

High-Level Meeting on National Drought Policies – 10 years later

Draft Concept Note on Organizing HMNDP+10 (2023)

Introduction

In 2013, WMO, the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in collaboration with a number of UN agencies, international and regional organizations and key national agencies organized the High-Level Meeting on National Drought Policy (HMNDP) in Geneva from 11 to 15 March 2013. The theme of the HMNDP was “Reducing Societal Vulnerability – Helping Society (Communities and Sectors).”

Four hundred and fourteen participants from 87 countries as well as representatives of International Organizations, Regional Organizations and UN Agencies participated in the HMNDP. The event was organized in two parts, a three and half days of Scientific Segment followed by one and half days of High-level Segment. The Scientific Segment of HMNDP addressed seven major themes (See Annex 1) relevant to the National Drought Policy in fifteen different sessions, including seven plenary sessions, two round table discussion sessions and six parallel sessions. For more detailed information on the 2013 meeting, please go to the [WMO HMNDP web page](#).

On 20 December 2018 the General Assembly adopted the resolution on the “Midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action, ‘Water for Sustainable Development’ 2018-2028”. (A/RES/73/226). The resolution calls for a Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action to be convened in New York from 22 to 24 March 2023. The Conference shall be preceded by regional and global preparatory meetings, as appropriate, and informed by existing water-related meetings at the regional and global level.

On 21 December 2020, the UN General Assembly adopted the resolution A/RES/75/212 “United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028”, which provides the modalities of the Conference.

There have been many successful droughts activities since the HMNDP including:

- Establishment of the IDMP
- UN Water Capacity Development
- UNCCD Drought Initiative
- FAO/UNCCD GEF project
- World Bank EPIC response

In October 2021, the Extraordinary Session of the World Meteorological Congress (Cg-Ext 2021) approved Resolution 4 on [the WMO Vision and Strategy For Hydrology and Its Associated Plan of Action](#). Under this Plan of Action, Output C.1 on supporting WMO Members with respect to integrated drought management, there stated that the organization of HMNDP+10 with partners should be explored.

Initial Steps in Organizing HMNDP+10

In June 2021, there was an initial discussion with participants from several organizations (see Annex 2) interested in organizing a follow-up meeting provisionally entitled “High-Level Meeting on National Drought Policies – 10 years later (HMNDP+10)). Based on this discussion, the following general themes for HMNDP+10 were initially identified:

- Assess progress to date, stress outcomes of HMNDP;
Ten years in the future
- Identification of gaps or needs;
- Identification of national priorities across each subregion; and
- Agree on path forward, including resources/collaborations necessary to move the development of National Drought Management Policies forward to a higher level of implementation.

The intended audience of HMNDP+10 could either be:

- Same as the HMNDP 2013 meeting or
- More focused on collaborative partners.

It is proposed that the HMNDP+10 audience will need to include countries and financiers as well as academics, practitioners and ministers. It was stressed that outcomes still need to be defined and then align audience to this outcome. There is also a need to stress that addressing drought in the near-term gives you benefits in medium and longer term.

A key point will be how can HMNDP+10 participants work together to increase implementation of national drought management policies and strategies. Among the participants of this initial discussion, there was a strong agreement on the need for and timing for HMNDP+10. It is proposed that HMNDP+10 will be held in 2023 (possibly in June) which is ten years since the 2013 HMNDP and more importantly, the 2023 UN Water Decade Conference is scheduled to take place in March 2023.

The proposed next steps in organizing the HMNDP+10 include the following;

- Decision to organize HMNDP+10 and need for Agency approvals;
- Identification of potential sponsors and sources of financial support;
- Creation of an International Organizing Committee composed of diverse representatives from major sponsoring organizations / entities represented on the IDMP advisory committee and other organizations representing the wide range of impact sectors associated with drought (see Annex 3); and
- Include the active engagement of all IDMP partners/members of advisory committee.

There were many additional themes identified from the initial June 2021 discussions, including:

- Partnerships with the private sector;
- Drought in a broader context with Integrated Water Resources Management;
- Reference to outcomes of HMNDP:
 - Regional capacity building workshops
 - IDMP
 - UNCCD Drought Initiative
 - SISSA
 - Other projects or initiatives
- Take into account the timing of HMNDP+10 given UNCCD COP 2022, WMO Congress in 2023, FAO Annual Meeting and other events;
- Scope and focus of HMNDP+10 can be further defined by preconference workshops possibly related to the events in the previous bullet point;

- Be explicit that HMNDP+10 is seen as representing ALL of the IDMP partners;
- Initial thoughts are organize it outside Geneva, possibly Brazil;
- World Bank Initiative on Hydroclimatic Risk;
- Think across scales in creating the agenda for HMNDP+10;
- Engage with the Convention on Biological Diversity and the ecological community;
- Incorporate financing and governance;
- Align program with Water Decade and with the Biden Administration priorities on climate and environmental issues;
- Illustrate progress since HMNDP via case studies/incorporate in agenda;
- Organize a post-conference workshop or meeting of potential sponsors/financial supporters to discuss next steps, financial issues and collaborative opportunities;
- Focus on the pathway forward, i.e., why does drought matter and the benefits of action vs the costs of inaction, i.e., why you are better off by being proactive;
- Education and training to create the next generation of drought scientists in all aspects of drought—monitoring and early warning to drought policy and management;
- Well-documented progress mapping/stock taking against the objectives set out in the HMNDP 2013;
- Strategic assessments produced around 4-5 key themes leading up to the event and feeding into the HMNDP+10 programme;
- Improved understanding of how to move from frameworks (e.g., 3-pillars) and policies to practice/implementation/investments/action;
- Increased acknowledgment of the benefits from integrating drought and flood risk management;
- Improved understanding of the different actions that need to happen across scales of decision making (moving from “National Drought Policy” to regional, sub-national, local, etc.).

Annex 1: Seven major themes relevant to the National Drought Policies at HMNDP (2013)

- 1) Setting the Stage
- 2) Drought monitoring, early warning and information systems
- 3) Drought prediction and predictability: future prospects
- 4) Drought vulnerability and impact assessment
- 5) Enhancing drought preparedness and mitigation
- 6) Planning for appropriate response and relief within the framework of National Drought Policy
- 7) Constructing a framework for National Drought Policy: the way forward

Annex 2: Participants of Preliminary Discussions 4 June 2021

- Valentin Aich - GWP
- Nate Engle – World Bank
- Erwin De Nys – World Bank
- Roger Pulwarty – NOAA
- Maher Salman – FAO
- Mark Svoboda – US NDMC
- Daniel Tsegai – UNCCD
- Robert Stefanski – WMO
- Don Wilhite, Professor Emeritus, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Annex 3: Main HMNDP Co-Sponsors and Partners (2013)

- Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- Global Water Partnership (GWP)
- Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
- International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT)
- International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)
- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
- International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP)
- Joint Research Centre (JRC) of European Commission
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- UN-Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development (UNW-DPC)
- World Food Programme (WFP)