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Dr Adam Scaife
Met Office Hadley Centre
Exeter, UK

Dr Yochanan Kushnir
Colombia University
New York, USA

Geneva, 20 June 2016

Dear Adam and Yochanan,

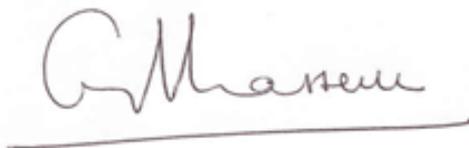
At its 37th meeting in April 2016, the Joint Scientific Committee of WCRP endorsed a new Grand Challenge entitled 'Near-Term Climate Prediction'. We thank both of you for your substantial and successful effort to develop and distill this plan from broad community input. And thank you for consulting and coordinating among several WCRP 'decadal' activities.

Fundamentally, WCRP Grand Challenges seek to build and build on community enthusiasm to enable substantial tangible progress on crucial questions in climate science. We observe that many external partners organize their activities and events around the WCRP Grand Challenges. The Grand Challenges present a fresh positive facet of WCRP.

At this moment of heightened attention to natural vs forced variability in our climate system and of operational interest in initialized climate predictions, we congratulate you for proposing a very timely effort on an urgent issue. We anticipate that the work of the NTCP team will prove complex but rewarding for you, for a substantial community, and for WCRP. We also appreciate that the NTCP Grand Challenge pushes WCRP to engage more closely with WMO on issues related to quality and distribution of eventual prediction products.

Please know that the JSC recognizes the effort required to lead a Grand Challenge and expresses deep appreciation to both of you for positive initial progress. The WCRP Joint Planning Staff welcomes the opportunity to support you and the initialized prediction community in this effort.

Yours sincerely,



Guy Brasseur
Chair, WCRP Joint Scientific Committee



David Carlson
Director, WCRP Joint Planning Staff

cc: Guy Brasseur, Chair JSC, Germany