

Statement by World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
15th session of the Working Group on the Right to development
12-16 May 2014

Chairperson,
Ms Pillay, High Commissioner for Human Rights,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for giving me the floor on the behalf of the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization, Mr Jarraud.

The right of access to information, in a non-discriminatory way, the provision of citizens' participation in decision-making concerning the environment and climate are clearly fundamental components of the right to development. To ensure full global opportunities for development we must also deal with climate change.

It is with great interest and hope that we see that some countries have recently recognized the importance of addressing climate change in their constitutions.¹

To contribute to a climate-smart economy, to become more resilient to weather extremes, we need to be able to access and make use of scientific information and predictions, factoring it into planning, policy and practice and avoid that impacts from climate change and natural disasters offset development gains.

Since its creation, the World Meteorological Organization facilitates the free and unrestricted exchange of data and information, products and services in

¹ Reference to "climate" in Ecuador 2008, Venezuela 1999/2009, Dominican Republic 2010, Sri Lanka 1978/2010 and Tunisia 2014; reference to "climate change" in Ecuador 2008 and Dominican Republic 2010.

real or near-real time for the safety and security of society, economic welfare and the protection of the environment.

This approach is embedded in WMO resolutions, policies and practices for the exchange of meteorological and hydrological data.

With the launch of the Global Framework for Climate Services, WMO and its partners seek to enable society to better manage the risks and opportunities arising from climate variability and change. Climate services have the potential to promote equity and green growth in the context of climate change.

To this end, sharing of and access to data is essential and WMO is working towards the adoption of a new resolution that will facilitate the international exchange of climate data and products.

I wish to add that WMO is also supporting initiatives for the recovery of historical climate data from different regions of the world, which are very important for the assessment of long-term climate trends. In many cases, these data were collected by past colonial institutions and WMO assists in recovering the heritage of such data for empowering vulnerable countries with long-term climate information, aggregating the necessary capacity building component.

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate that WMO, in the context of its specific mandate, contributes to the fulfillment of human rights by improving safety of society from weather, climate and water hazards.

Thank you for your attention.
