

Submission in follow-up to HRC resolution 24/4 “The Right to Development”

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Items No 1 a) g) h)

WMO does not have a specific human rights mandate. However, within the context of its mandate to *contribute to the safety and welfare of humanity through the monitoring and understanding and prediction of weather, climate and water*, the fulfillment of human rights and development are fundamental outcomes.

Using the requirements identified by the UN Declaration on the Right to Development in conjunction with i) the Draft Right to Development criteria and operation sub-criteria in document A/HRC/15/WG.2/TF/2/Add.2 and ii) the Draft Review Paper Sub Criteria of May 17, 2013, following the 14th Session of the Working Group on the Right to Development, WMO’s contribution may be developed based on, *inter alia*, the following attributes:

Attribute 1 - Comprehensive and human-centered policy development

1 a) iii) Housing and water – access to improved drinking water and sanitation

Timely, accurate and comprehensive information about the state and distribution of water resources forms the basis for effective water resources management. It underpins wise decision making, especially with respect to improved drinking water and sanitation. Agenda 21 (UN, 1993), the blueprint for sustainable development, recognizes that the monitoring and assessment of water resources, in terms of both quantity and quality, require adequate meteorological, hydrological and other related data. Also, the 2012 World Water Forum reaffirmed the 2005 World Summit’s call for assistance to developing countries’ efforts to prepare Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and water efficiency plans as part of their national development strategies. WMO’s role is in the development and maintenance of the activities of National Hydrological Services for the provision of data and products with an emphasis on quality assurance. It supports the effective use of hydrological data and information in support of sustainable socio-economic development.

At various levels, information on components of the water cycle and water resources availability contributes substantially to various aspects of sustainable development and the generation of prosperity. Such information supports poverty alleviation, enhanced flood forecasting and drought prediction, increased agricultural development and productivity, as well as improved land-management practices, fisheries management, energy production, and human and ecosystem health.

1 g) To promote and ensure access to the benefits of science and technology: v) Development co-operation for green technologies

Green technologies, especially as they relate to reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, can be made more efficient and effective through better accounting for environmental parameters, including atmospheric variables such as temperature, humidity and wind speed. In addition, anticipating the evolution of such parameters can help with choosing the best system or combination of systems, when such a choice is feasible.

By contributing to the sharing of observation and forecast data and products worldwide, and by enabling the National Meteorological and Hydrometeorological Services of its Members to produce and access such information, WMO contributes to a better use of green technologies.

1 h) To promote and ensure environmental sustainability and sustainable use of resources

i) Prevent environmental degradation and resource depletion-ratification of environmental conventions, consumption of ozone-depleting substances

The Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and its Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer are recognized as the most successful of all multilateral environmental agreements: the number of ratifications represents they have received is a record in the history of the United Nations, and they have reduced approximately 97% of the global use of ozone-depleting substances.

WMO plays an essential role in coordinating observations of and research on the ozone layer. Thanks to a global network of ozone-monitoring stations and satellites, WMO is able to issue bulletins on the state of the Antarctic ozone layer at two-week intervals from August to November every year.

With UNEP, WMO organizes periodic meetings for the Ozone Research Managers of the Parties to the Vienna Convention. Every four years, in cooperation with UNEP, NASA, NOAA and the European Commission, WMO publishes the Scientific Assessments of Ozone Depletion. This is the information upon which the Parties to the Vienna Convention base their decisions regarding the protection of the stratospheric ozone layer.

iii) Sustainable energy policies and practices

Climate and energy are intrinsically entwined. The climate drives our need for energy for many purposes, including, but not restricted to, heating and cooling, transport, agriculture and production. Also, especially with respect to renewable energy, climate plays a major role in determining the availability and amounts of energy that can be generated. For other parts of the energy sector, climate is also important in the design and operation of infrastructure that supports the energy industry, for example, transmission lines, nuclear power plants, dams in support of hydro-power generation and others. The availability of energy is arguably one of the key factors in our future sustainable development.

The Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), a UN-led initiative spearheaded by WMO, seeks to enable society to better manage the risks and opportunities arising from climate variability and change, especially for those who are most vulnerable to such risks. This will be achieved through the development and incorporation of science-based climate information and prediction into planning, policy and practice. The greatest value of the GFCS will be realized incrementally through the delivery of a multitude of climate services at national and local levels.

In general terms, it may also be noted that, with respect to the basic requirement of fairly distributing the benefits of development, some consideration may be given to the differences between the exposure of different regions to natural disasters of climatological, meteorological and hydrological origins. Climate services have the potential to promote equity and green growth in the context of climate change. A contribution by the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) could be relevant in this area of debate. The GFCS will enable access to information that will support science-based decision-making that empowers governments, communities and the private sector to build climate resilience, reduce vulnerabilities, adapt to impacts from climate variability and change, and implement major development agendas.

Criterion 2 (c): To ensure non-discrimination, access to information, participation and effective remedies:

ii) Establishment of a framework to facilitate participation

WMO facilitates the free and unrestricted exchange of data and information, products and services in real- or near-real time on matters relating to the safety and security of society, economic welfare and the protection of the environment. Through *Resolution 40 (Cg XII) – WMO policy and practice for the exchange of meteorological and related data and products including guidelines on relationships in commercial meteorological activities*, WMO has developed policies and practices for the exchange of meteorological and related data and products, including guidelines on relationships. These policies and practices enable Members and their respective populations to gain unrestricted access to data and information that are disseminated in a non-discriminatory way.

In a similar manner, *Resolution 25, (Cg-XIII) – Exchange of hydrological data and products*, provides guidance on free and unrestricted access to hydrological data and products which are necessary for the provision of services that support the protection of life and property and the well-being of all peoples.

Developing the capacity to collect data for generating information and facilitating autonomy in decision-making is another relevant component of establishing a framework to facilitate participation. In this respect, WMO's Capacity Development Strategy seeks to foster effective capacity development assistance to WMO Members and to develop the human resources capacity of meteorological, climatological and hydrological institutions, particularly in developing countries, Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island

Developing States (SIDS). The Strategy also addresses the area of optimizing knowledge management, where strategic approaches will include enhancing mechanisms for collecting and sharing up-to-date information relating to the development of meteorological and hydrological services.

Facilitating participation through non-discrimination is also addressed through WMO's promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women at all WMO governance levels. Gender mainstreaming has become a standing item on the agenda of the World Meteorological Congress and WMO's Executive Council. The Congress adopted the WMO Policy on Gender Mainstreaming and an accompanying Framework for Action, which provides guidance and direction to Members on gender-sensitive actions in the areas of governance, employment, service delivery, and monitoring and evaluation. The Council created the Executive Council Advisory Panel of Experts on Gender Mainstreaming to oversee, and advise and report on, the implementation of gender mainstreaming activities at all levels of WMO.

The fruits of these actions at the governance level are manifest in the large number of resolutions adopted on the subject by WMO constituent bodies. As of September 2013, six out of eight WMO technical commissions and two out of six regional associations have adopted resolutions on the participation of women in their work.

As an additional push in this regard, the WMO Executive Council urged Members at its last session in June 2013 to nominate female candidates to the working structures of the WMO constituent bodies and to compile statistics on the participation of men and women in their work. The rationale behind this call is that the adopted resolutions will only be effective if Members nominate more female candidates to these structures.

At the programme level, gender is among the selection criteria of the WMO Fellowship Committee, which pays particular attention to female candidates, especially from developing countries. Some fellowship agreements are specifically targeted at educating women meteorologists. For example, the Ewha Womans University in the Republic of Korea provides, through WMO, up to two scholarships per year for study in its Master's programme.

Criterion 2 (d): To promote good governance at the international level and effective participation of all countries in international decision-making

ii) Genuine participation of all concerned in international and decision-making

Upon request, WMO facilitates the provision of financial assistance to LDCs and developing countries to attend technical meetings, thereby seeking to enable effective participation of all WMO Members in relevant decision-making processes. In addition, the Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services (IBCS), which oversees the overall management, development and implementation of the UN-led Global Framework for

Climate Services (GFCS)¹, provides for the participation of one delegate from each developing country and country with economy in transition, to be supported from the GFCS trust fund, upon request, subject to the availability of funds.

Criterion 3 a) To provide for fair access to and the sharing of the benefits of development

ii) Equality of access to resources and public goods

In seeking to ensure equal access to resources and public goods, whereby weather, climate and water services may be recognized as key public goods, the Global Framework on Climate Services (GFCS) has the potential to promote equity and green growth in the context of the climate change debate. The GFCS enables access to information that will support science-based decision-making. It empowers governments, communities and the private sector to build climate resilience, reduce vulnerabilities, adapt to impacts from climate variability and change, and implement major development agendas. WMO also provides technical guidance and capacity building with respect to the provision of weather, climate and water-related products and services that are essential to national infrastructure development. This guidance draws heavily from the knowledge and experience gained through the collection and analysis of historical data and information.

The reference to WMO facilitation to the free and unrestricted exchange of data and information, products and services in 2 (c) ii) above, is equally relevant here.

¹ Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS): a UN-led partnership of governments and organizations that produce and use climate information and services. More information on this initiative may be found at <http://www.gfcs-climate.org>