REPORT OF THE HIGH-LEVEL TASKFORCE ON
THE GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR CLIMATE SERVICES

Report to Plenary on item 11.1

REFERENCE:
Cg-XVI/A/WP 11.1

APPENDICES:
A. Draft text for inclusion in the general summary on item 11.1
B. Draft Resolution 11.1/1 (Cg-XVI) – Response to the Report of the High-level Taskforce on the Global Framework for Climate Services
C. Draft Resolution 11.1/2 (Cg-XVI) – Implementation of the Global Framework for Climate Services

ACTION PROPOSED:
It is recommended that the draft text given in Appendix A be included in the general summary of the work of the session and that the draft resolutions in Appendices B and C be adopted.
11.1 **REPORT OF THE HIGH-LEVEL TASKFORCE ON THE GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR CLIMATE SERVICES** (agenda item 11.1)

**Relevant outcomes from the World Climate Conference-3**

11.1.1 Congress recalled the outcomes of the World Climate Conference–3 (WCC-3) (Geneva, Switzerland 31 August–4 September 2009) and its decision to establish a Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS). It was noted that the overarching theme of the Conference was; “Climate prediction and information for decision-making: focusing on scientific advances in seasonal to inter-annual time-scales, taking into account multi-decadal prediction” (http://www.wmo.int/wcc3/theme_en.php), and that it addressed issues relating to the application of climate prediction and information including assisting adaptation to climate variability and change in a wide variety of sectors including agriculture and food security, forestry, energy, water, health, urban and rural settlements, infrastructure, tourism, wildlife, trade and transport that contribute to sustainable socio-economic development.

11.1.2 Congress further recalled that the focus of the Conference included the integration of climate prediction and information in decision-making in relation to user needs, with parallel Conference sessions for sectors that contribute to sustainable socio-economic development such as agriculture and food security, energy, water, health, tourism, disaster management and transport. Congress noted that the technical component of the Conference was attended by around 2500 experts and produced, *inter alia*, 12 “white papers” which were captured in the Conference statement which was subsequently used to inform the work of the High-level Taskforce.

11.1.3 Congress noted that the three-day technical component of WCC-3 was followed by a two-day high level segment attended by, *inter alia*, 13 Heads of State/Government, 57 Ministers (or equivalent) and 14 Heads of UN agencies or programmes which decided to establish a Global Framework for Climate Services to strengthen production, availability, delivery and application of science-based climate prediction and services and requested the Secretary-General of WMO to convene, within four months of the adoption of the Conference Declaration, an intergovernmental meeting of Member States of the WMO to approve the terms of reference and to endorse the composition of a task force of high-level, independent advisors to be appointed by the Secretary-General of WMO with due consideration to expertise, geographical and gender balance.

**Relevant outcomes from the Intergovernmental Meeting**

11.1.4 Congress noted that the WMO convened an Intergovernmental Meeting for the High-level Taskforce on the Global Framework for Climate Services at the Geneva International Conference Centre (CICG) from 11 to 12 January 2010, under the chairpersonship of its President, Dr A.I. Bedritskiy.

11.1.5 Congress recalled that the Intergovernmental Meeting provided terms of reference which, *inter alia*, asked the High-level Taskforce to:

(a) Develop the components of GFCS and define the roles, responsibilities, and capabilities of the elements within the GFCS and clearly illustrate how it will assist the integration of climate information and services into national planning, policy and programmes for, among others, water resource management and development, health and public safety, energy generation and distribution, agriculture and food security, land and forestry management, desertification, eco-system protection, sustainable development and poverty reduction, taking into account the special needs of Africa,
Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs), and Land-Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs);

(b) Develop options for governance of the GFCS, ensuring its intergovernmental nature, and provide a reasoning for the preferred option(s);

(c) Outline a plan for the implementation of the GFCS, which includes:

(i) Ensuring a central role of national governments;
(ii) Proposing a range of options for immediate and longer-term actions to realize the GFCS;
(iii) Specifying measurable indicators, with timelines, for the actions necessary to implement the elements of the GFCS;
(iv) Estimates of costs of implementation of these options, with clear indications of the financial resources and enhanced technological capabilities required, and their likely sources, to ensure effective global implementation; and,
(v) A strategy for capacity building in developing countries, particularly those of the African countries, Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Countries (SIDS) and Land-Locked Developing Countries (LLDCs);

(d) Make findings and propose next steps in relation to:

(i) The role of the UN system and other relevant stakeholders, as well as the mechanisms for their contributions;
(ii) Approaches to global data policy (addressing data gaps, ownership, data protection, confidentiality, exchange, applications, and usage), that would lead to enhanced capability of the GFCS, taking into account Resolution 40 (Cg-XII) and Resolution 25 (Cg-XIII);
(iii) Improving systematic in-situ observations and monitoring of climate especially in data-sparse areas, in order to increase data availability, including for research and prediction;
(iv) Approaches for reviewing the implementation of the GFCS;
(v) Strategies for building capacity in developing countries in accordance with their needs and priorities, including their access to global and regional climate models output and the underlying technology embedded in the models, and their ability to independently develop/improve in-country climate services capacity; and,
(vi) A strategy for promoting a common global understanding of the GFCS and for coherent and coordinated messaging and information sharing.

11.1.6 Congress further recalled that the Intergovernmental Meeting endorsed the following composition of the Taskforce:

1. Joaquim CHISSANO (Mozambique)
2. Jan EGELEND (Norway)
3. Angus FRIDAY (Grenada)
4. Eugenia KALNAY (Ms) (Argentina/USA)
5. Ricardo LAGOS (Chile)
6. Julia MARTON-LEFEVRE (Ms) (Hungary/France/USA)
7. Khotso MOKHELE (South Africa)
8. Chiaki MUKAI (Ms) (Japan)
9. Cristina NARBONA RUIZ (Ms) (Spain)
10. Rajendra Singh PARODA (India)
11. QIN Dahe (China)
12. Emil SALIM (Indonesia)
13. Mahmoud ABU-ZEID (Egypt)
14. High-level representative of indigenous peoples
15. High-level member from Pacific SIDS
16. High-level economist

11.1.7 Congress noted that the Intergovernmental Meeting charged the Secretary-General of WMO with the responsibility of recruiting the individuals to fill the last three positions (numbered 14, 15 and 16 in the previous paragraph). As a result, Ms Fiame Naomi Mata ‘Afa from Samoa agreed to join the Taskforce, thus providing the competence called for by positions 14 and 15 while Dr Emil Salim from Indonesia supplied expertise in economics to the Taskforce, resulting in a Taskforce of 14 members.

The Report of the HLT

11.1.8 The co-chair of the High-level Task Force on the Global Framework for Climate Services, Dr Jan Egeland/Dr Mahmoud Abu-Zeid briefed the Congress on the Taskforce’s Report, noting that the findings of the Taskforce included:

(a) Present capabilities to provide climate services fall short of meeting present and future needs and are not delivering their full and potential benefits. This is particularly the case in developing and least developed countries;

(b) Existing climate services are not focused well enough on user needs and the level of interaction between providers and users of climate services is inadequate. Climate services often do not reach “the last mile”, to the people who need them most, particularly at the community level in developing and least developed countries;

(c) To support climate services, high quality observations are required across the entire climate system and of relevant socio-economic variables and further commitment to sustaining high quality observations is inadequate and enhancements to existing networks are required, particularly in developing countries;

(d) Effective climate services will depend on maximizing the potential of existing knowledge, new research developments and strong support from and strengthened collaboration between all relevant research communities;

(e) Efforts to provide effective climate services globally will only be successful if capacity is systematically built to enable all countries to manage climate risk effectively. Current capacity building activities to support climate services need to be scaled up and better coordinated.

11.1.9 Congress was advised that the Taskforce approached its task through a consultative process along with the outputs from WCC-3. Furthermore, they developed an early outline of their report based around a three-part strategy: Part I to benchmark existing climate services from a provider perspective; Part II to identify gaps in the existing provision, particularly from a user perspective; and, Part III to provide governance options, an implementation plan and next steps as called for in their terms of reference.

11.1.10 It was noted that from the outset that, with one year to report, the Taskforce faced a very tight timetable and so it developed its consultation process based around already scheduled climate-related meetings. As a result the following consultation sessions were conducted in 2010:

- Nairobi, Kenya 12–16 April First Conference of Ministers responsible for Meteorology in Africa
11.1.11 Congress was advised that the Taskforce also made extensive use of the Internet and Web, carrying out a great deal of work via e-mail as well as providing regular updates and reports on the WMO Website. The Taskforce met formally on five occasions to coordinate and advance its work: 25-26 February; 24-26 May; 2-4 August; 25-27 October; and 13-15 December.

11.1.12 Congress noted that the Taskforce had released a draft copy of its report on 1 November 2010 for comment by governments and experts. Around 1700 comments were received over the three-week review period and each of these was considered in the subsequent preparation of the final report. The Taskforce’s final report has now been made widely available in hard copy, on CD and via the WMO’s Website.

The vision of the GFCS developed by the HLT

11.1.13 The Taskforce proposes that the structure of the Framework be as proposed by the WCC-3, but with the addition of a capacity building component. The proposed components of the Framework are then as follows:

(a) The User Interface Platform that will provide a means for users, user representatives, climate research and climate service providers to interact, thereby maximizing the usefulness of climate services and helping develop new and improved applications of climate information;

(b) The Climate Services Information System to protect and distribute climate data and information according to the needs of users and according to the procedures agreed by governments and other data providers;
(c) The Observations and Monitoring component that will ensure that the climate observations necessary to meet the needs of climate services are generated;

(d) The Research, Modelling and Prediction component that will assess and promote the needs of climate services within research agendas;

(e) The Capacity Building component that will support systematic development of the necessary institutions, infrastructure and human resources to provide effective climate services.

11.1.14 The Taskforce noted that many of the foundational capabilities and infrastructure that make up these components already exist or are being established, but they require coordination and strengthened focus on user needs and that the role of the Framework should be to facilitate and strengthen, not to duplicate.

11.1.15 Congress was further advised that the Taskforce proposes universal access to reliable, scientifically sound climate services should be the focus of the Framework. To meet this objective the Taskforce further proposes that the Framework should operate at global, regional and national levels, in support of, and in collaboration with global, regional and national stakeholders and efforts:

(a) At the global level, it should focus on producing global climate prediction products, coordinating and supporting data exchange, major capacity building initiatives, and establishing and maintaining standards and protocols;

(b) At the regional level, it should support multilateral efforts to address regional needs, for example through regional policy development, knowledge and data exchange, infrastructure development, research, training and the provision of services regionally to meet agreed regional requirements;

(c) At the national level, it should focus on ensuring access to data and knowledge products, tailoring information to user requirements, ensuring effective routine use of information in planning and management along with developing sustainable capacities in these respects.

The Recommendations of the High-level Taskforce

11.1.16 Congress noted that the Taskforce had made five Recommendations:

**Recommendation 1:** We, the High-level Taskforce, unanimously recommend that the international community make the commitment to invest on the order of USD 75 M per year to put in place and sustain a Global Framework for Climate Services. This investment will build upon existing investments by governments in climate observation systems, research, and information management systems to return to the community benefits across all societal sectors but most importantly, and most immediately, in disaster risk reduction, improved water management, more productive and sustainable agriculture and better health outcomes in the most vulnerable communities in the developing world.

**Recommendation 2:** To ensure that the Global Framework for Climate Services provides the greatest benefit to those who need climate services the most, we recommend that the following eight principles be adhered to in its implementation:

**Principle 1:** All countries will benefit, but priority shall go to building the capacity of climate-vulnerable developing countries
Principle 2: The primary goal of the Framework will be to ensure greater availability of, access to, and use of climate services for all countries

Principle 3: Framework activities will address three geographic domains: global, regional and national

Principle 4: Operational climate services will be the core element of the Framework

Principle 5: Climate information is primarily an international public good provided by governments, which will have a central role in its management through the Framework

Principle 6: The Framework will promote the free and open exchange of climate-relevant observational data while respecting national and international data policies

Principle 7: The role of the Framework will be to facilitate and strengthen, not to duplicate

Principle 8: The Framework will be built through user – provider partnerships that include all stakeholders

Recommendation 3: We recommend that the UN-system establish, as a matter of urgency, an ad-hoc technical group to develop a detailed implementation plan for the Global Framework for Climate Services based upon the broad strategy outlined in this report, this plan to be endorsed by governments through an intergovernmental process prior to its implementation.

The detailed implementation plan should identify high priority projects to advance the Framework in areas where this would assist in reducing vulnerability to climate change and variability. In addition to the fast-track, capacity building projects, the implementation plan should describe a sustainable programme to underpin the coordination needed to maintain the operational capabilities of the Framework. The implementation plan should set targets to be achieved over the next ten years, further elaborate the roles and responsibilities of components of the Framework that contribute at the global, regional and national levels and of the secretariat that supports it, and include a risk assessment.

Recommendation 4: We strongly recommend that governments and development assistance agencies give high priority to supporting national capacity building that will allow developing countries to participate in the Framework. Further analysis of national needs is required, but in the meantime we recommend a number of fast track projects as outlined above. To ensure effective national access to global climate information by the largest number of countries, we recommend an initial strategy to strengthen rapidly or create the regional elements of the Framework. These regional elements should be led and hosted by countries of the region based upon regional agreements and should be tasked with supporting information flow and assisting national capacity building at national level.

Recommendation 5: The Taskforce is unanimous in recommending the following two options be considered for governance of the Framework:

Option A An Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services would be established to provide leadership and direction for the Framework. It would report to the World Meteorological Organization Congress. The Board would be open to membership of all countries and would meet in plenary session periodically, probably annually. It would develop formal mechanisms to engage the United Nations and other stakeholders in its work. It would elect a chair and a small executive committee to conduct the affairs of the
Board between sessions as well as designating a number of technical management committees to oversee and contribute to the Framework’s implementation work. These management committees would work intergovernmentally and where possible would be based on relevant existing international committees.

**Option B**

A Joint Board of relevant United Nations System entities (agencies, organizations, programmes, departments and independent funds) would be created to provide leadership and direction for the Framework. The United Nations System Joint Board would report regularly to the UN Chief Executives Board as well as to governments through the plenaries of the sponsoring UN agencies and programmes. The Joint Board would establish technical management committees to implement and manage the Framework, these management committees working intergovernmentally. Mechanisms to engage non-United Nations stakeholders in the work of the Board would be developed through both the User Interface Programme and, up to the level desired by governments, through participation in national delegations.

The Taskforce recommends that Option A be adopted and that the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization convene the first intergovernmental plenary meeting of the Global Framework for Climate Services by the end of 2011. The World Meteorological Organization should lead the process and put in place arrangements to ensure full participation of all interested UN agencies and programmes.

**Response to the Taskforce’s Report and the process for its implementation**

11.1.17 Congress congratulated the co-chairs and all Taskforce members on the work of the Taskforce and welcomed its Report.

11.1.18 Congress supported the general proposal of the Taskforce that the international community would make, consistent with its ability to do so, a significant investment in the implementation of the GFCS (Recommendation 1).

11.1.19 Congress noted with interest the eight Principles provided in Recommendation 2, encouraging their use in the implementation of the Framework.

11.1.20 Congress appreciated the strong sentiments expressed by the Heads of State and other High-Level Officials present at Congress in support of the work of the Taskforce and their pledges of ongoing support for the implementation of the GFCS.


**The central role of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services**

11.1.22 Congress noted a guiding principle for the implementation of the GFCS will be to build on many of the existing mechanisms and institutions developed over the years for the provision of climate services. Noting that NMHSs collect meteorological observations, undertake activities directed at improving our understanding of weather and climate, and provide weather, climate and related services in support of relevant national needs, Congress strongly urged NMHSs to play a central role in the development and implementation of the GFCS. Congress urged the Executive Council to review the statement on roles and operation of NMHSs with a view to more clearly reflecting their crucial role in the implementation of the GFCS.
11.1.22bis The Congress decided to establish, within the WMO Secretariat, the secretariat of the GFCS.

**User interface platform**

11.1.23 Congress noted that NMHSs have a long history of working closely with a range of user communities and industries within the countries in provision of weather, climate and hydrological information and products to improve decision making within countries and key development sectors and encouraged the strengthening of these links with climate service users at the national level.

11.1.24 Congress noted that central to the development of user-specific climate information is the recognition that the needs of the user community are diverse and complex. Depending on the financial, technical and infrastructural capacities of the NMHSs, the required in-house expertise to support all the users in application of their climate products for effective decision making may be limited to varying degrees. As dealing with a full spectrum of individual users at the national level could be resource intensive, Congress encouraged NMHSs to develop partnerships with relevant research institutions, intermediary organizations, specialized sectoral institutions and service providers.

11.1.25 Recognizing that for seasonal timescales Regional Climate Outlook Forums (RCOFs) facilitate the development of so-called “consensus” forecasts, regional networking of NMHSs and interact with users at regional level, Congress emphasized the importance of continuing these mechanisms and extending them to the national level, where appropriate, by considering the establishment of operational periodic National Climate Outlook Forums and/or National Climate Users Platforms.

**Climate services information system**

11.1.26 Congress recalled that some NMHSs currently participate and benefit from global modelling centres that produce seasonal predictions and climate scenarios on global spatial scales. These global products are exchanged and in some instances downscaled to meet regional and national needs, with some of these outputs being coordinated and made available through research institutes.

11.1.27 In view of the above, the Congress emphasized that a coordinated climate services information system (CSIS), which, through a network of collaborating institutions would: ensure that climate information and products are generated at the global level (through a range of global climate centres) to adequately incorporate the global-scale aspects of the climate system; incorporate the regional and local climate information at a finer scale (through RCCs); and ensure that they are available and easily accessible for the application to various sectoral uses at the national and local levels. Congress also recognized the important role of Regional Climate Centres (RCCs) in tailoring global climate products to regional needs on a sustainable operational mode, and also in supporting national requirements of NMHSs where needed through mutual arrangements. Congress encouraged Members to support such centres and ensure global coverage of climate services. Consistent with the principle of building upon what is already in place rather than duplicating existing institutions and efforts, Congress expected that the WMO Information System (WIS) could serve as a key dissemination mechanism under GFCS.

**Observations and monitoring**

11.1.28 Recognizing that the climate services provided through the GFCS will be fundamentally reliant upon the meteorological observations collected by NMHSs, and noting that establishing and
operating national weather, climate and water observing systems requires significant human and financial resources due to the range of measurements and the density of stations required, Congress emphasized the need to sustain the observations over many decades, and the need to continuously meet high standards for data quality. Congress emphasized that a key objective of the GFCS must be to ensure that the observation networks that NMHSs currently operate are strengthened and upgraded, with long-term commitment to meet the highest possible quality to serve the needs of climate analyses and prediction. Congress appealed to the Members to provide adequate resources to their NMHSs for strengthening these data networks, and to the development aid agencies to support developing countries in strengthening observing networks where large gaps exist.

11.1.29 Congress also noted that the global climate models and the regional climate models used for development of climate information and products require sharing of climate data and information across national, regional and global boundaries. Recognizing that the exchange of data required for making weather forecasts is supported by Resolution 40 (Cg-XII), which identifies a limited set of climate information that should be exchanged, Congress requested the Executive Council to review Annex I of the resolution with a view to ensuring that the climate data needed for the GFCS’s climate services are included therein.

Climate research, modelling and prediction

11.1.30 Congress recognized that many NMHSs and other national entities undertake or participate in research that contributes to the improvement of understanding of climate systems, the development and improvement of global and regional climate models and developing methodologies for seasonal and annual to decadal predictions. In many countries, NMHSs have actively worked with universities and other academic institutions and act as the nuclei to consolidate the research efforts and improve operational practices. These efforts of NMHSs also contribute to the work of the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP). Additionally many NMHSs also engage in applied climate research in support of national decision making, while these and others also support other NMHSs in their region to develop capacities to be able to interpret the outputs from the global climate models for downscaling them to regional and national or local levels. Considering that there is considerable disparity in research efforts on regional and national scales, leading to large gaps in climate knowledge at the regional and national levels, Congress stressed that an important role of the GFCS will be to assist NMHSs and other national entities in developing countries to build the capacity to participate in, and undertake the research necessary to address climate problems of national interest.

Capacity building

11.1.31 Congress noted that the capacity of many NMHSs to adequately meet the user needs for national climate services is currently limited and that the NMHSs need to build skills in climate prediction, modelling and analysis for developing, producing, accessing, interpreting and analyzing global and regional climate products. Congress also noted that the downscaled projected climate change scenarios for assessing climate change impacts are required at a much finer scales than present as the climate service provision is made operational in the countries.

11.1.32 Congress emphasized the need for GFCS to promote collaboration between NMHSs, universities, climate research institutions, and regional and national training centres. Congress encouraged Members to support the establishment of sustainable mechanisms for education and training for climate science and services, and to develop appropriate credentials and good practices for operational climate providers to ensure the application of a quality management framework. Partnerships with intermediary organizations that transmit information from providers such as NMHSs to end-users, as well as the various sectoral users within the countries, will undoubtedly supplement these efforts.
Congress recognized that for the implementation of the Framework, the skills for developing climate services are technology- and knowledge-extensive and intensive. Congress therefore emphasized the need for improved computing capabilities; upgraded communications to make best use of the WIS; robust, high quality instruments for climate-related observations; systematically archived and managed climate data; and enhanced access to the services to the users through the WIS as a part of the GFCS CSIS.

Roles of the WMO’s constituent bodies

Executive Council

As noted earlier in this report, Congress requested the Executive Council to support and provide guidance to the development of the GFCS. The Congress also requested the Executive Council to establish appropriate mechanisms to provide oversight and guidance to those elements of the WMO that will participate in the implementation of the GFCS.

Regional Associations

Congress recalled that the Taskforce’s proposal for the GFCS called for operations to be implemented on three spatial scales; global, regional and national, and that the regional scale will be particularly important in capacity building and in building capabilities that are beyond the resources of single nations. Congress urged the regional associations to assist the implementation of the GFCS through the establishment and active support to RCCs, RTCs and appropriate regional centres by developing regional/sub-regional collaborative capacities, in the development of user requirements, in the identification of experts to assist in implementation activities, and through support to implementation projects. Congress stressed that delivery of climate services is a national and even sub-national/local activity, and that the detailed implementation plan must be driven by the need to improve the capability of NMHSs to fulfil this operational role through the close linkage of regional to national to meet user requirements.

Technical Commissions

Congress recognized that while the Commission for Climatology will have a central role in the implementation of the GFCS other technical commissions will also have important roles to play: CBS in the areas of service delivery strategies, observations systems and information systems; JCOMM for marine observations, for marine climate data management and for services to marine sector; CIMO for the advice and support in developing new and improved instrumentation for collecting climate-related data; CAS in terms of research for improved climate services; CHy and CAgM in terms of the full range of interactions with users in water and agriculture sectors; and CAeM in working with the aeronautical sector to meet its requirements for climate services. Congress urged each technical commission to assist in the development of the detailed implementation plan. Congress also urged the technical commissions to keep under review their work plans as the implementation of the GFCS proceeded so that they could give effective support to the initiative and also take advantages of the opportunities that it offered.

The Roles of the WMO’s Technical Programmes

Congress recognized that a range of technical activities within ten major Programmes, and four co-sponsored programmes directly or indirectly contribute to the objectives of GFCS:

WMO Programmes:

- The World Weather Watch (WWW) Programme;
• World Climate Programme (WCP);
• Atmospheric Research and Environment Programme (AREP);
• Applications of Meteorology Programme (AMP);
• Hydrology and Water Resources Programme (HWRP);
• Education and Training Programme (ETRP);
• Technical Cooperation Programme (TCOP);
• Regional Programme (RP);
• WMO Space Programme (SAT);
• Disaster Risk Reduction Programme (DRR).

Co-sponsored Programmes:

• Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC);
• World Climate Research Programme (WCRP);
• Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) - led by WMO;
• Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) – led by IOC;
• Global Terrestrial Observing System (GTOS) – led by FAO.

11.1.38 Congress noted that each of these Programmes would have a part to play in the implementation of the GFCS and urged managers and experts involved in the work of these Programmes to keep under review their work plans as the implementation of the GFCS proceeded so that they could give effective support to the initiative and also take advantages of the opportunities that it offered.

11.1.39 Congress noted that the GFCS has been identified as one of the five priority areas under the Strategic Plan and that a number of activities that are expected to contribute to the proposed GFCS implementation plan have already been included under the regular budget while others are planned to be taken through extra-budgetary resources. Congress encouraged Members to financially support the implementation of these proposed projects.

11.1.40 Congress adopted Resolution 11.1/2 (Cg-XVI) to facilitate the range of activities that needed to be undertaken by the WMO throughout the sixteenth financial period in support of the implementation of the GFCS.
DRAFT RESOLUTION

Res. 11.1/1 (Cg-XVI) – RESPONSE TO THE REPORT OF THE HIGH-LEVEL TASKFORCE ON THE GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR CLIMATE SERVICES

THE CONGRESS,

Noting:

(1) The decision of WCC-3 to establish a Global Framework for Climate Services;

(2) The Report of the Intergovernmental Meeting held in Geneva, 11-12 January, 2010;

Welcoming the Report of the High-level Taskforce on the Global Framework for Climate Services;

Considering the Findings and Recommendations of the High-level Taskforce;

Decides to:

(1) Endorse the broad thrust of the High-level Taskforce’s Report;

(2) Accept the intent of Recommendation (1), with the understanding that the international community would make, consistent with its ability to do so, a significant investment in the implementation of the GFCS;

(3) Note with interest Recommendation (2), thereby encouraging the use of the eight Principles provided by the Taskforce as a guide for decision making in the implementation of the Framework;

[Pathway C]

(4) In response to Recommendation 3:

(a) Entrust the WMO Executive Council with the responsibility of developing proposals, with the involvement of relevant stakeholders including other UN bodies, for consideration by an Extraordinary Session of the WMO Congress with the participation of the relevant stakeholders, including other UN bodies. These proposals to address the:

(i) Development of the draft implementation plan for the GFCS;
(ii) Establishment of the draft Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure for the Intergovernmental Board and its substructures based on the draft implementation plan;

(b) Request the Secretary-General to:

(i) Support the work of the Executive Council as it develops the draft implementation plan which would include, inter alia, details of the on-going Secretariat support arrangements;
(ii) Convene an Extraordinary Session of the WMO Congress in 2012 with participation of all relevant stakeholders including other UN bodies, to review and adopt the draft implementation plan for the GFCS, for subsequent consideration
by the Intergovernmental Board, and to adopt the Terms of Reference and the initial Rules of Procedure of the Intergovernmental Board;

(5) Accept Recommendation (4), particularly supporting the rapid implementation of projects at the national and regional level, possibly including, but not limited to the Report’s “Fast Track projects”, aimed at increasing the capacity of developing countries to provide climate services and ensuring such capacity developing projects proposed are of high priority and meet clearly identified requirements;

(6) Proceed with Option A of Recommendation (5) as contained in Chapter 10 of the Taskforce Report, to implement the GFCS amended to reflect the agreement that the Intergovernmental Board of the Framework will be accountable to the WMO Congress and that the management committee structures, that may be accountable to the Intergovernmental Board, will be decided upon completion of the implementation plan.

(7) Establish the GFCS Secretariat within the WMO;

**Strongly urges Members to:**

(1) Continue to make their expertise available during the development and implementation of the GFCS;

(2) Strengthen their own capacity to meet national climate services needs;

(3) Make maximum use of national, regional and global capabilities to collect and exchange data and products, to generate climate information and to provide climate services;

(4) Make voluntary contributions of the resources needed to continue the implementation of the GFCS;

**Calls** on other United Nations System bodies, as well as all relevant regional and international organizations and entities, whether governmental or non-governmental, to give strong support to the implementation of the GFCS through participation in its working mechanisms and contribution of expertise and resources to its programmes, projects and activities;

**Requests** the Executive Council to:

(1) Take necessary actions for the Global Framework for Climate Services to become an effective operational entity in 2012-2015 and beyond;

(2) Give high priority to ensuring effective overall coordination of the Framework;

(3) Review relevant resolutions and structures of the WMO with a view to ensuring effective implementation of the GFCS;

**Requests** the Secretary-General to:

(1) Convey the gratitude of Congress to the Members of the High-level Taskforce for their work and on consulting broadly and producing a outstanding and well balanced report in such a short time;

(2) Continue to draw fully on the advice and assistance of climate experts and users of climate services in the further development of the Framework.
DRAFT RESOLUTION

Res. 11.1/2 (Cg-XVI) – IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR CLIMATE SERVICES

THE CONGRESS,

Noting:

(1) The Report of the High-Level Taskforce on the Global Framework for Climate Services,

(2) The urgent need to put in place improved climate services for all, but most particularly for climate-vulnerable developing countries, particularly African countries, least developed countries, land-locked developing countries and small island developing states where climate services are also often weakest,

Considering that:

(1) Internal working methods for the Framework, particularly for communications and for debating and deciding on implementation priorities, including for the observations, information systems, research and capacity building components need to be established,

(2) Mechanisms are needed to strengthen the global cooperative system for collecting observations, processing and exchanging data and products and for using climate-related information,

(3) Projects that target the needs of developing countries, particularly those currently least able to provide climate services, must be designed and implemented,

(4) Strategies for external communications, resource mobilization and capacity building programmes for the Framework need to be developed,

(5) Targets need to be set and procedures established for monitoring and evaluating the performance of the Framework,

Decides to support and facilitate the implementation of the GFCS as a priority of the Organization in the sixteenth financial period;

Requests Members to:

(1) Assist in the development of the implementation plan for GFCS by further developing national and regional requirements for climate services so that capacity development projects can be designed and implemented;

(2) Facilitate coordination and collaboration among various institutions within the countries required for the generation and use of climate services through appropriate legal and institutional arrangements;

(3) Provide adequate resources to the NMHSs for strengthening weather, climate and water data networks and recruiting experts in new technical skills required for generating and delivering climate services;
(4) Support research in climate science at national, regional and global levels to improve the understanding of climate systems and provision of better climate services;

**Urges** NMHSs to:

(1) Develop partnerships with relevant intermediary organizations and specialized sectoral institutions within the countries including establishing NCOFs/National Climate User Platforms;

(2) Collaborate with universities, climate research institutions, and regional and national training centres to continuously improve the technical skills for developing climate services and serving the needs of various users;

(3) Continue to improve the technical skills of the staff within their institutions through regular training;

**Requests** the Executive Council to:

(1) Provide support for, and guidance to, the process of developing the detailed implementation plan and monitoring of its implementation through appropriate working mechanisms;

(2) Review Annex I of Resolution 40 (Cg-XII) with a view to ensuring that the climate data and products needed for the GFCS’s climate services are included therein;

(3) Review the role and operation of NMHSs specifically addressing the needs of GFCS;

**Invites** the regional associations to:

(1) Regularly review and prioritize the need for climate services within their Region and encourage collaboration with regional user sectors;

(2) Encourage regional collaboration so as to enable the building of regional institutions such as RCCs and collaborative mechanisms such as RCOFs for sharing climate data and products, and developing climate information and services;

(3) Improve coordination of ongoing activities between Regions;

**Invites** the technical commissions to:

(1) Regularly review the technical needs of the Framework as they relate to the activities and competencies of their Commission, guide establishment and improvement of procedures and processes on technical matters to support GFCS operations, and assist with the implementation of the Framework to the extent possible;

(2) Improve coordination of ongoing activities relevant to the Framework within, and between, technical commissions;

**Requests** the Secretary-General to put in place arrangements through which the WMO Secretariat can provide a high level of support to the regional associations, technical commissions, WMO Programmes, and co-sponsored programmes as they make their important contributions to the Global Framework for Climate Services.