

# WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION



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## WORKSHOP ON COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIP FOR ENHANCING THE BENEFITS OF WEATHER-, CLIMATE- AND WATER-RELATED SERVICES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN AFRICA

*(Cotonou, Benin, 9 -10 November 2011)*

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. The Least Developed Countries (LDCs) represent a special category of countries that are the poorest and most vulnerable segment of the international community. They are characterized by extreme poverty and inadequate institutional and productive capacity that limit their resilience to vulnerabilities. In May 2011, the Fourth United Nations Conference on the LDCs adopted the Istanbul Programme of Action for LDCs for the decade 2011-2020 (IPoA) whose overarching goal is to overcome the structural challenges faced by the least developed countries in order to eradicate poverty, achieve internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from the least developed country category.
2. Considering that weather-, climate- and water-related events and climate change have significant impacts on the socio-economic development of the LDCs, WMO and its global network of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) should have a major role to play in implementing the IPoA, through the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) and the decisions and initiatives of the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET), among others.
3. The WMO Executive Council at its sixtieth session in June 2008 stressed the importance of promoting a better understanding by decision makers and development partners, including government authorities, of the benefits that can be derived from the use of weather-, climate- and water-related services in socio-economic development, and the role that NMHSs of LDCs can play in this respect. It called upon NMHSs in the countries concerned to take appropriate initiatives to establish strategic partnerships with other government entities including National Focal Points of LDCs, development partners and other stakeholders at national, regional and international levels.
4. The Sixteenth World Meteorological Congress (Cg-XVI) in May 2011 decided to continue and enhance the WMO Programme for the Least Developed Countries in order to address the obstacles and constraints limiting National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in LDCs to provide relevant weather, water and climate information and services and support the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the LDCs for the decade 2011–2020.

5. It is within this context that WMO will organize a “Workshop on Coordination and Partnership for enhancing the benefits of weather-, climate- and water-related services in the development of LDCs in Africa” in Cotonou, Benin from 9 – 10 November 2011, in collaboration with the United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS).

## **OBJECTIVE**

6. The main objective of the workshop is to promote a better understanding of the contribution of weather-, climate- and water-related services to the socio-economic development of LDCs, particularly in the priority areas of action of the IPoA, including relevant productive capacity sectors; agriculture, food security and rural development, water and sanitation, gender equality and empowerment of women, climate change and environmental sustainability; and disaster risk reduction.

7. The workshop will also serve to:

- (a) Enhance coordination and establish strategic partnerships at the national and regional levels between National Focal Points of LDCs and Directors of NMHSs to better support the implementation of the IPoA, and
- (b) Share good practices and experiences in the beneficial use of meteorological and hydrological information, products and services in the socio-economic development of LDCs in Africa.

8. The workshop will consist of presentations and hands on experiences focusing on:

- (a) Overview of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the LDCs for the Decade 2011– 2020.
- (b) WMO and NMHSs contribution to the Millennium Development Goals.
- (c) Mainstreaming the Istanbul Programme of Action for the LDCs into the WMO and NMHSs work programmes
- (d) Continental and sub regional perspectives on the benefits of meteorological and hydrological information, products and services to socio-economic development
- (e) Practical ways towards strengthening partnership and cooperation for improved weather, climate and water service delivery in support of the relevant priority areas of action of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the LDCs.

9. The provisional programme of the workshop is attached.

## **PARTICIPANTS**

10. There will be two (2) participants from each country consisting of the National Focal point of LDCs and the Head of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Service.

## **EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

11. The workshop is expected to lead to:

- A better appreciation on the role that the NMHSs can play in the socio-economic development of the LDCs, particularly through the implementation of the WMO Programmes at national and regional level,
- Enhanced coordination and collaboration between National Focal Points of LDCs and Heads of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in the implementation of the various internationally agreed development goals and initiatives, in particular, the Istanbul Programme of Action for the LDCs for the decade 2011 – 2020.

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## *Provisional programme*

### **Wednesday, 9 November 2011**

08:00 – 09:00      Registration

#### **Opening**

- 09:00 – 09:45
- Welcoming remarks by the Permanent Representative with WMO
  - Statement by the High Representative of the UN Office for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS)
  - Statement by the Secretary-General of WMO
  - Opening statement by the Guest of Honour
  - Group photograph

09:45 – 10:00      ***Coffee Break***

#### **Session 1:                    Organization of the workshop**

10:00 – 10:05      Nomination of the chairperson and rapporteur

10:05 – 10:15      Workshop Perspectives (**WMO**)

#### **Session 2                    Mainstreaming weather, climate and water services into the socio-economic development of LDCs**

10:15 – 11:00      The Istanbul Programme of Action for the LDCs for the Decade 2011–2020; Overview and implementation process (**UN-OHRLLS**)

11:00 – 11:30      WMO and NMHSs contribution to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), particularly in the LDCs (**WMO**)

11:30 – 12:00      Mainstreaming the Istanbul Programme of Action for the LDCs into the WMO and NMHSs work programmes (**WMO**)

12:00 – 12:30      Benefits of meteorological and hydrological information, products and services to socio-economic development – Continental and sub regional perspectives (**ACMAD, ICPAC, AGRHYMET, SADC CSC**)

12:30 – 14:00      **Lunch**

14:00 – 14:30 Benefits of meteorological and hydrological information, products and services to socio-economic development – Continental and sub regional perspectives (**ACMAD, ICPAC, AGRHYMET, SADC CSC**)

14:30 – 15:30 Enhancing the contribution of NMHSs in support of the relevant priority areas of action of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the LDCs – Sharing experiences (**NMHSs, WMO**)

- Infrastructure
- Energy
- Tourism
- Agriculture, food security and rural development
- Water and sanitation
- Gender equality and empowerment of women
- Climate change and environmental sustainability
- Disaster risk reduction

**15:30 – 15:45** ***Coffee Break***

15.45 – 17:30 Enhancing the contribution of NMHSs in support of the relevant priority areas of action of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the LDCs – Sharing experiences (**NMHSs, WMO**)

- Infrastructure
- Energy
- Tourism
- Agriculture, food security and rural development
- Water and sanitation
- Gender equality and empowerment of women
- Climate change and environmental sustainability
- Disaster risk reduction

**Thursday, 10 November 2011**

**Session 3: Partnership for mainstreaming Weather, Climate and Water Services into development plans and strategies of LDCs**

9:30 – 10:45 National reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the LDCs with respect to issues related to weather, climate and water (**National Focal Points of LDCs**)

10:45 – 11:00 ***Coffee Break***

11:00 – 12:30	National reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the LDCs with respect to issues related to weather, climate and water <b>(National Focal Points of LDCs)</b>
12:30 – 14:00	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>Session 4:</b>	<b>Way forward</b>
14:00 - 15:00	Strengthening partnership and cooperation for improved weather, climate and water service delivery for the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action for the LDCs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Partnerships (Public institutions, Development partners and Private sector)</li> <li>• Technical cooperation including South-South Cooperation</li> </ul>
15:00 – 17:00	<b>Visit to the Met. Office</b>
17:00 – 17:30	<b>Session 5: Conclusions and recommendations</b>
17:30	Closing