

COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD)

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**Submissions from entities in the United Nations system and elsewhere on their efforts in 2010
to implement the outcome of the WSIS**

Submission by

WMO

This submission was prepared as an input to the report of the UN Secretary-General on "Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels" (to the 14th session of the CSTD), in response to the request by the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2006/46, to the UN Secretary-General to inform the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS as part of his annual reporting to the Commission.

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The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) is committed to the promotion, coordination and support of implementation of ICTs for improving global, regional and national production, exchange and distribution of information and warnings on weather, climate and water. In E-environment, WMO continued in 2010 to establish monitoring systems, using ICTs, forecast and monitor the impact of natural and man-made disasters.

Significant progress had been made in 2010 in the development and implementation of the WMO Information System (WIS), which collects and shares weather, water and climate information for all WMO and related international programmes. Many Members have now implemented the new functionality of WIS to pre-operational status, and will begin operational services once approved by WMO Congress as WIS centres. The draft WIS regulatory documentation is ready for the consideration of WMO Congress. The first pre-operational Global Information System Centre (GISC) was launched by Germany in May 2010, followed by China and Japan in the same year. Several other GISC candidates, including the three World Meteorological Centres, plan to be pre-operational before mid 2012. Several Data Collection or Production Centres (DCPCs) and National Centres are also in pre-operational mode. Approval of the new Technical Regulations, and the new Manual on WIS, will allow many other Members to implement the new functionality of WIS.

The Global Telecommunication System (GTS), the private telecommunication network connecting Members of WMO, continued to improve through the adoption of new technologies in terrestrial and satellite based communication systems, including broadcast and data collection platforms. The Improved Main Telecommunication Network project is now completed with most Main Telecommunication Network centres now connected to a single Multi-protocol Label Switching (MPLS) cloud. Modernization of regional links has continued with the migration to Internet Protocol (IP) being almost completed for all regional networks. The GTS has also made increasing use of the Internet, particularly as a back up to private networks, and in lieu of private links in some regions where the cost of protection offered by use of private networks to many developing and least develop countries has been assessed as outweighing the risk of using the Internet. Satellite-based data distribution systems operated by several Members of WMO remains a valuable component of the WIS by providing broadcast services for satellite data and products as well as for GTS traffic to many Members.