



**7th session of Arab Climate Outlook Forum (ArabCOF),
4th session of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Climate Outlook
Forum (GCC-COF)**

1 & 3 June 2021

Concept Note and Agenda

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 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.

Due to Covid-19 pandemic **the fifth Session of ArabCOF and second session of GCC-COF** were conducted online 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.

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:

Agenda of the meeting is attached in Annex-1

Annex-1

Day 1: 1 June 2021 Chair/Facilitator: Mr. Ashraf Zaki (Egypt)

Time (Geneva/Cairo time (UTC+2))	Topics/Presentation	Presenter
10:00 – 10:10	Opening remarks	LAS, Mr. Mahmoud Fathallah GCC Secretariat, Mr. Said AlSarmi WMO, Mr. Hesham Moussa ESCWA, Mr. Tarek Sadek
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 Al-Sarmi (GCC Secretariat) and Ms. Wafa Al-Badi (Morocco)
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 (NA) and GCC regions,	Ms. Wafa ALBADI (Morocco) and Mr. Arjan Zamreeq (Saudi Arabia)
11:40 – 12:25	Discussion of the seasonal outlook to develop the final version	All participants
12:25 – 12:30	Wrap up of Day 1	Chair

Day 2: 3 June 2021 Chair/Facilitator: Mr. Said Al-Sarmi (GCC Secretariat)

10:00 – 10:30	Presenting the final draft seasonal outlook for NA and GCC regions Discussion	Ms. Wafa Al-Badi (Morocco) and Mr. Arjan Zamreeq (Saudi Arabia)
10:30 – 11:00	A brief presentation on sector needs of meteorological services and recommended actions Reporting by the countries on sharing the last seasonal forecasting with key stakeholders and feedback from them	Mr. Tarek Sadek, ESCWA Countries representatives in the meeting
11:00 – 11:30	Feedback by key stakeholders/users: Using meteorological forecasts in agriculture early warning: experiment and feedback Cooperation/agreement between the Egyptian Meteorological office and	Mr. Magdy Abdel Wahab, Professor of Meteorology, Cairo University Mr. Ashraf Zaki (Egypt)

	World Food Program (WFP) and other sectors. Discussion and feedback from key stakeholders and countries	
11:30 – 11:50	Objective Seasonal Forecasting	Ms. Anahit Hovsepyan, WMO
11:50 – 12:10	Linking between weather seasonal forecasting and long-term climate prediction	Mr. Wael Mohamed/Mr. Ashraf Zaki (Egypt)
12:10-12:20	RICCAR Climate Modelling Updates: Mashreq Domain	Ms. Marlene Tomasziewicz, ESCWA
12:20 – 12:50	Discussion on enhancement of future ArabCOF sessions Next steps Closing remarks	LAS, GCC, WMO and ESCWA