

Statement by the Representative of CAETS (International Council of Academies of Engineering and Technological Sciences) Professor Dr Rene Dändliker (President, Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences) at the High – level Segment of World Climate Conference-3, Geneva, 31 August - 4 September 2009.

I am pleased to convey the good wishes of the International Council of Academies of Engineering and Technological Sciences (CAETS) and to commend the WMO (World Meteorological Organization) and its partners for convening this historic conference. CAETS wishes to add its support for the establishment of a Global Framework for Climate Services which will help ensure that, in all countries, action on climate issues is properly informed by reliable observational information, sound science and professionally delivered services.

CAETS is the peak body for the world's engineering and applied science academies. Its member academies, which consist of the most eminent engineers and technological scientists in each country, are committed to the effective application of scientific and engineering knowledge for the national and global good. In recent years, this has involved substantial effort on the part of several member Academies, and CAETS itself, in addressing the issues of climate and climate change.

Through our annual Council meetings and biennial Convocations, CAETS prepares and issues statements on major engineering-related issues. In recent years, we have focussed especially on issues such as the role of the oceans, water, energy, sustainability, the special challenges facing those living in deltas and technologies for greenhouse gas reduction and adaptation to climate change.

CAETS has called for:

- Investment in ocean monitoring and research as a vital input to national and international policy development on climate change; free and open exchange of data for climate research and prediction; and the establishment of national oceanographic service organisations;
- Nations to work together to ensure development and sustained operation of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) ... to provide the data and information needed to support global, national and regional strategies for sustainable development including ... evaluating the total emissions of greenhouse gases and enabling more reliable projections of climate change;
- Strategies for adaptation to climate change which are robust against uncertainty, informed by data and research, integrated across sectors and consistent with climate change mitigation policies.

CAETS therefore welcomes the WCC-3 initiative to build on the Global Climate Observing System, the World Climate Research Programme and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to produce the climate information and service framework needed to support a comprehensive approach to dealing with climate change issues. The CAETS Academies will be pleased to play their part, at the national level, in supporting the provision of reliable climate information and services and ensuring that climate information is effectively used in the engineering sector. The CAETS Academies also recognise the role of engineering in ensuring that innovative and feasible strategies are developed to meet the demands on societies arising from the need to adapt to and mitigate climate change.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this Conference on behalf of CAETS.