

**Statement of the Director of the GCOS Secretariat to SBSTA 41
Monday 1 December 2014, Lima, Peru**

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

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.

I would like to highlight four points of interest for the Plenary:

(1) The GCOS programme objectives and mandates have been reviewed by its sponsoring organisation, because of the new developments in the Earth observing programme community. The major outcome of the review is the general recognition of the normative work of GCOS in defining guidelines and setting principles, and the conclusion by its sponsoring organizations that the GCOS programme should be continued.

(2) SBSTA invited GCOS to report on its timetable for assessing the adequacy of global observations for climate. We have started the process of developing a Status Report, which will assess the progress of global observations for climate, to be delivered to SBSTA43 at COP21, in 2015. Also, as a follow-up document to the Status Report, the new GCOS Implementation Plan, to be published at the end of 2016, will be a milestone that will influence the agenda for climate observations on a global and regional scale. GCOS is planning to submit the Implementation Plan to SBSTA 45 at COP22.

(3) The GCOS programme also started to explicitly address the need for observation requirements for climate change and mitigation,



and jointly with the Global Observations for Forest Cover and Land Dynamics (GOFC-GOLD) held a workshop on Observations for Climate Change in May 2014. This workshop contributed to a better understanding of the observations requirements for mitigation and suggested some revision to ECVs for serving needs of IPCC inventory guidelines. Further on this, GCOS is organising a workshop, in collaboration with IPCC and UNFCCC on “Enhancing observation to support preparedness and adaptation in a changing climate – Learning from the IPCC 5th Assessment Report”. The workshop will be held from 10-12 February 2015, and hosted at the premises of the UNFCCC Secretariat in Bonn, Germany.

As the final and (4) point: 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 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.

I am concluding my statement today, Mr. Chairman, in welcoming contributions from Parties to the identification of emerging needs on observations, both in the context of the workshop and by contributing to third assessment cycle of the GCOS in taking part in the review process of the Status Report and Implementation Plan.

Thank you.

