

**Statement
of the Director of the GCOS Secretariat
to SBSTA 43
Tuesday 1 December 2015, Paris, France**

I am reporting to you on behalf of our partner observing systems for climate. All of our partner systems are led by United Nations Organisations, supported by the International Council for Science, or are part of global frameworks for space-based and surface-based observations.

GCOS routinely reports on the status of the global observing system for Climate, which assesses the adequacy and progress of global observations for climate. The conclusions of SBSTA in subsequent years have reinforced the importance ascribed to this status report. The latest report has been completed and is available from the SBSTA on-line platform.¹

The so-called “Status Report” performs two functions: It assesses the progress made against the actions set out in the GCOS Implementation Plan for the Global Observing System for Climate in Support of the UNFCCC, while also providing a more generic assessment of the overall adequacy of the global observing system for climate. It makes use of a wide range of supporting GCOS materials published since progress was reported in 2009, many of which have resulted from the outcomes of specialized workshops or working group meetings.

One of the most recent specialized workshop was the one GCOS had organised from 10 to 12 February 2015 in collaboration with IPCC and UNFCCC on “Enhancing observation to support preparedness and

¹ http://unfccc.int/documentation/submissions_from_observers/items/7482.php



adaptation in a changing climate – Learning from the IPCC 5th Assessment Report”. The report of this workshop has been provided to the SBSTA and is available on-line.

On this occasion, I would like to thank all contributing Parties who helped to identify emerging needs on observations, both in the context of the workshop in February 2015, and by contributing to the third assessment cycle of the GCOS in taking part in the review process of the Status Report.

The follow-up document to the Status Report will be the new GCOS Implementation Plan. GCOS is planning to provide the Implementation Plan to SBSTA 45 at COP22, based on evidence given in the Status Report. I call now on Parties to analyse its findings, in order to provide input to the new GCOS implementation plan.

The implementation plan will discuss *inter alia* observational needs to monitor how mitigation is impacting the carbon cycle, including the natural sources and sinks. It will also help to improve adaptive capacity in less developed regions of the world. A draft document which outlines the anticipated contents is also made available to Parties on the SBSTA on-line platform.

GCOS will discuss the status of observation systems in Africa, on Friday morning, 4th December, at the African Pavilion.

A GCOS conference², held in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, from 2 to 4 March 2016, will further stimulate the scientific discussion of the Earth observation community on implementing a global observing system for climate.

² www.gcos-science.org



Finally, in light of the on-going revision of the UNFCCC reporting guidelines on national communications by Annex I Parties under the SBI, GCOS would like to repeat the offer to assist Parties in revision of relevant chapters of UNFCCC reporting guidelines on global climate change observing systems, taking into account the submission of their National Communication, while also being aware of the need to prepare their GCOS reports.

Thank you.



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