

**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 COP26 (Glasgow, UK, 31 October to 13 November 2021) relevant to WMO Members

Action required: WMO Members and their National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) are requested to follow up on relevant COP26 outcomes

Dear Sir/Madam,

This is to inform you of the WMO related outcomes of the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP26), which was held in Glasgow, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, from 31 October to 13 November 2021. 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 52nd to 55th sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 52-55) and Implementation (SBI 52-55).

This was the first in-person major conference under the UNFCCC process since the beginning of the global COVID-19 pandemic. The Conference featured unique arrangements, including daily self-testing requirements, socially-distanced meeting rooms and strict hygiene protocols. There were nearly 38,500 registered participants, among whom there were nearly 16,000 delegates from 194 Parties and one observer state, over 730 representatives from United Nations bodies and Specialized Agencies, 740 members from Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs), 9,500 from Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and around 2,600 members of the media.

World Leaders Summit (1-2 November)

The World Leaders' Summit brought together over 120 Heads of State and Government. There were strong calls for greater ambition, and several developed countries made new financial pledges. The UK Presidency tallied that USD 800 million was pledged for adaptation over COP26, including the first-ever contribution from the United States of America to the Adaptation Fund. Pledges to reduce national emissions in the new Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and net-zero pledges submitted before the COP would lead to an estimated 1.8 °C to 2.4 °C of global warming above pre-industrial levels by 2100 if fully implemented.

New partnerships and declarations announced during the Leaders' Summit included the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, signed by 120 countries, to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030, and the Global Methane Pledge, signed by over 100 countries, to commit to collectively reduce global methane emissions by 30% by 2030.

To: Permanent Representatives of Members of WMO

cc: Hydrological Advisers

COP26 Outcomes

The following COP26, CMA 3 and SBSTA 52-55 outcomes are of particular importance for WMO and its Members:

Glasgow Climate Pact

Parties adopted the Glasgow Climate Pact, a series of three overarching cover decisions that provide an overall political narrative of the Conference of the Parties (COP). Some of the substantive aspects of the decisions include calls for developed countries to double their adaptation finance from 2019 levels by 2025, and for Parties that have not yet communicated new or updated NDCs to do so before the next COP. There are sections on: science; adaptation; adaptation finance; mitigation; finance, technology and capacity-building; loss and damage; implementation; and collaboration in this document.

Recommendation: On common timeframes, Parties agreed to communicate NDCs in 2025 with an end date of 2035, in 2030 with an end date of 2040, and so forth every five years thereafter. For further information, please refer to:

https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma3_auv_3b_CTF.pdf

National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) are encouraged to participate actively in contributing scientific evidence and information to their country's forthcoming NDCs.

In the first section of the Glasgow Climate Pact, entitled **Science and urgency**, the COP welcomes the contribution of Working Group I to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) and the recent global and regional reports on the state of the climate from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and invites the IPCC to present its forthcoming reports to the SBSTA in 2022. The COP expresses alarm and utmost concern that human activities have caused around 1.1 °C of global warming to date and that impacts are already being felt in every region.

On adaptation, the COP emphasizes the urgency of scaling up action and support, including finance, capacity-building, and technology transfer, to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change in line with the best available science, taking into account the priorities and needs of developing country parties, and invites the IPCC to present to COP27 the findings from the contribution of Working Group II to its Sixth Assessment Report, including those relevant to assessing adaptation needs, and calls upon the research community to further the understanding of global, regional and local impacts of climate change, response options, and adaptation needs.

The COP established the Glasgow Dialogue between Parties on loss and damage, to convene from 2022 to 2024. It recognizes the importance of demand-driven technical assistance in building capacity to implement approaches to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change. The COP welcomes the further operationalization of the Santiago Network for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including the agreement on its functions and process for further developing its institutional arrangements.

Recommendation: It is recommended that NMHSs coordinate with their national delegations and with WMO Regional Climate Centres (RCCs) to consider joining the Santiago Network to provide information on their technical support functions. For further reading please refer to:

<https://unfccc.int/documents/310475>

Fifty-second to Fifty-fifth sessions of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 52-55)

At the Opening Plenary of SBSTA 52-55, representatives from WMO, the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) and the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) made statements. The Opening Plenary also noted with appreciation the statements delivered during the World Leaders Summit stressing the importance of science in guiding climate policy and action. The SBSTA welcomed the reports and submissions provided and noted their relevance to actions under the Convention and the Paris Agreement. WMO and co-sponsored programme submissions are identified further below.

The SBSTA welcomed the contribution of Working Group I to the IPCC AR6 and the SBSTA–IPCC special event thereon held during the session. It expressed its appreciation and gratitude to the IPCC and the scientific community for preparing this contribution and looks forward to their continued work on the AR6.

The SBSTA also expressed its appreciation to participating research programmes and organizations for their contributions to the twelfth and thirteenth meetings of the research dialogue and Earth Information Days 2020 and 2021. The SBSTA noted the significant progress in the work of the research and systematic observation community aimed at strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, as discussed at the events, and the value of continuing the rich exchanges at future events.

The SBSTA encouraged Parties and relevant organizations to strengthen support for sustained systematic observations of the climate system for monitoring changes in the atmosphere, ocean and cryosphere, and on land, including by improving the density of observations in areas of poor coverage, developing and providing long-term data sets and facilitating free and open access to data. The SBSTA welcomed the outcomes of the Extraordinary session of the World Meteorological Congress in this regard, particularly [Resolution 1 \(Cg-Ext\(2021\)\)](#) – WMO Unified Policy for the International Exchange of Earth System Data, [Resolution 2 \(Cg-Ext\(2021\)\)](#) – Amendments to the Technical Regulations related to establishment of the Global Basic Observing Network (GBON), and [Resolution 3 \(Cg-Ext\(2021\)\)](#) – Systematic Observations Financing Facility: Supporting Members in the implementation of GBON, and encouraged Parties and relevant organizations to support the Facility to enhance and sustain implementation of the GBON in developing countries, including the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

The SBSTA also encouraged Parties and relevant organizations to strengthen systematic observation and research, and address related gaps and needs, including with regard to:

- (a) Promoting exchange of usable and accessible scientific information and other relevant knowledge and guidance at the science-policy interface, including in support of the implementation of the Convention and the Paris Agreement;
- (b) Connecting knowledge holders, innovators and technical experts with decision-makers in an equitable and participatory manner so as to increase understanding and use of knowledge, products, tools and climate services that inform risk assessment and management.

The SBSTA noted the importance of building partnerships as a basis for strengthening understanding and collaboration at the national and regional level, including facilitating cooperation on addressing key issues such as the ocean and cryosphere. In this regard, it recognized the work of WMO Regional Climate Centres (RCCs), and work by the Group on Earth Observations on developing relevant knowledge products, indicators, applications and services, notably biosphere observations for ocean and land.

Action: The SBSTA invited Parties and relevant organizations to submit, via the submission portal, views on possible themes for the fourteenth meeting of the research dialogue, to be held in conjunction with SBSTA 56 (June 2022), by **28 February 2022**, and for Earth Information Day 2022, to be held in conjunction with SBSTA 57 (November 2022), by **31 August 2022**. For further reading please refer to the original document:

https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sbsta2021_L05E.pdf

WMO high-level launch events and flagship products

WMO and its co-sponsored bodies submitted the following flagship reports and products to SBSTA and COP26:

The Global Climate Observing System 2021: Executive Summary

State of the Global Climate 2021 (WMO Provisional Report)

State of the Climate in Latin America and the Caribbean 2020 (WMO-No. 1272)

State of the Climate in Africa 2020 (WMO-No. 1275)

State of the Climate in Asia 2020 (WMO-No. 1273)

State of the Climate in South-West Pacific 2020 (WMO-No. 1276)

Greenhouse Gas Bulletin 2020

2021 State of Climate Services - Water (WMO-No. 1278)

Developing the Climate Science Basis for Climate Action

United in Science 2021

WMO Atlas of Mortality and Economic Losses from Weather, Climate and Water Extremes (1970–2019) (WMO-No. 1267)

Climate Indicators and Sustainable Development: Demonstrating the Interconnections (WMO-No. 1271)

These materials received widespread global attention in the traditional and social media.

During the COP, WMO launched three initiatives:

- (a) On Finance Day, WMO, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) announced the creation of the Systematic Observations Finance Facility (SOFF). This new finance mechanism will support observations to boost climate action globally and will contribute to achieving one of the main goals of COP26 – to urgently scale-up climate finance to support developing countries' adaptation efforts. The three founding agencies, WMO, UNDP and UNEP have signed a Memorandum of Understanding which legally established the SOFF as UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund. Please refer to:

<https://public.wmo.int/en/media/press-release/un-unveils-new-finance-mechanism-boost-climate-action>

- (b) Water and Climate Coalition leaders issued an urgent and united call for integrated water and climate action to replace the existing fragmented and crisis-driven approach. At a high-level event with H.E. Mr János Áder, President of Hungary, in the panel, Water and Climate coalition leaders

stressed the need for integrated water-climate management based on increased sharing of data and information. Please refer to:

<https://public.wmo.int/en/media/press-release/water-and-climate-coalition-leaders-we-need-urgent-integrated-action>

- (c) The Green Climate Fund (GCF) and WMO have joined together to provide the international community with new methods and tools for accessing the best available climate science information. These resources can be used to inform decisions on climate change investments, particularly for adaptation, as well as for preparing national policies and plans. The collaboration with GCF is one of a number of WMO activities to translate science into policy support to help tackle climate change drivers and impacts and to build resilience to increasingly extreme weather. The methodology publication of this initiative is submitted as a supplement to the National Adaptation Plans (NAP) Guidelines. Please refer to:

<https://public.wmo.int/en/media/news/climate-science-information-climate-action>

UNFCCC Mandated Events

Earth Information Day 2021

The Earth Information Day 2021 was organized in two thematic parts: theme 1, Updates on Earth observation of the climate system and climate change; and theme 2, Interpreting Earth observations for implementing the Paris Agreement – developments, opportunities and challenges. In theme 1, WMO presented the *State of the Global Climate 2021 (WMO Provisional Report)*, GCOS Status Report, GBON and SOFF.

Key messages focused on the need for investment in sustainable observing systems, the risks of short-term funding to such observing systems and gaps in the observing system, particularly in LDCs and SIDS but also in the oceans. Several different visions of global GHG monitoring were presented. WMO also submitted four scientific posters.

For further information please refer to:

<https://unfccc.int/event/earth-information-day-2021>

The Second Periodic Review and Structured Expert Dialogue (SED2)

The Structured Expert Dialogue (SED) is established under the Convention to support the work of a Joint Contact Group of SBSTA and SBI and to ensure the scientific integrity of the review through a focused exchange of views, information and ideas. It is a vehicle for open and substantive discussions between Parties on scientific knowledge and evidence-based climate policy formulation. At the SED2, WMO representatives from five Regional Climate Centres (RCCs) in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Pacific and Europe were invited to inform the Parties on the regional aspects of the climate system and observed impacts. These presentations were extremely well received and resulted in a dynamic exchange between these experts and Parties.

For further information please refer to:

<https://unfccc.int/event/second-meeting-of-the-structured-expert-dialogue-of-the-second-periodic-review>

WMO-IPCC-UKMO Pavilion

This year, WMO co-hosted the COP26 Science Pavilion with IPCC and the Met Office (UK), with support from the UK COP Presidency, MERI Foundations (Chile) and others. The pavilion provided a platform to explain the latest climate science and services to support COP26 negotiations and helped secure ambitious climate action. It hosted around 88 side events which were streamed live throughout COP26.

WMO engagement

Finally, it was my pleasure to note that approximately 32 directors from NMHSs and Permanent Representatives attended COP26, including the third Vice-President of WMO (Tanzania), the president of RA VI (Austria) and the vice-president of RA V (Fiji). Some 239 delegates from 83 NMHSs registered at the UNFCCC portal, among whom approximately 120 accompanied their national delegations to the conference and supported WMO-related events and discussion areas. I would also like to express my sincere thanks to all those delegates from NMHSs who actively participated in the negotiation process and contributed through their scientific knowledge and information.

COP27

COP26 accepted with appreciation the offer of the Government of Egypt to host the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties (COP27), the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the fourth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement from Monday 7 November to Friday 18 November 2022. I would recommend that the Permanent Representatives with WMO continue to initiate active interaction with the focal points to UNFCCC and national delegations to ensure an enhanced level of contributions from the WMO community and NMHSs to UNFCCC processes.

I look forward to our continued cooperation in future events.

Yours faithfully,



Prof. Petteri Taalas
Secretary-General