

**World Climate Conference-3**  
**Opening of the High-Level Segment**  
**Geneva, Switzerland**  
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**Speech by Professor Catherine Bréchignac**  
**President**  
**International Council for Science (ICSU)**

Mr President, Your Excellencies, Colleagues of the sponsoring organizations, Distinguished participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honoured to be here, to address the High-Level Segment of the Third World Climate Conference on behalf of the International Council for Science (ICSU). ICSU is proud to be one of the co-sponsors of this Conference, as we have been co-sponsors of the First and the Second World Climate Conferences. I should like to express here my profound gratitude to my colleagues from the other sponsoring organizations of WCC-3 and I offer a special word of thanks to Mr. Jarraud, Secretary General of the World Meteorological Organization, for his leadership in convening this World Climate Conference-3, in cooperation with UN system partners, generous governments and ICSU. I also wish to express my deep appreciation to you, Mr. Leuenberger, for hosting this Conference in Switzerland and for chairing this High-Level Segment.

Awareness of the ongoing climate change and of the scale of threats linked to it may only have begun to filter into the public domain during these early years in the 21st century, but it has been at the forefront of concern for the international scientific community for several decades already.

Much has been clarified in our understanding of climate, climate change and its potential impacts since the first World Climate Conference in 1979. My colleagues from WMO, UNESCO and UNEP have already referred to the major scientific programmes, all jointly sponsored by our organizations, established after the two preceding World Climate Conferences, notably the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) and the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS).

The scientific assessments of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) draw on the collaborative work of many scientists and countries through the World Climate Research Programme, ICSU's International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP), and, more recently through DIVERSITAS and the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change Programme (IHDP). The recently launched ICSU programme, Integrated Research on Disaster Risk (IRDR) will also feed into the scientific assessments of the IPCC. ICSU is proud of its role in all of these endeavours.

One essential foundation for accelerating the implementation of mitigation and adaptation policies will be the strengthening and completion of the necessary international institutional architecture linking science and policy and providing optimal climate services to society. This is where the outcomes of the World Climate Conference-3 matter most. This High-Level Segment is called to decide on the development of the Global Framework for Climate Services. Out of the four major components which the proposed Framework will have, two are already well established but need to be strengthened: Observation and Monitoring; and

Research, Modelling and Prediction. The other two components must be established: a Climate Services Information System and a User Interface Programme.

The International Council for Science is fully committed to contributing, to the best of its capacity, to the development of the Global Framework for Climate Services. The need to develop climate services, in addition to meteorological services, has become urgent. We should not forget that scientists have been studying the climate for a long time, whereas, up to now, society has been interested mainly in the weather and, of course, weather forecasting. . ICSU is ready to continue working with WMO, other partners inside and outside the UN system, governments and all other stakeholders to ensure that the Global Framework and its components will provide the climate services which the world community needs— in terms of seasonal, to inter-annual and decadal climate prediction, and for addressing the daunting challenge of climate change through rapid, efficient and just mitigation and adaptation measures. This calls for a spirit of global cooperation, not the least between north and south.

Thank you.