

Professor, Dr Petteri Taalas

WMO Secretary-General 2016–2019

Candidate for reappointment for 2020-2023

Action at WMO during his first term

- Facilitation of major WMO Constituent Body Reform (Congress, Executive Council, Regional Associations and Technical Commissions) to optimize the use of Member and Secretariat resources while meeting the global and future challenges for weather, climate and water services as well as closing the research to application gap.
- Coordination of a plan for private sector engagement in WMO activities.
- Establishment of a new transparent budget process aligned with the new WMO Strategic Plan.
- Re-orientation of partnership agreements with major development agencies – World Bank, Green Climate Fund, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and several national development agencies – to deliver concrete action to enhance support for climate adaptation and early warning services.
- Tripling of external funding for development activities: Major European Commission support was received for implementing GFCS in African, the Caribbean and Pacific region Members States and Territories. The realization of a new Early Warning Service instrument under the CREWS Initiative is being supported by seven donor countries with implementation in several Member States and Territories across most WMO regions.
- Signing of new partnership agreements with key UN agencies to bolster WMO activities in targeted areas: FAO (weather and climate services for farmers), WHO (air quality and climate), UNFCCC (greenhouse gas and climate monitoring), ICAO (aviation safety services) and IMO (maritime services).
- Enhanced global visibility of WMO in the climate, disaster and water arena as the Organization with essential scientific expertise for sustainable development. Took on the role of UN Climate Principal and has been advising the UN Secretary General. Assigned responsibility for climate science planning of the UN Secretary General Climate Summit September 2019. Actively contributed to sessions of the UNFCCC Conference Of Parties (COP).
- Promotion of the role of and advocating for National Meteorological and Hydrological Service (NMHSs) with ministers and heads of state at meetings in all WMO Regions.
- Development of numerical indicators for the implementation of WMO Strategy. Reorganization of all WMO departments to gain efficiencies. Introduction of a Voluntary Separation Package and early retirement programme to release resources for new challenges.

- Appointment of both male and female managers from all WMO Regions based on competence. Appointment of the first ever WMO Chief Scientist.
- Implementation of a WMO Country Profile Database to describe the status and trends of the Member infrastructures, resources and service capabilities.