

Development of a five-year Programme of Work
Of the subsidiary body for scientific and technical advice on the
scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of impacts of,
and vulnerability and adaptation to, climate change and
adaptation to the impact of Response Measures
(Decision 1/CP10)

REFERENCE

The structured five-year programme of work on the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation, should address the following issues: methodologies; data and modelling; vulnerability assessments; adaptation planning, measures and actions; and integration into sustainable development. (Draft conclusions proposed by the President, Document FCCC/CP/2004/L.16 Paragraph 23)

Decision 1/CP.10 is a positive move in the implementation of Article 4.8 and decision 5/CP.7. It is important however to stress that decision 1/CP.10 is an addition and a continuation to 5/CP.7, but not a replacement. There are a number of paragraphs and pending commitments in 5/CP.7 that still needs to be addressed.

The economic impacts of policies and measures taken by Annex I Parties on Non-Annex I Parties need to be continuously evaluated. In the implementation of commitments, Annex I Parties must give full consideration to what actions on adaptation are lagging in terms of implementation under the Convention. This includes, and not limited to, actions related to economic diversification, funding and the transfer of technology, to meet the specific needs and concerns of developing countries arising from the impacts of the implementation of response measures.

MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME

The multi-year programme to be developed should focus on the further implementation of commitments under the Convention and Kyoto protocol. It is crucial to stress that this programme, or any other future programme, must not change the balance of rights and obligations under the Convention.

The programme needs to further elaborate on the work of the IPCC Third Assessment Report and Working Group III on spillover effects and impacts of

response measures. The programme shall promote and advance options to reduce impact of response measures and spillover effects.

The programme must establish and enhance grounds to provide financial and technical support, to share experiences, and to take up opportunities, in order to incorporate and integrate adaptation within sustainable development, specifically in the area of economic adaptation to the impact of response measures.

Saudi Arabia is highly concerned about economic adaptation to the impacts of response measures. A clear process should be identified in the programme to advance solutions and opportunities to contribute to sustainable development, through economic adaptation to the impact of response measures. It is therefore vital for any programme of work to incorporate economic diversification as an adaptation mean for countries whose economies are highly vulnerable to the impact of response measures, with specific emphasis on countries whose economies are highly dependent on income generated from the production, processing and export, and/or on consumption of fossil fuels and associated energy-intensive products.

The work programme should address capacity building and transfer of adaptive and advanced technologies to adapt to climate change and response measures and also address the following:

- a) Assessment of cost effective options including capacity building and transfer of technology for adaptation to contribute to sustainable development in the area of adaptation to climate change and adaptation to the impact of response measures;
- b) Emphases on the integration of economic diversification in the sustainable development efforts;
- c) Promotion of the exchange of views on experiences in economic diversification and lessons learned.

The programme should promote the exchange of information and sharing of experiences and views, to improve and enhance efforts towards,

- a) Understanding of the scientific, technical and socio-economic impact of climate change and the impact of response measures;
- b) Identifying innovative and efficient adaptation technologies for both the impacts for climate change and the impact of response measure.

The work programme should direct SBSTA to coordinate with the scientific research community such as the IPCC, and collaborate with other organizations such as IEA and OPEC, to improve the quality of models, in particular those that assess the impact of response measures on developing countries. The IPCC Third Assessment Report acknowledges the adverse impacts of response measures on developing countries. Further modeling work is needed to determine, with less uncertainty, the magnitude of the impact of response measures, and to assess such impacts on individual countries.

In modeling and assessing the effects of policies, such factors as market approaches (taxes, subsidies, and cap-and-trade), regulations and research and development need to be included in the simulation. The international research community needs to address the major constraint for assessing the above factors such as:

- The incomplete data on specific policy information and a lack of methods to parameterize them properly;
- The ambiguity of interactions among multiple policies - either within or across countries;
- The inadequate details on the logic and data needs of individual models;
- The inadequate assessment of technology development;
- The inadequate participation of developing country experts in preparation of the IPCC reports and assessment of modeling activities;
- The testing of models against present day observations.

