



Our ref.: 22338/2019/CLW/CLPA/CCA/UNFCCC-COP25/1st

11 September 2019

Subject: COP 25 and CMP-15/CMA 2 of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC), Santiago, Chile, 2-13 December 2019

Action required: Representatives from NMHSs are requested to advise on their participation in COP 25 and identify how WMO can further support NMHS engagement in UNFCCC processes

Dear Sir/Madam,

The twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention (COP 25) will be held in Santiago, Chile, from 2 to 13 December 2019. COP 25 will also be the venue for the fifteenth session of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 15) and the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 2). The High-Level Segment of COP 25 and CMP 15 will be held from 9 to 11 December 2019. These events include the fifty-first sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 51) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 51).

WMO will be partnering with other UN system side-events on agriculture and food security, health, energy, quality education and oceans, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals on water (SDG6) and Partnership for the SDGs (SDG 17), which will address capacity building and climate science, among other issues. WMO will also join the One UN Exhibition to showcase the role of climate science, quality education and life below water in the work of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The dates of the events relevant to WMO, as well as related documentation and materials, will be featured on the WMO webpage for COP 25 at (<https://public.wmo.int>).

This year the COP session will be particularly important due to the following reasons:

1. Climate Action Summit

To boost ambition and accelerate actions to implement the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, UN Secretary-General António Guterres will host the 2019 Climate Action Summit on 23 September 2019 to meet the climate challenge. The Summit will showcase a leap in collective national political ambition and it will demonstrate massive movements in the real economy in support of the agenda. WMO is actively participating in the organization of this Summit and in my capacity as WMO Secretary-General, I serve as a member of the Steering Committee for the Climate Action Summit. I am also designated as co-chair of the Climate Science Advisory Group, which will submit its detailed reports to the Climate Action Summit to inform world leaders about the state of the climate as well as science-driven solutions for transformative action and raising ambition in key sectors. The overall outcome of the Summit will be reflected in COP 25 and will contribute to raising ambition for the implementation of the Paris Agreement, including the new submissions of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and other areas such as the energy transition for climate action and climate and health.

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

cc: Hydrological Advisers to Permanent Representatives

2. Exceptional warming of the atmosphere in 2019

Instrumental observation of the atmosphere shows that the world is on track for 2015-2019 to be the warmest five years on record. The warming trend continues unabated so far in 2019 and the months June-July were the warmest such period on record. Heatwaves and high temperatures continue to increase in frequency and intensity across the globe, with many new temperature records in both hemispheres. Data shows that 2019 had the hottest June ever, with records broken from New Delhi to the Arctic Circle. The unusually early heatwave in Europe – with temperatures in France, Spain and Germany exceeding 40°C - is just the latest in a series of extreme weather events. July has re-written climate history, with dozens of new temperature records at local, national and global level and it reached around 1.2°C warmer than the pre-industrial era, according to the data. The submission of the provisional WMO statement on the status of the global climate for 2019 to COP 25 will be an important source of tracking the major indicators in the climate system.

3. Conclusions of the 50th session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 50)

In the context of SBSTA constituency, WMO and its co-sponsored bodies, the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC), the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) and the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) are major contributors to research and systematic observation and feed their updated information to Research Dialogue, which has proved to be very informative to Parties. The Chairman of SBSTA, at the opening of its fiftieth session (SBSTA 50) in June 2019, referred to the WMO annual statement on the status of the global climate (2018) as a valid source of information for Parties. SBSTA 50 advanced the work on several issues to facilitate implementation of the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement, due for completion at the Santiago Climate Change Conference in December 2019. WMO and its co-sponsored bodies made statements at the SBSTA Plenary. They also actively contributed to the eleventh meeting of the Research Dialogue (RD 11). This year Parties at SBSTA approved the organization of the second Earth Info Day at COP 25. This event will provide a bigger opportunity to enhance the role of science, as it is becoming a subject of argument. WMO will coordinate a number of presentations for a productive Earth Info Day.

SBSTA 50 welcomed the adoption by the WMO Executive Council at its seventieth session of the science implementation plan for a new Integrated Global Greenhouse Gas Information System (IG3IS). SBSTA recognized that IG3IS is an innovative science-based framework that supports the needs of a broad range of users by combining atmospheric observations with other sources of information to enhance understanding of greenhouse gas concentrations and fluxes at multiple spatial scales, and encouraged the use of the framework.

SBSTA conclusions on research and systematic observations captured many WMO activities and contributions including the decision made by the Eighteenth World Meteorological Congress (June 2019) on the Country Support Initiative (CSI), which contributes to closing the capacity gap, scaling up the effective partnerships for investments in sustainable and cost-efficient infrastructure and service delivery. SBSTA urged Parties to enhance the development of climate services, working with WMO, the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) and the Coordination Group for Meteorological Satellites (CGMS), the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), GCOS and WCRP.

SBSTA noted the importance of the work of the observation community and the wider scientific community in line with the GCOS implementation plan on essential climate variables, which are fundamental to climate indicators, and climate services and decision-making on mitigation and adaptation. SBSTA invited WMO and other relevant organizations to continue to support in a coordinated manner the development of climate services, taking into account the GFCS implementation plan. For further information you may consult the following link: <https://unfccc.int/documents/196717>.

COP sessions are great opportunities for National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) to provide scientific, technical and operational advice to the implementation process of the Convention in general and the Paris Agreement in particular. In my next circular letter, I will send an infographic, which will be a guide on the negotiations processes, including the relevant articles of the Paris Agreement and the UNFCCC subsidiary bodies in which WMO and NMHSs are involved and are of prime interest. This guiding material will also map out the contribution of the WMO community to global efforts on adaptation and mitigation by providing science-based information. I have already started coordinating with MeteoChile, who will facilitate WMO participation at COP 25 and enhance my interaction with high level Chilean government officials.

Last year, 24 Directors of NMHSs and Permanent Representatives of Members with WMO attended COP 24, including the president of Regional Association III for South America. In overall, 140 delegates from 61 NMHSs attended this conference as part of their national delegations. I encourage you to consider participating in COP 25 as a member of your national delegation to strengthen the role of NMHSs as contributors to the UNFCCC process.

Although WMO will not be in a position to provide financial support to your participation at COP 25, I would appreciate any suggestions you may have as to how WMO can assist your Service in supporting the implementation of the UNFCCC processes, particularly the Paris Agreement. In case you or your staff members are planning to attend COP 25, please let us know not later than **31 October 2019**, for inclusion in future conference-specific correspondence.

I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support to WMO Programmes and activities.

Yours faithfully,



(P. Taalas)
Secretary-General