



Launch of the First Hydromet Gap Report

Weather, climate and water services to underpin sustainable development

A High-Level Political Forum event co-hosted by
the **Alliance for Hydromet Development**¹ and
the **United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs**

0800-0900 EDT, Thursday 8 July 2021

Background

Climate change is the defining challenge of our time. The global annual mean temperature is approximately 1.2 °C warmer than pre-industrial times. We are far off track from reducing global greenhouse gas emissions sufficiently to avert significant impacts of climate and extremes and limit temperature rise to within 1.5 °C of the pre-industrial reference in line with the Paris Agreement. This has adverse consequences across all SDGs.

Alongside climate mitigation, United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres has called for a breakthrough on adaptation and resilience in 2021, with significant increases in the volume and predictability of adaptation finance. This includes initiatives to strengthen forecast-based resilience building approaches in order to ensure all people, especially the most vulnerable in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs), can adapt and be more resilient to the socioeconomic consequences of inevitable future weather and climate extreme events.

Science-based, data-driven weather and climate services, such as multi-hazard early warning systems, are the foundation for effective adaptation measures. These services are proven to provide significant return on investments, yielding benefits across all SDGs. Yet large capacity gaps remain, particularly in countries most vulnerable to weather and climate extreme events.

The Alliance for Hydromet Development was launched at COP25 in Madrid. The Alliance members collectively committed to unite and scale up efforts to close the capacity gap on high-quality weather, climate, hydrological, and related environmental services – hydromet - as the foundation for resilient and sustainable development. It brings together the World Meteorological Organization and international development, humanitarian and financial institutions providing hydromet support to developing countries.

Objective

The high-level public event will bring together the principals of the Alliance for Hydromet Development and senior country representatives to raise awareness of the foundational role of hydromet development in underpinning climate action and resilient and sustainable development.

The event will launch the first Hydromet Gap Report, the flagship publication of the Alliance, with a presentation of findings related to the hydromet capacity gap and recommendations for priority actions to close the gap – in particular the creation of the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF).

¹ The members of the Alliance are: Adaptation Fund; African Development Bank; Asian Development Bank; Climate Investment Funds; European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; Global Environment Facility; Green Climate Fund; Islamic Development Bank; United Nations Development Programme; United Nations Environment Programme; World Bank; World Food Programme; World Meteorological Organization

Programme

Moderator: **Laura Tuck**, Chair Alliance Hydromet Gap Report editorial team

08:00–08:10	<p>Opening</p> <p>Welcome and introductory remarks by the moderator followed by opening remarks from</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations• H.E. José Ulisses Correia e Silva, Prime Minister Cabo Verde
08:10–08:20	<p>Launch of the first Hydromet Gap Report from the Alliance for Hydromet Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction: Petteri Taalas, Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization• Presentation of main findings of the report: Ede Vasquez, Alliance Hydromet Gap Report editorial team consultant
08:20–08:55	<p>Priority action for closing the hydromet gap: The Systematic Observations Financing Facility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SOFF video featuring among others Mari Pangestu, World Bank Managing Director and Akinwumi Adesina, President of the African Development Bank• Statement by Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UN Environment Programme• Statement by Achim Steiner, Administrator UN Development Programme <p>Moderator-led interactive dialogue with panel members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mafalda Duarte, CEO Climate Investment Funds• Pa Ousman Jarju, Director Green Climate Fund• Carlos Fuller, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the UN for Belize, representing the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)• Gebru Jember, Regional Lead Global Green Growth Institute, representing the Least Developed Countries (LDC) Group <p>Questions for the panel from the audience</p> <p>Video statements from Alliance Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yannick Glemarec, Executive Director Green Climate Fund• Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, CEO and Chairman Global Environment Facility• Mikko Ollikainen, Head Adaptation Fund• David Beasley, Executive Director World Food Programme• Bruno Carrasco, Director General Asian Development Bank• Bandar M.H. Hajjar, President Islamic Development Bank• Harry Boyd-Carpenter, Managing Director European Bank for Reconstruction and Development <p>Concluding remarks from moderator</p>
08:55–09:00	<p>Closing remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Selwin Hart, Special Advisor to the Secretary-General on Climate Action and Assistant Secretary-General for the Climate Action Team• Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs