WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

GSCU Scoping Meeting /Doc. 7.1

(5.X.2010)

EXPERT MEETING ON SCOPING GLOBAL SEASONAL CLIMATE UPDATES

Agenda item : 7

Geneva, Switzerland, 12 – 14 October 2010

ENGLISH ONLY

GSCU Outline

Annex 1 provides an initial outline for a typical issue of the Global Seasonal Climate Update (GSCU), as an illustrating basis for discussions. Text in *italics* was inserted for illustration (partly taken from one of the recent El Niño/La Niña Updates). The choice of climate phenomena to be addressed in the GSCU is subject to expert assessment and user perspectives, but limited to global/continental-scale aspects.

The appropriate structure and content of the GSCU as well as its language is highly dependent on the user groups to be targeted. Assuming that NMHSs and RCCs are amongst the potential users as well as international agencies outside the 'meteorological community' (operating in different regions around the globe) it becomes clear, that different options need to be considered. Amongst these options are the following:

(i) Extending the executive summary and providing a full GSCU summary for users outside the meteorological community in appropriate language. Sections 1-4 of the attached outline would provide more science/technical-related (background) information for NMHSs, RCCs etc.

(ii) Issuing 2 types of the GSCU: A 6-pager for NMHSs, RCCs etc. as outlined in the attachment and a 2-pager summarizing the GSCU for users outside the meteorological community. This special issue might avoid even mentioning the major general circulation features as described in sections 1 and 3 of the attached outline and might concentrate on messages derived from sections 2 and 4 (plus sections 5 to 7).

Global Seasonal Climate Update
--- DRAFT OUTLINE ---

[Date of issuance: xx.yy.zzzz]

Note: The Update summarises the past and current status as well as the expected future behaviour of major general circulation features and large-scale oceanic anomalies around the globe (seasonal timescale) and discusses its likely impacts on large-scale temperature and precipitation patterns.
The GSCU is produced quarterly and issued on 1 March, 1 June, 1 September and 1 December.

0 Executive summary

[most striking features of the current issue of the Update]

1 Recent monitoring results for major general circulation features and related large-scale oceanic anomalies around the globe

El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO)

[*Moderate to strong La Niña conditions are now present in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific, where sea surface temperatures are around 1.5 degrees Celsius cooler than average. The atmosphere across the tropical Pacific is now well coupled to this sea surface temperature pattern, with strengthened trade winds and markedly reduced cloudiness over a substantial portion of the central and eastern equatorial Pacific. The subsurface waters of the central and eastern equatorial Pacific also strongly reflect La Niña conditions, with temperatures of 2 to 6 degrees Celsius below average. This large volume of anomalously cold water will likely maintain or strengthen the cold waters already at the ocean surface…. This La Niña developed quickly in June and July 2010, following the dissipation of the 2009/10 El Niño in April. Unlike many El Niño or La Niña events that have unequal contributions from the oceanic and atmospheric components during onset, this event featured strong ocean-atmosphere coupling since its initial development in June, following a strong initial spell of enhanced trade winds in the western equatorial Pacific in May. By August the event had become moderate to strong, and currently continues at approximately the same strength.*]

North Atlantic Oscillation / Arctic Oscillation

South Pacific Convergence Zone

Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ)

Interdecadal Pacific Oscillation (IPO)

Antarctic Oscillation (AAO)

Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)

Further important large-scale monitoring results

2 Discussion of observed impacts on large-scale temperature and precipitation patterns

[…]

Comments:
Text of GSCU Sections 1and 2 should not exceed 2-3 pages.
Text should provide clear messages and should avoid technical terms as far as possible!

3 Potential evolution of major general circulation features and related large-scale oceanic anomalies around the globe

El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO)

[Given the good reinforcement of the oceanic and atmospheric aspects of the current event, and the large area of below-average subsurface ocean temperatures, the event is expected to sustain or increase its strength, and endure at least through the normal El Niño/La Niña life cycle into the first quarter of 2011. Almost all forecast models predict continuation, and possible further strengthening, of this La Niña episode for the next 4-6 months, taking the event well into the first quarter of 2011]

North Atlantic Oscillation / Arctic Oscillation

Antarctic Oscillation (AAO)

Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)

Potential evolution of further important large-scale anomalies

Comments:
Text of Section 3 of GSCU should not exceed 2 pages.
Text should provide clear messages and should avoid technical terms as far as possible!

4 Discussion of likely impacts on large-scale temperature and precipitation patterns

[…(level of detail to be discussed to avoid interference with mandates of NMHSs, RCCs and RCOFs; form of presentation to be discussed, e.g. provision of maps only and text explanations of how to interpret the maps)]

5 How to use the Global Seasonal Climate Update

[…(remarks on the probabilistic nature of the GSCU), users to consult tailored regional and national climate outlooks …]

6 References

[…(Weblinks to specific educational material and forecasts) …]

7 Acknowledgements

[contributors]

Comment:
The entire GSCU should not exceed 6 pages.