

UN confirms 2014 was 'hottest year on record'

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Fourteen of the fifteen hottest years have all been this century, says Michel Jarraud, secretary general of the World Meteorological Organization

The year 2014 was the hottest on record, "consistent" with a changing climate, the UN's weather agency said Monday.

Average global air temperatures in 2014 were 0.57 degrees Celsius (1.03 degree Fahrenheit) higher than the long-term average of 14 C (57.2 F) in

a 1961-1990 reference period, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) said in a statement.

"Fourteen of the fifteen hottest years have all been this century," said WMO Secretary General Michel Jarraud.

"In 2014, record-breaking heat combined with torrential rainfall and floods in many countries and drought in some others—consistent with the expectation of a [changing climate](#)," he added.

UN members will meet in Geneva next week for talks on a global [climate](#) pact that must be signed in Paris in December for curbing emissions of [greenhouse gases](#).

The UN seeks to limit warming to no more than 2 C over pre-Industrial Revolution levels, but scientists warn the Earth is on target for double the target, a scenario that could be catastrophic.

The US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said on January 16 that 2014 was the the world's hottest at least since records began in 1880.

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