

**Statement  
of the Director of the GCOS Secretariat  
to SBSTA 45  
Monday 7 November 2016, Marrakesh, Morocco**

Mr. Chairman,

on behalf of the Sponsors of the Global Climate Observing System, of our partner observing systems, and of the GCOS Steering Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to report on progress in the activities of GCOS.<sup>1</sup>

In response to your invitation, the GCOS Secretariat, with substantial funding from our lead sponsoring organisation WMO, and considerable contributions from IOC, as well as great support from ICSU – and interest by others such as UNEP, has submitted its new Implementation Plan to SBSTA45. The document<sup>2</sup>, subject to a final copy-edit, has been placed on the website under resources for negotiators for SBSTA 45, Agenda item 8(a).

The Status of the Global Observing System for Climate, was submitted to SBSTA43 last year. It concluded that while the current observing system has enabled great advances in understanding of the climate system and in the unequivocal identification of change and its human causes, more is still needed, especially at regional scales.

GCOS is now providing the new Implementation Plan to SBSTA 45, **“The Global System for Climate: Implementation Needs”**, based on evidence given in the Status Report.

This new plan responds to the growing need for systematic observations and climate information expanding from science based assessments to include adaptation and mitigation needs and the provision of climate services in general. The plan also

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<sup>1</sup> SBSTA37 in 2012, requested to submit a report on the assessment of the adequacy of the global observing systems for climate by SBSTA 43, last year in 2015, and to submit the final implementation plan to SBSTA 45 in 2016. The GCOS Steering Committee at its 24th session on 6 October 2016 endorsed the release of this document for submission to the UNFCCC secretariat. Subsequently, the document “The Global System for Climate: Implementation Needs”, (GCOS-200), was sent to the UNFCCC secretariat on 10 October 2016, for consideration by Parties at COP22 in Marrakesh .

<sup>2</sup> [http://unfccc.int/files/science/workstreams/systematic\\_observation/application/pdf/gcos\\_ip\\_10oct2016.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/science/workstreams/systematic_observation/application/pdf/gcos_ip_10oct2016.pdf)

acknowledges that these observations are not just relevant to the UNFCCC, but also to a broader community.

Implementing a global climate observing system involves the cooperation of many players: from the WMO, IOC and the UNFCCC, to NMHSs, space agencies and academia. The GCOS Implementation Plan contains many actions for these differing parties, and stresses that climate relevant observations must meet the GCOS Climate Monitoring Principles, requirements and guidelines.

For the first time, the GCOS Implementation Plan defines overall targets for the monitoring of the three global cycles, water, carbon and energy and for monitoring of the biosphere. GCOS stresses that these targets will not be met in the near future: they are intended to guide future improvements and research.

I am calling on Parties to assist the GCOS Secretariat by incorporating the GCOS Implementation Plan into their work and into the work of relevant national expert groups.

The GCOS Implementation Plan, if fully implemented by the Parties, will:

- (a) maintain and improve observing networks and systems, considering the needs of adaptation, mitigation and the UNFCCC Paris Agreement;
- (b) ensure open data access and indefinite data storage, delivery of operational products and production of products specifically to support climate services;
- (c) provide observational guidelines and requirements for ECVs that can be used both globally and for local adaptation;
- (d) lead to future improvements in observations, techniques and networks;
- (e) ensure regular review and monitoring of the performance of the global climate observation system;
- (f) plan the development of an agreed list of climate indicators.



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GCOS will launch the implementation plan tomorrow 8<sup>th</sup> November, at the Earth Information Day. In addition, we will discuss how the plan could have an impact in Africa, also tomorrow, on Tuesday morning, 8<sup>th</sup> November, at the African Pavilion.

The GCOS Steering Committee and Secretariat are grateful for the opportunity to report to SBSTA and we would be pleased to continue to do so on the status of the implementation of the GCOS, in future.

Thank you.