



Our ref.: CLPA/CCA/UNFCCC-COP22/3rd

GENEVA, 24 January 2017

Subject: Outcomes of the UNFCCC COP 22 (Marrakech, Morocco, 7-18 November 2016) relevant to WMO Members

Action required: To follow up on relevant COP 22 outcomes

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to inform you of the recent developments with respect to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and to encourage National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) to engage in UNFCCC-related processes. These include contributions to the global stocktake required by the Paris Agreement, and engagement in the preparation and implementation of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

The UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP 22) was held in conjunction with the twelfth meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 12) and the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Paris Agreement (CMA 1). The Conference also included the following sessions:

- (a) The forty-fifth session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 45);
- (b) The forty-fifth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 45);
- (c) The first session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA 1-2).

After the historically rapid entry into force of the Paris Agreement, COP 22 looked to maintain the momentum. Considerable technical work will be needed to support implementation of the Paris Agreement.

COP 22 adopted Decision 19/CP.22¹, Implementation of the global observing system for climate, following SBSTA 45 recommendations. The COP welcomed the implementation plan of the WMO co-sponsored Global Climate Observing System (GCOS)

¹ Decision 19/CP.22 Document FCCC/SBSTA/2016/L.26/Add.1, adopted as presented
<<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2016/sbsta/eng/l26a01.pdf>>

To: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services) of Members of WMO (PR-6947)

cc: Hydrological Advisers to Permanent Representatives

programme, *The Global Observing System for Climate: Implementation Needs*, the contributions by organizations and experts, and the consideration by GCOS in the plan of the outcomes of COP 21.

Parties noted with appreciation that the assessment of the GCOS plan provides observations' multiple uses. The COP noted the introduction of the new essential climate variables and the plan's wider consideration of atmospheric, oceanic and terrestrial observation requirements and their connection to mitigation and adaptation, particularly early warning systems, including the relationship of the essential climate variables to the Earth's water, carbon and energy cycles. The decision encourages Parties to work towards the full implementation of the plan and to consider what actions they can take to contribute towards its implementation, and invites United Nations agencies and international organizations to support full implementation. Parties emphasized the need to maintain, strengthen and build capacities for climate observations, monitoring and data management, including data rescue, digitization, analysis, archiving and sharing. The COP also emphasized the need to build capacity in developing countries through existing relevant mechanisms, including the GCOS Cooperation Mechanism.

The following COP 22 conclusions related to its subsidiary bodies and work programmes are also of particular importance for WMO and its Members:

Forty-fifth session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 45)

Research and systematic observation

The SBSTA welcomed the submissions from WMO: The Global Climate in 2011–2015 and the WMO Greenhouse Gas Bulletin, and invited WMO to provide submissions on the state of the global climate on a regular basis, as appropriate, at subsequent sessions of the SBSTA.

Under the SBSTA, Parties noted the need for regional workshops, as identified in the plan, and invited GCOS to organize such workshops, taking into account the benefit of organizing these workshops in collaboration with relevant partners, including the UNFCCC, the IPCC and regional climate centres. SBSTA encouraged Parties and relevant organizations to strengthen and maintain observation networks and capabilities in all countries, especially in developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island developing States.

SBSTA 45 recognized the role of the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) and the wider research community in developing the new essential climate variables identified in the GCOS Implementation Plan 2016 with a view to supporting decision-making on adaptation and mitigation.

<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2016/sbsta/eng/l26.pdf>

Nairobi Work Programme (NWP)

This year the Focal Point Forum of the NWP was entitled Health and Adaptation. It featured contributions from WMO and the World Health Organization based on joint work in support of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS). SBSTA welcomed the rich and constructive interactive dialogue among Parties, NWP partner organizations, other relevant organizations and health experts on climate impacts on human health. It acknowledged the submissions from parties, NWP partner organizations and other relevant organizations on their recent work in the area of climate impacts on human health and requested the UNFCCC Secretariat to prepare a synthesis paper for consideration at SBSTA 46.

Forty-fifth session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 45)

NAPs

SBI welcomed “the progress made by the Adaptation Committee and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group in the fulfilment of their respective mandates relating to providing information on accessing funding from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans”. SBI noted that most countries that have embarked on the process of formulating and implementing National Adaptation Plans are supported either by bilateral and multilateral agencies or by domestic resources.

At its 13th meeting, the Board of GCF approved up to USD 3 million per country through the GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme to support the formulation of NAPs and/or other national adaptation planning processes. SBI has further invited Parties to continue to provide information on progress made towards the achievement of the objectives of the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans.

<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2016/sbi/eng/l32a01.pdf>

The High-level Segment

The joint high-level segment under COP, CMP and CMA brought together over 70 Heads of State and government, in addition to Ministers and heads of delegation, to generate political will. The high level outcome of COP 22 is called the “Marrakech Action Proclamation for Our Climate and Sustainable Development”.

http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/marrakech_nov_2016/application/pdf/marrakech_action_proclamation.pdf

The Proclamation was issued by Heads of States and delegations on the occasion of CMA 1. It recognizes extraordinary momentum on climate change worldwide and states that “this momentum is irreversible – it is being driven not only by governments, but by science, business and global action of all types at all levels”. The Marrakech Proclamation emphasizes the task to rapidly build on the momentum behind the Paris Agreement, together, moving forward purposefully to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to foster adaptation efforts, thereby benefiting and supporting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Major upcoming issues for follow-up

Global stocktaking

Article 14 of Paris Agreement requires Parties to report aggregate progress on mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation, beginning in 2023, to be reviewed every five years in a global stocktake. The best available scientific information and indicators will provide a solid basis for the global stocktaking practice. WMO Annual Statements on the Status of the Global Climate provide input for tracking climate trends with climate indicators

NMHSs are encouraged to promote the value of scientific information and data for global stocktaking as called for by the Paris Agreement. APA welcomed the advice of SBSTA on how the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change assessments can inform the global stocktake. Noting that discussions on this topic are at an early stage, it has invited Parties to submit, by 30 April 2017, their views on issues discussed under this agenda item, taking into consideration the questions identified by parties on linkages and context, sources of input, modalities and outcomes/outputs.

http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/marrakech_nov_2016/in-session/application/pdf/apa_6_informal_note.pdf

NAPs

On NAPs, many Parties in their submissions have emphasized the need for scientific information on climate variability, trends and extremes and the use of climate information and services. In the process of developing NAPs, many LDCs lack the capability to generate relevant climate information and services. NAPs provide a basis for allocation of programme resources from climate change finance sources such as GCF. Considering their contributions in fulfilling Article 7 of the Paris Agreement, NMHSs are encouraged to engage in NAP preparation and implementation. Relevant areas of support include scientific knowledge on climate, including research, systematic observations of the climate system, early warning systems, and climate services.

NDCs

NDCs are the instruments through which Parties cooperate to achieve climate change goals collectively through a multilateral response, and to raise ambition in the future. Before COP 22, I had communicated a Policy Brief (<http://public.wmo.int/en/events/events-of-interest/cop22>) to facilitate understanding concerning the role of NMHSs in implementation of NDCs at national level. NMHSs are encouraged to access the NDCs submitted by their governments and explore the sectors and areas of competency to which they can actively contribute during implementation. As such, it is essential that they benefit from scientific information on climate variability, trends and extremes and contain provisions that promote the climate services needed to support NDC implementation.

WMO is already working with its Members to prepare GCF submissions along these lines. NMHSs are encouraged to contact the GCF Nationally Designated Authorities to explore the use of the GCF for promoting climate services. Closer cooperation among governmental and non-governmental stakeholders at national level related to preparation of the NDCs will provide stronger grounds for increasingly effective action in the future.

WMO activities at COP 22

This year, for the first time in COP, one full day was dedicated to Earth Science and Observations. It was organized by the UNFCCC Secretariat on 8 November 2016, under the guidance of the SBSTA chairperson, who plans to produce a summary report on the event, to be made available before SBSTA 46. WMO and its co-sponsored programmes WCRP and GCOS, GAW and WMO partner observing system programmes dominated at this special science session in front of about 400 attendees. The SBSTA invited the Parties to consider inviting the UNFCCC Secretariat to organize similar events during the implementation of GCOS IP 2016, based on submissions from Parties. It invited submissions on this matter by Parties by SBSTA 49 (December 2018).

In addition, WMO and the co-sponsored bodies, GCOS, WCRP and GFCS, made a number of submissions to the UNFCCC Secretariat.

<http://unfccc.int/9949>

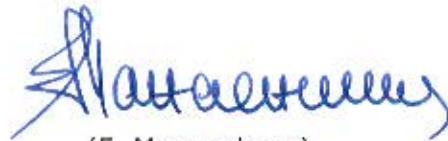
<http://public.wmo.int/en/our-mandate/climate/wmo-unfccc-cop>

<http://public.wmo.int/en/events/events-of-interest/cop22>

WMO was the co-lead convener of two side events on "Science for informed mitigation and adaptation choices" and "Hydroclimate Services for All" registered under the UN system. The WMO exhibition booth, in cooperation with MétéoMaroc, provided information to visitors and delegates on the role of WMO and NMHSs, especially in the area of adaptation.

Finally, it was my pleasure to note that during COP 22 28 Directors of Hydrometeorological Services and Permanent Representatives attended this Conference, among which were the presidents of the Regional Associations for Africa (RA I), Asia (RA II) and the South-West Pacific (RA V). Furthermore, 99 delegates from 73 NMHSs accompanied their national delegation at COP 22. I would like to express my sincere thanks to MétéoMaroc and the Permanent Representative of Morocco with WMO, Mr Nassif, for the support extended to the WMO delegation during this Conference, and to all those delegates from NMHSs who attended COP 22. I look forward to our continued cooperation in future events.

Yours faithfully,



(E. Manaenkova)
for the Secretary-General