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Talking Points

By

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African Union Commission**

**Bilateral Meeting with Prof. Celeste Saulo, Secretary-General
of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**

Venue: Belem, Brazil (UNFCCC COP 30)

12 November 2025

13:30, Room TBC

I. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

1. I would like to welcome you and your delegation and convey the warm greetings from the Chairperson of the African Union Commission.
2. If I am not mistaken, this is our first meeting since both of us took our respective offices.
3. This meeting is happening at an appropriate time when I, as the African Union Commissioner for Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment, is sharing our vision for the next four years and beyond.
4. I understand you also, as Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), are also engaged in implementing critical reforms of your organization. I believe Africa stands to benefit more through the reforms.
5. Sincerely, the African Union Commission (AUC) is grateful for the partnership and collaboration between the AUC and WMO.
6. The AUC-WMO collaboration plays a critical role in enhancing member States' critical capacities for the realization of aspirations of Agenda 2063 as well as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

II. SPECIFIC HIGHLIGHTS ON ACHIEVEMENTS

7. Through the AUC-WMO collaboration, Africa has managed to realize a number of milestones, including:
 - (i) Finalization of the review of the Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology (Weather and Climate Services), resulting in its adoption by the Assembly of African Union Heads of State and Government in February 2022
 - (ii) Preparation of the Implementation and Resource Mobilization Plans for the Meteorology Strategy
 - (iii) Provision of support to member States in the development of their National Policies and Action Plans on Meteorology
 - (iv) Preparation of the Early Warning for All Action Plan for Africa 2023-2027
 - (v) Facilitating the work of the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET), where WMO serves as Secretariat
 - (vi) Initiating and regularly producing the Annual Africa State of Climate Report

III. CHALLENGES

8. Despite the achievements, challenges requiring our unified action still remain. Some of these include
 - (i) Addressing Africa's vulnerability to the negative impacts of climate change, which undermining efforts to achieve the goals of Agenda 2063 and SDGs.
 - (ii) Increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events. According to the 2025 World Economic Forum Risk Report, "extreme weather events" will rank first in terms of severity over the next 10 years
 - (iii) Inadequate meteorological observing systems on the continent to support effective generation of early warnings and production of tailored climate services

- (iv) Some of our countries still do not have operational National Meteorological Services, which are critical for providing early warnings.

IV. PROPOSED AREAS OF SUPPORT AND COLLABORATION

We would like to continue and strengthen collaboration to address the above-mentioned challenges and others, including in the following areas:

- (i) Consolidation and upscaling of the ClimSA project's achievements, noting the strong endorsement from member states and stakeholders at the recent Joint ClimSA-SEWA Continental Forum.
- (ii) Implementation of Frameworks/Strategies on Meteorology, Early Warning, Climate Change, etc.
- (iii) Support establishment of operational National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in member States that do not have to establish their own.
- (iv) Mobilizing financial and technical support for NMHSs of member States, including modernizing infrastructure for weather and climate monitoring
- (v) Capacity Building and Training to strengthen the capacity of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs).
- (vi) Climate Change Adaptation and Policy Support: There is need to mainstream climate resilience and adaptation strategies into national and regional policies and provision of scientific guidance for evidence-based decision-making.
- (vii) Supporting the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET).
- (viii) Staff support including supporting some positions and secondments. I am aware my team and your Regional Office for Africa are discussing possibilities of signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

V. CONCLUSION

- (i) The collaboration between the AUC and WMO is instrumental in advancing Africa's weather and climate agenda. Through joint initiatives, capacity building, and policy support, the collaboration empowers countries to better manage climate risks and seize opportunities for sustainable development.
- (ii) I would like to once again reiterate gratitude for the productive collaboration, and would once again like to thank you for this engagement.