GCOS Statement to SBSTA 47, COP23

6 – 17 November, 2017

Thank you for the opportunity to report to you on progress, with regard to Decision 19 of COP22 and to the conclusions of SBSTA45, on the Implementation of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS)[1], a co-sponsored programme led by WMO.

GCOS has made progress in a number of areas in the past 12 months, since Marrakech, in particular through the delivery of the latest version of the report describing the Implementation Needs for a global observing system[2].

WMO and GCOS have agreed on a core set of 7 climate indicators that can be used to communicate the scope and rate of changes to the climate in a widely accessible manner:

- Global Surface Temperature
- Ocean Heat
- Atmosphere Carbon Dioxide
- Sea Level
- Ocean Acidification
- Sea Ice Extent in the Arctic and Antarctic
- Glacier Change.

GCOS recognizes the need for coordination between its planning cycle and the scheduled global stocktake in 2023, and will aim to update its implementation plan in 2021 to ensure that they are synchronised.

GCOS, in collaboration with the UNFCCC and other partners, and mandated at SBSTA45, has started a series of regionally focussed workshops to develop an

[1] See: https://gcos.wmo.int

[2] Available from: https://library.wmo.int/opac/doc_num.php?explnum_id=3417.

understanding of the observations needed for adaptation and agreed action plans for the implementation of the proposed climate indicators and their further use at national level. These workshops are also of high relevance as a mechanism to consolidate the ground-based network requirements.

As a first step, GCOS, jointly with WMO's Integrated Global Observing System, organized a workshop in Nadi, in Fiji, last month, which developed an outline for a *Pacific region observing network plan.*

The draft plan will be developed by GCOS and WIGOS in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP), the Pacific Islands Communication and Infrastructure Panel, and Pacific Meteorological Council, and submitted to COP24.

GCOS has started ensuring that mechanisms are in place to monitor the observation, maintenance and free accessibility of all the ECVs. In this context, I would like to highlight the work of the Joint CEOS/CGMS Working Group on Climate which has built an inventory for ECVs[3], which is accessible through a website and has recently gone live.

GCOS would also like to thank the Working Group on Climate which has coordinated and compiled the space agencies' response to the GCOS Implementation Plan, and reiterates the commitment of space agencies worldwide to address actions required for implementation of the Global Climate Observing System.

In 2017, China and Fiji, received a certificate of recognition for their significant contributions to the climate observing system, through their stations that are parts of the GCOS Surface Network and GCOS Upper Air Network. However, 2017 monitoring of the overall GCOS networks has continued to show that significant areas of the networks are not meeting the minimum requirements, as many countries are lacking the necessary resources and technical skills to operate and maintain their stations.

I would like to remind you that Parties helped establish the GCOS Cooperation Mechanism, which has enabled donor funds to support continued operation of key climatological stations that were at risk of failing. This now needs to be

[3] See: http://climatemonitoring.info/ecvinventory

reinvigorated to avert decline in essential climate observations. Following decision 19/CP.22 we encourage Parties to consider participating in the GCOS Cooperation Mechanism.

Lastly, we consider the Earth Information Day initiative as an important opportunity to optimize engagement and connect information and requirements among the observation and science communities. GCOS hopes to contribute to the successor of the very successful Marrakech event, and offers to assist the UNFCCC Secretariat in organizing it.

Thank you

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