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1 March 2019

Subject: Outcomes of the UNFCCC COP 24 (Katowice, Poland, 2-14 December 2018) relevant to WMO Members

Action required: Representatives from NMHSs are requested to follow up on relevant COP 24 outcomes

Dear Sir/Madam,

This is to inform you about the outcome of the 24th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 24), which was held in Katowice, Poland, from 2 to 14 December 2018. 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 49th sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 49) and Implementation (SBI 49). The 18,000 participants included nearly 11,000 government officials, over 1,200 representatives from United Nations bodies, specialized agencies and Intergovernmental Organizations (IGOs), 5,000 from Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs), and around 1,200 members of the media.

COP 24 concluded with the adoption of a set of guidelines for implementing the landmark 2015 Paris Climate Change Agreement, with the aim to benefit people from all walks of life, especially the most vulnerable. The high-level segment opened on 3 December 2018. The United Nations Secretary-General (UNSG) and President of Poland were among the speakers. The UNSG quoted WMO information on the state of the climate in his speech. The second part of the high-level segment convened on 11 and 12 December. It included statements from over 115 countries, 16 IGOs, and 11 NGOs. Three influential reports significantly increased the visibility of scientific issues during the negotiations: the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, the WMO Greenhouse Gas Bulletin (2017) and the WMO provisional statement on the state of the global climate in 2018.

COP 24 largely delivered on its objectives, by producing a package of decisions related to implementation of the Paris Agreement Work Programme (PAWP). Parties adopted the Katowice Climate Package, which includes decisions on nearly all of the issues mandated as part of the PAWP, including:

- **Mitigation:** further guidance in relation to Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), including common time frames and modalities;
- **Adaptation:** further guidance on adaptation communication, capacity building and improving availability and accessibility of climate information, enhancing learning and understanding of adaptation needs and actions;

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

cc: Hydrological Advisers to Permanent Representatives

- Finance: identification of the information to be provided by Parties on finance transparency and agreement to initiate deliberations at CMA 3 in 2020 on setting a new collective quantified goal on finance from a floor of US\$ 100 billion per year;
- Technology: specifying the scope of, and modalities for, the periodic assessment of the Technology Mechanism to enhance capacity building and adequacy of support; and
- Global stocktake: emphasizing the Party-driven nature of the process of periodically assessing Paris Agreement implementation based on the best available science, and establishing a dialogue between SBSTA-SBI-IPCC.

The following conclusions related to SBSTA 49, COP 24 and CMA 1 outcomes are of particular importance for WMO and its Members:

SBSTA 49

Following the invitation of the SBSTA, under agenda item 6 on Research and systematic observation, WMO submitted information on the state of the climate, activities of the Global Climate Observing System, World Climate Research Programme, and Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), and relevant decisions of the WMO Executive Council at its seventieth session including concerning the Integrated Global Greenhouse Gas Information System. The Chair of IPCC also reported on the Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C. Despite many favourable references to the above having initially been included in the draft conclusions proposed by the chair, however, Parties expressed diverging views on whether to “note”, “acknowledge” or “welcome” the IPCC Special Report. As a result, SBSTA deferred all items under this agenda item for further consideration by SBSTA 50 and none of the proposed draft conclusions were ultimately adopted.

Recommendation: SBSTA 50 will discuss and consider a new text on research and systematic observation for submission to COP 25. Delegates from NMHSs who will attend this meeting in May 2019 are requested to follow closely the draft agenda, study available background information and coordinate any input with their national UNFCCC focal points.

COP24

The following decisions are particularly relevant to WMO Members and require their follow up:

National Adaptation Plans

(NAPs) https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cop24_auv_nap.pdf

COP 24 noted with appreciation the work of relevant organizations in providing technical support to countries on the process of formulating and implementing NAPs. It further noted that gaps and needs related to the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans remain.

COP 24 welcomed the efforts of WMO and other relevant organizations in providing capacity-building to support developing countries on the analysis of climate data and the development and application of climate change scenarios in vulnerability and risk assessment. COP 24 encouraged relevant organizations to continue coordinating their support and share lessons learned.

Least Developed Countries Work

Programme https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cop24_auv_ldcwp.pdf

COP 24 decided to update the elements of the least developed countries work programme. Among other things, this includes continuing to strengthen the capacity of meteorological and hydrological services to collect, analyse, model, interpret and disseminate weather and climate information to support the implementation of adaptation actions.

Report of the Adaptation Committee

https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cp24_auv_adap%20cttee.pdf

COP 24 invited relevant institutions under the Convention and non-Party stakeholders to strengthen support (financial, technical, technological and capacity-building) for adaptation planning, including for collecting climate data and information, noting the urgent need for adaptation action to address current and short- and long-term risks of climate change. COP 24 expressed its appreciation to the Parties and organizations that led and participated in the technical expert meetings on adaptation in 2018. It encouraged Parties and organizations to build on the outcomes of these meetings when planning and implementing adaptation action and to continue to organize such meetings in 2019 with a view to enhancing adaptation action and its overall coherence.

CMA 1

Matters referred to in paragraphs 41, 42 and 45 of decision 1/CP.21 (Adaptation related issues)

https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma_auv_paras%2041%2042%2045.pdf

CMA 1 invited WMO, through the GFCS, with a view to facilitating the development and application of methodologies for assessing adaptation needs, to regularly inform SBSTA about its activities aimed at improving the availability and accessibility of comprehensive climate information, including observational data, and about how it facilitates the provision and dissemination of the most up-to-date climate model predictions and projections.

CMA 1 requested the Adaptation Committee, in collaboration with the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), partner organizations of the Nairobi work programme, users and developers of relevant methodologies, including academia and the private sector, to develop by June 2020 and to regularly update an inventory of relevant methodologies for assessing adaptation needs, including needs related to action, finance, capacity-building and technological support in the context of national adaptation planning and implementation, and to make the information available on the adaptation knowledge portal.

Recommendations:

- (a) The CMA 1 decisions and COP 24 decisions concerning NAPs are the result of WMO multi-year contributions to, and participation in, UNFCCC organized meetings at global and regional levels. It is essential for NMHSs to be fully aware of the status of NAP preparation and implementation in their countries and ensure that climate information and data analysis are provided for NAP planning implementation. WMO is preparing comprehensive guidance under a contract with the Green Climate Fund for this purpose which will be available to NMHSs for testing in mid-2019.
- (b) The pathway towards achieving science-based, nationally sustained and inclusive climate action heavily depends on the partnership and collaboration within and across national borders. A National Framework for Climate Services (NFCSS) is a key mechanism for supporting NAP development and implementation. NMHSs should consider promoting the formation of NFCSSs. Among other things, information provided by NFCSSs on the status of the national capacities for climate services will contribute to a GFCS-led effort to track and report on progress on the provision of climate services in support of adaptation as invited by CMA 1.

https://library.wmo.int/index.php?lvl=notice_display&id=20216#.XEiKeK6nGUI

Matters relating to Article 14 of the Paris Agreement and paragraphs 99–101 of decision 1/CP.21 (Global Stocktake)

https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cp24_auv_GST_L.16.pdf

CMA 1 decided that equity and the best available science will be considered in a Party-driven and cross-cutting manner, throughout the global stocktake. CMA 1 decided to establish a technical dialogue under the auspices of SBSTA, which will:

- (a) Undertake its work through a focused exchange of views, information and ideas in in-session round-tables, workshops or other activities;
- (b) Organize its work in line with taking stock of the implementation of the Paris Agreement to assess the collective progress towards achieving its purpose and long-term goals.

CMA 1 also recognized that a dialogue between IPCC experts and Parties through SBSTA–IPCC special events should be used to enable a focused scientific and technical exchange of information on the findings in IPCC products in an open and transparent manner and that the SBSTA–IPCC Joint Working Group should continue to be used to enhance communication and coordination between the SBSTA and IPCC in the context of the global stocktake. CMA 1 also decided that the sources of input for the global stocktake, among others, include the latest reports of the IPCC and submissions from UNFCCC observer organizations.

Recommendation: The global stocktake is mainly a party-driven process. NMHSs should engage at a national level, as appropriate, to coordinate with National Designated Authorities, to provide climate data and information for the global stocktake under the Paris Agreement. WMO submissions such as the annual statement on the state of the global climate and greenhouse gas bulletin are also intended to inform the global stocktake as well.

WMO activities at COP 24

Side events and the IPCC-WMO Pavilion

This year WMO and IPCC hosted a joint pavilion, where around 46 side events and classroom sessions were organized, including some jointly with our partners. The pavilion served as a knowledge dissemination hub to visitors and delegates throughout the COP. WMO was also involved in 36 additional side events, including co-convening or contributing to six United Nations system events, some where I was present were high level and hosted ministers.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Green Climate Fund (GCF)

WMO and the GCF signed a MoU to work together to leverage WMO expertise on weather, climate and water to increase the effectiveness of GCF funded activities and support low carbon and climate resilient development. I also co-hosted a high-level reception with the GCF Executive Director (a.i.), Mr Javier Manzanares, on "Leveraging the best available science for increased effectiveness of climate finance".

On the margins of COP 24, another MoU was also signed between WMO and the Union of the Mediterranean.

High-level Ministerial Events:

During the high-level segment, I was invited to the following ministerial events, where I shared WMO views and contributions:

- (a) Talanoa Ministerial Dialogue Round Table;
- (b) The 3rd Biennial Ministerial High-Level Dialogue on Climate Finance - "Translating climate finance needs into action";


- (c) The high-level ministerial roundtable on the Climate and Clean Air Coalition;
- (d) The opening session of the high-level segment of COP 24.

The coming years are particularly important because the Paris Agreement calls on countries to submit new or updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by 2020, when it will become operational. I encourage NMHSs to liaise with national focal points to UNFCCC and take advantage of the opportunities that arise from COP decisions in support of data, science and climate services. Under the auspices of the UNSG, António Guterres, a special climate summit will be convened in September 2019 as a milestone to mobilize political and economic energy at the highest levels to advance climate action that will help accelerate implementation of the goals of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Finally, it was my pleasure to note that approximately 24 NMHS directors and Permanent Representatives attended COP 24, including the president of Regional Association III for South America. Furthermore, around 140 delegates from 61 NMHSs accompanied their national delegation to this conference. I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Institute of Meteorology and Water Management and the Permanent Representative of Poland with WMO, Professor T. Walczykiewicz, for the support extended to the WMO delegation during this Conference and to all those delegates from NMHSs who actively participated in the negotiation process.

I look forward to our continued cooperation in future events.

Yours faithfully,



(E. Manaenkova)
for the Secretary-General