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CONSENSUAL SEASONAL FORECAST OUTLOOK OVER ARAB REGION FOR DECEMBER JANUARY FEBRUARY 2018/19

Cairo, Novembre 28, 2018

Consensual seasonal forecast for DJF2018/19 season over Arab countries is based on known teleconnections of large and regional patterns as well as on dynamical and statistical models.

I. RECENT CLIMATE CONDITIONS AND OUTLOOK

This prediction is based on output from dynamical models, statistical models and known teleconnections of large-scale climate features.

The tropical Pacific reflects weak El Niño conditions in terms of SST indices. The latest ENSO predictions indicate that a moderate El Niño event will continue throughout the winter. Some influence of El Niño on general circulation at midlatitudes is expected by the canonical response of positive PNA and the potential teleconnection up to the Atlantic Ocean. Most dynamical models suggest that El Niño conditions would favour negative North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO). In addition, the analysis of different sources of predictability (Solar activity, NH snow cover, sea ice extent, El Niño) shows a probable tendency towards a southward shift of low pressure system track for the winter 2018/19. This can drive an increase in precipitations over Mediterranean basin.

It is worth noting that seasonal forecast give average tendencies for a season and in some cases sub-seasonal fluctuations can prevail.

II. SEASONAL FORECAST OUTLOOK

Given oceanic and atmospheric patterns, knowledge and understanding of seasonal climate variability and available long range forecasts products, the following outlook is provided for December-January-February 2018/19 season across Arab region. The following maps show the probabilistic consensus forecast for 3 categories of anomalies for seasonal mean temperature and precipitation.

1. Temperature :

Temperatures are expected to be likely above normal conditions over almost all the Arab region with very likely warm conditions in the eastern part. No special scenario is given for western Morocco and Mauritania (see Figure 1).

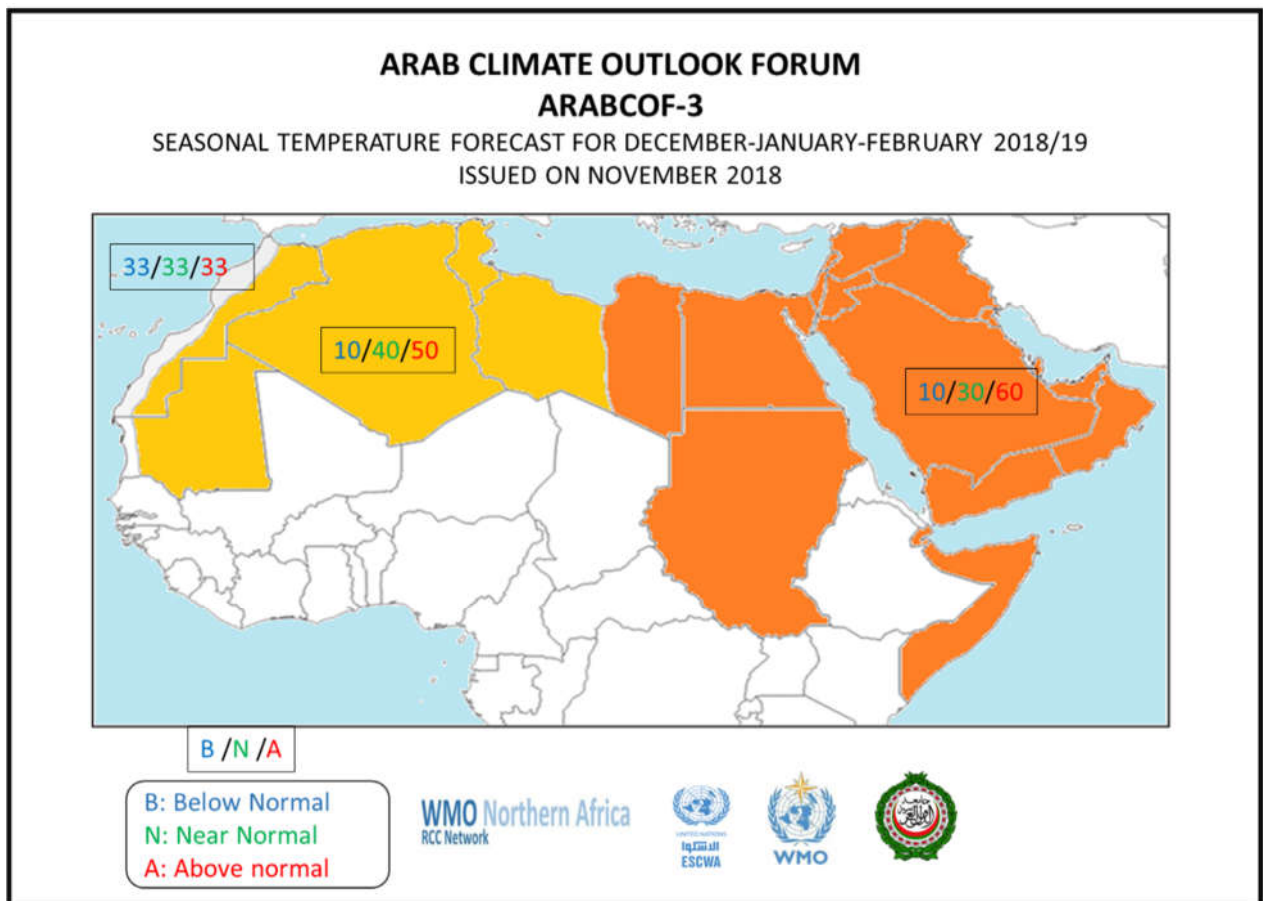


Figure 1: Seasonal Temperature Forecast over Arab region for DJF2018/19

2. Precipitations :

Precipitations are expected to be normal to above normal over Northwest of Arab region including (Northwestern Morocco and Tunisia, and Northern Algeria) and over the Eastern part including (Eastern Saudi Arabia, most of Oman, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Irak, Syria, Jordan, Palestine and Lebanon). No special scenario is given for the remaining part of the domain (see Figure 2).

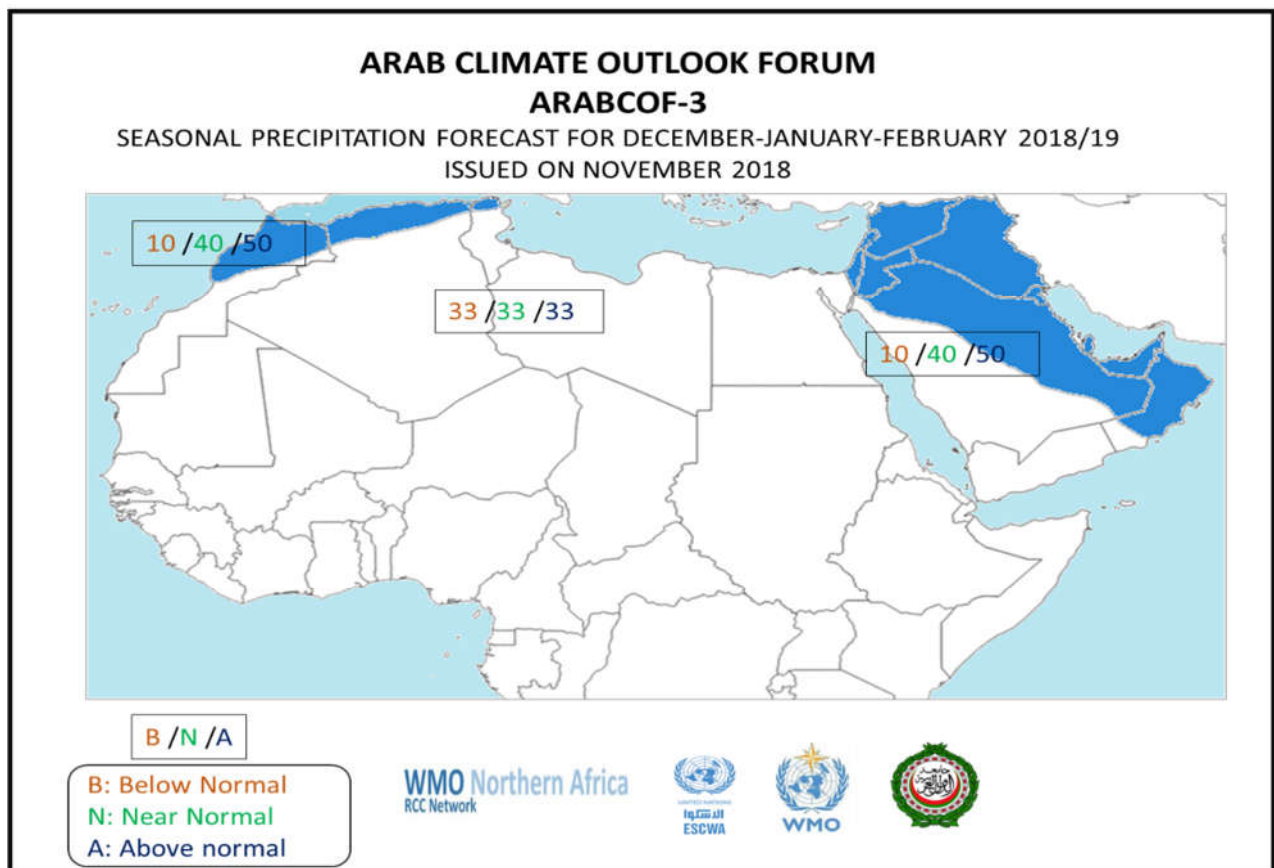


Figure 2: Seasonal Precipitation Forecast over Arab region for DJF2018/19

-ANNEX-

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