

**WMO OMM**

World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale
Organización Meteorológica Mundial
Всемирная метеорологическая организация
المنظمة العالمية للأرصاد الجوية
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20 February 2024

Subject: Outcomes of the UNFCCC COP28
(Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 30 November to 12 December 2023)

Dear Sir/Madam,

This is to inform you of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)-related outcomes of the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP28), which was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE), from 30 November to 12 December 2023. The Conference included the World Climate Action Summit for world leaders, and meetings of the following governing and subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC):

- Fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA5)
- Eighteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP18)
- Fifty-ninth session of the Subsidiary Bodies for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA59) and Implementation (SBI59).

WMO had four top-level objectives for COP28, which were all met and I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the delegates from National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and other entities who helped us achieve this. These top-level objectives are:

- For WMO scientific data and reports to be recognized by Parties as providing the latest scientific evidence and the basis for climate action;
- To recognize the critical role of systematic observations, early warning systems, climate services, and the Global Greenhouse Gas Watch;
- To recognize the importance of implementation of Early Warnings for All (EW4All) to the global agenda on adapting to climate change;
- To develop partnerships and resource mobilization for WMO priority areas.

On the first day of COP28, in an unprecedented consensus, the COP and CMA adopted the decision on the operationalization of the funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage. Several major pledges were made by governments to the fund. The decision welcomed initiatives such as Early Warnings for All (EW4All), the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems Initiative (CREWS), the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) and the Global Shield against Climate Risks, as recommended actions regarding the funding. For further information, kindly refer to the draft decision available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/634215>

To: Permanent Representatives of Members with WMO

cc: Hydrological Advisers
Permanent Missions of Member States to the United Nations in Geneva

The following is a brief account of major decisions and events which involve the WMO community, in a broader context.

World Climate Action Summit

The World Climate Action Summit, as the first part of the COP28 high-level segment, was held on 1 and 2 December. More than 150 Heads of State and Government attended the Summit. The President of UAE announced the establishment of a US\$ 30 billion fund for climate solutions, designed to bridge the financial gap and stimulate clean energy investments by 2030. UN Secretary-General, Mr António Guterres called for the Global Stocktake (GST) to spur drastic emissions cuts, end fossil fuel use, and accelerate a just and equitable transition.

First Global Stocktake (GST)

Parties adopted a decision on the first Global Stocktake under the Paris Agreement, which recognizes the need for deep, rapid, and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to limit global warming to 1.5 °C with no or limited overshoot. It encourages Parties to come forward in their next nationally determined contributions with ambitious, economy-wide emission reduction targets, covering all GHGs, sectors and categories and aligned with limiting global warming to 1.5 °C.

Throughout the COP28/CMA5 decision on GST, equity and the best available science are considered key criteria. The work and findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the Sixth Assessment Report of the IPCC, is well noted and welcomed. In addition, following the release of the *WMO Provisional State of the Global Climate 2023*, the decision document on GST expresses serious concern that 2023 is set to be the warmest year on record (which we can now in January 2024 officially confirm) and that impacts from climate change are rapidly accelerating, emphasizing the need for urgent action and support to keep the 1.5 °C goal within reach and to address the climate crisis in this critical decade. Simultaneously, COP28 agreed to commitments to triple renewables capacity and double energy efficiency by 2030.

The GST decision document further:

Acknowledges that establishing and improving national inventories of climate impacts over time and building accessible, user-driven climate services systems, including early warning systems, can strengthen the implementation of adaptation actions, and recognizes that one third of the world does not have access to early warning and climate information services, as well as the need to enhance coordination of activities by the systematic observation community.

Recalls the United Nations Secretary-General's call made on World Meteorological Day on 23 March 2022 to protect everyone on Earth through universal coverage of early warning systems against extreme weather and climate change by 2027 and invites development partners, international financial institutions, and the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism to provide support for implementation of the Early Warnings for All initiative.

For further information, please refer to the Draft decision available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/636608>

Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation

COP28/CMA5 decided on the global goal on adaptation. Among other issues, the decision:

- *Decides* that one of the targets of the global goal on adaptation includes by 2027 all Parties have established multi-hazard early warning systems, climate information services for risk reduction and systematic observation to support improved climate-related data, information, and services;
- *Emphasizes that adaptation action should be continuous, iterative and progressive and* be based on and guided by the best available science, including through the use of science-based indicators, metrics and targets, as appropriate;
- *Requests* the Subsidiary Body for Implementation and the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice to initiate the consideration of matters relating to the global goal on adaptation at their sixtieth sessions (June 2024), focusing on, inter alia; the opportunities for building on the best available science, including collaboration with the IPCC and other organizations, to provide information relevant to facilitating the implementation of the framework for the global goal on adaptation.

Among other issues, the COP28 decision on the global goal on adaptation, urged Parties and non-Party stakeholders to significantly reduce climate-induced water scarcity and enhance climate resilience to water-related hazards towards a climate-resilient water supply, climate-resilient sanitation and towards access to safe and affordable potable water for all. It also urged attaining climate-resilient food and agricultural production and supply and distribution of food.

For further information, kindly refer to the Draft decision available at : <https://unfccc.int/documents/636123>

Fifty-ninth session of the subsidiary body on scientific and technological advice (SBSTA59)

At the Opening Plenary of SBSTA59, WMO and its co-sponsored bodies, such as the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS), the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) and the IPCC made statements.

For further reading of the statements, please refer to:

- WMO Statement at the Plenary of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) 59 COP 28 (accessible [here](#))
- GCOS Oral Statement to COP28/SBSTA59 2023 (accessible [here](#))
- WCRP Statement to SBSTA 59 at COP28 (accessible [here](#))

The SBSTA took note of the [WMO Provisional State of the Global Climate 2023 report](#) and the 2022 [WMO Greenhouse Gas Bulletin](#) (WMO-No. 19) and welcomed the outcomes of the Nineteenth World Meteorological Congress (Cg-19).

The SBSTA noted the new Global GHG Watch initiative, aimed at establishing sustained, routine global monitoring of GHG concentrations and fluxes. It recognized that this initiative is intended to improve the quantification of both natural and anthropogenic GHG sources and sinks, and to complement emission inventories, noting that reporting and GHG inventory guidelines are as adopted under the Convention and the Paris Agreement.

The SBSTA emphasized the urgent need to maintain and expand systematic observations in support of adaptation, as well as deliver Early Warnings for All (EW4All), a key global initiative for protecting those most vulnerable to the impacts of extreme weather and climate events.

The SBSTA emphasized the continued need to address gaps in systematic observations globally and noted with appreciation the support being provided for addressing gaps in systematic observations in developing countries and noted the continued efforts of the SOFF. It encouraged Parties and relevant organizations to further strengthen their provision of support to the systematic observation community.

The SBSTA invited Parties and relevant organizations to submit views on possible themes for and ways to organize Earth Information Day 2024, to be held in conjunction with SBSTA61 (November 2024), via the UNFCCC submission portal by 31 August 2024.

The SBSTA noted the significant progress of the systematic observation community as presented at Earth Information Day 2023. It recognized the importance of sustained, long-term observations of the Earth system and the need to address data gaps, including in the atmosphere, hydrosphere, cryosphere, ocean and coastal regions, tropical forests, desert, and mountain regions.

For the SBSTA conclusions on research and systematic observations please refer to: <https://unfccc.int/documents/635543>.

Earth Information Day 2023

Earth Information Day 2023 provided a dialogue for exchanging information on the state of the global climate system and developments in systematic observation. It comprised a plenary session with an opening segment (including remarks from IPCC and WMO) and three panel sections, as well as a World Café session. The three panels were:

- (a) Updates on the state of the climate and the GCOS;
- (b) Observations for mitigation;
- (c) Observations for climate risks and resilience.

This plenary event was followed by a two-hour World Café session with 12 tables covering various aspects of systematic observation and how stakeholders can improve access and actively engage. WMO and its partners played a prominent role throughout.

For more information, kindly refer to the following links:

- <https://unfccc.int/event/earth-information-day-2023>
- https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/IN_EID2023_Final.pdf

WMO flagship reports submitted to SBSTA59 and COP28

WMO and its co-sponsored bodies presented the following flagship reports and initiatives to SBSTA59 and COP28:

- [Provisional State of the Global Climate in 2023](#)
- [2023 State of Climate Services: Health](#) (WMO-No. 1335)
- [United in Science 2023 – Sustainable Development Edition](#)

- [WMO Greenhouse Gas Bulletin](#) (WMO-No. 19)
- [The Global Climate 2011–2020: A decade of accelerating climate change](#) (WMO-No. 1338)
- [State of Global Water Resources report for 2022](#) (WMO-No. 1333)

These reports received widespread global attention during the relevant side events at COP28, press conferences and in social media.

UN System Side Event

The four pillar leads of the EW4All initiative (namely, WMO, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC)) co-led a UN System technical side event titled "[Accelerating learning and innovation in the Early Warnings for All initiative for adaptation](#)". The event demonstrated the common challenges and opportunities to accelerate adaptation efforts under the EW4All initiative, drawing from experiences, lessons learned and innovation multipliers from different stakeholder perspectives, contexts, and hazards.

Science for Climate Action Pavilion

WMO, IPCC, the [MERI Foundation](#) and the [National Centre for Meteorology \(NCM\)](#) of the UAE co-hosted the Science for Climate Action Pavilion. The pavilion provided a platform to explain and discuss the latest climate science and services to support COP28 negotiations and helped secure ambitious climate action. It hosted around 60 side events which were streamed live, throughout COP28. For consultation on the events and presentations, please visit: <https://wmo.int/site/wmo-cop28/science-climate-action-pavilion>.

Statistics of attendance

COP28 set a record in terms of on-site participation. In total, 51 695 delegates from Parties and Observer States attended COP28. Additionally, 25 360 delegates from observer organizations, including the UN System, 3 972 members of the media and 16 345 technical and support staff were at this Conference. COP28 by reaching 95 372 participants and support staff combined was the most attended Conference. Additionally, 3 074 virtual participants followed the negotiations remotely. More information can be found at: <https://unfccc.int/documents/636676>.

It was my pleasure to note that around 190 delegates from more than 50 NMHSs attended COP28, among whom were the President of WMO, the First Vice-President and the president of the Regional Association for Europe (RA VI), as well as the president of the WMO Commission for Weather, Climate, Hydrological, Marine and Related Environmental Services and Applications (SERCOM). There were also numerous senior meteorological and climatological experts from academia, scientific societies, and institutions at this COP. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all those delegates from NMHSs and other entities who actively participated in the WMO-organized events, shared their scientific knowledge and information, as well as contributed to the negotiation process.

I would also like to seize the opportunity to express my profound gratitude to Dr Abdulla Al-Mandous, President of WMO and Director General of the UAE NCM and his staff members who provided tremendous support to the WMO delegation before and during COP28.

Finally, I would also like to thank my predecessor, Professor Petteri Taalas, who led the WMO delegation at COP28 and achieved fruitful results which are mentioned in this letter.

The Road to COP29

Parties at COP28 accepted with appreciation the offer of the Government of Azerbaijan to host the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP29), the nineteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP19) and the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA6) in Baku, from 11 to 22 November 2024.

I would recommend that the Permanent Representatives with WMO continue to initiate active interaction with the focal points of UNFCCC and national delegations in their respective countries to ensure an enhanced level of contributions from the WMO community and NMHSs to UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement processes. The WMO Secretariat will actively collaborate with the UNFCCC and Member States to ensure support for the active participation of NMHSs during the negotiation process.

I look forward to our continued cooperation in future events.

Yours faithfully,



Prof. Celeste Saulo
Secretary-General