

Our ref.: 5422-1/OBS/GCOS

United Nations Framework Convention on
Climate Change (UNFCCC)
UNFCCC Secretariat
Martin Luther King Strasse 8
53175 Bonn
Germany

GENEVA, 15 March 2011

**Subject: Views with respect to the work programme proposed in Paragraph 26 of
FCCC/AWGLCA/2010/L.7**

Dear UNFCCC Secretariat,

The Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) Secretariat would like to submit its views with respect to the work programme proposed in Paragraph 26 of FCCC/AWGLCA/2010/L.7. Please see below:

In order to assess losses and damages associated with climate change impacts in developing countries, it is extremely important that the Essential Climate Variables (ECVs) be systematically observed. A large number of the ECVs, especially in the terrestrial domain, are directly relevant for assessing losses and damages, while most of the other ECVs are at least indirectly relevant. Directly relevant ECVs include water use, river discharge, groundwater, lake levels, snow cover, glacier measurements, soil moisture, and land cover. Others, less obvious, are fraction of absorbed photosynthetically active radiation (FAPAR) and leaf area index, both of which are valuable measures of plant stress and crop yield, and thus of food security. Many of these ECVs are not monitored adequately in developing countries, where vulnerability is typically greatest. The GCOS Steering Committee suggests that the UNFCCC Work Programme include an expert workshop to further develop the synergies between climate variables and adaptation and sustainable development, in particular, exploring the changes in scale needed to link climate observations with development goals.

Such a workshop would feed into, and inform development of, a larger initiative that GCOS hopes to be able to undertake beginning in 2012 to assess climate observing needs specifically for adaptation. This more substantial assessment would address data needs for studies of climate impacts and adaptation and for the provision of climate services, and it would support the needs of the UNFCCC. The GCOS Secretariat/Steering Committee would be willing to advise on the content of this workshop and/or host the meeting.

Yours sincerely,



(Dr Carolin Richter)
Director
GCOS Secretariat