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World Meteorological Congress 2021

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Why in News

Recently, the **World Meteorological Congress 2021** has endorsed a **Water Declaration**, including the **Water and Climate Coalition**.

It has also **approved a new vision and strategy for hydrology** and an associated plan of action.

World Meteorological Congress

The World Meteorological Congress is the **supreme body of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**. WMO is a **specialised agency of the United Nations** for meteorology, operational hydrology and related geophysical sciences. **India is a member**. It **produces annually the State of the Global Climate Report**.

Key Points

- **Concerns:**
 - Only **40% of countries** globally have **operational early flood and drought warning systems**.
 - Some **60%** of WMO member countries **lack hydrological monitoring capabilities**. Globally, **more than three billion people have no quality management system** for their water-related data in place.
 - It means **close to half of the world's population is at risk due to a lack of information on the state of their water resources** including rivers, lakes, groundwater, according to the most recent **United Nation (UN)** estimates.
 - Some **107 countries are not on track** to have **sustainably managed water resources**.

- **Water Declaration:**

- By 2030 **early warnings for early action related to floods and droughts** will be **available for people everywhere** on the planet to access.
- **Policies for water and climate action** developed within the sustainable development agenda **will be integrated to yield maximum benefit for people.**
- Members will **pursue these goals through partnerships** for capacity development, knowledge exchange and information sharing, etc.

- **Water and Climate Coalition:**

- The coalition is **made for promoting sharing and access** to integrated hydrological, **cryosphere**, meteorological and climate information.
- It aims to **boost resilient water adaptation to climate change** as well as demographic and socio-economic development for the future.
- It is also aimed at accelerating the progress of water-related United Nations **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)**, especially SDG6 (water and sanitation for all).

- **Hydrology Action Plan:**
 - **Impact Based Early Warning System:**
 - There should be impact-based end-to-end **Early Warning Systems (EWS) for flood** forecasting in the context of a broader integrated flood management strategy implemented by Members, including through the **Associated Programme on Flood Management**.
 - Congress approved a new **Sustainability Strategy for the future development and implementation of the Flash Flood Guidance System** with Global Coverage.
 - **Water Resource & Quality Assessment:**

The concept of **Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)** including water use and allocations for supporting food production should be widely accepted and followed.
 - **Reducing Impact of Droughts:**

Members should **reduce adverse impacts of drought** at all levels by implementing **integrated drought management systems**, including drought monitoring, early warnings, vulnerability and impact assessments, and drought mitigation, preparedness and response measures.
 - **Food Security:**

Food security should be **enhanced by informed end-users' decisions** at all levels from regional to local.
 - **High Quality Data:**

There should be increased discoverability, availability, and use of high-quality hydrological and hydrometeorological data for scientific analysis, as promoted by the **Global Hydrometry Support Facility (HydroHub)**.
 - **Research and Application of Operational Hydrology:**

There should be a **reduced gap between research and operational hydrology applications**; operational hydrology uses improved understanding of Earth system science.

Source: DTE