



WMO OMM

World Meteorological Organization
 Organisation météorologique mondiale
 Organización Meteorológica Mundial
 Всемирная метеорологическая организация
 المنظمة العالمية للأرصاد الجوية
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Subject: Outcomes of the UNFCCC COP 23 (Bonn, Germany 6-17 November 2017) relevant to WMO Members

Action required: Representatives from NMHSs are requested to follow up on relevant COP 23 outcomes

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to inform you concerning 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 and the opportunities that arise from them. These include engagement in the preparation and implementation of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and involvement in preparation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the global stocktake required by the Paris Agreement.

The United Nations Climate Change Conference convened from 6 to 17 November 2017, in Bonn, Germany, under the Presidency of Fiji. It included the 23rd session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 23) to the UNFCCC, the 13th session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 13), and the second session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 1-2). The Conference also included the following subsidiary body sessions:

- (a) The forty-seventh session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 47),
- (b) The forty-seventh session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 47),
- (c) The fourth part of the first session of the Ad hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA 1-4).

I am pleased to inform you that I was invited, in my capacity as Secretary-General of WMO, to make a statement during the COP 23 opening ceremony. This was a unique opportunity to report on WMO scientific and technical contributions to the UNFCCC and on the record-breaking global temperatures, carbon dioxide concentrations and sea temperatures, as well as increasing ocean acidification, and extreme events and their impacts around the world. The Chair of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) also reported on the preparation of the Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C during the opening session.

In COP 23, Parties adopted 31 decisions, 24 under the COP, and seven under the CMP. These give guidance on the completion of the Paris Agreement work programme and launch the Talanoa Dialogue (the name given to the 2018 Facilitative Dialogue to take stock of progress in implementing the Paris Agreement).

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

cc: Hydrological Advisers to Permanent Representatives

The joint high-level segment under the COP, CMP and CMA brought together 15 heads of state and government, in addition to ministers and heads of delegation. While expectations for this COP were not high, the two goals set by the Fijian Presidency — advancing work on the Paris Agreement implementation guidelines and agreeing on the design of the Talanoa Dialogue — were met. There was a focus on national pre-2020 commitments. United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres noted the additional focus on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as they are on the frontlines of climate change and that they must be the “voice of us all.”

The following conclusions related to COP 23 subsidiary bodies and work programmes are of particular importance for WMO and its Members:

Forty-seventh session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 47)

Research and systematic observation

<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2017/sbsta/eng/I21.pdf>

The SBSTA welcomed the submissions by WMO¹ and noted with concern the information reported in the WMO submissions on greenhouse gases and the state of the climate. It welcomed the inclusion of information provided by partner organizations on observed impacts in the latter.

The SBSTA noted the efforts by the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) and the wider science community on the development of indicators for monitoring the state of the climate system, and by WMO on the categorization of extreme events. The SBSTA invited GCOS and WMO to report to it on progress, as appropriate, and noted the relevance of their work in the context of Decision 4/CP.22 on the review of *the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage Associated with Climate Change Impacts (WIM)*. The next periodical review of the WIM will be held in 2019.

The SBSTA noted with appreciation the information provided in the WMO submission on the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS). It invited WMO to report on progress in implementing the GFCS at future sessions of the SBSTA, as appropriate. It further invited the UNFCCC secretariat to communicate with the WMO secretariat, including WMO Regional Climate Centres (RCCs) and UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centres, to inform work on climate services.

Recommendation: *In light of these developments, NMHSs may wish to focus efforts on sustaining systematic observations, particularly in developing countries, including upper air observations; implementing the WMO Integrated Global Greenhouse Gas Information System (IG3IS); contributing to the annual WMO report on the state of the global climate, and engaging with national and international institutions on implementation of the GFCS. The recognition by SBSTA of these efforts will assist in positioning them within the context of efforts to implement the Paris Agreement, for which financing is available through the financial mechanisms of the convention.*

Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts (WIM)

<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2017/sb/eng/I05.pdf>

The SBSTA/SBI noted the concerns raised by Parties due to the increasing frequency and severity of climate-related disasters that have affected many countries, including those associated with heatwaves, droughts, floods, tropical cyclones, dust storms and other extreme weather events, as well as the increasing impacts associated with slow onset events, and the urgent need to avert, minimize and address these impacts through comprehensive risk management approaches: inter alia, through early warning systems,

¹ Available at <https://public.wmo.int/en/events/meetings/wmo-unfccc-cop-23>

measures to enhance recovery and rehabilitation and build back and forward better, social protection instruments, including social safety nets, and transformational approaches. The SBSTA/SBI invited Parties, relevant organizations and other stakeholders to submit their views and inputs on possible elements to be included in the terms of reference for the review of the WIM. The SBSTA/SBI conclusions further invite relevant organizations, as appropriate, to further mobilize resources, including expertise and tools, through a wide variety of instruments, channels and partnerships, for actions related to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with climate change impacts.

Recommendation 1: *NMHSs play an important role in providing scientific input for WIM in the areas identified by SBSTA and may wish to propose elements to be included in the terms of reference for the WIM review. The Executive Committee of WIM will meet in May 2018. COP 23 has invited Parties, observers and other stakeholders to submit, by 15 February 2018, their views and urgent and emerging needs related to extreme weather events and slow onset events including, but not limited to, droughts and floods, in developing countries.*

Recommendation 2: *An expert dialogue will also be organized to explore a wide range of information, inputs and views on ways for facilitating the mobilization and securing of expertise, and enhancement of support, including finance, technology and capacity-building, for the WIM, under the guidance of the Executive Committee of WIM and the Chair of the SBI, in conjunction with the forty-eighth sessions of the subsidiary bodies (April–May 2018). Delegates from NMHSs who will attend subsidiary body sessions in April 2018 are encouraged to participate in this expert dialogue.*

Recommendation 3: *Pursuant to Resolution 9 (Cg-17) on Identifiers for Cataloguing Extreme Weather, Water and Climate Events, NMHSs are encouraged to promote standardized recordings of weather, climate and water events associated with impacts.*

Issues Relating to Agriculture

<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2017/sbsta/eng/l24.pdf>

<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2017/sbsta/eng/l24a01.pdf>

The SBSTA/SBI will jointly address issues related to agriculture, including through workshops and expert meetings, working with constituted bodies under the Convention and taking into consideration the vulnerabilities of agriculture to climate change and approaches to addressing food security.

Recommendation: *The agriculture sector and food security are vulnerable to droughts, floods and other extreme events associated with climate variability and change. NMHSs are encouraged to follow up issues related to agriculture in the context of climate change negotiations and contribute to expert meetings that will be organized by UNFCCC during the April-May SBSTA/SBI sessions. COP 23 has invited Parties and observers to submit by 31 March 2018, their views on elements to be included in these expert meetings.*

Forty-seventh session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 47)

National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)

<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2017/sbi/eng/l35.pdf>

The SBI welcomed the work of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) in providing technical guidance and advice on accessing funding from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for formulating and implementing NAPs and invited the LEG to include an item on the experience of countries in accessing support for NAPs from the GCF in the programme of the NAP Expo 2018. The SBI also invited the Adaptation Committee and the LEG, following the NAP Expo 2018, to consider ways to assist with the implementation of NAPs in their future work programmes and to include information thereon in their reports, as appropriate.

Recommendation: *The Paris Agreement will significantly increase demand on NMHSs for user-oriented weather, hydrological, climate and related environmental services. NMHSs are well positioned to back-stop and advance the NAP process in all vulnerable countries, as well as meet the evolving needs of governments, partners and other decision-makers. NMHSs are encouraged to increase their involvement within Government and national organizational structures engaged in national adaptation planning.*

WMO activities at COP 23

WMO was involved in 43 side events, including co-convening or contributing to six United Nations system events, some of which were high level and hosted ministers and the WMO Secretary General in the panel. The WMO exhibition booth, in cooperation with Deutsche Wetterdienst, provided information to visitors and delegates on the role of WMO and NMHSs, especially in the area of adaptation.

WMO and the UNFCCC Secretariat also signed a Memorandum of Understanding, initially focused on four areas:

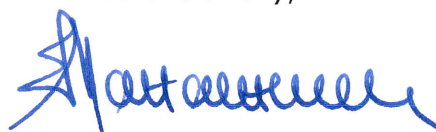
- (1) Facilitating the presentation of the annual WMO statement on state of the climate and Greenhouse Gas Bulletin to Parties and policy makers at the annual UN Climate Change Conference;
- (2) Jointly developing a collection of climate services to guide assessment and identification of adaptation strategies under the NAPs;
- (3) Promoting the IG3IS initiative to help countries reduce the uncertainty of national emission inventory reporting to UNFCCC;
- (4) Enhancing access to data needed for adaptation planning and implementation, and to some extent for mitigation, through cooperation between WMO Regional Climate Centres and the UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centres.

I also co-hosted a ministerial reception with United Nations Environment (UNEP) Executive Director, Mr Erik Solheim. Areas relevant to UNFCCC and the implementation of Paris Agreement highlighted at this event included:

- (1) Reassurance of support to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;
- (2) Cooperation in the area of greenhouse gas monitoring, particularly IG3IS, the UNEP Emission Gap Report, and WMO Greenhouse Gas Bulletin;
- (3) Implementation of GFCS for managing climate risks.

Finally, it was my pleasure to note that approximately 30 NMHS directors and Permanent Representatives attended COP 23, including the president and vice-president of Regional Association I and vice-president of Regional Association IV. Furthermore, 110 delegates from 70 NMHSs accompanied their national delegation. I would like to express my sincere thanks to Deutsche Wetterdienst and the Permanent Representative of Germany with WMO, Professor G. Adrian, for the support extended to the WMO delegation during this Conference, and to all those delegates from NMHSs who actively participated. I look forward to our continued cooperation in future events.

Yours faithfully,



(E. Manaenkova)
for the Secretary-General