



AUSTRALIA

Submission under FCCC/SBSTA/2012/L.25, paragraph 13 | March 2013

Views from Parties on possible items for consideration as part of the research dialogue during SBSTA38 | SBSTA

I. Overview

This submission contains the views of the Australian Government on the research dialogue and possible items for consideration as part of the research dialogue at SBSTA38, as requested under FCCC/SBSTA/2012/L.25, paragraph 13.

Australia welcomes the opportunity to submit its views on the research dialogue. In summary, Australia considers that:

- the research dialogue to be a valuable adjunct to the Research and Systematic Observation agenda item of SBSTA and the pattern of holding a research dialogue in conjunction with every second SBSTA session (at the Bonn mid-year meeting where research is the primary focus);
- that the themes of any one research dialogue should not be too narrowly focussed, but allow the relevant regional and international climate change research programmes and organizations to bring to the attention of the SBSTA any developments in research activities relevant to the needs of the Convention, as well as taking account of the views of Parties on research needs and priorities; and
- given the planned delivery of the Fifth Assessment Report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) beginning from September this year, that if not covered elsewhere in the SBSTA agenda, the IPCC be specifically invited to present at the research dialogue to outline its progress and plans.

II. General views on the research dialogue

Australia supports the underlying objectives of the research dialogue. It is important that the discussions and deliberations of the Parties to the UNFCCC be informed by the best available and most current science in relation to climate change, and also that the research agenda of the climate change science community is informed by the information needs of policy makers.

In so far as it achieves these objectives, Australia supports the continuation and enhancement of the research dialogue. Importantly, the research dialogue should inform, but should not seek to prescribe, policy responses and the research agenda.



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III. General views on the research dialogue

To ensure relevance to all Parties, it is Australia's position that the research dialogue should not focus narrowly on a single theme or topic but continue to address more broadly those research activities relevant to the needs of the Convention, such as those listed in FCCC/SBSTA/2007/4, paragraphs 47 (a-f):

- (a) Emerging scientific findings;
- (b) Research planning activities (including in response to key uncertainties and research needs identified by the IPCC or raised by Parties);
- (c) Research priorities, and gaps in the implementation of these priorities;
- (d) Research capacity-building activities, particularly in developing countries;
- (e) Regional climate change research networks; and
- (f) Relevant communication issues.

Given the importance of the work of the IPCC in informing work under the UNFCCC, Australia suggests that, if not covered elsewhere in the SBSTA agenda, the IPCC be invited to present at the research dialogue to outline its progress and plans in the lead up to the planned delivery of the Fifth Assessment Report beginning from September this year.

