



Submission by Switzerland

Views on the Earth Information Day and organization by the secretariat of similar events

06 November 2018

Background

Switzerland welcomes the opportunity to submit its views on the Earth Information Day and organization by the secretariat of similar events based on the invitation by the SBSTA (FCCC/SBSTA/2016/4, §44)

- *“to consider inviting the secretariat to organize similar events [to the Earth Information Day] during the implementation of the GCOS IP 2016, based on submissions from Parties.”*
- For *“submissions on this matter by Parties by SBSTA 49 (December 2018).“*

Switzerland thereby takes into consideration that

- the Convention calls on Parties to promote and cooperate in research and systematic observation of the climate system, including through support to existing international programmes and networks.¹
- the Paris Agreement clearly identifies the need for an effective and progressive response to the urgent threat of climate change on the basis of the best available scientific knowledge. Article 7.7(c) states that Parties should strengthen scientific knowledge on climate, including research, systematic observation of the climate system and early warning systems, in a manner that informs climate services and supports decision-making.²

Views by Switzerland

- 1 The Earth Information Day (EID) at COP 22 in November 2016 successfully provided an up-to-date picture of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) and its implementation needs, the state of the climate and an outlook on systematic observation developments and opportunities, with the aim to support decision making on risk assessment, adaptation and mitigation.
- 2 The EID at COP22 in November 2016 presented a first opportunity to optimize engagement and connect information and requirements between the systematic observation community, Party and non-Party stakeholders.

With regard to the organization of future EIDs

- 3 Switzerland considers the organization of a regular EID essential to further connect information and requirements of the systematic observation community with Party and non-Party stakeholders based on the best available science.
- 4 Switzerland would therefore welcome the organization of future EIDs during Conferences of the Parties (COPs) facilitated by the World Meteorological Organization WMO, the GCOS Programme and other relevant organizations. With regard to its duration, Switzerland considers a half-day event as appropriate.

¹ Convention Articles 4.1(g) and 56 Decision 1/CP.21 <<http://unfccc.int/9485>>.

² Decision 1/CP.21