



① fax to John Stone/Gordon McKeen
c/o Beth



WMO



IOC



UNEP



IGBP

Global Climate Observing System
GCOS Secretariat c/o World Meteorological Organization
7, bis Avenue de la Paix
P.O. Box No. 2300, CH 1211 Geneva 2, Switzerland
Tel.: (41) (22) 730 8275/8067. Fax: (41) (22) 730 8052.
Email: gcosjpo@gateway.wmo.ch

② interview on file

UNFCCC Conference of Parties (5th Session)
Statement by Dr. Alan R. Thomas - Director, GCOS Secretariat
to the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (11th session)
(During COP 5, contact at room 150 Maritim Hotel)

Mr. Chairman, as the newly appointed Director of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) Secretariat, I am pleased to address this Body on behalf of the global observing systems for climate.

Developing a global observing system that will meet the needs of the Convention will be a most challenging task. We appreciate the support that we have received so far and ask for your continuing support to make progress in the future. Today Mr. Chairman, I would like to:

- Present a brief report on recent developments in the observing systems,
- Indicate progress since the milestone decisions from the 4th session of the Conference of Parties (COP) on research and systematic observations,
- Indicate some possible next steps in developing the necessary institutional, financial and scientific infrastructure needed by a global climate observing system to meet the needs of the Convention.

Developments in the Observing Systems

- In the meteorological area, we continue to implement the GCOS Surface Network (GSN) of nearly 1000 stations and GCOS Upper Air Network (GUAN) of 150 stations. I particularly want to mention the contributions of the Deutscher Wetterdienst and the Japan Meteorological Agency in monitoring the real-time GSN data stream and that of the European Center for Medium Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) in monitoring the performance of GUAN. The US National Climatic Data Center is performing quality control and data management for both networks. Based on the current stations of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), these networks have significant deficiencies in some regions of the world, as reported in document FCCC/SBSTA/1999/10.
- The Global Atmosphere Watch has established several new global observatories including a recent one at Mount Kenya. These resulted in part from funding by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF).
- Significant progress has been made in implementing the climate component of the Global Ocean Observing System, which is the ocean component of GCOS.
 1. First, the establishment of the Joint Commission on Oceanography and Marine Meteorology by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and WMO will provide an integrated management function for operational ocean measurements.
 2. Also I would like to report that a major conference (OceanObs99) was held last week in St. Raphael, France. At this conference it became clear that the ocean community is