**Innovative Approaches to Weather and Climate Services in Africa**

**10 November, 2016**

**Blue Zone, Pavillion 4, PNUD Room**

**Marrakech, Morocco**

Providing accurate, timely and reliable weather, water and climate information will be key in supporting the efforts of leaders across sub-Saharan Africa to build resilience to climate change and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. When used to improve decision making, hydro-meteorological information can empower nations, save thousands of lives every year, and strengthen livelihoods across a region that has contributed the least to human-induced climate change, but is among the most vulnerable to its effects.

In 2014, UNDP initiated its **Programme on Climate Information for Resilient Development in Africa (CIRDA)** with $50 million from the GEF Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF). CIRDA supports 11 African LDCs to produce and deliver weather and climate information to protect lives and livelihoods, enable long-term planning and guide development and adaptation to ongoing climate change. Amongst its work, is working directly with national hydro-meteorological services in exploring solutions to provide weather and climate information effectively to vulnerable populations and end users.

This UNDP official side event will launch a new publication produced in view of the experience of the CIRDA Programme. The publication entitled **“A New Vision for Weather and Climate Services in Africa” highlights** innovative technologies and approaches that could be leveraged in sub-Saharan Africa to support the sustainability of investments in the weather and climate services sector, and improve efforts to adapt to a changing climate in Africa.

The event will include demonstrations of cutting-edge weather information technologies and services currently being deployed in Africa through the support of the CIRDA Programme. These include the use of Total-Solutions All-in-One Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) and connections with the mobile telecommunications sector to site monitor equipment and aid in the issuance of early alerts and productivity-boosting climate information. The side event will include speakers from Columbia University’s Brown Institute and from GSMA, the international trade association for mobile phone companies. Together they will discuss the possibility to include new stakeholders to provide climate and weather information through the use of telecommunications and open data.

With the right technologies, increased capacity, and just a bit of forward thinking in the way end-to-end systems are deployed, Africa can greatly improve the impact of efforts to modernize its national hydro-meteorological services.

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| 12:00- 12:10 | Chairman’s Welcome and Introduction   * Event Chair: Bubu Pateh Jallow, Chief Technical Adviser, Climate Change Early Warning System Project - Phase II, Gambia | **Blue Zone, Pavillion 4, PNUD Room** |
| 12:10-12:23 | **A New Vision on Climate Services in Africa for Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change**   * Bonizella Biagini, CIRDA Programme Manager, UNDP |
| 12:23-12:30 | **Uganda: Collecting Data, Saving Lives**   * *7-minute video on the human impact of communicating climate and weather data* |
| 12:30-1:00 | **Innovation in Uganda: Leveraging new technologies and developing partnerships to communicate weather and climate information in Uganda**   * Dr. Robert Rutaagi, Chairman of the Uganda National Meteorological Authority   *Session followed by a demonstration of the meteorological feed of information being collected in Uganda and Liberia through recently acquired AWS. It will also include a demonstration of a working last mile app (1-6-1 Human Network International App) that is providing information to end users in Uganda.* |
| 13:00-13:10 | **Including the private sector: partnerships for long term service sustainability**  Alan Miller, Private Sector Advisor, C4 EcoSolutions |
| 13:10-13:20 | **A Case for Open Data: Unlocking the power of civic innovation through information sharing**   * Michael Krisch, Deputy Director, Brown Institute for Media Innovation, Columbia University |
| 13:20-13:30 | **The role for mobile operators and telecommunications in driving forward innovation for weather monitoring and forecasting**   * Daniele Tricarico, Senior Insights Manager at Groupe Speciale Mobile Association (GSMA) *(TBC)* |