# Global Framework for Climate Services

The Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) is a joint endeavour of the UN system to support efforts to address climate change by strengthening climate knowledge and its applications across all sectors and disciplines.

It ensures that decision makers have access to the highest quality climate predictions and services offered by an array of organizations, countries and institutions. The GFCS is an integrating set of international arrangements built upon existing global climate observation and research programmes as well as operational structures into an end-to-end product generation, service provision and application system.

**United Nations System**
**Chief Executives Board for Coordination**

**UN system-wide response to climate change**

**Under the chairmanship of the Secretary-General, the Chief Executives Board (CEB)** brings together the leaders of 29 UN system organizations to jointly support Member States in meeting the global challenges faced by the international community.

**In 2008, the CEB adopted the Climate Change Action Framework**, a joint, action-oriented approach in line with the ongoing UNFCCC negotiating processes and the emerging agendas of the Parties of the Convention.

**The UN system** stands ready to support Member States in implementing their commitments. **At COP 16 / CMP 6**, it is presenting its ongoing work and practical tools available through side events, exhibits and by sharing a joint package with thematic information.

**For more information** on the CEB and its joint work on climate change, please visit: http://www.unsceb.org/ceb/priorities/climate-change/

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## Objective

The goal of the Framework is to enable better management at all levels of the risks generated by climate variability and change, through the development and integration of science-based climate information and predictions into planning, policy and practice.

## Activities

The GFCS activities cover five major components: Observations; Climate research, modelling and prediction; Climate services information system; A climate user interface programme; and Capacity building.

As called for by the World Climate Conference-3, an outline of the GFCS is being developed by a high-level taskforce, composed by independent advisors, in consultation with stakeholders.

For more than 150 years, National Meteorological and Hydrological Services have built infrastructure for observations on land, at sea and in the air measuring meteorological and environmental variables.

Climate observations and research, including modelling and prediction, is essential for the Framework to characterize climate variability and change and to generate quantitative climate predictions and climate projections on various time and space scales. The climate user interface platform aims at bridging the gap between climate services providers and users, the decision-makers in various sectors and the public at large, by providing mechanisms such as Climate Outlook Forums, active in several parts of the world to routinely provide real-time regional climate outlooks.

## Results

The GFCS is establishing an operational mechanism to ensure climate services for all that:

- Serves as the foundation for adaptation action and support mitigation efforts;
- Provides a cooperative mechanism for all countries, international organizations, and civil society, including the private sector to work together to meet the needs of users;
- Enables users to benefit from improved customized climate information and prediction;
- Mobilizes climate science globally to advance the skills of seasonal-to-interannual and multi-decadal climate predictions to generate and provide future climate information on an operational basis; and
- Fosters principles and mechanisms for sharing new advances in science and information through a cooperative global infrastructure.

## Moving forward

The UN system will be pivotal in helping the potential benefits of the GFCS fully materialize. Its involvement will be particularly important in the establishment of the user interface platforms, which is to develop ways to bridge the gap between the climate information being developed by climate scientists and service providers and the practical information needs of users. The High-level Taskforce on GFCS was established following the decision of an intergovernmental meeting in January 2010 by the WMO Secretary-General, and has engaged in elaborating the GFCS. Its report will be released in January 2011 and submitted to the World Meteorological Congress in May 2011. The Framework will be designed to serve as an effective, efficient and economically viable mechanism for the generation, delivery and application of climate services.

## Contact

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