

international meetings. As you are aware Mr. Chairman, due to the breadth of the climate agenda, no organization or mechanism encompasses all aspects of a global observing system for climate. But making changes is a complex matter given the number of official bodies involved. The GCOS Secretariat therefore is working with a number of interested nations and organizations to better document a process that would serve in an efficient and effective manner. In this regard we would note that Canada has proposed an informal consultation in earlier February next year to address options for an Intergovernmental Mechanism. \*

3. Mr. Chairman, due to the shortage of resources, we have only recently begun to address implementation through regional workshops. We have just developed a prospectus on regional workshops which is an attachment to this statement and are seeking comments and advice on this approach from the Parties to this meeting. The purpose of the workshops would be to initiate a process that would lead to the preparation of proposals to overcome observational deficiencies on a regional basis. The workshop would provide information to help Parties identify regional needs (such as training and development), priorities and approaches to addressing these needs. With this information in hand, Parties would be able to prepare a regional proposal for funding by multilateral agreements or international funding agencies such as the GEF. This information would also serve a secondary purpose of being core elements for national plans and communications on systematic observations. We believe, Mr. Chairman, that such a regional approach to addressing the deficiencies in observing systems could be an effective way for implementing GCOS and would seek the support of the Parties for this approach. We believe that the GCOS Secretariat has the capacity to initiate these workshops if we can get the participation and financial support of the Parties.
4. Finally, Mr. Chairman, funding for systematic observations continues to be a concern for almost all nations and international agencies. The recent WMO Congress "agreed that the COP/SBSTA should be informed that significant new funds are required both for the Secretariat to discharge its work load and the Members (of Congress) to be able to implement the atmospheric and hydrological components of the GCOS plan, and that a similar situation existed within the oceanographic and terrestrial domains." In our report, Mr. Chairman, we have discussed the deficiencies in current systems that are primarily in developing countries and lack of financial resource is the underlying problem. In this regard although many of the deficiencies may be addressed by using existing financial mechanism or multilateral agreements, long term funding for ongoing operations is an aspect that must be addressed to have a creditable global observing system for climate. With respect to the international co-ordination of observing systems, there also are severe financial problems. The GCOS Secretariat is faced with severe financial constraints and is finding it very difficult to respond adequately to the decisions of the Conference of Parties, while continuing the scientific planning and the implementation of a global observing system for climate.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, we are prepared, in partnership with interested Parties, to implement the next steps in developing a process to integrate and analyze national reports on systematic observations and to prepare specific actions to address deficiencies in the climate observing systems, including the organization of regional meeting. In these actions, we seek the continued support from SBSTA. I thank you for this opportunity to present some of the issues facing the Parties and agencies involved with the global observing systems for climate.

*Canada/John - he apparently got an ok from*