



AMCOMET – Africa Hydromet Forum Communiqué

**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
15 September 2017**

We, the Ministers Responsible for Meteorology, Hydrology and Disaster Risk Management in Africa, who are also Heads of Delegations to the **African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET) – Africa Hydromet Forum**, convened from 12 to 15 September 2017 in Addis Ababa, hosted by the African Union Commission and the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia;

Acknowledging that AMCOMET, an inter-governmental body that is politically recognized and endorsed by the African Union Heads of State and Government, is the high-level coordination platform where programs to support sustainable development are harmonized in collaboration with partners; **further acknowledging** that AMCOMET acts on the priorities identified in the Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology (Weather and Climate Services) endorsed by the African Union;

Recalling the Africa Hydromet Program Partnership between the World Bank Group, World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and the African Development Bank (AFDB) launched on 1 June 2015 (and subsequently expanded to include United Nations Development Programme and Agence de Française Développement), which establishes a collaborative framework to strengthen climate and disaster resilience by enhancing regional and national meteorological and hydrological centers and services in Africa;

Recognizing the comparative advantages, mandates and capacities of the Africa Hydromet Program partners; who collectively aim to promote and support the production, delivery and shared utilization of weather, water and climate services for sustainable solutions that reduce extreme poverty and build shared prosperity, through promotion of sustainable development and building climate resilience of communities and economies to cope with the impacts of climate change in Africa;

Taking into consideration the agreed upon Guiding Principles with regards to the Africa Hydromet Program which states that the partners align their interventions to allow maximum outreach, maximize synergies and reduce implementation complexity and transaction and operation costs, including maintenance charges; and that hydromet modernization programs at regional and national levels will be informed by user needs and implemented in a comprehensive manner through local, national and regional authorities to foster country leadership and ownership, including engagement of key stakeholders and end-users; and that hydromet modernization will remain service delivery oriented;

Further recognizing that

80% of disasters are caused by severe weather and climate events, while the loss of human life due to weather related disasters has markedly decreased in recent years, the economic losses have dramatically increased;

Economic cost of recorded weather related disasters in Africa in the last 20 years is estimated at US\$10 billion¹, a minimum figure given widespread under-reporting of losses; these events can reduce the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of a country by 10% - 20%, not only derailing economic development but also reversing economic gains;

¹ http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/PAND_report.pdf



The 2015 Lancet Commission on Health and Climate Change was unequivocal that “Climate change has the potential to undermine the last 50 years of progress in public health and development”;

Hydromet (weather, water and climate) services are transboundary and multi-disciplinary, essential to socio-economic development in Africa; there is increasing demand for customized weather, water and climate services to build resilience in communities and economies;

Africa has the least developed observation network, with only 1/8 of the required density and less than 300 weather stations that meet WMO observation standards;

Modernizing hydromet systems and integrating them with advanced Numerical Weather Prediction techniques will bring Africa to further innovation and enable better response to user needs; targeted capacity building for national meteorological and hydrological services for improved provision of tailored services are crucial for sustainable development;

A user oriented approach focused on service delivery and the last-mile connectivity is central to the provision of weather, water and climate services; it is key that all the stakeholders across the value chain are engaged to bridge the gap between the producers and users of climate services; and

Public Private Partnerships have a key role to play in all aspects of hydromet services in collaboration with national agencies; these partnerships must aim to create holistic value and provide “win-win” solutions for innovation and growth in helping solve socio-economic challenges; private sector participation must also aim to enhance longer-term sustainability of hydromet systems and services through cost- and revenue-sharing arrangements over time.

Acknowledging that investment in modernizing and integrating hydromet systems improves weather and climate services that save lives and property, minimize economic losses, preserve the natural environment and stimulate economic growth and development;

Recognizing the particular vulnerabilities and risks of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), **request** the AUC and development partners to give special consideration towards upgrading the capacity of the meteorological services of SIDS;

Noting the importance of hydromet services for economic development and for meeting the objectives of the Africa Agenda 2063, the Sustainable Development Goals, Africa Programme of Action for the Implementation of Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) for Nationally Determined Contributions of African countries;

Having considered the extensive discussions and proposed recommendations of international and regional high-level experts who participated at the **AMCOMET – Africa Hydromet Forum**, from 12 to 15 September 2017; and **further considering** the decisions taken by the Third AMCOMET Ministerial Bureau Meeting, which took place on 14 September 2017;

Urge Development Partners, including the World Bank, the African Development Bank, and other relevant partners, to scale up support for the modernization of hydromet systems, according to the needs and priorities expressed by Member States and to mobilize all available resources for the capacity building, technological upgrade and service delivery needs of the hydromet services; and, to facilitate the promotion of south-south and north-south cooperation for knowledge exchange and capacity development, including voluntary twinning arrangements among national and regional hydromet services;

Call for further support from our governments to ensure that National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) have the necessary financial and human resources, capacity and legislative/policy framework to provide timely, reliable and efficient hydromet services to underpin sustainable and resilient development of all sectors of the economy and all segments of society;

Commit to and **reaffirm our support** to promote national and regional ownership for the modernization of national meteorological and hydrological services for delivery of more accurate, timely and reliable weather, water and climate services to accelerate socio-economic development, and strengthen climate and disaster resilience; further commit to ensuring that the modernization

of hydromet services is included as among the priorities in respective National Action Plans; and, commit to work within our respective governments to ensure sustained resourcing of this modernization program.

Requests H.E. Josefa Lionel Sacko, African Union Commissioner of Rural Economy and Agriculture, to bring this Communiqué, with AMCOMET, to the AU Heads of State and Government for endorsement;

Requests AMCOMET, the African Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW), African Ministerial Conference on Environment (AMCEN), Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI) and ClimDev Africa Partners, to develop an integrated approach to advance our common objectives of ensuring adequate funding for meteorological and hydrological services from domestic budgetary as well as externally financed sources, and to jointly bring this Communiqué to the attention of Annual Meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration;

PRESENTS this Communiqué to show our political will and collective commitment to support the development of sustainable weather, water and climate, services in Africa fully taking into account national development priorities, regional and global meteorological strategies and other relevant frameworks.

Communiqué made in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 15 September 2017