WMO says greenhouse gases levels reach record high



Geneva, November 22 (RHC)-- Concentrations of key gases in the atmosphere that are driving up global temperatures reached a new high in 2017.

The warning comes from the annual greenhouse gas bulletin, issued Thursday by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), which says there is no sign of reversal in this rising trend.

"The science is clear. Without rapid cuts in CO2 and other greenhouse gases, climate change will have increasingly destructive and irreversible impacts on life on Earth. The window of opportunity for action is almost closed," said WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas.

The Bulletin shows that global concentrations of carbon dioxide (CO2), methane and nitrous oxide have been increasing steadily over the past years. In addition, the report notes a resurgence of a potent greenhouse gas and ozone-depleting substance called CFC-11, which is regulated under an international agreement to protect the ozone layer.

Since 1990, there has been a 41 per cent increase in the warming effect by the various greenhouse gases on the climate – known as "radioactive forcing." CO2 specifically accounts for about 82 per cent of the increase in radioactive forcing over the past decade, according to figures quoted in the WMO report.

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