



**The 8<sup>th</sup> Arab Climate Outlook Forum (ArabCOF-8) &  
The 5<sup>th</sup> GCC Climate Outlook Forum (GCC-COF-5) &  
Workshop on the Needs of Agriculture Sector to Meteorological Services  
Virtual session on 06 & 07 December 2021**

**CONCEPT NOTE**

**1. Background**

Regional Climate Outlook Forums (RCOFs) are platforms that bring together national, regional and international climate experts, with users and stakeholders' representatives from countries of a climatologically homogeneous region to produce climate predictions for the target season based on input from Regional Climate Centers (RCCs), Global Producing Centers for Long Range Forecasts (GPC-LRF), National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), relevant regional institutions, and other climate prediction centers.

The Arab Climate Outlook Forum (ArabCOF), cutting across multiple Regional Associations (RA II, RA I and RA VI) was established, following the decision of the Executive Office of the Council of Ministers responsible for Meteorology and Climate, under the League of Arab States, endorsed in April 2017.

**2. Arab Climate Outlook Forum**

***Objectives***

The Scoping Meeting for the Establishment of the Arab Climate Outlook Forum (ArabCOF), Amman, October 2014 agreed on the following key objectives of ArabCOF:

- Generate consensus outputs on seasonal forecasts (1-2 per year) and to carry out regional climate change assessments
- Facilitate knowledge sharing and exchange for seasonal forecasting and climate change in a common language.
- Capacity building of the Arab Meteorological Offices to generate common approach to ArabCOF outputs.
- Identify climate information needed by end users and try to respond to those user needs taking into consideration that the data provided by the Arab Met Services to inform the discussions remains the property of the Met Service as represented in the Forum.

***The previous Sessions***

**The first meeting** of Technical Secretariat of the ArabCOF was hosted by ESCWA in Lebanon in September 2017.

**The second meeting** of Technical Secretariat of the ArabCOF was hosted by the General Meteorological Authority of the Arab Republic of in Cairo, February 2018.

**The third Session of ArabCOF** took place during the period 26-29 November 2018 at the headquarters of the Egyptian Meteorological Authority in Cairo, in conjunction with other RCOFs with overlapping domains, in particular, the Mediterranean, North Africa and South-Eastern European COFs (MedCOF, PRESANORD, SEECOF). ESCWA, WMO and State Meteorological Agency of Spain (AEMET) supported these events. A number of international experts and representatives from RAVI RCC Network and North Africa RCC-Network provided technical guidance and facilitated the development of seasonal outlooks for each of sub-regions, including for Arab region.

**The fourth Session of ArabCOF and first session of GCC-COF** took place at General Authority for Meteorology and Environmental Protection (GAMEP), Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on 26-28 November 2019. The ArabCOF-4 discussed a possibility of one of the subsequent ArabCOF sessions focusing on climate change projection.

Since 2020 due to Covid-19 pandemic ArabCOF and GCC-COF sessions were conducted online. **The fifth Session of ArabCOF and second session of GCC-COF** were held virtually in June 2020 with wide participation of most of Arab countries.

Similarly, **the sixth Session of ArabCOF and third session of GCC-COF** were conducted online in November 2020 with wide participation of most of Arab countries. The same also for the **Seventh Session of ArabCOF and Fourth session of GCC-COF** were conducted online in June 2021 in which also the concept of Objective Seasonal Forecasting was presented

ArabCOF webpage (<http://www.riccar.org/basic-page/arabcof>) is established on the RICCAR website with links to all ArabCOF sessions.

#### *Agenda of the meeting:*

This 8<sup>th</sup> ArabCOF and 5<sup>th</sup> GCC-COF sessions aim at producing the seasonal forecasting for the Winter months (December-January-February) and evaluating the previous climate outlooks.

On the second day a Workshop on The Needs of Agriculture Sector to Meteorological Services will be held. It aims at enhancing the cooperation between meteorological services and agricultural sector in order to understand their needs and provide improved meteorological services in support of decision making for agriculture sector. A draft report on the development of guidelines on the use of climate information for agriculture stakeholders and users will be discussed. The workshop will also constitute an avenue to establish an interface platform to promote the dialogue between NMHSs and agricultural stakeholders.

Agenda of the meeting is attached below.

## Provisional Agenda

### Day 1. 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021:

<b>Time (Geneva time (UTC+1))</b>	<b>Topics/Presentation</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
<b>Chair/Facilitator: Mr. Juma Almaskari, Oman</b>		
10:00 – 10:10	Opening remarks:	LAS, Mr. Mahmoud Fathallah  GCC, Mr. Juma Al-Maskari  WMO, Mr. Hesham Moussa & Ms. Anahit Hovsepyan  ESCWA, Ms. Carol Chouchani Cherfane
10:10 – 10:30	Current and anticipated conditions in the Pacific, Indian Ocean, the Atlantic Ocean and their impact on climate over Arab region	Mr. Said AlSarmi (Oman)
10:30 – 10:50	Climate monitoring and assessment of the current state of climate	Ms. Soumaya Ben Rached (Tunisia)
10:50 – 11:10	Verification of previous ArabCOF climate outlook	Ms. Awatif Ibrahim (Egypt)
11:10 – 11:40	Presenting the draft seasonal outlook for North Africa and GCC regions	Ms. Wafa ALBADI (Morocco) & Mr. Arjan Zamreeq (Saudi Arabia)
11:40 – 12:20	Discussion of the seasonal outlook to develop the final version	All participants
12:20 – 12:50	Reporting by the countries on sharing the last seasonal forecasting with key stakeholders and feedback from them	All participants
12:50 – 13:00	Wrap up of Day 1	Chair
<b>Day 2. 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021</b>		
10:00:10:30	Presentation of the final draft seasonal outlook for NA and GCC regions	Ms. Wafa ALBADI (Morocco) & Mr. Arjan Zamreeq (Saudi Arabia)

10:30 – 10:50	<p>General Discussion</p> <p>Possible moving from virtual session to face-to-face session in 2022. Obligations from countries</p> <p>Next steps</p> <p>Closing remarks</p>	LAS, GCC, WMO, ESCWA
<b>Workshop on The Needs of Agriculture Sector to Meteorological Services – Enhancing the Cooperation</b>		
11:00 – 11:15	Objectives of workshop and Introduction of participants	Mr. Tarek Sadek, ESCWA
11:15 – 11:45	- Presenting the final draft seasonal outlook for Arab region	Ms. Wafa ALBADI (Morocco)
11:45 – 12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction to the needs of meteorological services for agriculture</li> <li>- Guidelines on the use of climate data/information for improving agricultural productivity</li> </ul>	<p>Mr. Tarek Sadek and Ms. Lara Geadah, ESCWA</p> <p>Mr. Magdy Abd El-Wahab, Ms. Yassmina Hesham and Mr. Alaa Mohamed Abdel Raouf, Faculty of Science, Cairo University</p>
12:30 – 13:15	Open discussion between Meteorology and Agriculture experts on how to best address the need of the agriculture community to climate data/information	WMO
13:15 – 13:30	Key messages and recommendations	ESCWA, with input by WMO and LAS