



World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale

Secrétariat

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Our ref.: CLPA/CCA/UNFCCC-COP20

GENEVA, 7 August 2014

Subject: COP 20 and CMP-10 of the UNFCCC, Lima, Peru, 1-12 December 2014

Actions required: Representatives from NMHSs are encouraged to actively participate in discussions of COP 20, CMP-10 related to climate science and services, and support WMO's initiative on the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS)

Dear Sir/Madam,

As you are aware, the 20th session of the Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention (COP 20) will be held in conjunction with the 10th session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP-10) in Lima, Peru, from 1 to 12 December 2014. This will also include the following sessions:

- The forty-first session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 41);
- The forty-first session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 41); and
- The third session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP 3).

The High-Level Segment of COP 20 and CMP-10 will be held from 9 to 12 December 2014.

Based on successful experience during the previous COP, SBI and SBSTA sessions, WMO is currently planning for active participation in this conference. WMO will also participate in the relevant UN system side events along with climate-related sponsored programmes and other UN partner agencies. The dates and programme of events relevant to WMO, as well as related documentation and materials will feature on the following WMO webpage: http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/wcp/COP/cop20/index_en.php. WMO will also join the UN exhibition area at COP 20 to showcase the materials and publications on the role of climate science in the work of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

To: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services) of Members of WMO (PR-6783)

cc: Hydrological Advisers to Permanent Representatives

Last year, the following decisions of COP 19 welcomed WMO's and its co-sponsored bodies' on-going initiatives and contributions to the work of the Convention:

Research and systematic observation

- (a) Under research and systematic observation, SBSTA 39 noted the information provided by WMO on the developments regarding the implementation of the GFCS and the outcome of the IBCS-1. The SBSTA invited WMO to provide, at SBSTA 41, information on the outcome of the second session of the IBCS, to be held in November 2014;
- (b) The SBSTA also noted with appreciation the information provided by GCOS on its recent and planned activities and the role of GCOS, its sponsors and partners in strengthening observation networks and the provision of high-quality climate information and data, including in the implementation of the GFCS;
- (c) The SBSTA welcomed the contribution of Working Group I to the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The AR5 Synthesis Report will be released by SBSTA 41;
- (d) The SBSTA emphasized the importance of systematic observation for the UNFCCC process at large, including for advancing climate modelling at all scales and for decision-making on adaptation. It noted that there are still gaps in critical observational data, inter alia for the oceans, and in the networks in some parts of the world, especially in developing countries. The SBSTA affirmed the importance of historical data records, the need to enhance data rescue and digitization efforts and climate monitoring. It therefore urged Parties and relevant organizations to enhance capacity, collaboration and coordination in this area;
- (e) The SBSTA also noted that a workshop on systematic observation, organized in close collaboration with GCOS and its sponsors, could help to identify ways to strengthen systematic observation and to enhance related capacity in developing countries, in particular in support of adaptation planning.

Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation

Concerning the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, COP 19 took note of the development of linkages with other relevant workstreams, including the National Adaptation Plan process, research and systematic observation and bodies under the Convention. It further noted the development of knowledge products to improve the understanding and assessment of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation in response to needs identified by Parties. COP 19 supported the effective dissemination of knowledge products at the regional, national and sub-national levels through, inter alia, knowledge networks and national focal points, particularly in developing countries. In this context, the Regional Climate Centers (RCCs) and Regional Climate Outlook Forum (RCOF) are well positioned to meet this requirement.

Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage

Pursuant to decision 3/CP.18, which captured the role and contribution of GFCS, COP 19 established the Warsaw international mechanism for loss and damage associated with climate change impacts under the Cancun Adaptation Framework. The decision takes account of existing institutional arrangements among which our community benefits from examples such as the RCCs and technical commissions as part of the WMO constituent bodies. COP 19 further established an Executive Committee of the Warsaw international mechanism to report annually to the Conference of Parties through the SBSTA and SBI. The decision of COP 19 involves the expert groups under the Convention and expertise and knowledge of relevant organizations and expert bodies outside the Convention at all levels to bring necessary skills in approaches

addressing loss and damage associated with climate change, including extreme and slow onset events. WMO will contribute to the Warsaw international mechanism through technical guidance and implementation of the GFCS, particularly in developing and least developed countries as well as the small island developing states.

On other fronts, WMO's presence was also felt at the conference through the launches of its reports on atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases in 2012 and on the status of climate trends and events experienced in 2013. These reports received a great deal of press coverage and were widely cited during the conference as providing clear evidence of the need for action on climate change.

During COP 19 around 30 Directors of Hydrometeorological Services and Permanent Representatives attended this Conference, among which there were two WMO vice-presidents and the president of the Regional Association for Asia (RA II). Furthermore, around 120 delegates from 56 NMHSs accompanied their national delegation at COP 19. There were also meteorological and climate experts in the composition of delegations from intergovernmental organizations and research centres such as African Centre of Meteorological Application and Development (ACMAD), African Climate Policy Center (ACPC), AGRHYMET, East African Community, International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI), League of Arab States, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Science and the UK Met Office Hadley Centre.

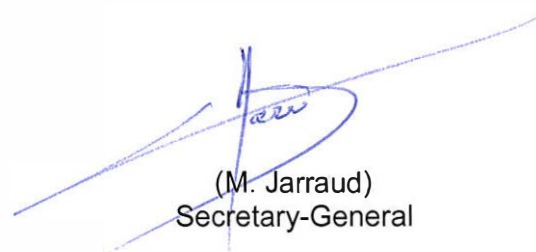
Referring to a decision of COP 19, on 'Election of officers of bodies under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol', I am particularly pleased to note that Mr Emmanuel Dumisani Dlamini, Permanent Representative of Swaziland with WMO, was elected chairperson of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) for the next period.

Furthermore, the election of two delegates from NMHSs of Tajikistan and Lesotho; namely, Mr Ilhomjon Rajabov, Vice-Chairperson of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and Ms Mabafokeng F. Mahahabisa, SBI Rapporteur, respectively, bring additional strength and value to the engagement of delegates from NMHSs in the UNFCCC process. I believe that this opportunity will further strengthen the role and contribution of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) in the context of SBSTA, SBI and COP sessions.

I wish to encourage you to consider participating in COP 20 as a member of your national delegation to strengthen the role of NMHSs among other national partners as a contribution to the UNFCCC process through provision of scientific advice in your area of expertise. As in previous years, I will provide you, in late August, with a paper on key messages to inform discussions at the national level.

In case you or your staff members are planning to attend, I would appreciate receiving information concerning attendance not later than **3 November 2014**.

Yours faithfully,



(M. Jarraud)
Secretary-General