

**Minister Edna Molewa's Welcome address during the High Level meeting on the  
Global Framework for Climate Services**

**Kopanong Conference Centre, Benoni, South Africa**

**7<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

Honourable African Union Commissioner, Ms. Rhoda Peace Tumusiime

Dep Ambassador of the European Delegation to South Africa, Mrs Sofia Moreira  
de Sousa

Heads of Regional Economic Communities in Africa

Representative of the ACP Secretariat

Representatives of AMCOMET

Deputy Secretary General of WMO

Director General of EUMETSAT

Heads of International Organizations and our Partners

CEO of the South African Weather Service and IBCS Co-Vice Chairperson

Directors of National Meteorological Services

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please allow me to extend a warm South African welcome to you all and thank you for coming. We are indeed excited to have you here within our midst as we jointly make efforts to combat the devastating effects of climate change and variability. Our fight in Africa to combat poverty, underdevelopment and natural disasters remains prime. Weather and Climate-related natural disasters continue to reverse the development progress on our continent. This is the reason why the African Ministers Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET) was established in

April 2010 to foster a high level mechanism for the development of meteorology and its applications in Africa.

The Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) is certainly an appropriate global tool for coordinated actions to enhance climate services. This is in order to benefit Disaster Risk Management, Water Resources Management, Agriculture & Food Security and Health. The development of climate services is critical for our fight against poverty and efforts to combat the adverse effect of natural disasters that continue to oppose the development gains of our continent.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is therefore no surprise that the Addis Ababa Declaration expressed the commitment of African representatives to the implementation of the GFCS in Africa. This has also been in line with the stance of the African Ministers Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET) on the implementation of the GFCS in Africa. We are here today to restate this unflinching commitment but with an emphasis on action in order to speedily address this pressing challenge of climate change and variability.

Distinguished guests,

I will not do justice if I do not point out the importance of Partnerships. The problem we are facing is enormous and of global proportion. No single country or region can work alone effectively to deal with the challenge of climate change and variability. It is for this reason that we value the international cooperation which exists amongst the nations and their institutions, with the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), with EUMETSAT and many other international parties. It is also for this reason that we call upon the African-Caribbean-Pacific Secretariat (ACP) and the African Union Commission (AUC) to facilitate actions towards the European Union to secure the 11<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund (EDF) for an ACP-GFCS project.

Finally, distinguished guests I would like to point out key components that require our utmost attention as we look into the implementation of the GFCS. These include:

- Infrastructure development- to expand our observations networks, conduct maintenance & repair of equipment and enhance data telecommunications;
- Capacity building- focusing on building competent and independent personnel and experts to handle latest technology, research and develop meteorological applications for key socio-economic sectors; and
- Technology transfer- sharing and use of latest technology and prediction tools

With these few words, I welcome you once more ladies and gentlemen to South Africa and trust that we will have fruitful discussions that will lead to strong partnerships and tangible results in the not too distant future.

I know that most of you have just arrived today. The programme is designed to be short and concise in order to allow you enough time to rest in preparation for the Forum meeting which follows for the whole coming week.

I thank you.