious initiative. Its objective is to facilitate global access to continuously improved climate services in the four initial priority areas by the end of 2017, in particular in the least developed countries. For end-2021, the objective is to facilitate access to improved climate services across all climate-sensitive sectors.

The success of the GFCS will depend on a global partnership of governments and organizations, strengthening national and regional climate services and improving our ability to adapt and respond to the impacts of climate variability and climate change. Governments, organizations and individuals concerned about improving humanity's ability to adapt to climate variability and climate change are invited to contribute to this effort.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The Implementation Plan for the GFCS provides a powerful tool to translate the concept of climate service into a series of coordinated and systematic actions at different geographical and temporal scales.

Together, through the GFCS, we want to contribute to turn the challenges of climate variability and climate change into opportunities for partnerships in sustainable development.

In concluding, I would like to reaffirm WMO commitment to a continued and reinforced collaboration.

Thank you.

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