

WMO says greenhouse gases levels reach record high



Geneva, November 22 (RHC)-- Concentrations of key gases in the atmosphere that are driving up global temperatures reached a new high in 2017.

The warning comes from the annual greenhouse gas bulletin, issued Thursday by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) , which says there is no sign of reversal in this rising trend.

“The science is clear. Without rapid cuts in CO₂ and other greenhouse gases, climate change will have increasingly destructive and irreversible impacts on life on Earth. The window of opportunity for action is almost closed,” said WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas.

The Bulletin shows that global concentrations of carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane and nitrous oxide have been increasing steadily over the past years. In addition, the report notes a resurgence of a potent greenhouse gas and ozone-depleting substance called CFC-11, which is regulated under an international agreement to protect the ozone layer.

Since 1990, there has been a 41 per cent increase in the warming effect by the various greenhouse gases on the climate – known as “radioactive forcing.” CO₂ specifically accounts for about 82 per cent of the increase in radioactive forcing over the past decade, according to figures quoted in the WMO report.



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