

High-Level Taskforce on the Global Framework for Climate Services

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Establishment of the High-Level Taskforce on GFCS Secretariat

Early January 2010 a High-level Taskforce secretariat as a part of the Weather and Disaster risk reduction Services (WDS) Department was established. The role of the secretariat is to support the work of the Taskforce in all aspects and operates as a project led by the Director of WDS.

Intergovernmental Meeting

From the outcome of the World Climate Conference-3, the Secretary-General of WMO was requested to convene, within four months of adoption of the Declaration, an intergovernmental meeting of Members of WMO to approve the Terms of Reference (ToRs) and to endorse the composition of a taskforce of high-level, independent advisors appointed by the Secretary-General. The Intergovernmental meeting held in Geneva on 11-12 January 2010 approved the ToRs and endorsed the composition of the Taskforce which includes 14 high ranking members. The final report of this meeting with the ToRs and composition of the Taskforce is available at http://www.wmo.int/hlt-gfcs/documents/IGM_HLT_GFCS_Final_report_1061_en.pdf.

First meeting of the High-Level Taskforce on GFCS

The first meeting of the High-Level Taskforce was held in Geneva on 25-26 February with the participation of 11 members of the Taskforce. The meeting designated two Co-chairs for the Taskforce and these were Jan Egeland (Norway) and Mahmoud Abu-Zeid (Egypt). The Taskforce was briefed by the Secretary-General WMO on the current Global Climate Services especially the climate service components including observations, research, applications, development and service delivery. The Taskforce was also briefed on the outcomes of the World Climate Conference-3 with special emphasis on the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) as well as on the outcomes of the Intergovernmental meeting.

The Taskforce during its first meeting concentrated on discussing the overall work plan that would see it submitting its report to the WMO Secretary General in January 2011 for onward transmission to the WMO Sixteenth Congress in May 2011. The Taskforce discussed options for the structure of its report and the process through which this report would be prepared. It also considered a strategy to ensure that it hears the views of interested stakeholder groups in a way that meets its reporting needs. The Taskforce explored the possibility of using available opportunities for consultation through meetings, workshops and a web-based questionnaire to reach the widest possible stakeholder audience. The final report of this first meeting is available at http://www.wmo.int/hlt-gfcs/documents/HLT-1_Final_report.pdf. The second meeting of the Taskforce is scheduled from 24 to 26 May 2010 in Geneva.

Letters for call of input

Letters calling for input from Governments and UN Agencies have been sent to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of all WMO Member States and to Heads of UN Agencies. Copies of these letters are available at: http://www.wmo.int/pages/meetings/documents/MFA_English.pdf and http://www.wmo.int/hlt-gfcs/documents/UN_system.pdf

Contact:

The High-Level Taskforce Secretariat can be contacted through: hlt@wmo.int and information on the High-Level Taskforce and its work is available at: http://www.wmo.int/hlt-gfcs/index_en.html