

GCOS Statement to SBSTA 46

8-18 May, 2017

Thank you for the opportunity to report on the progress of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) a co-sponsored programme led by WMO.

Following completion of the GCOS Implementation Plan and its presentation at COP 22 in Marrakesh, GCOS has made progress in several areas.

We have developed an initial list of 9 indicators that can be used to monitor and communicate the state of the climate. GCOS is continuing its work in this area, looking at ways of conveying future climate risks. This will improve understanding of the local and regional impacts of climate change and variability; support adaptation planning; and provide input into preparing the global stocktake and the sustainable development goals.

Another important action area in the GCOS implementation plan addresses adaptation. GCOS, in collaboration with the UNFCCC secretariat, IPCC and other partners, is planning to hold a series of regionally focussed workshops to develop an improved understanding of key ECVs needed for supporting practical adaptation and mitigation measures, including risk based approaches, in different regions. These workshops will prepare plans for improving regional observational capacities. One important initial focus for this undertaking will be water: extreme rainfall, floods and droughts.

The GCOS Science panels have met and started the process of reviewing progress and ensuring mechanisms are in place to monitor the observation, storage and free accessibility of all the ECVs.

In 2003, decision 11/CP.9 welcomed the establishment of the GCOS Cooperation Mechanism which was established by the sponsors of GCOS, assisted by parties to the convention. This enables donor funds to be used to support continued operation of key climatological stations that are at risk. This mechanism provides a unique chance to avert decline in essential climate observations – for the atmosphere, oceans and land. Following decision 19/CP.22 we encourage Parties to consider participating in the GCOS Cooperation Mechanism.

And, finally, considering the on-going work of the convention preparing for the implementation of the Paris Agreement, including the development of transparency guidelines and preparation for the global stocktake, GCOS would like to offer to assist Parties in issues related to global climate change observing systems.

Thank you.