

MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR METEOROLOGY IN AFRICA

1. **We**, the Ministers and Heads of Delegation participating in the Ministerial Segment of the First Conference of Ministers Responsible for Meteorology in Africa held in Nairobi, Kenya on 15 and 16 April 2010:
2. **Noting** the increasing risks and threats to sustainable development associated with disasters of which 90% are due to or aggravated by meteorological or hydrological extreme events and that African countries are facing multi-faceted challenges of climate variability and change that require, among others, decision-making based on scientifically sound data and information by governments and communities in order to develop adaptation strategies and action plans as part of the ongoing development processes and policies at national, sub-regional and continental level;
3. **Recognizing** that weather and climate information, services and products are of key importance for supporting climate-sensitive social and economic development sectors, including in particular health; agriculture and food security; transport; disaster risk reduction; natural resource management and environmental protection; water resource management and development; energy generation and distribution;
4. **Noting** the gaps in operational observation and telecommunication networks, including maritime networks and their negative impact on the reliability of weather and climate information and services, and in view of the need to collectively address this situation to enable the National Meteorological Services in Africa to fulfill their national, regional and international mandates:
5. **Considering** that weather and climate patterns recognize no boundaries and that no one nation can be entirely self-sufficient in the production of all its meteorological and climate services and the urgent need to work jointly and in synergy to contribute effectively and efficiently to the development of our countries, by exploiting the full potential of meteorology and related sciences;

6. **Taking into account** the African Union Summit Decision on climate change and development, adopted by the 8th General Assembly in 2007 whereupon the Assembly expressed strong concerns about the vulnerability of Africa's socio-economic sectors and productive systems to climate variability and change and further noting that African countries demonstrably require additional resources for adaptation towards meeting the Millennium Development Goals;
7. **Referring to** Resolution 26 of World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Congress XIII in 1999 on the Role and Operation of Meteorological Services which urges WMO Members to mandate the National Meteorological Services as the official voice in issuing weather warnings for public safety to help minimize risks to the health and safety of citizens as well as the primary national authority and official source of information and policy advice on the present and future state of the atmosphere and other aspects of national weather and climate, in support of policy development and the need to meet national, regional and international responsibilities in the effective implementation of the WMO programmes;
8. **Recognizing** the support provided to National Meteorological and Hydrological Services by the sub-regional and regional institutions, including the African Centre for Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD), the Center for Training, Research and Applications of Agrometeorology and Operational Hydrology (AGRHYMET) the specialized institution of CILSS, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Drought Monitoring Centre (DMC) and the WMO Regional Training Centres in Africa.
9. **Recognizing** the need to ensure that all sub regions are adequately served by their subregional institutions on meteorology and climate services:
10. **Recognizing** the importance of programmes in Africa such as ClimDev Africa which is focused on climate observations: the African Monitoring of the Environment for Sustainable Development (AMESD) based on satellite observations and the African Early Warning and Climate Services (AEWACS), and particularly the support of the African Development Bank, UN Economic Commission for Africa, and the African Union;

11. **Recognizing** the socioeconomic benefits achieved in the use of meteorological information in various sectors in Africa such as agriculture, health, water resources;
12. **Noting** with appreciation that the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), in collaboration with other UN System organizations, regional and subregional institutions and development partners, is assisting African countries to benefit from the scientific and technological progress made over the recent years, including access to satellite meteorological information to develop meteorological and climate products and services to support national and regional development planning, policy and programmes;
13. **Considering** the stringent and urgent requirements of the aviation sector for recommended and standard practices and the availability and provision of quality information to ensure safety of international air navigation;
14. **Recalling** the decision to establish a Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) made by the Heads of State and Government, Ministers and Heads of Delegation at the High-level segment of the World Climate Conference-3 held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 31 August to 4 September 2009, and;
15. **Having considered** the conclusions of the Expert Segment of the Ministerial Conference held in Nairobi from 12 to 14 April 2010, in particular its analysis of successful applications of weather, water and climate information, products and services to various sectors of social and economic development including for Disaster Risk Reduction and the recommendations on current and future programmes, projects and activities;

Commit ourselves to:

1. Strengthen and sustain National Meteorological Services by providing them with all necessary resources and adequate institutional frameworks to enable them to fully perform their roles as a fundamental component of the national development infrastructure of our countries and of the continent and a contributor to security and sustainable development, particularly poverty reduction efforts and climate change adaptation;

2. Take all necessary steps to ensure that African National Meteorological Services meet the ICAO requirements regarding Quality Management Systems (QMS) by November 2012.

Agree to:

3. Establish the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET) as a high-level mechanism for the development of meteorology and its applications:
4. Designate during this Conference a Task Force composed of five Ministers, representing the five sub-regions of Africa, one of which will be nominated the chairperson, to spell out the institutional framework and internal arrangements of AMCOMET with WMO as the Secretariat with the support of AU. The Task Force should submit a proposal to the second session of AMCOMET which should meet regularly and at least every two years;
5. Take the necessary measures within a short period to develop, an African Strategy for enhancing cooperation between African countries to strengthen the capabilities of their National Meteorological Services and existing Regional and Sub-regional climate centers in Africa. so as to effectively meet government and societal needs and requirements for weather and **climate** information and services, taking into account the statement of the expert segment of the Ministerial Conference held in Nairobi from 12 to 14 April 2010 and the planning for the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS);
6. To establish with the support of WMO and partners a subregional structure for climate monitoring and adaptation to climate change for sustainable development in Central Africa;
7. Involve the technical and financial partners, the international community and the United Nations system and its agencies to support AMCOMET and the preparation and the implementation of the African Strategy;
8. Ensure that African National Meteorological Services and Regional and sub-regional centers have access to the Copenhagen Green Fund for Climate Change through the African Development Bank and other mechanisms;

9. Ensure that NMS benefit from cost recovery with respect to aeronautical and maritime meteorological services and other mechanisms;
10. Invite WMO to take note of this Declaration and bring it to the attention of the sixty second session of the Executive Council, fifteenth session of the WMO Regional Association for Africa and the Sixteenth WMO Congress and to take appropriate measures;
11. Invite the African Union Commission to take note of this Declaration, to bring it to the attention of its next Summit and take appropriate measures.