

**WMO OMM**

World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale
Organización Meteorológica Mundial
Всемирная метеорологическая организация
المنظمة العالمية للأرصاد الجوية
世界气象组织

Secrétariat

7 bis, avenue de la Paix – Case postale 2300
CH 1211 Genève 2 – Suisse
Tél.: +41 (0) 22 730 81 11
Fax: +41 (0) 22 730 81 81
wmo@wmo.int – public.wmo.int

Ref.: 00748/2020-1.9 CLW/CCA

Our ref.: 00748/2020/S/CS/UNFCCC-COP25/4th

3 February 2020

Subject: Outcomes of the UNFCCC COP 25 (Madrid, Spain, 2-13 December 2019)
relevant to WMO Members

Action required: National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) are requested
to follow up on relevant COP 25 outcomes

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to inform you about the outcomes of the 25th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 25), which was held in Madrid, Spain from 2 to 13 December 2019. The Conference included meetings of the three governing bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC): the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP) and the Paris Agreement (CMA), and the 51st sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 51) and Implementation (SBI 51). There were more than 22 000 participants, including nearly 11 500 government officials, over 1 300 representatives from United Nations bodies, specialized agencies, and intergovernmental organizations (IGOs), 7 400 from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and around 2 200 members of the media.

The United Nations Secretary-General (UNSG) and the Prime Minister of Spain made opening remarks. The UNSG quoted the World Meteorological Organization's (WMO) information on the state of the climate in his remarks and emphasized the need for science-based action. At this COP, five influential reports significantly increased the visibility of scientific issues during the negotiations and were appreciated by Parties: the WMO Greenhouse Gas Bulletin (2019), the WMO provisional statement on the state of the global climate in 2019, the 2019 State of Climate Services report provided by WMO and partners in support of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on Climate Change, Desertification, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Food Security and Greenhouse Gas Fluxes in Terrestrial Ecosystems, as well as the Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (SROCC).

COP 25, CMA 2 and SBSTA 51 outcomes summarized below are of particular importance for WMO and its Members.

COP 25 and CMA

COP 25 concluded with the adoption of three overarching decision documents entitled Chile-Madrid Time for Action for COP 25, CMA 2 and CMP 15. The COP 25 Chile-Madrid Time for Action document (Decision 1/CP.25) notes with concern "the state of the global climate system", and recognizes that "action taken to address climate change is most effective if it is based on best available science and continually re-evaluated in the light of new

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

cc: Hydrological Advisers to Permanent Representatives

findings". It further recognizes the role of IPCC in providing scientific input to inform Parties in strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change ...". (https://unfccc.int/resource/cop25/1cop25_auv.pdf).

Two other decisions of COP 25 which may be taken into consideration by WMO Members are:

1. National Adaptation Plans (NAPs):

- COP 25 invited United Nations organizations, specialized agencies and other relevant organizations as well as bilateral and multilateral agencies "to continue to mobilize support for adaptation activities in developing country Parties" (https://unfccc.int/resource/cop25/cop25_auv_3b_NAPs.pdf);

Relevant to this decision, through an agreement between WMO and the Green Climate Fund (GCF), on "Provision of Expert Services for Enhancing the Climate Science Basis of the Climate Rationale in GCF Funded Activities", WMO has provided an inventory of methodologies and tools for ensuring that climate action projects and plans are based on the best available science. This initiative provides expert advice to countries from WMO expert bodies, NMHSs, and regional and global centres. It also responds to Decisions 11/CMA.1 and 8/CP.24, which require information on the gaps and needs related to the process of formulating and implementing National Adaptation Plans.

Also relevant to this decision, the WMO/GFCS "2019 State of Climate Services" report, documents the current status of climate information and associated services in relation to Parties' priorities identified in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and NAPs. The report was launched at COP 25 to support adaptation and resilience in climate-sensitive sectors more broadly.

Action: Members may wish to liaise with the national designated authorities in their countries to contribute to and participate in the preparation of the updated NDCs which should be submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat by the end of 2020. Members which have not already done so are encouraged to complete the climate services checklist provided to Members through previous correspondence (ref. 03982/2018/CLW/GFCS/Checklist, dated 5 March 2018), at the Eighteenth World Meteorological Congress (Cg-18), and through other channels, in order to strengthen the evidence base for the next State of Climate Services report to be submitted to COP 26 in 2020.

2. Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage Associated with Climate Change Impacts and its 2019 Review (WIM):

- COP 25/CMA 2 "agrees that the best available science, particularly in reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, should inform approaches to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with climate change impacts";
- COP 25/CMA 2 "invites relevant organizations and other stakeholders to collaborate with the WIM Executive Committee, including through strategic partnerships, in developing and disseminating products that support national focal points, loss and damage contact points and other relevant entities in raising awareness of averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with climate change impacts" (https://unfccc.int/resource/cop25/cma2_auv_6_WIM.pdf);

Action: As part of the implementation of these decisions, Members may wish to consider availing of climate finance mechanisms such as the GCF and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for enhancing Early Warning Systems (EWS) and cataloguing high-impact events, as previewed in [Resolution 9 \(Cg-17\)](#) — Identifiers for cataloguing extreme weather, water and

climate events (*Seventeenth World Meteorological Congress: Abridged Final Report with resolutions* (WMO-No. 1157)), and [Resolution 12 \(Cg-18\)](#) — WMO methodology for cataloguing hazardous weather, climate, water and space weather events (*World Meteorological Congress: Abridged Final Report of the Eighteenth session* (WMO-No. 1236)).

SBSTA 51

In its conclusions (UNFCCC/SBSTA/2019/L.15) on Research and Systematic Observation, the SBSTA:

- Notes with appreciation the WMO Provisional Statement on the State of the Global Climate in 2019; the 2019 Greenhouse Gas Bulletin; the 2019 State of Climate Services report; and the update on the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS), World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) Report, and Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) activities;
- Notes the release of the recent IPCC Special Reports and expresses its appreciation and gratitude to the IPCC and the scientific community for preparing them;

The SBSTA also:

- Highlighted the importance of enhanced systematic observation and integrating data in both Earth system models and other climate models for further developing global and regional climate models (and reducing the associated uncertainty) and for improving historical reanalysis, emission estimates and future projections, including in support of the implementation of the Convention and the Paris Agreement;
- Encouraged Parties and relevant organizations to maintain, strengthen and enhance systematic observation, increase observation network density and address systematic observation gaps, including gaps in upper-air monitoring systems and monitoring of the ocean and cryosphere and high mountain areas, as well as climate change impacts, particularly in the most vulnerable regions and countries. It recognized the development of the Global Basic Observing Network by WMO;
- Welcomed the work of the scientific community, Parties, climate service providers and space agencies in collecting, managing and openly sharing data and processed data products for addressing climate change and current and future climate risk. The SBSTA urged Parties and relevant organizations to continue to establish and support open data-sharing and the development of openly available, relevant and accessible data products, particularly for supporting and monitoring adaptation and mitigation;
- Recognized the important work and coordination of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS), including the Global Ocean Observing System, and noted the plans to provide an overview of the status of the global observing system for climate in 2021, address gaps and set new requirements for the system, and publish an update to the GCOS implementation plan in 2022. (https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sbsta2019_L15E.pdf).

Mr Tosi Mpanu-Mpanu (Democratic Republic of the Congo) was elected as the next SBSTA Chairperson and Ms Marianne Karlsen (Norway) as SBI Chairperson.

on: Actions: SBSTA delegates from NMHSs are invited to submit to UNFCCC their views

- (a) possible topics and considerations for the meetings of the research dialogue to be held in conjunction with SBSTA 52 (June 2020), and beyond, by **15 February 2020**, and
- (b) possible themes for the Earth Information Day in 2020 (see below), to be held in conjunction with SBSTA 53 (November 2020), and those in subsequent years via the submission portal by August 2020.

WMO activities at COP 25:

High Level segment

The high-level segment was convened on 10 and 11 December 2019. It was opened by Mr Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, President of the United Nations General Assembly, me, as the Secretary-General of WMO, Her Excellency, Ms Teresa Ribera, Minister of Environment of Spain and Ms Patricia Espinosa, UNFCCC Executive Secretary.

Alliance for Hydromet Development

Through a WMO and World Bank initiative, 12 international organizations providing assistance for enhancing hydrometeorological services in developing countries came together at COP 25 to launch the Alliance for Hydromet Development. The members of the Alliance have committed collectively to ramp up action that strengthens the capacity of developing countries to deliver high-quality weather forecasts, early warning systems, water, hydrological and climate services. Known for short as “hydromet” services, these underpin resilient development by protecting lives, property and livelihoods.

Earth Information Day

On the second day of COP 25, Earth Information Day 2019 was organized to provide an opportunity for Parties and non-Party stakeholders to meet with members of the systematic observation community and relevant international organizations to discuss the latest activities and exchange information on the state of the global climate system, Earth observation implementation, needs and services. The event was mandated at SBSTA 50, and its content was guided by previous mandates and submissions. The information and discussions presented were used to inform negotiations on research and systematic observation during SBSTA 51. (<https://unfccc.int/topics/science/events-meetings/systematic-observation/earth-information-day-2019>).

Side events and the IPCC-WMO Pavilion

This year WMO and IPCC hosted a joint pavilion, where around 50 side events were organized, including some jointly with partners. The pavilion served as a knowledge dissemination hub to visitors and delegates throughout the COP. WMO was also involved in 40 additional side events, including during Ocean day and Cryosphere day, and co-convening or contributing to six United Nations system events.

Overall analysis

The outcomes of COP 25 were below the expectations set for this conference by the negotiators, since the target was to achieve an agreement on the guidelines for a much-needed carbon market – an essential part of the toolkit to raise ambition that can harness the potential of the private sector and generate finance for adaptation. Parties were also expecting to get scaled-up financial and technical support for the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and damage (WIM).

Although COP 25 could not bridge the gap between the demands of science and civil society for an ambitious political response, in the final decision texts, governments did express the need for more ambition by Parties, the need to respond to scientific information and the enhanced role of non-State actors and public-private partnerships, and an improved ability of the most vulnerable to adapt to climate change. My observation at this COP was that science played a central role and WMO, IPCC and other co-sponsored bodies managed to demonstrate to Parties that science can be the common language for all.

This year Parties to the Paris Agreement should submit their updated NDCs and indicate an enhanced ambition. I encourage NMHSs to liaise with national focal points to UNFCCC and take advantage of the opportunities that arise from COP decisions in support of data, science and climate services.

Finally, it was my pleasure to note that approximately 30 directors from NMHSs and Permanent Representatives attended COP 25, including the third Vice-President of WMO. Furthermore, around 120 delegates from 70 NMHSs accompanied their national delegations to this conference and supported WMO-related events and discussion areas. I would also like to express my sincere thanks to the Spanish meteorological service (Agencia Estatal de Meteorología - AEMET) and to the Permanent Representative of Spain with WMO, Mr Miguel Lopez Gonzalez, for the support extended to the WMO delegation during this Conference and to all those delegates from NMHSs who actively participated in the negotiation process.

I look forward to our continued cooperation in future events.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a long horizontal stroke with a loop at the end and a small circle below it.

(P. Taalas)
Secretary-General