

**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.: 22679/2021-1.8 S/CS

Our ref.: 22679/2021/S/CS/UNFCCC-COP26/2nd

8 October 2021

Subject: COP26 and CMP-16/CMA3 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: Taking note of the key messages in this letter and advice on inclusion of experts from NMHSs in the national delegation at COP26

Dear Sir/Madam,

This circular letter follows my first letter of 3 August 2021, on WMO arrangements for participation at the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention (COP26) that will be held in Glasgow, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, on the Scottish Event Campus, from 31 October to 12 November 2021. COP26 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).

Through tireless efforts, the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) secretariat are continuing to make the necessary arrangements for the Conference, which will be held in person but with a strong virtual component.

The COP presidency has announced four COP26 goals, 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 and innovation.

On the road to Glasgow, WMO is producing scientific information relevant to these goals and themes to highlight the role and contribution of science to the negotiations. Recently released products, which can be referred to as contributions to the best available and most updated science, include:

- (a) [Regional Climate Report for the Latin America and the Caribbean](#),
- (b) [WMO Air Quality and Climate Bulletin](#),
- (c) [The United in Science Report 2021](#),
- (d) [The Atlas of Mortality and Economic Losses from Weather, Climate and Water Extremes \(1970–2019\)](#),
- (e) [The Global Climate Observing System 2021: The GCOS Status Report \(GCOS-240\) and its Executive Summary \(GCOS-239\)](#),
- (f) [Climate Indicators and Sustainable Development: Demonstrating the Interconnections](#).

To: Permanent Representatives of Members with WMO

cc: Hydrological Advisers, Permanent Missions to the United Nations in Geneva and New York, Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Member States of the World Meteorological Organization

I am pleased to inform you that more WMO flagship products, such as the provisional State of Global Climate Report (2021), the Greenhouse Gas Bulletin, the State of Climate Services for Water Report, and other regional climate reports are in preparation. These forthcoming reports will be made available on the WMO website in due course as they become available. WMO will also submit these products to COP26 and highlight the key findings to Parties throughout the Conference.

The regular high-level press conference on the launch of the provisional State of the Global Climate in 2021, including the latest data on greenhouse gas concentrations, is being planned with the participation of the UN Secretary-General António Guterres in advance of, or during the 1–2 November 2021 World Leaders' Summit. Additional WMO information will be featured on Earth Information Day, on 2 November 2021, and during the Science and Innovation Day, on 9 November 2021.

WMO and its co-sponsored bodies will also have a statement at the plenary of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and WMO will co-lead a United Nations System side event along with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) entitled "Getting ahead of climatic disasters: Know, Predict, Warn, Act" on 8 November 2021. WMO will also join other United Nations side events on energy, climate and health, water and cryosphere, oceans and women as well as participate in other events organized by non-UN partners.

This year, WMO will launch and announce three initiatives at high-level events:

- (a) The Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF), to support and sustain the implementation of Global Basic Observation Network (GBON) in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and provide technical assistance to other developing countries;
- (b) The Water and Climate Coalition, a community of multisectoral actors, guided by high-level leadership on water action;
- (c) The Climate Science Basis for Climate Action – a WMO and Green Climate Fund (GCF) initiative intended to ensure that all GCF-funded adaptation investments and other investments, plans and policies are based on the best available climate science.

Please also be informed that WMO, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the United Kingdom Met Office (UKMO) are jointly planning a "Science Pavilion", which will host events relevant to the negotiations and themes related to the Presidency on a daily basis to provide delegates from Parties and Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs) with the most updated scientific climate knowledge. The dates of these events, as well as related documentation and materials, will be featured on the WMO webpage for COP26 at <https://public.wmo.int>.

The WMO group of Climate Policy Advisors, a subsidiary body of the Climate Coordination Panel, met virtually on 13 September 2021. As an outcome of the meeting, you may find below several key messages which can be taken into consideration by delegates from National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), both through informing their national delegations pre-COP and during COP26 itself.

## Key messages for the attention of national delegations at COP26:

### Global Basic Observing Network (GBON)/Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF)

- SOFF is a new financing mechanism that will support and sustain implementation of GBON in LDCs and SIDS and provide technical assistance to other developing countries.
- GBON is designed to meet the essential needs for global climate observation under the Convention and SOFF responds to the need for sustained funding for essential climate observation as emphasized in SBSTA 51 draft conclusions and during the SBSTA 2021 informal consultations.
- GBON ensures the quality of model data underpinning products and services that strengthen disaster preparedness and minimize loss and damage and contributes to the information basis for climate adaptation measures.
- Implementation of the SOFF as an innovative mechanism that responds to the need for sustained funding provides a global public good and enhances basic weather and climate observations required to achieve the adaptation goals of the Paris Agreement.

### WMO Data Policy

- WMO has committed to the free and open exchange of data to underpin the services of its Members. To increase the benefits of this commitment, the adoption of open data policies that align with and build upon the WMO policy are required.
- Improvement is needed in data availability, accessibility and exchange from different sources and across weather, climate, water and the environment.

### Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) Implementation

- Support for systematic observations in the areas identified in the recently-published GCOS report on the Status of the Global Climate Observing System 2021 (gaps in spatial coverage, sustainability and data access) is vital for improving our understanding of climate conditions as a basis for improved adaptation and mitigation of decision-making at national, regional and global levels. GCOS will continue to develop its framework for observations that support the Paris Agreement.
- Sustained funding for observations of Essential Climate Variables is required to inform climate science, adaptation and mitigation under the Paris Agreement.

### Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW)/Integrated Global Greenhouse Gas Information System (IG3IS)

- It would be beneficial to improve the reliability of national greenhouse gases (GHG) emission estimates in support of mitigation action by combining traditional inventories with observations-based estimates. WMO/IG3IS offers a common framework for observation-based estimates as stated in the SBSTA-50 conclusions and it can become an important element of the transparency mechanism.
- Multiple co-benefits for human health and ecosystems have been demonstrated when national climate policies take into consideration the implications of air pollution. Such integrated air quality and climate policy are not commonly implemented. An integrated approach to air quality and climate policy will substantially advance the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

- In the race for net-zero, nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches need observational evidence of state and performance ecosystems and natural resources like forests. Such knowledge can ensure the success of implementation of nature-based climate solutions.
- Cities are a major source of GHGs and are the places where impacts of climate change on human lives and property are felt most strongly. Improved and consistent engagement with urban stakeholders as well as use of good practices developed by the WMO, will be beneficial for advancement of the mitigation and adaptation policies.

### **Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP)**

- Support to national modelling centres (staffing, resources) in engaging with the CMIP enterprise, including on essential coordination elements such as data infrastructure and forcing data sets, which are critically important for science-based action.

### **Climate Science Basis for Climate Action and the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS)**

- The GFCS guides the implementation of climate services needed to address adaptation priorities identified in the Parties' NDCs. The three State of Climate Services reports already submitted by WMO to SBSTA, as invited in 11/CMA.1 paragraph 19, provide actionable information for addressing specific climate services implementation priorities, gaps, and needs.
- Methods and tools for developing the climate science basis for climate action, prepared jointly by WMO and the GCF, facilitate access to high-quality climate information at a downscaled level. Support for the provision of advisory services to Parties to enable them to avail of these resources will facilitate technical capacity development and ensure that climate-related policies, National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and investments will be based on scientific evidence leading to sound solutions.
- The annual Regional State of Climate Reports provide regional-scale authoritative information to inform responsive climate policies.

### **Water and Climate Coalition**

- Stocktaking of, and integrated, climate (GHG) and water processes will contribute to a better understanding of the Earth system.
- There is a need to design and guarantee schemes for sharing benefits that can be generated through river basin scale adaptation action.
- There is a need to commit to information sharing at the national level whilst also participating in a globally monitored system on water, snow and ice.
- Strong and sustainable financing mechanisms on integrated climate and water resilience are needed, with emphasis on lasting capacity development and regional cooperation.
- The WMO Water Declaration emphasizes the vital importance of the mission of NMHSs in monitoring, understanding and predicting weather, climate and water behaviour, and in providing related information, warnings and services that meet river basin, regional, national, and global needs, especially in the context of climate change.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that WMO will not be in a position to provide financial support for your participation in COP26. Nevertheless, I copy this letter to the Permanent Missions of Member States to the United Nations Office in Geneva and New York as well as the Ministers of Foreign Affairs to encourage them to include Directors of NMHSs or knowledgeable experts from these services in the composition of their national delegation at COP26. Several NMHSs have already confirmed their attendance at this Conference. If you or your staff members are planning to attend COP26, please let us know no later than **15 October 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,



Prof. Petteri Taalas  
Secretary-General