

SBSTA dialogue on developments in research activities relevant to the needs of the Convention

SBSTA 30

Summary report by the SBSTA Chair

- The following provides a report on the meeting that was held last Wednesday, 3 June, under SBSTA's research dialogue between Parties and regional and international climate change research programmes and organizations and the IPCC that is taking place in the context of decision 9/CP.11, and has now established continuity with a series of meetings held during previous sessions of the SBSTA.
- As mandated by SBSTA 28, this year's dialogue meeting was held to allow further in-depth consideration to be given to developments in research activities relevant to the needs of the Convention as identified during SBSTA 26, and with a broader participation of research programmes and organizations.
- We had the pleasure to have representatives of the IPCC and the following international and regional global change research programmes and organizations represented at the dialogue:
 - the Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP), including its member programmes, i.e. the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP), the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP), the International Human Dimensions Programme (IHDP) and DIVERSITAS
 - the International Alliance of Research Universities (IARU)
 - the International START secretariat
 - the Seventh Framework Programme of the European Community and associated countries
 - the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI) and
 - the Asia Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN)
- The meeting provided an excellent opportunity to hear from the research programmes and organizations on a number of developments in research activities, including on emerging scientific findings resulting from latest climate change research, and on the IPCC's developments leading to the Fifth Assessment Report process.
- Following the presentations there was an opportunity for an informal and open question and answer session and exchange of views between Parties and representatives from the research community where we also heard from Parties about their needs for enhanced research activities, such as those that would build more capacity for research in developing countries.
- The presentations provided a wealth of information on a wide range of on-going activities by the research programmes, covering earth science, such as on polar ice-sheet melting, sea-level rise, ocean processes; scientific uncertainties, and new scenarios for the IPCC, as well as on the impacts for humans and societies, among many other interesting and very relevant topics, such as capacity-building and regional international research cooperation.

- All the presentations are available on the UNFCCC website. In addition, the research dialogue was web-cast and is also available through the UNFCCC web site.
- The draft conclusions on research and systematic observation demonstrate that this dialogue is very much appreciated by Parties and that there is the wish that this be continued in the future.
- I wish to take this opportunity to thank all the Parties that participated at this meeting as well as the representatives from the IPCC and the research programmes and organizations for their active participation and excellent contributions they are making to the SBSTA process.
