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**SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE**

**Twenty-first session**

**Buenos Aires, 6–14 December 2004**

**Agenda item 8**

**Research and systematic observation**

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**Draft conclusions proposed by the Chair**

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) took note of document FCCC/SBSTA/2004/MISC.14 containing views from Parties on issues from the research event at the twentieth session of the SBSTA. The SBSTA agreed to consider in depth the issues relating to the research needs of the Convention at its twenty-second session (May 2005).
2. The SBSTA welcomed document FCCC/SBSTA/2004/MISC.16 containing the executive summary of the *Implementation Plan for the Global Observing System for Climate in Support of the UNFCCC* (hereinafter referred to as the implementation plan) prepared by the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) secretariat under the guidance of the GCOS steering committee.<sup>1</sup> According to this plan, priority for climate should be given to the following actions:
  - (a) Improving in situ and key satellite observation networks
  - (b) Generating integrated global climate products for atmospheric, oceanic and terrestrial domains
  - (c) Enhancing the participation of the least developed countries and small island developing States
  - (d) Improving access by all Parties to global climate data for essential climate variables and climate products
  - (e) Strengthening national, regional and international infrastructure relating to global observing systems for climate.
3. The SBSTA stressed that effective implementation of this plan, including the full consideration of the needs of developing countries to enhance their capacity to effectively use observation data and climate products, can provide relevant information on climate variability and climate change that would contribute to developing adaptation and mitigation responses. It emphasized that coordinated and

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<sup>1</sup> Available as report no. GCOS-92 at: <<http://www.wmo.ch/web/gcos/gcoshome.html>>.

concentrated efforts by governments and relevant international organizations are required to fully implement this plan.

4. The SBSTA invited the GCOS secretariat, in conjunction with the GCOS sponsoring agencies,<sup>2</sup> to report to the SBSTA at its twenty-third session (November 2005) and, as required, at subsequent sessions, on how the actions identified in the plan have been incorporated in the agencies' own plans and actions. It also invited the GCOS secretariat to prepare a synthesis report on this matter by the twenty-fourth session of the SBSTA (May 2006).

5. The SBSTA encouraged Parties to incorporate actions supporting the implementation of the implementation plan in their national plans and actions relating to global climate observing systems.

6. The SBSTA invited all Parties to report on their activities as specified in paragraph 5, including those in relation to the priorities referred to in paragraph 2, in their detailed reports on systematic observation, in accordance with the guidelines contained in document FCCC/CP/1999/7, and pursuant to decision 5/CP.5. It also encouraged Parties to provide additional information in accordance with the supplementary reporting format.<sup>3</sup>

7. The SBSTA welcomed the emphasis given by the implementation plan to enhancing the participation of developing countries in the global observing system for climate. It noted that this is consistent with actions identified in decision 5/CP.7 in relation to the adverse effects of climate change.

8. The SBSTA welcomed the progress made in the programme of the GCOS regional workshops. It encouraged Parties to continue to pursue the implementation of priority elements of the regional action plans developed under this programme, taking into account priorities identified in the implementation plan, and referred to in decision 4/CP.9.

9. The SBSTA welcomed the progress made by the ad hoc Group on Earth Observations (GEO) to develop a 10-year implementation plan for a Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS); it appreciated the collaboration and encouraged the continuation of the essential coordination between GCOS and GEO. It noted that governments and international organizations involved in GEO have recognized the need to give coordinated attention to the needs and capacity of developing countries to access earth observation data and products. The SBSTA invited GEO, in cooperation with the GCOS secretariat, to incorporate the relevant actions in the implementation plan into the GEOSS 10-year implementation plan. The SBSTA noted that participation in GEO is open to all Parties.

10. The SBSTA decided to forward a draft decision on the implementation of the global observing system for climate (FCCC/SBSTA/2004/L.24/Add.1) for adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth session.

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<sup>2</sup> The World Meteorological Organization, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Environment Programme and the International Council for Science.

<sup>3</sup> The supplementary reporting format can be found at: <<http://www.wmo.ch/web/gcos/Supp-Guidance-2000.pdf>>.