

# **ALLIANCE FOR HYDROMET DEVELOPMENT**

Uniting our efforts to close the capacity gap on high-quality weather forecasts, early warning systems, and climate information as the foundation for resilient and sustainable development

## **Declaration**

Madrid, 10 December 2019

We,

International development, humanitarian and financial institutions providing assistance to developing countries, jointly with the World Meteorological Organization and the World Bank, are herewith creating the Alliance for Hydromet Development.

As members of the Alliance, we are resolved to scale up and unite our efforts to achieve the common goal of closing the hydromet capacity gap on weather, climate, hydrological, and related environmental services by 2030. The Alliance aims to increase effectiveness and sustainability of hydromet investments through collective action.

We recognize with urgency the mounting impacts of climate change especially on the world's poorest and most vulnerable countries, and we note with concern that many developing countries are facing major capacity constraints to provide hydromet services as the foundation for resilient and sustainable development.

As members of the Alliance, we act within our respective resources and mandates and forge a collaborative partnership which recognizes and leverages our respective competencies and expertise.

We commit to the following actions to close the hydromet capacity gap by 2030:

#### **Article 1: Improving systematic observations for better data**

**We acknowledge** that the principles of the Paris Agreement, adopted by countries with which we work, include a call for cooperation and enhanced action on systematic observation of the climate system, and that any weather forecast, early warnings and climate analysis depend on continued access to a robust and reliable supply of observational data from the entire globe.

**We note** with urgency that today important data are missing from many developing countries, and that this lack of observational data significantly limits the ability to produce timely and accurate forecasts, early warnings, and climate prediction.

**We commit** to strengthening the capacity of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services for sustained operation of observational systems and data exchange that meet WMO standards for minimum monitoring coverage and reporting frequency.

**We commit** to seeking innovative ways to finance developing country surface-based observations, aiming at the creation of a Systematic Observations Financing Facility that recognizes the economic value of observations as a global public good.

## **Article 2: Enhancing support for better adaptation, mitigation and resilience**

**We acknowledge** that around the world, individuals, communities and countries are facing the impacts of a changing climate and that the Paris Agreement, adopted by countries with which we work, calls to strengthen scientific knowledge on climate in a manner that informs climate services and supports decision making.

**We note** the extensive body of knowledge developed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and other bodies, including the Global Framework for Climate Services, and the need to downscale this knowledge for science-based decision making at national and sub-national scales.

**We commit** to strengthening national capacity for science-based and effective mitigation action, including by promoting global greenhouse gas information systems which are based on atmospheric observations and analysis.

**We commit** to strengthening the capacity of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and other relevant national institutions to provide meteorological, climatological and hydrological information for science-based national and sub-national adaptation planning and impact-based forecasting.

**We commit** to working towards common standards for climate-proofing investments in key sectors, built on best available science and identified sectoral needs.

## **Article 3: Strengthening early warning systems for improved disaster risk management**

**We recognize** the goal of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction that many of the countries with which we work have adopted, to increase preparedness for response and recovery and the target to substantially increase availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems.

**We commit** to promoting coherent and science-based multi-hazard national early warning systems, comprising better risk information, forecasting capabilities, warning dissemination, and anticipatory response mechanisms, taking advantage of the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems Initiative.

## **Article 4: Boosting investments for better effectiveness and sustainability**

**We embrace** the principles of effective development cooperation, such as country ownership, focus on results, inclusive partnerships, and mutual accountability, reflected in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development.

**We commit** to fostering programmatic approaches that go beyond individual projects, including systematically strengthening the Integrated Global Observing System as the backbone for better forecasts, early warning systems and climate information.

**We commit** to leveraging financial resources and expertise from the private sector by exploiting financially viable business models that provide sustainable solutions for modernizing hydromet infrastructure and enhancing services in developing countries.

**We commit** to underpinning development and climate finance with the best technical expertise, including by taking advantage of the Country Support Initiative and its expertise and knowledge from the WMO institutional network.

**We commit** to tracking progress on closing the capacity gap by 2030 through a joint regular Hydromet Gap flagship report, issued by the Alliance. The reports will include benchmarking of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and facilitate knowledge generation, learning, and innovation.

#### **Article 5: Accountability**

As members of the Alliance, we hold ourselves accountable to act on our commitments.

#### **Article 6: Membership**

The Alliance for Hydromet Development represents the individual commitments of each of our institutions.

The actions of the Alliance to close the hydromet capacity gap are guided by the principles set out in various United Nations agreements, including the Sustainable Development Goals under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

The Alliance is open for membership to all public international development, humanitarian and financial institutions providing assistance to strengthening developing countries' hydromet capacity.

The Alliance does not require additional funding from its members for its functioning.

#### **Article 7: Secretariat**

The World Meteorological Organization provides the Secretariat function for the Alliance that facilitates communication, knowledge sharing, and manages the registry of Alliance members.