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STATEMENT BY THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

**By Dr Flaviana D. Hilario, Acting Deputy Administrator for Research and Development,
Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration**

Chairperson,

Your Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for the opportunity to make an intervention on the important topic of climate and health, on behalf of the World Meteorological Organization.

Evidence is mounting on the impacts of climate on human health, and highlighting the particular vulnerability of this region. The dynamics and distribution of many important infectious diseases are affected; cardiovascular diseases are exacerbated by poor air quality; and impacts on food security pose serious consequences for nutrition. Critically, we recognize extreme weather events are an increasing concern to the health sector, affecting people's well-being and threatening the integrity of health services and infrastructure.

The health sector is learning to successfully manage these climate risks – yet access to and use of climate and weather information to inform health planning, service delivery, and community level protection – remains a major challenge.

In August 2014, the WHO Global Conference on Health and Climate stressed the need to improve collaboration between the health and the meteorological communities. This need was also recognized at the Third World Climate Conference in 2009 that established the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) -- a partnership of governments, international and regional organizations, and local stakeholders -- aimed at enhancing the production and use of climate information and services to support decision-making in four priority areas, including health.

The GFCS is taking steps to accelerate joint action between the health and climate communities, at global, regional, and national levels. Closer collaboration is a critical step for health actors to reap the benefits of advances in climate science and technology. Joint efforts can lead to improved climate and health research; and effective early warning systems that alert health authorities to weather-related risks.

Chairperson,

I would like to appeal to all Members, to join forces with us in the GFCS to take advantage of climate services to improve health outcomes. The GFCS is one of many opportunities, along with the renewal of the Hyogo Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction; the recent SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway; and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, which can help strengthen health sector capacity to become climate- prepared.

Thank you.