

Draft decision -/CP.15

Systematic climate observations

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling Article 4, paragraph 1(g–h), and Article 5 of the Convention,

Further recalling decisions 8/CP.3, 14/CP.4, 5/CP.5, 11/CP.9, 5/CP.10 and 11/CP.13,

Having considered the conclusions of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice at its thirtieth session,

Noting the important role of the Global Climate Observing System in meeting the need for climate observation under the Convention,

1. *Expresses its appreciation:*
 - (a) To the secretariat and sponsoring agencies of the Global Climate Observing System for preparing the report on progress with the *Implementation Plan for the Global Observing System for Climate in Support of the UNFCCC* (hereinafter referred to as the Global Climate Observing System implementation plan);
 - (b) To the secretariat and sponsoring agencies of the Global Terrestrial Observing System for developing a framework for the preparation of guidance materials, standards and reporting guidelines for terrestrial observing systems for climate;
 - (c) To the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites for its coordinated response, on behalf of Parties that support space agencies involved in global observations, to the needs expressed in the Global Climate Observing System implementation plan;
2. *Recognizes* the significant progress made during 2004–2008 in improving the observing systems for climate relevant to the Convention;
3. *Notes* that, despite the progress made, only limited advances have been made in achieving long-term continuity for several in situ observing systems and that there are still large areas, in Africa for example, for which in situ observations and measurements are not available;
4. *Also notes* that not all climate information needs under the Convention are being met;
5. *Urges* Parties to work towards addressing the priorities and gaps identified in the report on progress with the Global Climate Observing System implementation plan, in particular the implementation of the regional action plans that were developed during 2001–2006, and ensuring sustained long-term operation of essential in situ networks, especially for the oceanic and terrestrial domains, including through provision of the necessary resources;
6. *Invites* relevant United Nations agencies and international organizations to do the same;
7. *Encourages* Parties in a position to do so to support activities aimed at sustaining climate observations over the long term in developing countries, especially the least developed countries and small island developing States;
8. *Invites* the Global Climate Observing System secretariat, under the guidance of the Global Climate Observing System Steering Committee, to update, by the thirty-third session of the

Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, the Global Climate Observing System implementation plan, taking into account emerging needs in climate observation, in particular those relating to adaptation activities;

9. *Encourages* the secretariat and the sponsoring agencies of the Global Terrestrial Observing System to implement the framework for the preparation of guidance materials, standards and reporting guidelines for terrestrial observing systems for climate, as a joint terrestrial framework mechanism between relevant agencies of the United Nations and the International Organization for Standardization;

10. *Encourages* the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites to continue coordinating and supporting the implementation of the satellite component of the Global Climate Observing System;

11. *Urges* Parties that support space agencies involved in global observations to enable these agencies to continue to implement, in a coordinated manner through the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites, the actions identified in the updated report of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites,¹ in order to meet the relevant needs of the Convention, in particular by ensuring long-term continuity of observations and data availability.

¹ FCCC/SBSTA/2008/MISC.11.