



World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale

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Weather • Climate • Water
Temps • Climat • Eau

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GENEVA, 31 July 2015

Subject: COP 21 and CMP 11 of the UNFCCC, Paris, France, 30 November-11 December 2015

Action required: Representatives from NMHSs are encouraged to actively participate in COP 21 and CMP 11 discussions related to climate science and services, and support implementation of the WMO-led Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS)

Dear Sir/Madam,

As you are aware, the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Climate Change Convention (COP 21) will be held, in conjunction with the eleven session of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 11), in Paris, France, from 30 November to 11 December 2015. These events include the following sessions:

- The forty-third session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 43);
- The forty-third session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI 43).

The High-Level Segment of COP 21 and CMP 11 will be held from 9 to 11 December 2015.

Based on successful experience during the previous COP, SBI and SBSTA sessions, WMO is currently planning for active participation in this conference. WMO will also participate in the relevant United Nations system side events along with climate-related sponsored programmes and other UN partner agencies. The dates and programme of events relevant to WMO, as well as related documentation and materials, will feature on the following WMO webpage: <http://www.wmo.int/events/COP>. WMO will also join the One UN Exhibition at COP 21 to showcase materials and publications on the role of climate science in the work of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The following decisions of COP 20 in December 2014 and SBSTA 42 in June 2015 provide an update on on-going initiatives and contributions to the work of the Convention, among which four developments were particularly important for WMO and its Members:

To: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services) of Members of WMO (PR-6862)

cc: Hydrological Advisers to Permanent Representatives

1. **Mitigation: The Lima Call for Climate Action**

A key COP 20 decision concerns implementation of the commitments as agreed in Doha up to 2020. The decision notes “with grave concern the significant gap between the aggregate effect of Parties’ mitigation pledges in terms of global annual emissions of greenhouse gases by 2020 and aggregate emission pathways consistent with having a likely chance of holding the increase in global average temperature below 2°C or 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.” Recalling the objective of the Convention as set out in its Article 2,¹ the decision confirms the intention “for the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-first session to adopt a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all Parties” and “underscores its commitment to reaching an ambitious agreement in 2015 that reflects the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in light of different national circumstances.” An agreement of this nature, when implemented, would have a significant effect on the economies of virtually every country in the world, and particularly the energy sector. The text for future agreement is being negotiated and formulated through Ad Hoc Durban Platform (ADP) sessions based on the annex to the Lima Call for Climate Action. The Geneva negotiating text (FCCC/ADP/2015/1) adopted at ADP session 2-8 is serving as the basis for negotiations on the 2015 agreement. ADP 2-9 was held in Bonn, June 2015. It enabled parties to make progress by putting in place the “mechanics” that will facilitate a successful and timely outcome in Paris. ADP will further meet in August/September and October this year to finalize the elements of the agreement but the challenge is to cut down the size of the text. A subtler task is to generate a climate of trust for the negotiations ahead. National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) may therefore wish to consider how the Lima decision will affect the demand for climate services aimed at promoting a transition to low-carbon economy including use of renewable energy sources, and for observations on the composition of the atmosphere.

2. **Adaptation: National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)**

COP 20 adopted the conclusions of SBI on NAPs. The decision “recognizes that the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans is fundamental for building adaptive capacity and reducing vulnerability to the impacts of climate change.” The decision explicitly links NAP preparation to the Green Climate Fund (see below). In countries where NAPs are being prepared, NMHSs are encouraged to engage in NAP preparation and implementation, both to inform the process as well as to benefit from the resource allocations, including from the Green Climate Fund, that are expected to be based on NAP priorities.

3. **Loss and Damage: The Warsaw International Mechanism**

The work programme prepared by the interim Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage (http://unfccc.int/documentation/documents/advanced_search/items/6911.php?prirref=600008121) was adopted in a COP 20 decision (http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/lima_dec_2014/decisions/application/pdf/auv_cop20_lossanddamage.pdf). Among other things the work programme, which is outlined

¹ ARTICLE 2: The ultimate objective of this Convention and any related legal instruments that the Conference of the Parties may adopt is to achieve, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention, stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Such a level should be achieved within a time-frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.

in Annex 2 of the interim Committee report, invites “relevant organizations and experts to collaborate with the Executive Committee to facilitate access to information, including through collaborative channels or databases, and technologies to track the impacts, and enable approaches to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including slow onset events.” WMO formally submitted a concept paper to the UNFCCC outlining how NMHSs can contribute to this process (<https://www.wmo.int/pages/meetings/documents/179.pdf>). The decision also defines the membership structure for the Executive Committee (https://unfccc.int/adaptation/cancun_adaptation_framework/loss_and_damage/items/8806.php). In addition, the decision provides for active engagement by UN organizations through participation in expert teams and other subsidiary bodies.

4. The Green Climate Fund (GCF)

COP 20 coincided with a number of developments related to the Green Climate Fund including total pledges reaching USD 10.2 billion (http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/lima_dec_2014/decisions/application/pdf/auv_cop20_gcf.pdf). The GCF has eight strategic results, including low emission power generation and increased health, food, water and livelihood security especially among the most vulnerable (<http://news.gcfund.org/>). It includes a Private Sector Facility that among other things is intended to stimulate investment in renewable energy. Countries wishing to access GCF resources will need to nominate a National Designated Authority (NDA). A GCF readiness and preparatory programme with a cap of USD 1 million per country per year will help national entities get accredited and prepare projects for GCF financing. United Nations agencies are also eligible to access the fund and WMO is in the process of preparing a request for accreditation. There are four scales of GCF projects: micro (less than USD 10 million), small (USD 10-50 million), medium (USD 50-250 million) and large (greater than USD 250 million). The GCF will allocate half of its resources to mitigation and half to adaptation. Half of the latter will be allocated to Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States. NMHSs are encouraged to engage with NDAs and WMO to explore financing of initiatives in areas related to COP 20 decisions pertaining to mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage. For further details, information and guidance, you may contact WMO Resource Mobilization Office.

Additional decisions of potential interest to Members are below. It is my pleasure to inform you that several of them have welcomed WMO’s ongoing initiatives and contribution to the work of the Convention:

Research and systematic observation

- (a) The conclusion of SBSTA 41 noted the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) work plan for 2015. GCOS Secretariat has been requested to provide a status report to be submitted to SBSTA 43 at COP-21 and new Implementation Plan to be submitted to SBSTA 45 at COP-22. GCOS also made an interim report to SBSTA 42 in June 2015 on the workshop which it organized in collaboration with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and UNFCCC in Bonn in February 2015;
(<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2015/sbsta/eng/l04.pdf>)
- (b) SBSTA 41 recognized WMO’s submission on the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services-2 (IBCS-2, see below). It requested WMO to report on progress in implementation of GFCS at SBSTA 43 in December 2015;
(http://unfccc.int/documentation/documents/advanced_search/items/6911.php?pref=600008193#beg)

- (c) SBSTA 41 further welcomed the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) of the IPCC. It invited the IPCC to continue to provide relevant information to Parties on the scientific, technical and socioeconomic aspects of climate change, taking into account the work of the UNFCCC in determining its future products and assessment cycles.
(http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/lima_dec_2014/decisions/application/pdf/auv_cop20_ar5ipcc.pdf)

Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation (SBSTA 42)

The SBSTA 42 recognized that strengthening collaboration and linkages between the Nairobi work programme and other relevant workstreams and constituted bodies under the Convention is important to ensure that the provision of knowledge support under the Nairobi work programme contributes to enhanced adaptation actions. In the draft conclusions the SBSTA also decides to consider and elaborate, at SBSTA 44 (May 2016), relevant activities under the Nairobi work programme that support the process of formulating and implementing national adaptation plans.

Ministerial Declaration on Education and Awareness Raising

The ministers attending COP 20 agreed on a Declaration on Education and Awareness Raising. They reaffirmed the importance of Article 6 of the Convention and Article 10(e) of the Kyoto Protocol, on capacity development, and encouraged all Parties to participate in, and to benefit from, the work of intergovernmental panels and expert groups established under the United Nations on matters related to climate change education, natural science and public awareness. WMO has aligned its Capacity Development Strategy with this objective and it contributes to Article 6 of the UNFCCC through enhancing institutional and infrastructural capabilities of the experts. It also enhances understanding of the users on the applications of climate science in sustainable development.

Lima Work Programme on Gender

The COP 20, further decided to establish a two-year work programme for promoting gender balance and achieving gender-responsive climate policy, developed for the purpose of guiding the effective participation of women in the bodies established under the Convention. At a high level panel discussion on gender and climate change the Assistant Secretary-General of WMO presented the outcomes of WMO's recent Conference on the Gender Dimensions of Weather and Climate Services. She also announced that WMO, UNITAR, and UNFCCC Secretariat, with the support of UN Women, have launched a Women's Leadership Programme. The Programme was launched at Cg-17 in May 2015 and aims to strengthen the skills of female delegates attending the WMO Congress which deal with weather, climate and water issues.

Finally, it was my pleasure to note that during COP 20 approximately 20 directors of Hydrometeorological Services and Permanent Representatives attended this Conference, among which there were presidents of the Regional Associations for Asia (RA II), South-West Pacific (RA V) and Europe (RA VI). Furthermore, around 130 delegates from 64 NMHSs accompanied their national delegation at COP 20. Noting that COP 21 in Paris will be a crucial conference as it needs to achieve a new international agreement on the climate applicable to all countries, I expect that directors of NMHSs and delegates from these services will take advantage of this unique opportunity to play an active role.

I wish to encourage you to consider participating in COP 21 as a member of your national delegation to strengthen the role of NMHSs among other national partners as a contribution to the UNFCCC process through provision of scientific advice in your area of expertise. In case you or your staff members are planning to attend, I would appreciate receiving information concerning attendance not later than **2 November 2015**.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that extends to the right.

(J. Lengoasa)
for the Secretary-General