

## MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF DIRECTORS OF THE WEST AFRICAN NMHSs Niamey, Republic of Niger 13 to 14 November 2008

### The Context

1. The Directors of NMHSs of West African Countries adopted the “Las Palmas Action Plan” within the framework of the Cooperation Programme financed by the Government of Spain in Las Palmas de Gran Canaria in October 2007. The overall objective of the Action Plan is *“to enhance the capacity of the NMHSs of West and North African countries and provide them with the relevant tools that will enhance the delivery of products and services to various socioeconomic sectors and thereby allow them to contribute to the sustainable development of their respective countries and enhance the delivery of products and services to the various socioeconomic sectors”*.
2. The Government of Spain is continuing its support, through the WMO, to the African Cooperation Programme and together with the State Meteorological Agency of Spain (AEMET), la Direction de la Météorologie Nationale du Niger and the WMO hosted a meeting in Niamey, Republic of Niger, 13 to 14 November 2008 to review progress within the framework of the Cooperation Programme for 2007/08 and agree on further actions for 2008/09.
3. The meeting was attended by the Directors of the NMHSs of the Western Africa countries. The Minister for Transport and Civil Aviation of the Republic of Niger Ms. Amadou Nouhou, presided over the opening of the meeting in the presence of the Ambassador of Spain to Niger Ms. Elena Madrazo, the Minister for Agricultural Development Mr. Amane Moussa, the Minister for Hydrology Mr. Tassiou Aminou, the WMO representative by Mr. Robert Masters, Director, Development and Regional Cooperation and Mr. Francisco Cadarso, President of AEMET. The complete list of participants is attached as **Annex 1**.
4. The Objectives of the Meeting were to:
  - Review decisions made at Las Palmas in October 2007, including the progress made in 2008 against the actions identified in the Action Plan.
  - Agree on ongoing and additional actions and mechanisms for cooperation during the 2009 period.
  - Revise the Action Plan as appropriate.
  - Consider formalization of the Western Africa Meteorological Services Director’s Cooperation Forum.
5. The meeting discussed the problems in meteorology in the West Africa region. The various agenda items discussed by the meeting are attached as **Annex 2**.
6. The Outputs of the meeting were:
  - Agreed Work Plan for 2009 (**Annex 3**)
  - Agreement on the elaboration of a Long-Term Action Plan for the countries of West Africa within the framework of the Strategic Plan for RA I during 2009
  - Agreement on the elaboration of Terms of Reference for West African Conference of Directors during 2009
7. The Conference of Directors expressed their gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Niger and the Director and staff of la Direction de la Météorologie Nationale du Niger for the excellent hosting of the meeting.
8. The Directors also extended their congratulations to the recently appointed Director General of ACMAD, Mr. Adama Elhassane Diallo.
9. It was agreed that the next meeting of Directors of NMHSs of West Africa countries will take place in October 2009 in Guinea Conakry. Mauritania proposed to host the meeting in 2010.

## THE STATEMENT

We, the Directors of West Africa NMHSs, meeting in Niamey, Republic of Niger 13 to 14 November 2008,

Recognizing the progress made in 2008 in the implementation of the Las Palmas Action Plan,

Recognizing the new challenges produced by climate change especially for Least Developed Countries, and the role that the NMHSs should play in support to adaptation policies,

Recognizing also that most countries in West Africa region are Least Developed Countries and that five of them are emerging from recent war conflicts and significant natural disasters,

Welcoming the presence in the meeting of representatives of regional organizations such as AGRHYMET and ACMAD, and recognizing the key role they play in the development of meteorology and hydrology in the region,

Also welcoming the presence of neighbouring countries Algeria and Morocco as observers,

Being aware of the opportunities for capacity building offered by the African Cooperation Programme of the Government of Spain and the Trust Fund created in the WMO Secretariat by Spain as well as by other initiatives,

Recognizing the importance and advantages of mutual cooperation to accomplish the mission of NMHSs,

### Decided:

1. To formalise the Conference of Directors of NMHSs of West Africa countries including the organization of an annual meeting.
2. To develop a long term Strategic Action Plan for development of Hydrometeorological Services for the West Africa region.
3. To cooperate for the implementation of the Niamey Action Plan using as a main source of financing the Trust Fund created in the WMO Secretariat by Spain and also to identify other possible sources of funding.
4. To facilitate the cooperation in meteorology and hydrology within the region with the purpose of increasing multilateral cooperation taking advantage of the existing regional centres as appropriate.
5. To submit these conclusions to relevant Ministries in each participating country as well as to WMO aimed at obtaining support at national and at international levels to these initiatives of cooperation in meteorology and hydrology in the West Africa region.
6. To approve an Action Plan for 2009, as follows:

### NIAMEY ACTION PLAN 2009

The overall objective of this Action Plan is to enhance the capacity of the NMHSs of West African countries and provide them with the relevant tools that will allow them to contribute to the sustainable development of their respective countries, particularly in relation to maritime safety, fisheries, health, adaptation to climate change and, disaster prevention and mitigation and food security and to enhance their delivery of essential products and services to the various socioeconomic sectors.

The proposed Action Plan considers progress achieved in 2008 under the Las Palmas Action Plan within the framework of the Cooperation Programme financed by the Trust Fund of Spain and the discussions held during the Conference of Directors of NMHSs of West African countries held in Niamey, Republic of Niger, 13 to 14 November 2008.

Considering the urgent need to continue the action agreed to in Las Palmas and initiate some new actions in order to continue progress under the Cooperation Programme, and taking into account the priorities agreed by the Directors of NMHSs of West African countries, the proposed Niamey Action Plan for 2009 comprises the following elements:

1. Improvement of Maritime Meteorology services for maritime safety and fisheries including:
  - Training to professionals of the coastal states
  - Provision of essential telecom and computer equipment for the reception of meteorological products;
  - Expansion of activities for Marine Meteorological Services to additional countries in the region.
  - Development of a concept plan for a fully operational Marine Meteorological service in the region.
2. Continuation of the project for enhancement of Agricultural Meteorological Services.
3. Organization of fact-finding missions in participating countries based on agreed Terms of Reference, with particular focus on post-conflict and post crises countries for preparation of development plans for NMHS taking into account, technical, and institutional frameworks and socio-economic benefits and sustainability aspects.
4. The implementation of the approved work plan for 2009 will be undertaken by the Directors of NMHSs with the assistance of WMO, AEMET and regional and sub-regional organizations such as ACMAD and AGRHYMET.
5. Engagement of additional development partners in support of the Long Term Programme of Action.
6. The Work Plan for the implementation of specific actions of the NIAMEY ACTION PLAN FOR 2009 is found at **Annex 3**.

## ANNEX 1: list of participants

1	FRANCIS DIDE	BENIN
2	GUEHI GOROZA	COTE D'IVOIRE
3	BAH MAMADOU LAMINE	GUINEE -CONAKRY
4	M. BECHIR OULD M. LAGHDAF	MAURITANIA
5	ESTER BRITO	CAPE VERT
6	FRANCISCO CORREIA	CAPE VERT
7	ARTHUR GAR – GLAHN	LIBERIA
8	BERNARD EDWARD GOMEZ	GAMBIA
9	MACTAR NDIAYE	SENEGAL
10	ZEDDIGHA BADAUI	ALGERIE
11	ERNEST AFIESIMAMA	NIGERIA
12	DENIS S. LANSANA	SIERRA LEONE
13	EGBARE AWADI ABI	TOGO
14	DIARRA DAOUDA ZAN	MALI
15	ALI JACQUES GARANE	BURKINA FASO
16	LABO MOUSSA	NIGER
17	ABDOULKARIM TRAORÉ	NIGER
18	BOUJIMAÂ BOURHIM	MAROC
19	FERNANDO BAIAL SAMBU	GUINÉE BISSAU
20	ALHASSANE A. DIALLO	ACMAD-NIGER
21	ALIOUNE N'DIAYE	OMM/GENEVE
22	FELIX HOUNTON	OMM/GENEVE
23	MOHAMED BOULAMA	OMM/ABUJA
24	ROBERT O. MASTERS	OMM/GENEVE
25	EDGARD CABRERA	OMM/GENEVE
26	MARY POWER	OMM/GENEVE
27	YVETTE RAMOS	CONSULTANT
28	FRANCISCO CADARSO GONZALEZ	AEMET
29	ROSARIO DIAZ PABÓN RETUERTA	AEMET
30	MARTA ANGOLOTI BENAVIDES	AEMET
31	JOSE LUIS CAMACHO RUIZ	AEMET
32	PASCUAL PEREZ FRANCISCO JOSE	AEMET

## ANNEX 2: Agenda Thursday 13 November 2008

### Opening session

*Chairman: Mr L. Moussa (Niger)*

08:30 - 09:00	Arrival of Participants
09:00 - 09:30	Opening of the meeting: Representative of WMO Representative of Spain Niger (Host welcomes Participants)
09:30 - 10:00	Coffee-break and Photo
10:00 - 10:15	Meeting Arrangements: Mr L. Moussa (Niger)
10:15 - 10:30	Proposal of overall objectives of the Meeting: Mr F. Cadarso (Spain)

### Session 1 – Review of Progress against Las Palmas Action Plan

*Chairman: Mr L. Moussa (Niger)*

10:30 - 10:45	Action 1. Marine Meteorology Services	Mr. M. Ndiaye (Senegal)
10:45 - 11:00	Action 2. Agricultural meteorology	Mr D. Diarra (Mali)
11:00 - 11:30	Action 3. Least Developed Countries –Emerging from Conflict	Mr. A. Gar Glahn (Liberia) Mr. D. Lansana (Sierra Leone) Mr. F. B. Sambu (Guinea-Bissau)
11:30 - 11:45	Action 4. Management – Workshop Report	Ms Y. Ramos
11:45 - 12:00	Action 7. Website	Mr. F. Pascual (Spain)
12:00 - 12:30	Action 8. Capacity Development (Feasibility study) Action Items - Training 5. Satellite Meteorology and Numerical Weather Products use 6. Feasibility study on training activities	Ms M. Power (WMO)
12:30 - 14:00	Lunch	

### Session 2 – Discussion of ongoing actions and next stages

*Chairman: Mr G. Gueghi (Cote D'Ivoire)*

14:00 - 14:30	Marine Meteorology Project proposal	Mr. F. Pascual (Spain)
14:30 - 15:00	Review of Las Palmas Decisions	Mr A. Ndiaye (WMO)
15:00 - 16:00	Working Group Discussion - Ongoing actions and next stages of current projects and activities	Moderator: Mr. B. Gomez (The Gambia)
16:00 - 16:30	Coffee-break	
16:30 - 17:30	Working Groups Reports	
18:00 - 20:00	Side event: ACMAD meeting	
20:00	Formal Dinner (Spain)	

## **Friday 14 November 2008**

### **Session 3 – National and Regional Initiatives**

*Chairman: Mr. O. M.L. Bechir (Mauritania)*

08:30 - 08:45	Recap on Day 1: Agreed next steps for on-going projects and activities	Mr G. Gueghi (Cote D'Ivoire)
08:45 - 10:30	Presentation and Discussion of National and Other Activities of Interest (10 minutes)	
	Country presentations	
	- The Gambia	Mr. Bernard E. Gomez
	- Burkina Faso	Mr. A. J. Garane
	- Mauritania	Mr. M. Bechir
	- Togo	Mr. A. A. Egbare
	- Nigeria	Mr. E.O. Adeniji
	Other activities	
	-Capacity Building in Earth Observations	Ms. M. Angoloti (GEO CB Co-chair)
	- MERIT project	Ms. M. Angoloti (MERIT)/Mr. A. J. Garane (Burkina Faso)
	- African Ministerial Meeting and WCC-3	Mr. A. Ndiaye (WMO)
	- ACMAD	Mr. M. Kadi (ACMAD)
	- African Early Warning and Advisory Climate Services	Ms. M.C. Dufresne (MeteoFrance/ACMAD)
10:30 - 11:00	Open discussion of possible projects and activities for inclusion in a long-term Action Plan	Moderator: Mr. R. Masters (WMO)
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee-break	
11:30 - 12:30	Identification of projects and activities to be included in 2009 regional Action Plan	Moderator: Mr. R. Masters (WMO)
12:30 - 13:00	Lunch	
13:00 - 14:00	Free time: Friday Prayer	

### **Session 4 – Action Plan and Statement from the Meeting from the NMHS**

*Chairman: Mr M.L. Bah (Guinea-Conakry)*

14:00 - 14:30	- Summary of ideas for future activities - Proposal of an 2009 Action Plan	Mr. R. Masters (WMO)
14:30 - 16:30	- Discussion and adoption of 2009 Action Plan	Moderator: Mr. L. Moussa (Niger)
16:30	Formal closure	

**ANNEX 3:**

<b>NIAMEY ACTION PLAN</b>	
<b>Description of the Activity</b>	<b>Work Plan 2009</b>
<b>ONGOING ACTIONS FROM LAS PLAMAS ACTION PLAN</b>	
<p><b>Action 1. Marine Meteorology</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of a pilot project according to the draft ToR for project on Marine Met-Ocean presented by Spain, in the context of the process established in the WMO Severe Weather Demonstration Project in S. Africa.</li> <li>• Phase I Senegal, Mauritania, Cape Vert, Gambia with addition of Guinea and Guinea Bissau later and expansion to other countries in the Gulf of Guinea to considered.</li> <li>• A key Focus of the pilot project is on technology transfer to the participants' countries and the RSMC Dakar, all of who will be involved in all phases of the project.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>PILOT PROJECT</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1 WMO Secretariat and AEMET to finalise the TOR that was endorsed at the Niamey Conference of Directors.</li> <li>1.2 Commence Project implementation as soon as possible</li> <li>1.3 Capacity building programme:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Procurement of equipment for provision of essential telecom and computer equipment and marine observation stations for the reception and utilization of meteorological products</li> <li>ii. Modeling and technology transfer</li> <li>iii. Training to build capacities in the general curricula adopted by WMO (using the RTCs at Casablanca or Toulouse or Lagos);</li> <li>iv. Training for users will conducted by the National Met Services with support of AEMET.</li> <li>v. Specific training of the coastal states on marine pilot project (Las Palmas/Madrid).</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p><b>OPERATIONAL SYSTEM</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.4 Develop a new and more detailed proposal project for an operational system in Marine Met Services in the region to make possible the beginning of the project as early as feasible. Aspects to be included are to build and sustain the operational end-to-end system: observations-data management-information-dissemination-products.</li> <li>1.5 Present this new proposal to other donor's agencies for funding.</li> <li>1.6 In view of the training needs in NWP, the countries with critical needs will be evaluated and considered. Then, there will be created linkages between these countries in the region and advanced centres involved in NWP. Partners with resources will be consulted to support these trainings. In particular, marine forecasting is an aspect that may require urgent attention in view of the present needs of these countries.</li> </ol>

NIAMEY ACTION PLAN		
	Description of the Activity	Work Plan 2009
<b>Action 2. Agricultural meteorology</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional project focused on strengthening surface observation networks and on the use of simplified rain gauges to elaborate and disseminate information to farmers and decision makers. Successfully piloted in Mali in 2008 under Las Palmas Action Plan.</li> <li>Partners include WMO, AEMET, ACMAD, AGRHYMET, and National NMHS.</li> </ul>	2.1 Prepare report on success and constraints of Roving Seminars including evaluation of the quality and utility of the information provided by farmers in the seminars 2.2 Evaluation Meeting to improve future actions 2.3 Adaptation to Climate Change in Agriculture in West Africa Workshop early 2009 in Burkina Faso (WMO & UNDP). 2.4 Extend the seminars to all requesting countries in the region with priority to those countries who have not yet hosted this programme. 2.5 Explore the use of a broad range of communication technologies for information dissemination with special focus on RANET, Cell Phone and Internet and associated capacity building for stakeholders.
<b>Action 3. Countries emerging from conflict and natural disasters</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focusing on Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea Bissau, Cote d'Ivoire and Togo.</li> <li>This group is recognised as needing special attention in Las Palmas Action plan and continuing to need focused support under this Action Plan.</li> <li>Focus on development of basic capacities of these countries in the short term through training, instruments and equipment, for adequate basic meteorological and hydrological, services.</li> </ul>	3.1 Capacity Assessment - Expert consultancy mission to assess the situation, identify needs and make recommendations for immediate and long terms actions 3.2 Assessment to be validated by the countries 3.3 Preparation of a sub regional project for development with seed funding from Spain and support for approach to other donors
<b>Action 4. Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhancing capacity of NMHS in advocacy and marketing to improve political support and financing to the NMHS within the national context.</li> <li>Relates to Action 8 – Capacity Building.</li> </ul>	4.1 Hosting of Workshop focused on Resource Mobilization preceding the next Conference of Directors in 2009. 4.2 Develop and trial capacity building programme to support NMHS to build political support, engage in national processes to secure internal funding and also participate to processes for programming of international financial support by national governments and to better identify and engage existing and new user sectors.
<b>Actions 5 &amp; 6 of Las Palmas Action Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Covered under Action 8 &amp; 1 of this Plan</li> </ul>	
<b>Action 7. Website</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of website by AEMET</li> </ul>	7.1 Finalise Website



NIAMEY ACTION PLAN		
Description of the Activity		Work Plan 2009
<b>Action 8. Capacity Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Addressing short terms capacity needs: supporting training as opportunities arise through a specific fund allocation and also supporting countries to engage in training events held within the implementation of the Marine Met. and Agricultural Met. Pilot Projects</li> <li>Development and execution of a Regional Capacity Assessment</li> </ul>	<p>8.1 Undertake a strategic capacity needs assessment including looking at other potential financing mechanisms / partners</p> <p>8.2 Establish “Capacity Building Fund” under the Trust Fund of Spain at WMO to support countries to take opportunity of short-term training activities that arise during 2009 (to be managed similar to existing VCP Short Term Training under FELCON evaluation process of WMO)</p> <p>8.3 Invite non participating countries within the West African NMHs to Training Activities held within the Agricultural and Marine Met. Pilot Projects of this Action Plan.</p>
	<b>NEW ACTIVITIES 2009</b>	
<b>Action 9.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May be programmed as needs arise and subject to discussions by all parties to the Programme.</li> </ul>	