

SPEECH DELIVERED BY GHANA'S MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATION, DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATIONS AT THE EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE WMO EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS 2025, GENEVA, 20 OCTOBER 2025

- **Distinguished Chair,**
- **Secretary-General of WMO, Prof. Celeste Saulo,**
- **Heads of State,**
- **Honourable Ministers,**
- **Permanent Representatives of NMHSs,**
- **Esteemed Delegates,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. I bring you warm greetings from the Government and the good people of Ghana, and from His Excellency John Dramani Mahama, President of the Republic of Ghana. It is with deep humility and a profound sense of duty that I stand before you today, making my inaugural appearance at this esteemed Congress as Ghana's Minister for Communication, Digital Technology and Innovations. I am honoured to oversee the Ghana Meteorological Agency (GMet), a responsibility I embrace with great commitment and optimism.
2. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Secretary-General, Prof. Celeste Saulo, and her team for the warm hospitality extended to my delegation during our visit to the WMO Headquarters here in Geneva in July 2025. It was an excellent engagement that reinforced Ghana's commitment to international cooperation and WMO's global mission of empowering National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs). We are eager to build on this momentum.
3. During our discussions, I placed before the Secretary-General two key requests for WMO's consideration:
 - Establishing Ghana as a Regional Hub for Science and Training, through the creation of a Regional Specialized Meteorological Centre (RSMC) focusing on modelling and marine forecasting.
 - Accreditation of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) as a WMO Regional Training Institution, to nurture the next generation of meteorologists and climate scientists.
4. **I acknowledge the efforts of my predecessor, whose work helped advance our shared goals. Building on this foundation,** I continue to serve as the 2nd Vice Chair of the Africa Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET) Bureau, a platform that brings together African Ministers to strengthen meteorological policy and support socio-economic development.
5. The AMCOMET Bureau met on the 24th of June 2025 in Windhoek, Namibia, during the Intra-ACP Climate Services and Related Applications (ClimSA) and Space for Early Warning in Africa (SEWA) Forum. Key outcomes included:
 - Enhancing member state engagement and visibility.
 - Increasing financial resources for NMHSs.

- Promoting legislation to make NMHSs semi-autonomous or autonomous, and integrating climate services into national policies.
 - Strengthening cooperation and regional alignment.
 - Enhancing monitoring and evaluation of member states' progress.
6. Before addressing Ghana's national progress, allow me to briefly reflect on the broader African context. Our continent remains among the most vulnerable to climate change impacts, despite contributing the least to global emissions. From prolonged droughts in the Sahel to devastating floods in East and West Africa, extreme weather continues to threaten lives, disrupt economies, and reverse hard-won development gains. Ghana, like many of our sister nations, is not exempt.
 7. Africa accounts for 35% of global weather, climate, and water-related fatalities, yet only 40% of its population has access to early warning systems, the lowest coverage in the world. The impacts of climate change are no longer distant threats. In Ghana, the Akosombo Dam floods in the south and prolonged dry spells in the north have disrupted livelihoods, threatening food security, water resources, and infrastructure.
 8. In the 2025 State of the Nation Address, His Excellency the President acknowledged the key challenges facing Ghana's weather and climate services, including limited infrastructure, fragmented data systems, outdated policies, and legislative gaps. In response, the Government of Ghana is taking concrete steps to strengthen both the Ghana Meteorological Agency (GMet) and the Ghana Hydrological Authority, reflecting a firm commitment to modernization and resilience building.
 9. To further enhance GMet's capacity and sustainability, my Ministry has initiated several actions including:
 - a) A proposal to amend the GMet Act to transition the Agency into an Authority, providing greater autonomy and financial flexibility.
 - b) Plans to gradually wean GMet off government subvention to enable self-sufficiency and improve staff conditions.
 - c) A retooling project aimed at upgrading logistics, infrastructure, and technology to support modernized operations.
 10. Further demonstrating this commitment, the Presidency has established the Office of the Minister of State for Climate Change and Sustainability and introduced a Green Transition portfolio under the Ministry of Energy to promote coordinated action toward a sustainable and climate-resilient future.
 11. With agriculture as the backbone of Ghana's economy and coastal cities like Accra increasingly vulnerable to sea-level rise and flooding, the stakes are high. For our farmers, fisherfolk, urban dwellers, and children, climate change is a daily reality. Ghana is therefore strengthening weather and climate services to ensure that science and technology drive resilience, safeguard communities, and promote sustainable development.
 12. Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me to share **Ghana's success story** over the past year, a story of collaboration, innovation, and commitment to closing the early warning gap.

13. For the past three years, GMet has transformed World Meteorological Day (23rd March) into a month-long celebration, dubbed Meteorological Awareness Month (MAM), aimed at enhancing visibility and stakeholder engagement. The 2025 edition was celebrated with Persons with Disabilities, under the theme “*Closing the Early Warning Gap Together.*” Activities included community outreach initiatives and, prominently, the presentation of the 2025 Seasonal Forecast, which served as a key platform for sharing vital climate information to support planning and decision-making across sectors. The establishment of Green Climate Clubs in second-cycle institutions further underscored GMet’s commitment to enhancing climate literacy among young people and fostering a generation of climate-smart youth
14. In 2023, GMet reported the registration of 23 Automatic Weather Stations on the OSCAR platform. Today, I am pleased to announce that GMet is leveraging the WMO Information System (WIS 2.0) to enhance data sharing and support both the Regional Basic Observing Network (RBON) and the Global Basic Observing Network (GBON), in line with WMO’s Unified Data Policy.
15. GMet is also leveraging the WMO Content Management System (CMS) to improve digital climate service delivery, fully integrating the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) for faster dissemination of warnings. Through CAP, GMet issues weather warnings accessible via its website, Windy.com, FASTA and WMO Severe Weather Portals. Ghana is also working with Google Public Alerts to integrate CAP warnings into Google Search and Maps, a major step toward providing real-time and easily accessible early warnings for all. To strengthen national coordination, I have directed that GMet warnings be integrated into national communication platforms, with the National Communications Authority (NCA) tasked to lead this process under the Early Warnings for All initiative.
16. We are grateful to WMO and its partners for the Volta Flood and Drought Project, which has strengthened cross-border collaboration among countries in the Volta Basin. As Phase II is being explored, Ghana urges donors to recognize the project’s impact and support its continuation.
17. In keeping with the theme of this Congress, Progress with the Early Warnings for All (EW4All) Initiative, I am pleased to highlight Ghana’s achievements. After discussions held during COP28 in Dubai, Ghana sought the support of the WMO to launch the EW4All initiative. With the collaboration of WMO and United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), the initiative was officially launched in Accra in October 2024.
18. A national roadmap was subsequently developed and validated at a stakeholder workshop in February 2025, with all the national EW4All pillars and coordinated by the World Food Programme (WFP). There is ongoing engagements with the UN Resident Coordinator, UN agencies, and other stakeholders for continued leadership sensitization and resource mobilization for implementation.
19. I am pleased to share that GMet has achieved **ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System Certification** for all its weather and climate services. This milestone demonstrates Ghana’s dedication to maintaining high standards of quality, reliability, and alignment with international best practices. The Agency is also working towards obtaining **ISO/IEC 17025 Calibration Lab Certification**, which will further improve data accuracy and ensure that all instruments

meet global standards for measuring and recording meteorological information. This achievement represents a valuable step forward not only for Ghana but also for the wider region.

20. In strengthening collaboration, GMet and the Danish Meteorological Institute (DMI), supported by the Danish Government under the Strategic Sector Cooperation (SSC), are developing a Climate Atlas to support climate change policy, the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The partnership also focuses on building capacity in forecasting, empowering communities with data for informed climate action, and enhancing national preparedness for climate-related challenges.
21. In collaboration with the University of Leeds, GMet is piloting the Forecasting African Storms Application (FASTA), a nowcasting tool that enhances real-time storm prediction for sectors such as agriculture, energy, and disaster management.
22. As this Congress reflects on its key themes, I wish to highlight the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) in advancing weather and climate services. My Ministry firmly believes that embracing digital technology and innovation is essential for the future. In this regard, Ghana aligns with the AI for Weather Forecasting initiative under the WMO Integrated Processing and Prediction System (WIPPS), recognizing its potential to enhance forecasting accuracy and lead to faster, more reliable early warnings that save lives and protect property.
23. As we convene here in Geneva, I respectfully urge WMO and member states to intensify support for initiatives that bridge the early warning gap. This can be achieved through greater technology transfer, improved and inclusive communication infrastructure, and stronger efforts to build resilience, particularly among the most vulnerable communities.
24. Let us envision a future where every person, regardless of geography or circumstance, can access and act upon life-saving meteorological information, where early warnings truly lead to early action.
25. In closing, on behalf of the President, the people of Ghana, and myself, I wish to congratulate Prof. Celeste Saulo on her election as the first female Secretary-General of WMO. Ghana proudly shares in this milestone, as our nation's first female Vice President, Prof. Jane Naana Opoku-Agyemang, continues to inspire women's leadership across Africa.
26. I also extend congratulations to our compatriot, Mr. Thomas Asare, on his appointment as Assistant Secretary-General of WMO. Ghana is deeply honoured and proud of this achievement. We wish both of you success in advancing global weather, climate, and water resilience.
27. Finally, I extend heartfelt appreciation to WMO, our international partners, and the dedicated team at GMet. May our shared efforts continue to safeguard communities and strengthen climate resilience.

I wish us all successful deliberations.

Thank you.