



## **World Meteorological Organization (WMO)**

### **STATEMENT AT SBSTA 61**

**Baku, Azerbaijan**

**11-22 November 2024**

**(Verbal Version)**

WMO along with its co-sponsored bodies, IPCC, the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS), and the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP), continues to contribute scientific information to the negotiation process.

The [WMO Greenhouse Gas Bulletin 2023](#) recently reported that atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases reached new observed highs, with CO<sub>2</sub> at 420 ppm, 51% above pre-industrial levels. The Global Greenhouse Gas Watch initiative supports climate change mitigation, coordinating efforts to provide timely and policy-relevant data products on greenhouse gas emissions.

The WMO State of the Climate 2024 Update, issued on the first day of COP29, indicates that January to September 2024 has been  $1.54 \pm 0.13^\circ\text{C}$  above the pre-industrial average. Boosted by a strong El Niño event, 2024 is on track to be the warmest year in the 175-year observational record. Long-term warming, measured over decades, still remains below  $1.5^\circ\text{C}$ .

Antarctic sea-ice extent reached its annual minimum on 20 February, the second lowest extent in the satellite record, the lowest being in 2023. The 2024 Arctic Sea ice minimum extent was the seventh lowest in the satellite record.

Ocean heat content in 2023 was the highest annual value on record. Preliminary data from the early months of 2024 indicate that ocean heat content this year has continued at levels comparable to those seen in 2023.

The rate of sea-level rise has more than doubled since the start of the satellite record, increasing to  $4.77 \text{ mm yr}^{-1}$  between 2014 and 2023. This reflects the oceanic warming and the melting of the cryosphere.

The WMO State of Global Water Resources 2023 report notes that there have been critical global water challenges, with widespread below-normal river flows and decreased reservoir inflows throughout the year. 2023 was the driest year in over three decades for rivers globally.

Extreme weather and climate events in 2024, including droughts, floods, storms, heatwaves, and cold waves, have caused considerable damage, loss of life, and are hindering sustainable development.

We are pleased to report that the Early Warnings for All initiative is moving forward with pace, but there is an urgent need for accelerated efforts and funding to ensure everyone is protected by life-saving Early Warning Systems to cope with hazardous weather events under a changing climate.

The Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) has rapidly become an important vehicle to improve the foundational data used for weather forecasting, climate prediction and early warning systems. So far, 60 countries are being supported by SOFF, and investment funding has been approved for 18 countries. In order to continue operating at speed and scale and to respond to high country demand, the SOFF urgently needs additional contributions. The Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems initiative (CREWS) is performing successfully. Last year, 111 million people were better protected by early warning systems put in place with CREWS support and 12 countries have contributed USD 134 million to the CREWS Fund.

In closing, WMO reiterates the value of scientific information to provide the information needed by decision makers to underpin climate actions.

Thank you.