

Research and Systematic observation: Research Dialogue

Submission on views on specific themes to be addressed at the research dialogue meeting to be held in conjunction with the thirty-sixth session of the SBSTA.

Norway welcomes the conclusions of SBSTA at its thirty-fifth session (FCCC/SBSTA/2011/L.27) and the invitation to submit views of specific themes to be addressed at the research dialogue meeting to be held in conjunction with the thirty-sixth session of the SBSTA.

We believe that the Research Dialogue should take place annually, and should include updates on progress from international and regional research programs, including outcome of IPCC workshops and expert meetings, as well as emerging findings from other relevant programmes for the UNFCCC. Norway supports the view that the research dialogue continues to arrange workshops in conjunction with in session deliberations. In our view, specific themes to be addressed in the upcoming Research Dialogue include:

- 1) Updated research on opportunities on how to close the emission gap between the planned mitigation actions and the 2 degree goal should be given high priority, including the effect of removals by sinks and reservoirs of all greenhouse gases. In this regard it is also important to look at the relationship between the climate change mitigation and consequences of changes in the climate system, particularly in relation to the feedback mechanisms.
- 2) An update on progress in finalizing the 5th Assessment Report by the IPCC. The 5th Assessment Report will give an important update of scientific knowledge that informs the negotiations. An overview of the processes ahead and the timeline for presentation of results would be useful.
- 3) The importance of the cryosphere in the global climate system, which has been analyzed in several national and international programmes. Changes in the Arctic and the Antarctica are in many ways an indicator on the "health" of the global climate system, especially concerning feedback-mechanisms. It will be important for the research dialogue to continue to bring updated findings from this research into the UNFCCC bodies.
- 4) The significance of short lived climate forcers, in terms of effects on the climate system and in terms of mitigation potential. During 2011, two UNEP reports in Short-Lived Climate forcing were published, providing information about how mitigation of short-lived climate forcing can contribute to limit global warming.
- 5) The role of marine and coastal carbon sinks. While the bodies of the UNFCCC have developed strategies and mechanisms to enhance the terrestrial carbon sinks less attention has been given to the marine and coastal ecosystems.

The UNEP-report from 2009 "Blue carbon – the role of healthy oceans in binding carbon" presented valuable scientific and technical information about the threats and possibilities related to the carbon captures by the marine living organisms. Out of all the biological carbon captured in the world, over half (55%) is captured by marine living organisms. Along with increased emissions, natural ecosystems are being degraded, reducing their ability to absorb CO₂. Currently, on average, between 2–7% of our blue carbon sinks are lost annually.

The report also listed several potential options for strategies or measures to restore and prevent further degradation of these crucial carbon sinks. Norway proposes that these are explored further in the future, including presentations of new scientific and technical findings since 2009 such as in IPCC reports and other material and to consider them for further national and international roadmaps.

Norway also welcomes the plan to have WMO to provide at SBSTA 37 an update of information on the progress in the implementation of the GFCS (Global Framework on Climate Services).