2025 – WMO EXTRAORDINARY CONGRESS

Interactive dialogue between

Mr António Guterres,

Secretary-General of the United Nations

and the World Meteorological Congress

Reflections from Mr. Fetene Teshome, President of RA-I (Africa)

Your Excellency, UN SG Mr. António Guterres,
Dr. Abdulla Al Mandous, President of the WMO
WMO Secretary General, Prof Celeste Saulo
Fellow PRs
Ladies and gentlemen

I am the PR of Ethiopia with WMO, and I am representing the WMO Regional Association for Africa as president.

I can affirm that climate and weather-related risks are growing in frequency and intensity, affecting lives, livelihoods, and national development priorities, across the Continent. To respond effectively, NMHSs must be equipped with science and capacity with sustained, predictable financing.

Since 2022, when you had launched the EW4ALL Initiative, Africa has been on the forefront in implementing the initiative by developing the Africa Action Plan, 2023 – 2027.

Initiatives such as the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems and the Green Climate Fund have made meaningful contributions. These have supported targeted capacity-building and adaptation planning efforts to strengthen early warning systems across vulnerable countries.

For Africa, SOFF finances the collection of essential weather and climate data, serving as a backbone for EW4ALL.

However, financing mechanisms must be scaled up, and become accessible, aligned with national priorities, and responsive to the operational realities we face on *the ground. Africa's NMHSs are on the front lines of climate adaptation, but too often, we are the last to receive the investments required to do our work effectively.*

I urge the international community to view investment in weather, climate, and hydrological services not as optional, but as foundational to sustainable development, disaster risk reduction, and climate resilience.

Thank you, UN SG , for your leadership in advocating for climate justice and for ensuring Africa's voice remains central in global financing decisions

Thank you