



**World Meteorological Organization**  
**Organisation météorologique mondiale**

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Weather • Climate • Water  
Temps • Climat • Eau

Our ref.: CLPA/CCA/UNFCCC-COP18

GENEVA, 11 January 2013

Subject: Outcomes of the UNFCCC COP 18 (Doha, Qatar, 26 November-7 December 2012) and of WMO's activities

Action required: Representatives from NMHS are requested to follow-up on relevant outcomes of COP 18 and support WMO's actions

Dear Sir/Madam,

As you are aware, following my letter dated 21 September 2012, the 18<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of Parties to the Climate Change Convention (COP 18) was held in conjunction with the 8<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 8) in Doha, Qatar, from 26 November to 7 December 2012. The Conference also included the following sessions:

- The thirty-seventh session of the Subsidiary Body of Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 37);
- The thirty-seventh session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 37);
- The Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA);
- The Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP); and
- The Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP).

The High Level Segment of COP 18 and CMP 8 opened in the afternoon of 4 December and continued until 7 December 2012.

WMO organized a side event under UN Delivering as One, titled 'Climate services for sustainable climate-resilient development', at COP 18. Delegates at the Conference were informed on how the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) can support national and regional efforts to adapt to the impacts of climate variability and climate change on public health, disaster risk, water resources, food security and other sectors. The panelists of the event were from the Government of Norway, UNESCO/IOC, ISDR, FAO, IFAD and WFP.

To: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services) of Members of WMO (PR-6680)

cc: Hydrological Advisers to Permanent Representatives

At the opening plenary of SBSTA 37, the WMO Deputy Secretary-General made a statement on the outcome of the extraordinary session of the WMO Congress concerning the implementation of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), its finance and governance mechanism. On the same subject, WMO had also submitted a document to UNFCCC (MISC. 21) which provided more detailed information on the outcome of the extraordinary Congress. For additional information, please refer to the link below:

<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2012/sbsta/eng/misc21.pdf>

It is my pleasure to inform you that the following decisions welcomed WMO's ongoing initiatives and contribution to the work Conventions:

- (a) Under research and systematic observation, SBSTA 37 noted the outcome of the extraordinary session of the World Meteorological Congress, held in Geneva in October 2012 regarding the further implementation of the Global Framework for Climate Services. It invited WMO to provide, at SBSTA 39, information on the outcome of the first session of the Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services, to be held in July 2013.  
<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2012/sbsta/eng/l25.pdf>  
<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2012/sbsta/eng/l25a01.pdf>
- (b) COP 18 recognized the relevance of the GFCS to its decision on "Approaches to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change to enhance adaptive capacity". For access to the decision document on loss and damages, please refer to the following link:  
[http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/doha\\_nov\\_2012/decisions/application/pdf/cmp8\\_lossanddamage.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/doha_nov_2012/decisions/application/pdf/cmp8_lossanddamage.pdf)  
It further recognized: (i) the need to strengthen international cooperation and expertise in order to understand and reduce loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including impacts related to extreme weather events and slow onset events; (ii) the importance of the systematic observation of climate change impacts; and (iii) the need to enhance access to hydrological and other data needed to assess and manage climate-related risks;
- (c) COP 18 adopted the eight-year Doha work programme on Article 6 of the Convention. Article 6 commits governments to promote and facilitate education, public awareness and training in the field of climate change. The COP decision recognizes WMO and five other UN bodies as members of the United Nations Alliance on Climate Change Education, Training and Public Awareness. WMO brings to the Alliance its invaluable networks of experts and of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services as well as a number of relevant programmes on education and training as well as scientific capacity building. The decision document can be accessed below:  
[http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/doha\\_nov\\_2012/decisions/application/pdf/cop18\\_article6.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/doha_nov_2012/decisions/application/pdf/cop18_article6.pdf)

On other fronts, WMO's presence was also felt at the Conference through the launches of its reports on atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases in 2011 and on the climate trends and events experienced so far in 2012. These reports received a great deal of press coverage and were widely cited during the conference as providing clear evidence of the need for action on climate change. The Greenhouse Gas Bulletin and WMO's Provisional Statement on the State of Global Climate in 2012 can be accessed through following links:  
[http://www.wmo.int/pages/mediacentre/press\\_releases/documents/GHG\\_Bulletin\\_No.8\\_en.pdf](http://www.wmo.int/pages/mediacentre/press_releases/documents/GHG_Bulletin_No.8_en.pdf)  
[http://www.wmo.int/pages/mediacentre/press\\_releases/documents/966\\_WMOstatement.pdf](http://www.wmo.int/pages/mediacentre/press_releases/documents/966_WMOstatement.pdf)

This year, under the UN Delivering as One, a high-level event was co-hosted by the UN Secretary-General, Mr Ban Ki Moon, as Chair of the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) and the State of Qatar. The event fostered a dialogue among the host country,

Parties to the Convention, civil society and UN system leaders to demonstrate the UN system's collective capacity to support countries in implementing sustainable, people-centred solutions to the challenge of climate change. As one of the panelists in the event, I highlighted the leading role of WMO in the context of the UN coordinated action to address climate change and the expected benefits of the implementation of the GFCS for adaptation.

As in the previous COP sessions, the WMO exhibition booth provided information to visitors and delegates on the role of WMO and NMHSs in the adaptation activities. In addition to WMO Programmes, other co-sponsored programmes such as the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) and the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) contributed electronic publications for distribution in the booth. Furthermore, WMO dedicated a webpage for its preparations and participation in COP 18. It provided background information and daily news from Doha during the working days of this Conference.

It was my pleasure to note that during COP 18 around 33 Directors of Hydrometeorological Services and Permanent Representatives were attending this Conference, among which there were one vice-president and three presidents of regional associations. Furthermore, around 130 delegates from 60 NMHSs were accompanying their national delegations at COP 18. There were also meteorological and climate experts in the composition of delegations from intergovernmental organizations and research centres such as the African Centre of Meteorological Application and Development (ACMAD), AGRHYMET, East African Community, League of Arab States, Chinese Academy of Agrometeorological Sciences and the UK Met Office Hadley Centre.

Beyond those WMO specific issues mentioned above, I also wish to bring to your attention that at COP 18/CMP 8 governments took the next essential step in the global response to climate change. Under the Doha Climate Gateway countries have launched a new commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol, agreed a firm timetable to adopt a universal climate agreement by 2015 and agreed a path to raise necessary ambition to respond to climate change. They also endorsed the completion of new institutions and agreed ways and means to deliver scaled-up climate finance and technology to developing countries. The Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action (AWG-LCA) delivered its final report to COP 18 and was brought to a closure.

## **Detailed results of COP 18/CMP 8**

### **1. *Amendment of the Kyoto Protocol***

The Kyoto Protocol, as the only existing and binding agreement under which developed countries commit to cutting greenhouse gases, has been amended so that it will continue as of 1 January 2013.

- Governments have decided that the length of the second commitment period will be 8 years;
- Countries that are taking on further commitments under the Kyoto Protocol have agreed to review their emission reduction commitments at the latest by 2014, with a view to increasing their respective levels of ambition;
- The Kyoto Protocol's Market Mechanisms – the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), Joint Implementation (JI) and International Emissions Trading (IET) – can continue as of 2013;
- Access to the mechanisms will be uninterrupted for all developed countries that have accepted targets for the second commitment period.

**2. *Time table for the 2015 global climate change agreement and increasing ambition before 2020***

Governments have agreed to speedily work toward a universal climate change agreement covering all countries from 2020, to be adopted by 2015, and to find ways to scale up efforts before 2020 beyond the existing pledges to curb emissions so that the world can stay below the agreed maximum 2 degrees Celsius temperature rise.

- A significant number of meetings and workshops are to be held in 2013 to prepare the new agreement and to explore further ways to raise ambition;
- Governments have agreed to submit to the UN Climate Change Secretariat, by 1 March 2013, information, views and proposals on actions, initiatives and options to enhance ambition;
- Elements of a negotiating text are to be available no later than the end of 2014, so that a draft negotiating text is available before May 2015;
- In Doha, the UN Secretary-General, Mr Ban Ki Moon, announced he would convene world leaders in 2014 to mobilize the political will to help ensure the 2015 deadline is met.

**3. *Completion of new infrastructure***

In Doha governments significantly advanced the completion of a new infrastructure to channel technology and finance to developing nations and move towards the full implementation of this infrastructure and support. Most importantly they have:

- Endorsed the selection of the Republic of Korea as the location of the Green Climate Fund and the work plan of the Standing Committee on Finance. The Green Climate Fund is expected to start its work in Songdo in the second half of 2013, which means that it can launch activities in 2014;
- Confirmed a UNEP-led consortium as host of the Climate Technology Center (CTC), for an initial term of five years. The CTC, along with its associated Network, is the implementing arm of the UNFCCC's Technology Mechanism. Governments have also agreed the constitution of the CTC advisory board.

**4. *Long-term climate finance***

- Developed countries have reiterated their commitment to deliver on promises to continue long-term climate finance support to developing nations, with a view to mobilizing 100 billion USD both for adaptation and mitigation by 2020;
- The agreement also encourages developed countries to increase efforts to provide finance between 2013-2015 at least to the average annual level with which they provided funds during the 2010-2012 fast-start finance period. This is to ensure there is no gap in continued financial support while efforts are otherwise scaled up;
- Governments will continue a work programme on long-term finance during 2013 under two co-chairs to contribute to the on-going efforts to scale up mobilization of climate finance and report to the next COP on pathways to reach that target.

## **Other key outcomes of COP 18/CMP 8 in Doha**

### ***Review***

Governments have launched a robust process to review the long-term temperature goal. This will start in 2013 and conclude by 2015, and is a reality check on the advance of the climate change threat and the possible need to mobilize further action.

### ***Adaptation***

- Governments have identified ways to further strengthen the adaptive capacities of the most vulnerable, also through better planning;
- A pathway has been established towards concrete institutional arrangements to provide the most vulnerable populations with better protection against loss and damage caused by slow onset events such as rising sea levels. As already mentioned, the GFCS is recognized as one of the key contributors to the Doha Work Programme on loss and damages;
- Ways to implement National Adaptation Plans for least developed countries have been agreed, including linking funding and other support.

### ***Support of developing country action***

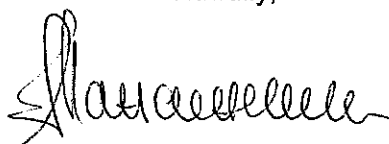
- Governments have completed a registry to record developing country mitigation actions that seek recognition or financial support. The registry will be a flexible, dynamic, web-based platform;
- A new work programme to build capacity through climate change education and training, create public awareness and enable the public to participate in climate change decision-making has been agreed in Doha. This is important to create a groundswell of support for embarking on a new climate change regime after 2020.

### ***New market mechanisms***

- A work programme has been agreed to further elaborate the new market-based mechanism under the UNFCCC, and also sets out possible elements for its operation;
- A work programme to develop a framework for recognizing mechanisms established outside the UNFCCC, such as nationally-administered or bilateral offset programmes, and to consider their role in helping countries to meet their mitigation targets, has also been agreed. WMO is a member of United Nations Alliance on Climate Change Education, Training and Public Awareness.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Qatar Meteorological Department for the support extended to the WMO delegation during this Conference and to all those delegates from NMHSs who attended COP 18. I look forward to our continued cooperation in future events.

Yours faithfully,



(E. Manaenkova)  
for the Secretary-General