



Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

Forty-ninth session

Katowice, 2–8 December 2018

Agenda item 6

Research and systematic observation

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Draft conclusions proposed by the Chair

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) noted with appreciation the statements made by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) at the 1st meeting of the session.¹
2. The SBSTA welcomed the following statements and submissions:
 - (a) WMO statement on the state of the global climate in 2018;²
 - (b) WMO *Greenhouse Gas Bulletin* based on global observations through to 2017;³
 - (c) WMO submission on the outcomes of the seventieth session of the WMO Executive Council with updates on other WMO activities with respect to the UNFCCC and implementation of the Paris Agreement;⁴
 - (d) WMO submission on progress in implementing the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS);⁵
 - (e) Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) statement on progress on the implementation of the GCOS implementation plan;⁶
 - (f) World Climate Research Programme (WCRP) statement on the status and progress of climate science;⁷

¹ Available at <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx> and <https://unfccc.int/topics/science/workstreams/systematic-observation/upcoming-negotiations>.

² Available at http://ane4bf-datap1.s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/wmoems/s3fs-public/ckeditor/files/Draft_Statement_26_11_2018_v12_approved_jk.pdf?NKxFEzOf_oC80ccPsdMDUIFw5EdKJDI.

³ Available at <https://public.wmo.int/en/resources/library/wmo-greenhouse-gas-bulletin>.

⁴ Available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/184348>.

⁵ Available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/184349>.

⁶ Available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/184346>, which highlights the GCOS report of the task team on the Paris Agreement, available at https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=5417.

⁷ Available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/184756>.



(g) Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) and Coordination Group for Meteorological Satellites (CGMS) statement on progress on a coordinated response to UNFCCC needs for global observations;⁸

(h) Space agency report in support of the Paris Agreement of the joint CEOS/CGMS Working Group on Climate;⁹

(i) Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research statement on its activities since the tenth meeting of the research dialogue.¹⁰

3. The SBSTA noted with concern the information reported in the submissions referred to in paragraph 2(a) and (b) above.

4. The SBSTA, recalling its conclusions from SBSTA 45 on the Earth Information Day held in 2016,¹¹ noted the submissions from Parties containing their views on the Earth Information Day and the organization by the secretariat of similar events.¹²

5. The SBSTA invited the secretariat to organize similar events at future sessions of the SBSTA at which systematic observation is considered, as appropriate, starting at the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties (November 2019), recognizing that this could be a valuable opportunity for exchanging information on the state of the global climate system and developments in systematic observation. The SBSTA also invited Parties and relevant organizations to submit their views on possible themes for the next such event via the submission portal¹³ by 5 July 2019.

6. The SBSTA welcomed the adoption by the WMO Executive Council at its seventieth session of the science implementation plan of the Integrated Global Greenhouse Gas Information System (IG³IS).¹⁴ The SBSTA recognizes that IG³IS is an innovative science-based framework that supports the needs of a broad range of users by combining atmospheric observations with other sources of information to enhance understanding of greenhouse gas concentrations and fluxes at multiple spatial scales, and encourages the use of this framework.¹⁵

7. Recalling the conclusions of SBSTA 45¹⁶ and 47,¹⁷ the SBSTA:

(a) Welcomed the joint GCOS/WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS) Pacific region observing network plan and urged Parties and relevant organizations to support implementation of the plan;

(b) Also welcomed the joint GCOS/Copernicus/WIGOS/GFCS regional workshop, organized in collaboration with the secretariat and held from 29 October to 2 November 2018 in Entebbe, Uganda, on “Improving the value chain from observations to climate services to support climate policy, adaptation and mitigation in East Africa” and noted the key messages from the workshop;¹⁸

(c) Further welcomed the training provided at the workshop by Copernicus on using the Climate Data Store;¹⁹

⁸ Available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/184345>.

⁹ Available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/184388>.

¹⁰ Available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/184778>.

¹¹ FCCC/SBSTA/2016/4, paragraph 44.

¹² For the call for submissions and the statements received, see <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx>.

¹³ https://unfccc.int/submissions_and_statements.

¹⁴ See decision 8 (EC-70) of the WMO Executive Council, available at https://library.wmo.int/index.php?lvl=notice_display&id=20626#.W-yYoTFryM8.

¹⁵ See <https://ig3is.wmo.int>.

¹⁶ FCCC/SBSTA/2016/4, paragraph 39.

¹⁷ FCCC/SBSTA/2017/7, paragraph 55(c), in regard to support available via the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism as well as other relevant organizations and channels to support the GCOS regional workshops and projects identified in the resulting implementation plans.

¹⁸ See <https://gcos.wmo.int/en/regional-workshops/east-africa-workshop>.

¹⁹ See <https://cds.climate.copernicus.eu/#!/home>.

(d) Noted that GCOS plans, subject to the availability of financial resources, to hold a regional workshop in the Caribbean in 2019.

8. The SBSTA recognized the value of providing free and open access to systematic observations data through the relevant international systems, such as WIGOS,²⁰ for improving, inter alia, national climate prediction and climate services. It urged Parties to make relevant data available through these systems.

9. The SBSTA noted the importance of the work of the observation community and wider scientific community in line with the GCOS implementation plan on essential climate variables, which are fundamental to climate indicators and climate services and for decision-making on mitigation and adaptation. The SBSTA invited WMO and other relevant organizations to continue to support in a coordinated manner the development of climate services by taking into account the GFCS implementation plan.

10. The SBSTA urged Parties to enhance the development of climate services, including by:

(a) Working with and supporting ongoing activities of relevant organizations such as WMO and CEOS/CGMS, frameworks such as GFCS, and programmes such as GCOS and WCRP, as well as other relevant initiatives;

(b) Addressing gaps and needs related to systematic observation;

(c) Making use of the value chain from observations to climate services to support and strengthen project development and decision-making on adaptation and mitigation, including sharing knowledge and information through global, regional, national and local mechanisms.

11. The SBSTA noted the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C.²¹ It welcomed the efforts of the IPCC experts on the report and the presentations given by IPCC experts and the rich dialogue that Parties and observers had with IPCC experts at the SBSTA–IPCC special event.²² It noted the importance of the underlying research and systematic observation enabling the production of the report. It took note of the knowledge gaps and information needs related to systematic observation in the report.

12. The SBSTA encouraged Parties and relevant organizations to maintain, strengthen and enhance systematic observation through in situ as well as remote sensing observations, and archiving those data and information, in order to address gaps, needs and challenges in many domains, including in relation to oceans and as identified, inter alia, in the statements, submissions and reports referred to in paragraphs 1, 2 and 11 above and the summary report on the tenth meeting of the research dialogue.²³

13. The SBSTA emphasized the continued need to secure funding to meet the essential needs for global climate observation under the Convention on a long-term basis.

14. The SBSTA invited Parties to consider the gaps and needs referred to in paragraph 11 above as a possible theme for the eleventh meeting of the research dialogue (to be held at SBSTA 50 (June 2019)).²⁴

²⁰ Coordinated by WMO, see <https://public.wmo.int/en/about-us/vision-and-mission/wmo-integrated-global-observing-system>.

²¹ IPCC. 2018. *Global Warming of 1.5°C: An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty*. Available at <http://ipcc.ch/report/sr15/>.

²² On unpacking the new scientific knowledge and key findings in the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C; see <https://unfccc.int/event/sbsta-ipcc-special-event-unpacking-the-new-scientific-knowledge-and-key-findings-in-the-ipcc-special>.

²³ See <https://unfccc.int/documents/183867>, inter alia, paragraphs 62 and 139–142.

²⁴ In line with document FCCC/SBSTA/2018/4, paragraph 54.