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Agenda item 8

COOPERATION WITH RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Draft conclusions proposed by the Chair

Cooperation with scientific organizations

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) took note of the interim report by the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) secretariat on the synthesis and analysis of national reports on global climate observing systems from Parties and other information relevant to the implementation of decision 5/CP.5 provided in document FCCC/SBSTA/2002/MISC.10.
2. The SBSTA urged Parties included in Annex I to the Convention and invited Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention, that have not yet done so, to submit their detailed reports on systematic observation.¹ The initial analysis of national reports drew attention to several themes such as the importance of establishing national coordination mechanisms for systematic observations across all climate regimes, including for terrestrial observing systems. The SBSTA also noted that many Parties had found the process of preparing the national reports to be a useful means of drawing attention to both the deficiencies in monitoring systems in key areas and to the diversity of data and systems that do exist, many established for research purposes. The SBSTA encouraged Parties to give continuing operational support for relevant research systems.
3. The SBSTA welcomed the involvement of a broader range of experts, particularly from developing countries, including those associated with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), in the preparation by GCOS of the second report on the adequacy of the global climate observing systems. The SBSTA stressed the importance of achieving an integrated global climate observing system that would facilitate identification of observed trends and changes in the global climate system and inform key policy decisions.
4. The SBSTA noted the information about the progress made in the implementation of the programme of regional workshops to address priority capacity-building needs of developing countries in relation to their participation in systematic observation and the follow-up regional action plans submitted

¹ In accordance with FCCC/CP/1999/7.

by the GCOS secretariat. The SBSTA urged the GCOS secretariat to complete the remaining programme of regional workshops² as early as possible.

5. The SBSTA welcomed the submission of action plans from the regional workshops and noted the urgency of moving these plans forward into implementation. It encouraged Parties in cooperation with the GCOS secretariat to explore the full range of funding options that might assist the implementation of the plans, including the Global Environment Facility (GEF), donor support such as through partnership arrangements, and international aid programmes directed at capacity-building, technology transfer, education and training, and recommended the involvement of representatives of potential funding bodies in the development of the implementation plans. The SBSTA invited the GEF to report on its progress and/or plans in this regard, including on the provision of financial support, in the context of its report to the Conference of Parties at its eighth and subsequent sessions.

6. The SBSTA noted, on the basis of the preliminary analysis of national reports, the outcomes of the regional workshops and the information provided by the GCOS Science Panels, that serious deficiencies continue to exist in global monitoring systems for climate. The SBSTA urged Parties to give priority to:

(a) Remedying first the deficiencies in traditional monitoring systems, and also taking advantage of the increasing contribution of new and emerging technologies, such as space-based systems, as a complementary source of climate data;

(b) Adherence to the climate monitoring principles provided in the UNFCCC guidelines for reporting;

(c) Exchange of data, provision of data to international data centres and access to data and products from international data centres;

(d) Enhancing capacity to access, communicate and use data to inform decision-making processes.

7. The SBSTA urged Parties in Annex I to the Convention to contribute support for addressing the priority requirements to improve the deficiencies in global observing systems for climate. In this context, the SBSTA welcomed the announcement by the Government of the United States of America of a contribution of US\$ 4 million to improving climate monitoring systems in developing countries.

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² The regional workshop programme: Completed workshops: Pacific Island (2000), Southern and Eastern Africa (2001), Caribbean and Central America (2002). Planned workshops: South-east Asia (late 2002), West Africa, South America, South-west Asia, Mediterranean basin, Eastern and Central Europe and Central Asia. Refer to the GCOS website http://www.wmo.ch/web/gcos/GCOS_RWP.htm for further information.