



World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale

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GENEVA, 14 January 2015

Subject: Outcomes of the UNFCCC COP 20 (Lima, Peru, 1-12 December 2014) relevant to WMO Members

Action required: Representatives from NMHSs are requested to follow up on relevant COP 20 outcomes

Dear Sir/Madam,

As you are aware, following my letters dated 7 August and 10 October 2014, the 20th session of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP 20) was held in conjunction with the 10th Conference of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP-10) in Lima, Peru, from 1 to 12 December 2014. The Conference also included the following sessions:

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

Four COP 20 related developments are particularly important for WMO and its Members:

1. Mitigation: The Lima Call for Climate Action

A key COP 20 decision concerns implementation of the commitments as agreed in Doha up to 2020 (http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/lima_dec_2014/application/pdf/auv_cop20_lima_call_for_climate_action.pdf). The decision notes “with grave concern the significant gap between the aggregate effect of Parties’ mitigation pledges in terms of global annual emissions of greenhouse gases by 2020 and aggregate emission pathways consistent with having a likely chance of holding the increase in global average temperature below 2°C or 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels”. Recalling the objective of the Convention as set out in its Article 2,¹ the decision confirms the intention “for the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-first session to adopt a

To: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services) of Members of WMO (PR-6811)

cc: Hydrological Advisers to Permanent Representatives

¹ ARTICLE 2: The ultimate objective of this Convention and any related legal instruments that the Conference of the Parties may adopt is to achieve, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention, stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Such a level should be achieved within a time-frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.

protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all Parties” and “[u]nderscores its commitment to reaching an ambitious agreement in 2015 that reflects the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in light of different national circumstances.” An agreement of this nature, when implemented, would have a significant effect on the economies of virtually every country in the world, and particularly the energy sector. *NMHSs may therefore wish to consider how the Lima decision will affect the demand for climate services aimed at promoting a transition to renewable energy sources.*

2. Adaptation: National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)

COP 20 adopted the conclusions of SBI on NAPs (http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/lima_dec_2014/decisions/application/pdf/auv_cop20_naps.pdf). The decision, “[r]ecognizes that the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans is fundamental for building adaptive capacity and reducing vulnerability to the impacts of climate change.” The decision explicitly links NAP preparation to the Green Climate Fund (see below). *In countries where NAPs are being prepared NMHSs are encouraged to engage in NAP preparation and implementation, both to inform the process as well as to benefit from the resource allocations, including from the Green Climate Fund, that are expected to be based on NAP priorities.*

3. Loss and Damage: The Warsaw International Mechanism

The work programme prepared by the interim Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (http://unfccc.int/documentation/documents/advanced_search/items/6911.php?priref=600008121) was adopted in a COP 20 decision (http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/lima_dec_2014/decisions/application/pdf/auv_cop20_lossanddamage.pdf). Among other things the work programme, which is outlined in Annex 2 of the interim Committee report, invites “relevant organizations and experts to collaborate with the Executive Committee to facilitate access to information, including through collaborative channels or databases, and technologies to track the impacts, and enable approaches to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including slow onset events.” WMO formally submitted a concept paper to the UNFCCC outlining how NMHSs can contribute to this process (see below). The decision also defines the membership structure for the Executive Committee. *The election of the members will be decided by March 2015 and it is highly desirable that at least one NMHS be represented.* In addition, the decision provides for active engagement by UN organizations through participation in expert teams and other subsidiary bodies.

4. The Green Climate Fund (GCF)

COP 20 coincided with a number of developments related to the Green Climate Fund including total pledges reaching USD 10.2 billion (http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/lima_dec_2014/decisions/application/pdf/auv_cop20_gcf.pdf). The GCF has eight strategic results, including low emission power generation and increased health, food, water and livelihood security especially among the most vulnerable (<http://news.gcfund.org/>). It includes a Private Sector Facility that, among other things, is intended to stimulate investment in renewable energy. Countries wishing to access GCF resources will need to nominate a National Designated Authority (NDA). A GCF readiness and preparatory programme with a cap of USD 1 million per country per year will help national entities get accredited and prepare projects for GCF financing. United Nations agencies are also eligible to access the fund and WMO is in the process of preparing a request for accreditation. There are four scales of GCF projects: micro (less than USD 10 million), small (USD 10-50 million), medium (USD 50-250 million) and large (greater than USD 250 million). The GCF will allocate half of its resources to mitigation and half to adaptation. Half of the latter will be allocated to Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States. *NMHSs are encouraged to engage with NDAs and WMO to explore financing of initiatives in areas related to COP 20 decisions pertaining to mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage.*

Additional decisions of potential interest to Members are below. It is my pleasure to inform you that several of them welcomed WMO's ongoing initiatives and contribution to the work of the Convention:

Research and systematic observation

- (a) The conclusion of SBSTA 41 noted the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) workplan for 2015 (status report to be submitted to SBSTA 43 at COP 21 and new Implementation Plan to be submitted to SBSTA 45 at COP 22). GCOS is requested to report back on the workshop which it is organizing in collaboration with IPCC and UNFCCC in Bonn in February 2015;
- (b) SBSTA also recognized WMO's submission on the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services-2 (IBCS-2, see below). It requested WMO to report on progress in implementation of GFCS at SBSTA 43 in COP 21
(http://unfccc.int/documentation/documents/advanced_search/items/6911.php?preref=600008193#beg);
- (c) SBSTA further welcomed the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). It invited the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to continue to provide relevant information to Parties on the scientific, technical and socioeconomic aspects of climate change, taking into account the work of the UNFCCC in determining its future products and assessment cycles
(http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/lima_dec_2014/decisions/application/pdf/auv_cop20_ar5ipcc.pdf).

Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation

SBSTA 41 welcomed the synthesis report on methods and tools for, and good practices and lessons learned relating to, adaptation planning processes addressing ecosystems, human settlements, water resources and health. SBSTA 41 requested the UNFCCC Secretariat to explore ways to further enhance the organization of the Nairobi work programme forum and noted the importance of scheduling the forum in such a way as to maximize the participation of Parties and partner organizations alike. The draft conclusions requested the UNFCCC Secretariat to disseminate knowledge and compile good practices by NWP partners. In the draft conclusions the SBSTA also decides to consider and elaborate, at SBSTA 44 (May 2016), relevant activities under the Nairobi work programme that support the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans.

Ministerial Declaration on Education and Awareness Raising

The Ministers attending COP 20 agreed on a Declaration on Education and Awareness Raising. They reaffirmed the importance of Article 6 of the Convention and Article 10(e) of the Kyoto Protocol, on capacity development, and encouraged all Parties to participate in, and to benefit from, the work of intergovernmental panels and expert groups established under the United Nations on matters related to climate change education, natural science and public awareness.

Lima Work Programme on Gender

The COP 20, further decided to establish a two-year work programme for promoting gender balance and achieving gender-responsive climate policy, developed for the purpose of guiding the effective participation of women in the bodies established under the Convention.

Finally, the WMO delegation actively contributed to COP 20 both through participation during the COP as well as through documents submitted in support of the COP. Selected highlights are below.

WMO organized a Technical Briefing jointly with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and El Centro Internacional para la Investigación del Fenómeno de El Niño (CIIFEN) entitled "Strengthening climate adaptation and preparedness for El Niño and its impacts: Enhancing climate services through improved monitoring and prediction of El Niño". Other panelists represented the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions, the World Food Programme, and the Climatological and Geophysical Agency of Indonesia (BMKG).

In my capacity as the Secretary-General of WMO, I made a key note speech at the side event on socioeconomic benefits of weather and climate services. The side event focused on the COP 20 host Peru, and the potential to boost support for key development sectors like agriculture, disaster risk management, health, water management, tourism, infrastructure, public services and transport. Organizers included the National Meteorological and Hydrological Service of Peru (SENHAMHI), WMO, MeteoSwiss, CIIFEN, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland.

At a high level panel discussion on gender and climate change the Assistant Secretary-General of WMO presented the outcomes of WMO's recent Conference on the Gender Dimensions of Weather and Climate Services. She also announced that WMO, UNHCR, and the UNFCCC Secretariat, with the support of UN Women, have launched a Women's Leadership Programme. The Programme will be launched at Cg-17 and will aim to strengthen the skills of female delegates attending the WMO Congress.

At the opening plenary of SBSTA 41, the WMO Deputy Secretary-General made a statement on the outcome of IBCS-2, established to provide the oversight and management of the implementation of the GFCS. WMO also submitted a document to UNFCCC which provided more detailed information on the outcome of the IBCS-2. For additional information, please refer to the following link: <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2014/smsn/un/178.pdf>.

WMO submitted a set of Key Messages of the WMO Community to COP 20 which was communicated in my letter dated 10 October 2014. The document was made available in all UN languages. It further highlights important issues and areas of work that NMHSs are involved in, in the relevant COP process. For further information, please visit the following link: https://www.wmo.int/pages/meetings/documents/Keymessages_COP-20.pdf.

In view of the importance of Warsaw Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts, WMO submitted a Concept Paper titled: "Enhanced monitoring and cataloguing of hazard/extreme events and slow onset climatic indicators in support of the UNFCCC Warsaw Mechanism for Loss and Damage". For further information, please visit the following link: https://www.wmo.int/pages/meetings/documents/WMO-Submission-COP20-142517_en.pdf.

WMO made a submission on the Nairobi Work Programme on Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation to Climate Change, which can be accessed in the following link: <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2014/smsn/un/161.pdf>.

WMO's co-sponsored programme GCOS submitted a document to SBSTA 41 on its current activities and the review of the GCOS Programme and its future implementation plan in support of the UNFCCC and addressing the need for observation requirements for climate change adaptation. Further information is available at: <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2014/smsn/un/175.pdf>.

On other fronts, WMO's presence was also felt at the conference through the launches of its report on atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases in 2013 and the Provisional

Statement of the Status of the Global Climate in 2014. A press conference focusing on the latter was jointly held between the Deputy Secretary-General of WMO and the Executive Director of the UNFCCC. 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. The Greenhouse Gas Bulletin and WMO's Provisional Statement on the State of Global Climate in 2014 can be accessed through following links: <https://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/arep/gaw/ghg/GHGbulletin.html> and https://www.wmo.int/pages/mediacentre/press_releases/pr_1009_en.html.

This year, under the UN Delivering as One initiative, UN agencies and programmes joined together in the UN-wide Exhibition Area. The WMO exhibition booth, in cooperation with SENAMHI, provided information to visitors and delegates on the role of WMO and NMHSs, especially in the area of adaptation. In addition to WMO Programmes, other co-sponsored programmes such as the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) and GCOS contributed electronic publications for distribution in the booth. Furthermore, WMO dedicated a web page for its preparations and participation in COP 20, which provided background information and updates during the working days of this Conference (https://www.wmo.int/pages/meetings/wmo-at-unfccc-cop_en.html).

Finally, it was my pleasure to note that during COP 20 approximately 20 Directors of Hydrometeorological Services and Permanent Representatives attended this Conference, among which there were the presidents of the Regional Associations for Asia (RA II), South-West Pacific (RA V) and Europe (RA VI). Furthermore, around 130 delegates from 64 NMHSs accompanied their national delegation at COP 20.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to SENAMHI and the Permanent Representative of Peru with WMO, Ms. Ing. Ms Amelia Ysabel DÍAZ PABLO for the support extended to the WMO delegation during this Conference and to all those delegates from NMHSs who attended COP 20. I look forward to our continued cooperation in future events.

Yours faithfully,



(M. Jarraud)
Secretary-General