

WMO HydroConference

Geneva, 7 to 9 May, 2018

Draft Conference Statement (9May2018, 5:50pm)

Three years into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and at the start of the UN decade “Water for sustainable development”, the state of our water resources is recognized as one of the greatest global challenges faced by our rapidly transforming world. Sustainability of water resources and reduction of disaster risk can only be achieved by addressing the full water data value chain from the collection of data to the production of efficient hydrological services that allow informed decision and policy making. Access to reliable information in a timely way is thus an imperative that requires immediate, coordinated action at national, regional and global level and is key to adapting our societies to climate change and improving human quality of life.

The HydroConference that took place in the premises of the WMO in Geneva brought together over 210 participants coming from 85 countries and 35 organizations, and comprising of representatives from Ministries responsible for water, meteorology, agriculture, energy, disaster risk reduction, economy, development aid, hydrological and meteorological government agencies, environmental NGOs, academic and applied science research institutions, financing institutions, UN System agencies, and private sector entities.

The HydroConference recognized that a large body of valuable information on the benefits, gaps and challenges encountered by countries in producing and disseminating hydrological services in support of water management and disaster risk reduction, the participants:

- a) Expressed their gratitude to WMO, UNESCO, GFDRR/WBG, FAO, GWP, ICHARM, UNECE, IAHS, USAID, SDC for having co-organized and supported the HydroConference to increase the visibility and to highlight importance of hydrological services;
- b) Further expressed their gratitude to the dignitaries who delivered their statements during the high-level segment of the HydroConference highlighting the need for scientists, operational agencies, educators, policy makers, funders and investors to join forces in the development of hydrological services that support urgent water needs and kindly requested them to continue championing international cooperation and coordination in support of the delivery of hydrological services;
- c) Thanked and appreciated WMO for taking the initiative of hosting the HydroConference and recommended that its Commission for Hydrology take a leading role in organizing the follow-up efforts in advancing the complete

hydrological value chain in particular those related to operational hydrology;
<http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/amp/pwsp/documents/wmo_1153_en.pdf>;

- d) Recognized the important role of the weather and climate communities in supporting the development of hydrological services and called for their increased cooperation with the hydrological community at the national and regional, regional and global level;
- e) Stressed the importance of intergovernmental cooperation in operational hydrology to support member states to build and enhance hydrological data, products and services and recommended strengthening hydrological representation in WMO Constituent Bodies;
- f) Acknowledged the role of multiple UN entities and partners in different parts of the value chain and called for greater alignment of initiatives in the area of hydrological services under the umbrella of UN-Water;
- g) Resolved to form a partnership and develop a master plan for reinforcing hydrological services based on user needs in order to:
 - Foster collaboration for improved, tailored and affordable hydrological services;
 - Strengthen the capacities of National Hydrological and Hydrometeorological Services, particularly in respect to innovative approaches;
 - Support regional and transboundary initiatives and approaches that optimise basin wide water management including hydrologic data exchange;
 - Improve communication of the societal benefits of hydrological services;
 - Assist in responding to requirements of international processes;
 - Develop and maintain an on-line Matrix of Engagements updated as necessary;
- h) Determined that World Water Day and World Meteorological Day 2020 offer an excellent opportunity to take stock of progress made in the follow-up of the HydroConference.