



**UNITED  
NATIONS**



**Framework Convention  
on Climate Change**

Distr.  
LIMITED

FCCC/SBSTA/2005/L.17  
3 December 2005

Original: ENGLISH

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**SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE**

**Twenty-third session**

**Montreal, 28 November to 6 December 2005**

**Agenda item 9**

**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 the submissions from Parties on the report on progress made towards implementing the initial ocean climate observing system, and on the final report on the analysis of data exchange issues in global atmospheric and hydrological networks, contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2005/MISC.15 and Add.1.
2. The SBSTA welcomed with appreciation the report from the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) secretariat on progress with the Implementation Plan for the Global Observing System for Climate in Support of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (hereinafter referred to as the GCOS implementation plan) contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2005/MISC.14; the report from the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) on preparing a coordinated response from space agencies involved in global observations to the needs expressed in the GCOS implementation plan, contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2005/MISC.17; and a progress report on developing a framework for the preparation of guidance materials, standards and reporting guidelines for terrestrial observing systems for climate, prepared by the Global Terrestrial Observing System (GTOS) secretariat and contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2005/MISC.16.
3. The SBSTA noted that there is now an excellent foundation upon which to improve the global observing systems for climate. It urged Parties to further implement the GCOS implementation plan, including the capacity-building elements.
4. The SBSTA urged those Parties that have not already done so to designate GCOS national coordinators and GCOS national focal points.
5. The SBSTA welcomed the information in document FCCC/SBSTA/2005/MISC.14, that almost all of the international agencies identified in the GCOS implementation plan have formally or informally acknowledged their roles in the GCOS implementation plan and are actively engaged in developing and/or refining their specific work plans. This commitment to action represents a substantial degree of international consensus and support for the GCOS implementation plan.

6. The SBSTA welcomed and accepted the offer from the CEOS, on behalf of the Parties supporting space agencies involved in global observations, to provide a detailed report on a coordinated response to the needs expressed in the GCOS implementation plan at SBSTA 25 (November 2006).
7. The SBSTA welcomed the efforts by the GTOS secretariat to develop a framework for the preparation of guidance materials, standards and reporting guidelines for terrestrial observing systems for climate and encouraged GTOS to continue its work. It also called on the GTOS secretariat to assess the status of the development of standards for each of the essential climate variables in the terrestrial domain. The SBSTA invited the GTOS secretariat to report on its progress by SBSTA 26 (May 2007).
8. The SBSTA requested the GCOS secretariat to provide a comprehensive report at its thirtieth session (June 2009), on progress with the GCOS implementation plan, in addition to the regular reporting requested by the Conference of the Parties (COP) in decision 5/CP.10.
9. The SBSTA noted that the report referred to in paragraph 8 would be heavily dependent upon obtaining timely information on national implementation activities. Therefore, the SBSTA invited Parties to submit to the secretariat, by 15 September 2008, additional information on their national activities with respect to implementing the plan.
10. The SBSTA welcomed the ongoing efforts of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) and invited the GCOS and the GEO to continue to coordinate closely on the implementation of the GCOS implementation plan and the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) 10-year implementation plan. The SBSTA encouraged Parties included in Annex I to the Convention to facilitate the participation of developing country Parties in implementation activities wherever possible.
11. The SBSTA agreed to revise the “UNFCCC reporting guidelines on global climate change observing systems”<sup>1</sup> in order to reflect priorities of the GCOS implementation plan and incorporate the reporting on essential climate variables. Parties also noted the need to revise the more comprehensive supplementary reporting format.<sup>2</sup> The SBSTA agreed to consider this issue at its twenty-fifth session. It invited the GCOS secretariat to submit to SBSTA by September 2006, a proposal on ways and means to address these needs.
12. The SBSTA noted the importance of the oceanic observations in contributing to meeting the needs of the Convention. The SBSTA requested Parties in a position to do so to address the need for continued, sustained and enhanced support for the implementation of the global ocean observing system for climate. It noted in particular the need for sustained support to operationalize the system and need for the collection and archiving of marine data and metadata.
13. The SBSTA reiterated that data exchange is fundamental to the needs of the Convention. It noted with concern that many of the problems of data exchange, as referred to in the final report on the analysis of data exchange issues in global atmospheric and hydrological networks,<sup>3</sup> still remain. The SBSTA urged Parties to implement the possible remedy options identified in that report.
14. The SBSTA urged Parties and invited relevant intergovernmental organizations and international bodies, such as the World Meteorological Organization and the International Council for Science, to provide active support to international data centres in their efforts to obtain permission from countries for the release of the data and the rescue of historical climate records.

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<sup>1</sup> FCCC/CP/1999/7, chapter III

<sup>2</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2000/14, paragraph 59 and the supplementary reporting format can be found at <<http://www.wmo.ch/web/gcos/Supp-Guidance-2000.pdf>>

<sup>3</sup> Available as document GCOS-96 (WMO/TD No.1255) at <<http://www.wmo.int/web/gcos/gcoshome.html>>.

15. The SBSTA noted the regional workshop programme will be completed in early 2006. It invited the GCOS secretariat, in cooperation with the Regional Workshop Advisory Committee, to report on the results of the programme at its twenty-fifth session.

16. The SBSTA reiterated the need to strengthen capacities in the field of climate observations, data analysis and data management. The SBSTA also reiterated the importance of, and continued need for, capacity-building, including through the GEO, the GCOS cooperation mechanism, and regional activities, to enable developing countries to apply climate observations, inter alia, for impact assessment and preparation for adaptation.

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