

DRAFT TEXT

on

SBSTA 59 agenda item 6 Research and systematic observation

Version 5/12/2023 0:30

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) recognized the vital importance of robust Earth observation systems and related long-term data records for enhanced understanding of changes in the global climate system and their attribution, mitigation and adaptation action, and early warning systems.
2. The SBSTA noted with appreciation the information reported in the statements delivered at the joint opening plenary of SB 59 by representatives of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites and Coordination Group for Meteorological Satellites Joint Working Group on Climate, the Global Climate Observing System, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the World Climate Research Programme and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO).¹
3. The SBSTA took note of the WMO *Provisional State of the Global Climate in 2023* report² and the 2023 WMO Greenhouse Gas Bulletin³ and expressed alarm and utmost concern about the state of the global climate system, with record high greenhouse gas concentrations in 2022, and 2023 on track to be the warmest year on record. Furthermore, it welcomed the key outcomes of the 19th session of the World Meteorological Congress, including the new Global Greenhouse Gas Watch initiative and the prioritization of the Early Warnings for All initiative.⁴
4. The SBSTA took note of the informal summary report on Earth Information Day 2022.⁵ It expressed appreciation to the SBSTA Chair and Vice-Chair and the secretariat for organizing Earth Information Day 2023⁶ and for its innovative new format, which provided an opportunity for direct engagement between the systematic observation community and end users of climate data and information. It thanked the representatives of the participating organizations and programmes for their valuable contributions and requested the SBSTA Chair, with the assistance of the secretariat, to prepare an informal summary report on the event.
5. The SBSTA noted the significant progress of the systematic observation community as presented at Earth Information Day 2023. It recognized the importance of sustained, long-term- observations of the climate system and the need to address data gaps, particularly in relation to the ocean, the cryosphere, the tropics and mountain regions.
6. The SBSTA welcomed the new Global Greenhouse Gas Watch initiative, aimed at establishing sustained, routine global monitoring of greenhouse gas concentrations and fluxes. It recognized that this initiative will improve the quantification of both natural and anthropogenic greenhouse gas sources and sinks and complement existing national inventory reporting.
7. The SBSTA emphasized the urgent need to expand systematic observations in support of adaptation, as well as delivering Early Warnings for All, a key global initiative for protecting those most vulnerable to the impacts of extreme weather and climate events.

¹ The statements are available at: <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx> Search 'SBSTA59'.

² WMO. 2023. *Provisional State of the Global Climate in 2023*. Geneva: WMO. Available at <https://wmo.int/resources/publications/provisional-state-of-global-climate-2023>.

³ WMO. 2023. *The State of Greenhouse Gases in the Atmosphere Based on Global Observations through 2022*. WMO Greenhouse Gas Bulletin No. 19. Geneva: WMO. Available at <https://library.wmo.int/idurl/4/68532>.

⁴ See <https://public-old.wmo.int/en/resources/meteoworld/key-outcomes-of-19th-session-of-world-meteorological-congress>.

⁵ Available at <https://unfccc.int/event/earth-information-day-2022>.

⁶ See <https://unfccc.int/event/earth-information-day-2023>.

8. The SBSTA emphasized the continued need to address gaps in systematic observations globally and noted with appreciation the support being provided for addressing gaps in systematic observations in developing countries. In particular, the SBSTA noted the continued efforts of the Systematic Observations Financing Facility to prioritize the development of enhanced systematic observations in the least developed countries and small island developing States. The SBSTA reiterated its encouragement for the Facility to evaluate opportunities to include other developing countries in this initiative.⁷ It encouraged Parties and relevant organizations to further strengthen their provision of support to the systematic observation community.

9. The SBSTA invited Parties and relevant organizations to submit views on possible themes for and ways to organize Earth Information Day 2024, to be held in conjunction with SBSTA 61 (November 2024), via the submission portal⁸ by 31 August 2024.

⁷ See document FCCC/SBSTA/2022/10, para. 43.

⁸ <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx>.