

U.N. agency warns climate change means extra weather disasters UNClimate change means more weather

Spokesman Review (Spokane, WA)

October 14, 2020 Wednesday

Copyright 2020 Spokane Spokesman-Review

Section: A; Pg. 002

Length: 445 words

Byline: Jamey Keaten Associated Press

Body

aw_201014_Natural Disasters

^\$^GENEVA - In the wake of heat waves, global warming, forest fires, storms, droughts and a rising number of hurricanes, the United Nations weather agency warned Tuesday that the number of people who need international humanitarian help could rise 50% by 2030 compared to the 108 million who needed it worldwide in 2018.

In a new report released with partners, the World Meteorological Agency says more disasters attributed to weather are taking place each year. It said over 11,000 disasters have been attributed to weather, **climate** and phenomena like tsunamis that are related to water over the last 50 years - causing 2 million deaths and racking up \$3.6 trillion worth of economic costs.

In one hopeful development over that period, the average number of deaths from each separate weather disaster per year has dropped by one-third, even as the number of such events and the economic costs from them have both surged.

The 2020 State of **Climate** Services report, compiled by 16 international agencies and financing institutions, calls on governments to put more money into early-warning systems that can improve countries' ability to prepare for, respond to and mitigate the impact of such natural disasters.

"While COVID-19 generated a large international health and economic crisis from which it will take years to recover, it is crucial to remember that **climate change** will continue to pose an on-going and increasing threat to human lives, ecosystems, economies and societies for centuries to come," WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas said.

"Recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic is an opportunity to move forward along a more sustainable path toward resilience and adaptation in the light of anthropogenic **climate change**," he said.

Taalas, responding to a question from China's CCTV network at a news conference, also hailed a "great" announcement from Chinese President Xi Jinping last month that his country plans to become carbon-

neutral by 2060. Taalas noted investments in renewable energy programs like solar and wind in China, the source of one-fourth of global carbon emissions - largely due to coal-fired power plants.

While praising the U.S. private sector for its efforts to fight **climate change**, Taalas also expressed hope the U.S. government - which under the Trump administration has rejected the 2015 Paris **climate** accord - to come on board. He noted the "common vision" between China and many European Union countries on the issue.

U.N. agency warns climate change means extra weather disasters UNClimate change means more weather

The European bloc wants to become carbon-neutral by 2050, though not all member states agree on how to achieve that target.

"I hope that also the USA will join that club in the near future," he said.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Publication-Type: Newspaper

Subject: WEATHER (93%); CLIMATOLOGY (91%); **CLIMATE CHANGE** (90%); DROUGHT (90%); ENVIRONMENTAL ACCIDENTS & DISASTERS (90%); GLOBAL WARMING (90%); HEAT WAVES (90%); HURRICANES (90%); INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (90%); NATURAL DISASTERS (90%); OCEANOGRAPHIC & ATMOSPHERIC SERVICES (90%); SAFETY, ACCIDENTS & DISASTERS (90%); SEVERE WEATHER (90%); UNITED NATIONS (90%); COVID CORONAVIRUS (88%); DEATH RATES (78%); EMISSIONS (78%); EXTREME TEMPERATURES (78%); NATURAL DISASTER ALERTS (78%); PUBLIC HEALTH (78%); TSUNAMIS (78%); GREEN FINANCE (77%); UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTIONS (77%); COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS (74%); ECONOMY & ECONOMIC INDICATORS (74%); SOCIETY, SOCIAL ASSISTANCE & LIFESTYLE (74%); **CLIMATE CHANGE** REGULATION & POLICY (73%); ENVIRONMENTAL TREATIES & AGREEMENTS (73%); FOREST FIRES (73%); GREENHOUSE GASES (73%); METEOROLOGY (73%); ENERGY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS (72%); RESEARCH REPORTS (72%); INFECTIOUS DISEASE (70%); INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS (70%); ECONOMIC CRISIS (69%); PANDEMICS (69%); RENEWABLE ENERGY INDUSTRY (68%); US FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (64%); EUROPEAN UNION (62%); PRESS CONFERENCES (62%)

Industry: GLOBAL WARMING (90%); ENERGY & UTILITIES (89%); EMISSIONS (78%); GREEN FINANCE (77%); UTILITIES INDUSTRY (75%); ENERGY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS (72%); ELECTRIC POWER PLANTS (70%); WIND ENERGY (70%); RENEWABLE ENERGY INDUSTRY (68%); FOSSIL FUEL POWER PLANTS (65%); ALTERNATIVE & RENEWABLE ENERGY (63%); COAL FIRED PLANTS (61%)

Person: DONALD TRUMP (53%); XI JINPING (50%)

Geographic: SPOKANE, WA, USA (88%); WASHINGTON, USA (93%); CHINA (94%); UNITED STATES (93%); EUROPE (92%); EUROPEAN UNION MEMBER STATES (70%)

Load-Date: October 14, 2020