

**WMO OMM**

World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale
Organización Meteorológica Mundial
Всемирная метеорологическая организация
المنظمة العالمية للأرصاد الجوية
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3 August 2021

Subject: COP 26 and CMP-16/CMA 3 of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC), Glasgow, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (31 October to 12 November 2021)

Action required: Representatives from NMHSs are requested to advise on their participation in COP 26 by **30 September 2021**

Dear Sir/Madam,

The twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention (COP 26) will be held in Glasgow, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in the Scottish Event Campus from 31 October (early opening) to 12 November 2021. COP 26 will also be the venue for the sixteenth session of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 16) and the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 3). The World Leaders Summit will be held on 1 and 2 November, providing an occasion for world leaders to commit to high-level ambition and action towards securing global net-zero carbon emissions and keeping a 1.5 °C warming over pre-industrial levels within reach, adapting to protect communities and natural habitats, and mobilizing finance.

The regular High-Level Segment of COP 26 and CMP 16 will be held from 10 to 12 November 2021. According to the current plan, COP 26 will be held in person, with priority given to delegates from Parties. The host country and the UNFCCC Secretariat have already started planning for the Conference, to allow enough time for safe participation, proper preparation of side events, pavilions and logistics but with the caveat that final arrangements will be subject to the potential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The COP presidency has announced four goals for COP 26, related to mitigation, adaptation, financing and partnerships (<https://ukcop26.org>). The presidency has also announced a series of science themes in support of these goals, focused on adaptation and resilience, energy, transport, nature, finance and science & innovation. WMO scientific information and initiatives relevant to these goals and themes, and to the COP agenda, will be highlighted throughout the COP, including through official submissions, flagship reports, statements, launch events and press conferences, side events, a virtual exhibit space and a science pavilion. The dates of the events relevant to WMO, as well as related documentation and materials, will be featured on the WMO webpage for COP 26 at <https://public.wmo.int>.

WMO will prioritize the launching of two high-level initiatives spearheaded by the Organization and its UN partners: (1) The Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF), and (2) The Water and Climate Coalition. The regular high-level press conference on the launch of the provisional state of the global climate including greenhouse gas concentrations is being planned with the participation of the UN Secretary-General António Guterres around the time of the world leaders' summit.

To: Permanent Representatives of Members with WMO

cc: Hydrological Advisers

COP 26 includes the 2021 Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) sessions, which will build on the May-June informal consultations. In view of the virtual format earlier this year, Parties at SBSTA agreed to hold informal consultations and deferred any SBSTA conclusions to the SBSTA session that will be held in-person during COP 26. Relevant outcomes from the May-June informal consultations include:

1. On Research and Systematic Observation, SBSTA welcomed the activities and information reported in the statements submitted by WMO and the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) and acknowledged the ongoing efforts in relation to the Status Report of the Global Observing System for Climate, the GCOS Implementation Plan and WMO Global Basic Observing Network (GBON). SBSTA encouraged Parties and relevant organizations to support the WMO Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) in order to support and sustain the implementation of GBON in developing countries, including the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and the Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The WMO and GCOS statements are available at:
 - (a) <https://www4.unfccc.int/WMO-Submission-to-the-UNFCCC-Adaptation-Activities.pdf>
 - (b) [https://www4.unfccc.int/WMO-Statement-at-SBSTA \(May-June 2021\).pdf](https://www4.unfccc.int/WMO-Statement-at-SBSTA%20(May-June%202021).pdf)
2. SBSTA also acknowledged the ongoing efforts of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in its sixth assessment cycle and appreciated the dedication of the IPCC experts in continuing their work during the COVID-19 pandemic. For further information please visit the following link: <https://unfccc.int/Informal-note-by-the-co-facilitators.pdf>
3. WMO and its co-sponsored bodies, IPCC, the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) and GCOS actively contributed to the 13th meeting of the Research Dialogue (RD 13). For further information, please visit the following link: <https://unfccc.int/event/thirteenth-meeting-of-the-research-dialogue>.
4. WMO featured its contributions in support of mitigation and adaptation at the Earth Information Day 2020 held on 30 November: <https://unfccc.int/event/earth-information-day-2020>

For other items related to the SBSTA informal consultations and overall information please visit: <https://unfccc.int/event/SBSTA-may-june-2021#eq-15>.

COP sessions are great opportunities for National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) to provide scientific, technical and operational advice to inform the implementation of the Convention in general and the Paris Agreement in particular, as well as to enhance their visibility. In my next circular letter, I will communicate more specific information on WMO-related events, including high-level occasions, side events and other arrangements. I have already started coordinating with the COP 26 presidency on its priorities for this Conference and with the UK Met Office concerning contributions by the WMO community. I very much welcome your suggestions as well.

In 2019, at COP 25 in Madrid, 30 directors from NMHSs and Permanent Representatives, including the third Vice-President of WMO, attended the Conference. Furthermore, around 120 delegates from 70 NMHSs accompanied their national delegations to this conference and supported WMO-related events and discussion areas. Despite the difficult

time caused by COVID-19, as far as the situation permits, I encourage you to consider participating in COP 26 as a member of your national delegation to strengthen the role of NMHSs as contributors to the UNFCCC process. Although WMO will not be in a position to provide financial support for your participation in COP 26, I would appreciate any suggestions you may have as to how WMO can assist your Service in supporting the implementation of the UNFCCC processes, particularly the Paris Agreement. If you or your staff members are planning to attend COP 26, please let us know no later than **30 September 2021**, to ensure your inclusion in future conference-specific correspondence. I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of WMO Programmes and activities.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of fluid, connected strokes that form a stylized representation of the name Petteri Taalas.

Prof. Petteri Taalas
Secretary-General