

OBJECTIVES

The First Conference of Ministers Responsible for Meteorology in Africa will:

- Facilitate dialogue among African Ministers responsible for meteorology (Meteorological Services report to different ministries, including agriculture, environment and transport), with a view to achieving an understanding of challenges and opportunities for Meteorological Services in Africa and the contribution of these services to development and adaptation to climate variability and change;
- Create a high-level mechanism for Ministers responsible for meteorology in Africa to discuss policy, strategic matters and implementation plans related to meteorology and climate;
- Identify capacity-enhancement strategies for Meteorological and Hydrological Services to meet the challenges posed by climate variability and change;
- Promote the growth of observation systems to meet the development challenges and close the existing critical gaps;
- Promote the dialogue between users and providers of 'hydro-met' data, products and services.

VENUE

Kenyatta International Conference Centre, Harambee Avenue, Nairobi, Kenya

PARTICIPATION

Participation is by invitation only. Please contact the Secretariat for any questions concerning participation.

MEDIA

For information and accreditation please contact cpa@wmo.int.

EXHIBITION

A restricted number of booths are available. Please apply by sending a short description of your organization/company, including the issue to be displayed, to africaconf@wmo.int before 12 March 2010.

SIDE EVENTS

If your organization intends to hold a side event during the Conference, please apply by sending a one-page concept and draft programme of the event to africaconf@wmo.int. Applications are possible until 12 March 2010.

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THE FIRST CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR METEOROLOGY IN AFRICA

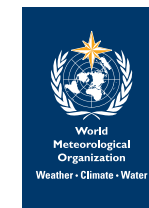
INVESTING IN WEATHER AND CLIMATE SERVICES FOR DEVELOPMENT

SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT

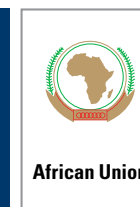
Climate variability and change are major threats limiting opportunities for sustainable development. It is projected that as the world experiences increased frequency of extreme weather, more people, particularly in Africa, will be exposed to recurrent disasters. Currently, droughts and floods are common problems affecting different parts of the region with devastating impacts on the people and the environment.

It is important to realize that in all these situations many negative effects can be reversed or minimized, if available weather and climate information provided by the National Weather and Climate Services is effectively used in decision-making and planning. Shared experience and vision on climate and climate change can dramatically improve livelihoods in Africa.

Africa has responded to the increased frequency of large-scale disaster events, and several governments, in collaboration with partners, have launched concerted efforts to address the challenges proactively. These have included the Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies, National Adaptation Programmes of Action, policies and mechanisms, as well as institutions and institutional support to reduce the potential impacts of disasters.



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**NAIROBI,
15–16 APRIL 2010
PREPARATORY
EXPERT SEGMENT
12–14 APRIL 2010**

The Conference will consist of an expert segment and a ministerial segment. During the first three days, experts and delegates will discuss in eight sessions the challenges Meteorological and Hydrological Services face and their potential contributions to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in Africa, the Strategic Plan of the African Union Commission, and also the drafting of national and regional sustainable development plans.

The ministerial segment will consider a Conference Statement, based on recommendations of the preparatory expert segment to maximize the potential of weather and climate information for socio-economic benefits and security, and a Declaration.

Session 1: Opening and Introduction

12 April at 9.30 a.m.

The preparatory expert segment of the Conference will begin at 9.30 a.m. on 12 April 2010 with a brief opening, followed by an introduction and two keynote speakers who will introduce the objectives of this segment.

Session 2: Meeting development needs

12 April at 11 a.m.

This session aims to give an overview of what has been done so far in terms of the provision of weather, water and climate services in Africa. Representatives of various sectors will share their experiences in working with existing meteorological and hydrological data, products and services and express their further needs. They also will envision strategies for the future.

Session 3: Benefits of meteorological, hydrological and climate services

12 April at 2.30 p.m.

Representatives of sectors will present case studies to illustrate the potential benefits of meteorological, hydrological and climate services, in particular to health, tourism, agriculture and energy. Gaps and needs are to be identified and solutions proposed.

Session 4: Disaster risk reduction

13 April at 9.30 a.m.

Through concrete cases from Africa and other regions, the session will: (i) demonstrate the importance of utilizing meteorological, hydrological and climate information and forecasts in areas of disaster risk assessment and risk reduction, including early warning systems and financial risk transfer (weather-indexed and catastrophe insurance); and (ii) identify gaps, needs and challenges

in strengthening meteorological, hydrological and climate information to support disaster risk management in Africa.

Session 5: Filling information gaps

13 April at 11 a.m.

Enhancing data availability and delivery of weather, water and climate products and services involves many challenges and opportunities that are to be debated in this session, such as filling gaps in observations, improving the quality of forecasts and predictions, and promoting interaction between users and providers of weather and water services.

Session 6: Capacity-building

13 April at 2.30 p.m.

Building capacity to generate and disseminate knowledge and to address capacity gaps demands collaborative efforts and long-term commitments. In addition to lessons learned, the session will explore potentials in interpreting, providing and using weather and climate information, as well as media, staff development and training.

Session 7: User perspectives

13 April at 4 p.m.

Representatives of communities, non-governmental organizations, media and other partners will elaborate in a panel discussion on their needs and expectations from weather and climate services and will propose how to improve linkages and interaction with the service providers.

Session 8: Enhancing partnerships

14 April at 9.30 a.m.

This session will focus on international and regional partnerships in applications and use of weather, water and climate services for development from a long-term and sustainable perspective.

Time	Preparatory Expert Segment			Ministerial Conference	
	Monday 12 April	Tuesday 13 April	Wednesday 14 April	Thursday 15 April	Friday 16 April
8.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m.	Registration				
9.30 a.m. to 11 a.m.	Session 1 Opening and Introduction	Session 4 Disaster risk reduction	Session 8 Enhancing partnerships	Arrival of Ministers Opening Ceremony	Statements of Ministers Consideration and adoption of the Conference Declaration
11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.	Session 2 Meeting development needs	Session 5 Filling data information gaps	Side meetings and finalization of the Conference Statement	Conference Overview and Objectives	
12.30 p.m. to 2.30 p.m.	Lunch break	Lunch break	Lunch break	Lunch break	Lunch break
2.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.	Session 3 Benefits of meteorological, hydrological and climate services	Session 6 Capacity- building	Side meetings and finalization of the Conference Statement	Keynote presentations	
4 p.m. to 5.30 p.m.		Session 7 User perspectives			