

**Opening remark  
at 7th Workshop on the Impact of various Observing Systems on NWP**

Assistant Secretary-General, WMO

Dear colleagues and friends,

First of all, I would like on behalf of Prof. Taalas, Secretary-General of WMO to welcome you all to join the 7<sup>th</sup> WMO Impact Workshop, and great thanks to the workshop Co-chairs, session chairs for this quite comprehensive Workshop Programme. I also would like to express my thanks to my secretariat team colleagues under the leadership of Dr Lars Peter Riishojgaard, the director of Earth System Monitoring and Prediction Branch within the Infrastructure Department, to set up this platform allowing us to have the workshop in Virtual form due to the pandemic.

As you know that the WMO impact workshops in this series started the first workshop in Geneva (April 1997), Toulouse (March 2000), Alpbach (March 2004), Geneva (May 2008), Sedona (May 2012) and Shanghai (May 2016). I personally attended the 5<sup>th</sup> in Sedona (organized by LPR) and 6<sup>th</sup> in Shanghai (I was engaged also as part of the local organizer).

With my personal experience engaging once every four-year workshop, I deeply realized the great value of these workshops, and their navigating power. Conclusions concerning the contributions of the various components of the observing system to forecast skill at short and medium range, with both global and regional aspects, will lead to some significant changes and developments to WMO global observing systems and even regional/national systems, and the advanced technologies exchanged at the workshop on Data assimilations, the observing system experiments (OSEs), FSOs, etc. have benefited to all WMC and Regional and National NWP centers on the best technologies on Data Utilization in Models.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to share with you my two areas of expectations not only for this workshop, but also for the entire community for the following years efforts:

I: Impact studies with expanded scope covering the whole Earth System Modellings, i.e., atmosphere, ocean and land domains. As you may know that WMO new Strategic Plan approved by Cg-18 in 2019, and I also noted many Global NWP centers (like ECMWF) have the latest strategic plans also addressing the Earth System Approach, with the common understanding that Earth System Prediction and Services with richer and more environmental variables will lead to greater promotion of Social-economic benefits. In this regard, I am happy to see the programme of this workshop, in addition to excellent studies on best use of various atmospheric soundings (which are certainly important), but also has some studies on impacts of Oceans and Arctic land observations. I may even suggest that we should consider the title of the Impact workshop on Earth System Prediction (ESP) to replace NWP in the future.

II: Support WMO GBON and SOFF implementation. As you may know that in the past months, WMO has made great progress with regard to the GBON and SOFF. GBON has been approved the INFRASTRUCTURE Commission aims at great improvement of WMO in-situ data exchanges at higher resolution (both in space and time), and SOFF (Systematic Observations Financing Facility) is the WMO new initiatives aiming at providing technical and financial assistance in a new way to guide the investment, with ambition of 400 Million USD within Five years, based upon the GBON requirements and provisions, using the data exchange as a measure of success, and creating global and local benefits and public good (all of you this community will benefit from this initiative). For ensuring the health development and implementation of SOFF, I kindly request your community pay great attention to the SOFF and GBON development, and timely organize your studies based upon new available data, allowing WMO to timely feedback to the doner partners with scientific-sound forecasting performance improvements as evidence of GBON and SOFF benefits. I request my WMO Secretariat colleagues keep all of you posted on the great development, and also encourage all of you pay attention to the progress as well. These are truly win-win approach to all of us.

Finally, I would like to thank you all, the co-chairs, sessions chairs and presenters again, and encourage all participants be proactive to join the interactive discussions. I will certainly be more than happy to follow the workshop with my great interests.

Looking forward to the productive workshop with your excellent conclusions and recommendations to WMO.