

Opening Remarks at the Joint CR4D SAC and ICP Meeting 24-25 September 2021, Dakar, Senegal

I would like to thank the Climate Research for Development (CR4D) Secretariat under the African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) of UNECA for organizing this meeting and invitation me to attend and to discuss the CR4D 5-year strategy and implementation plan in collaboration with the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and the Institutional Collaboration Platform (ICP). Through the Director of the RAF Office, I would also like to thank the Government of Senegal through the Permanent Representative (PR) of the country with WMO for hosting this meeting in this scenic and beautiful City of Dakar and in a good hotel with excellent facilities.

I am a member of the Oversight Board (OB) of the CR4D as constituted when it was established through the joint efforts and collaboration of ACPC/UNECA, WMO, GFCS, WCRP and AMCOMET which in itself is a product of AUC and WMO.

The Oversight Board (OB) oversees the functions and operations of the CR4D Secretariat, the SAC and ICP and can provide some advice to ensure proper collaboration in accordance with the established governance structure.

The Global Framework of Climate Services (GFCS) established by WMO in collaboration with other “UN System Organizations acting as one on Climate Knowledge” still supports the work of CR4D, especially under the its Strategic Pillar 4 on “Research Modelling and Prediction” and the overarching Strategic Pillar 5 on “Capacity Development” of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs). The World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) as well as the WMO Research Board (RB), WMO Scientific Advisory Panel (SAP), the WMO Department of Research and Innovation (R&I), all maintain strong support for CR4D and seek collaboration, in particular with research communities in Least Developing Countries (LDCs).

- As concerns research in Africa from the WMO regional perspective, several people have asked if Regional Association I (RAI-Africa) Strategy exists, and were referred to the AMCOMET Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology (weather water and climate services), which is an infusion of the RAI Strategy and includes all that needs to be done for the development of meteorology in Africa including the Infrastructure, Services and Service Delivery (in weather, climate, and water) as well as Human Capacity Development, Research and Innovation.
- The revision of AMCOMET Integrated African Strategy recently took place, and now has Data, Infrastructure, Research, Innovation and Capacity Development as well as Partnerships with Academia, Private Sector and Civil Societies as Strategic Pillars. These are fundamental to the development of any product tailored to users.
- The AMCOMET Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology (Weather and Climate Services) has been validated by the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and endorsed by the AMCOMET Bureau and the 5th Session.
- The AMCOMET Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology will be submitted to the African Union Specialized Technical Committee (AU STC) on Agriculture Rural Development Water and Environment (ARDWE) for endorsement and submission to the Summit of Heads of State and Government for approval.
- There is need for collaborative efforts in coordination within all stakeholders including NMHSs for the development of weather, water, climate and climate change services, for an effective impact to end-users

Applied research (or climate research for service as well as Climate research for policy) and capacity development initiatives will be essential for CR4D in collaboration with Academia and similar related Institutions in ICP to provide an integrated service and to undertake effective outreach programmes in all countries. The SAC would help CR4D and ICP in devising endeavours that demonstrate socio-economic benefits of services from NMHS how this could be realized through a complete climate information value chain approach with focus on key sectors impacted by weather and climate. Its hoped that this will be an integral part of the CR4D Strategy and Action Plan.

Kind regards,

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