

## GCOS Statement to SBSTA 44

Chair, thank you for this opportunity to report on behalf of the Global Observing System for Climate, GCOS.

GCOS is developing its new Implementation Plan which will be presented to COP 22 later this year. Following on from the report *Status of the Global Observing System for Climate*, which GCOS submitted to COP21, the new Implementation Plan will guide the development of global climate observations for the next 5-10 years. There will be a public review of the Implementation Plan in July for 6 weeks.

Global climate observations have achieved significant successes, underpinning the IPCC assessments, and developing new observational capacities such as the ocean observing systems and the development of operational delivery of global Essential Climate Variable products.

However, there are still areas for improvement, such as regions with poor coverage in several parts of the world, data accessibility, and the increasing needs for climate observations to better support adaptation and the UNFCCC.

The new Implementation Plan will address the needs of the UNFCCC as well as other relevant bodies such as the IPCC, by articulating climate observational needs.

Areas likely to be emphasised by the plan are:

- Adaptation needs: these are more local than the global systems and needs differ from place-to-place.
- Supporting improved reporting of Parties estimates of emissions and removals of greenhouse gases through programmes such as WMO's Integrated Global Greenhouse Gas Information System (IG3IS).
- The need for observations over long time periods: this means putting observations on an operational basis and the rescue of historic data.
- The need to completely observe global processes: water and carbon cycles and energy flows.

The SBSTA invited Parties and organizations to support the development of observational capacities in countries where there are gaps. GCOS continues to provide some direct support but more is needed, especially to meet the needs of local adaptation.

The SBSTA has also invited Parties and organizations to contribute to the development of the new Implementation Plan. The review of the new Implementation Plan will be an opportunity for all parties to contribute to GCOS.

GCOS continues to provide guidance and plans for meeting climate observations needs, and encourages all parties to contribute to its work.