

**21st Session of the ACMAD Board of Governors – Location: online
tentative date: March 09-10, 2021**

**DOCUMENT N° ACMAD/BoG21/DOC 2.3
Draft Policy on stimulating and investing in NMHSs of ACMAD
member states**

February 2021

Action required

The Board is invited to consider and review the draft policy

1. INTRODUCTION

ACMAD as continental player in the field of meteorology and hydrology is driven by the Africa's agenda 2063. The achievement of this agenda will require different development sectors actors to work together. With the serious vulnerability of African society and economy to climate change and the increasing frequency and intensity of extremes and their negative impacts across the continent, the NMHSs and Regional weather and climate centres role are essential to build a resilient prosperity with agenda 2063.

To meet the sustainable peace and prosperity targets of agenda 2063, reforms on the governance and management of NMHSs will play a critical role. The next generation of African NMHSs should recognize and embark on multi-stakeholder partnerships to effectively mobilize and share knowledge, technology and financial resources to support climate resilient prosperity and peace in Africa.

More specifically, the new generation of NMHSs should be agile in building and leading partnerships with public, private, academic and civil society stakeholders. Support from governments is encouraged to the process of adaptation of NMHSs strategies and policies to reflect both national and regional development agendas with emphasis on agenda 2063. Partnerships within the meteorological community has been quite effective for data exchange. Sustaining NMHSs in the coming decades will require expansion of partnerships and cooperation with relevant stakeholders towards advanced technologies of the digital era with open and big data, artificial intelligence, high performance computing and information systems.

Private organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions are increasing active in Africa on observations, data acquisition, processing and information generation technologies. In some countries, private companies are operating in meteorological services delivery. The World Meteorological Congress (Cg- 17 (2015)) acknowledge the new players in the field and recognized that more interactions between NMHSs and the recent actors would stimulate innovation benefitting society.

In Africa, national government are encouraged to expand NMHSs mandates giving more leadership role in the future to be characterized by expansion and emergence of new players in the meteorological services at national and international levels.

To ensure sustainability of NMHSs and build maximum positive impact of new players on the people, national governments are also encouraged to:

- undertake management reforms to establish new revenue and economic models ensuring NMHSs sustainability, benefitting society and accelerating prosperity in Africa;
- Facilitate governance reforms supporting evolution of NMHSs toward flexible and more autonomous entities with leading role in each country to organize consultations with all stakeholders, propose relevant legal, regulatory, institutional and strategic options to maximize benefits from meteorological services to the society.

Recognizing the challenges ahead, NMHSs of ACMAD members are in need of principles to guide upcoming dialogue at national level on the stimulation and investments in NMHSs for sustainable national development.

This guidance supports building awareness of national policy makers and sectoral stakeholders and improving the understanding required to nurture dialogue on the foundation of a sustainable future in the meteorological field across Africa.

2. POLICY OBJECTIVE

The policy on stimulating and investing in NMHSs guides action by member country governments and their partners to define priorities and provide resources required to sustain NMHSs and expand benefits of meteorological services to society.

To stimulate and invest in NMHSs, governments are encouraged to establish appropriate economic models and legislation, build capacity, promote standardization, facilitate dialogue among national stakeholders, promote complementarity and shared value.

2.1 ECONOMIC/BUSINESS MODEL AND LEGISLATION

Given the quick evolution in science and technology, the increase in demands for services by governments, private interest and the public to combat climate change and build resilience to extreme events, the economic system and model as well as legislations which constrained most NMHSs to the public sector with resources constraints over the past decades require changes including on legislation to maximize benefits to society and sustain NMHS.

With reduction in state budgets, an economic model based on legislation that expand the service demand and supply (i.e., in the infrastructure sector, make the use of climate extremes monitoring and projection service mandatory through legislation for resilient design, building and operation of roads, dams ... across Africa) is a key enabler for more resources to invest in NMHSs service capacity.

2.2 BUILDING CAPACITY

A major challenge ahead, is the development or mobilization of infrastructure and expertise to use available knowledge and technology for service delivery in NMHSs given the growing competition with other stakeholders. Given the substantial financial resources required, the proposed government policy for resource mobilization would include better involvement of the **National Designated Authorities for development cooperation and climate finance funds** in prioritizing capacity development for NMHSs in crafting national **programming, identification and financing proposals** to these funds.

The WMO designated Regional Centres are mandated to develop capacity of NMHSs. Their contributions through Regional development cooperation and climate finance funds are to be strengthened with high level engagement of Regional Designated Authorities to development and climate finance cooperation mechanisms prioritizing capacity building across the service value in regional level programming, identification and financing proposals.

2.3 PROMOTE STANDARDIZATION

At the global level under the WMO leadership, technical regulations, manuals, guides, good practices and standards are developed across the services value chain and made available. To prepare MNHSs for services modernization, WMO Regional Centres in Africa should be more involved in expert teams developing regulations, guides and standards. They should promote validation, adaptation and update of these documents and facilitate their use for quality services delivery at national levels. Governments and Regional policy bodies (UMA, ECOWAS, ECCAS, IGAD, SADC, IOC) are encouraged to provide support to establish and operate experts panels and groups on standardization across the continent.

2.4 DIALOGUE FACILITATION

With the emergence of competition on service delivery with players progressively moving from mostly provision of observing systems and technical support for their operation and maintenance to more lucrative end service provision to commercial interests, states and NMHSs are facing the challenge of establishing a dialogue mechanism towards a shared prosperity and value approach. Governments are encouraged to support establishment of **dialogue mechanisms and clearing** houses at national level to pursue common objectives and facilitate extraction of maximum benefits from the service value chain for all.

2.5 COMPLEMENTARITY AND SHARED VALUE

In an increasing complexity of demands for services and emergence of new suppliers, coordination to ensure complementarity and value sharing among stakeholders is a challenge. National governments with the technical support of international mechanisms are encouraged to define and review when necessary responsibilities and roles of stakeholders upholding complementarity principle. Specific contribution on quality management guidance should be sought by governments to regional and global centres and experts' teams. Support by the relevant players on infrastructure from observations system design to service delivery, contribution of national research institutes on improvement of knowledge, technological innovation and transfer through training, operational generation and delivery of data, products and services by NMHSs are proposed distribution of roles ensuring complementarity and fair share of benefits. Domestic and foreign resources mobilization by governments and



partnerships is highly desirable and government facilitation of required governance set up to implement the policy is encouraged.
