



WMO STATEMENT at the PLENARY of the SBSTA 59

COP 28

30 November 2023

World Meteorological Organization

Contributions of Science to the Convention and the Paris Agreement

Mr Chairperson,

Distinguished delegates,

The WMO and its co-sponsored bodies – the IPCC, the World Climate Research Programme, and the Global Climate Observing System – continue providing scientific information to the Parties of the UNFCCC.

The provisional report on the State of the Global Climate in 2023, launched here at COP 28 this morning, states that with global mean surface temperature for January to October at 1.4 ± 0.12 °C above the 1850-1900 baseline, it is virtually certain that this year will be the warmest on record. With El Niño conditions in the equatorial Pacific currently developing, we could anticipate a further spike in temperatures into 2024.

The concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere once again reached a new record last year. Global averaged concentrations of CO₂ in 2022 were 50% above the pre-industrial era for the first time. The WMO Global Greenhouse Gas Watch initiative aims to strengthen the information made available to Parties to the UNFCCC to support their climate change mitigation efforts. Global mean sea level reached a record observed high in 2023, which reflects continued ocean warming as well as the melting of glaciers and ice sheets. Antarctic sea-ice extent reached a record low in February 2023. Mediterranean storm Daniel led to thousands of lives lost in Libya, and droughts combined with extreme and prolonged summer heat over large parts of the northern Hemisphere led to unprecedented deadly fires in many countries.

WMO along with UNDRR, ITU and IFRC is spearheading the Early Warning for All initiative which was approved by COP 27. An action plan for the coming years will be presented to COP 28. I invite your attention to a UN System side event that we have organized from 16:45 tomorrow.

WMO is also spearheading the Global Framework for Climate Services, to advance efforts in key sectors such as health, agriculture, energy, disaster risk reduction and water resources. WMO is currently also working with partners to better understand the water dependencies of the Paris Agreement mitigation targets. Results of this work are presented

at COP 28 and may be used by UNFCCC parties to better understand water-dependency issues in preparing their Nationally Determined Contributions.

Finally, the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF), spearheaded by WMO is working hard to close the Global Basic Observation Network data gap that will lead to better forecasts and early warnings. A Policy Brief is submitted for Parties' information.