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Agenda item 5

Reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries: approaches to stimulate action

**Reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries:
approaches to stimulate action**

Draft conclusions proposed by the Chair

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) took note of the report on the workshop on methodological issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries,¹ which was held in Tokyo, Japan, from 25 to 27 June 2008.
2. The SBSTA expressed its appreciation to the Government of Japan for hosting the workshop. It also expressed its appreciation to the Governments of Canada, France, Japan and Spain for providing financial support for the workshop.
3. The SBSTA also took note of the oral report by the Chair on the outcomes of the informal meeting of experts on methodological issues relating to reducing emissions from forest degradation in developing countries, held in Bonn, Germany, from 20 to 21 October 2008.²
4. The SBSTA recommended methodological guidance provided in the annex, without prejudice to any future decision of the Conference of the Parties (COP), on issues relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries, as reflected in decision 2/CP.13, paragraph 11, which takes into account the methodological issues identified at its twenty-eighth session.³
5. The SBSTA decided to continue its programme of work on methodological issues, as contained in decision 2/CP.13, paragraphs 7 (a) and 11, at its thirtieth session, with the aim of completing this work by its thirty-first session and reporting to the COP at its fifteenth session on progress made, including any recommendations on the remaining outstanding methodological issues as contained in annex III to the report on its twenty-eighth session.⁴

¹ FCCC/SBSTA/2008/11.

² <http://unfccc.int/methods_science/redd/items/4579.php>.

³ FCCC/SBSTA/2008/6, annex III.

⁴ FCCC/SBSTA/2008/6.

6. The SBSTA, recalling its conclusions at its twenty-eighth session,⁵ requested its Chair, with the support of the secretariat, to organize an expert meeting,⁶ subject to the availability of supplementary funding, before its thirtieth session and to prepare a report on this meeting for consideration at that session. This meeting should focus on methodological issues relating:

- (a) To reference emission levels for deforestation;
- (b) To reference emission levels for forest degradation;
- (c) To the role and contribution of conservation, sustainable management of forests, changes in forest cover and associated carbon stocks and greenhouse gas emissions and the enhancement of forest carbon stocks to enhance action on mitigation of climate change and to the consideration of reference levels;
- (d) To the relationship among the reference emission levels and relevant reference levels.

7. The SBSTA requested the secretariat, to prepare and make available, subject to the availability of supplementary funding, a technical paper on the cost of implementing methodologies and monitoring systems related to estimates of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, the assessment of carbon stocks and greenhouse gas emissions from changes in forest cover, and the enhancement of forest carbon stocks, for consideration at its thirtieth session.

8. The SBSTA, recalling decision 2/CP.13, paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9 and 11, recognized the importance of coordination among Parties, relevant multilateral and bilateral organizations and relevant non-governmental organizations when supporting the implementation of activities relating to decision 2/CP.13.

9. The SBSTA requested its Chair to explore ways of facilitating the coordination of the activities referred to in paragraph 8 above, in line with the framework for capacity-building in developing countries as contained in decisions 2/CP.7 and 2/CP.10, and recognizing the existence and importance of activities carried out by developing countries with their own resources.

10. The SBSTA invited Parties to submit to the secretariat, by 15 February 2009, information on their experiences and views, and to provide country-specific information where possible, on needs for technical and institutional capacity-building and cooperation in, inter alia, the implementation of methodologies for estimating and monitoring changes in forest cover and associated carbon stocks and greenhouse gas emissions, incremental changes due to sustainable management of forests, reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, national and subnational monitoring and reporting systems, and methodologies for forest inventories, ground-based and remote-sensing approaches. It requested the secretariat to compile these submissions for consideration at its thirtieth session.

11. The SBSTA invited Parties and accredited observers to submit, if appropriate, to the secretariat, by 15 February 2009, their views on issues relating to indigenous people and local communities for the development and application of methodologies.

12. The SBSTA noted the launch by the secretariat of the Web Platform on the UNFCCC website,⁷ in accordance with decision 2/CP.13, paragraph 10. It encouraged Parties, relevant organizations and

⁵ FCCC/SBSTA/2008/6, paragraph 96.

⁶ Arrangements for inviting accredited observers in general should be used to invite representatives from indigenous people organizations and local communities.

⁷ <http://unfccc.int/methods_science/redd/items/4531.php>.

stakeholders to share information relating to decision 2/CP.13, paragraphs 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11, through the Web Platform.⁸

13. The SBSTA concluded that in addition to work identified in these conclusions, guidance from the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA) in relation to decision 1/CP.13, paragraph 1 (b) (iii), would facilitate further progress on methodological issues relating to decision 2/CP.13, paragraph 11.

14. The SBSTA requested its Chair to inform the AWG-LCA, at its sixth session, of the results of consultations and progress made during its thirtieth session and at the expert meeting referred to in paragraph 6 above.

⁸ Parties, relevant organizations and stakeholders are invited to submit relevant information to the following e-mail address: <redd_webplatform@unfccc.int>.

Annex

**Methodological guidance by the Subsidiary Body for
Scientific and Technological Advice**

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice noted the importance of the following elements in relation to its programme of work initiated under decision 2/CP.13:

- (a) Promoting the readiness of developing countries in relation to decision 2/CP.13, taking into account paragraph 8 of these conclusions;
- (b) Further mobilization of resources in relation to decision 2/CP.13, paragraphs 4 and 5 to expand related actions;
- (c) Recognizing the need to promote the full and effective participation of indigenous people and local communities, taking into account national circumstances and noting relevant international agreements;
- (d) Exploring co-benefits in the context of methodological development related to decision 2/CP.13;
- (e) Sharing lessons learned and experiences when applying the guidance referred to in paragraph 2 below and the indicative guidance in the annex to decision 2/CP.13.

2. The SBSTA, on the basis of work conducted on the methodological issues set out in decision 2/CP.13, recommends the following guidance to be taken into account:

- (a) The use of the *Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines For National Greenhouse Inventories* and encouraging the use of the *Good Practice Guidance For Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry*,¹ as appropriate, as a basis for estimating anthropogenic forest-related emissions by sources and removals by sinks;
- (b) The need to establish robust and transparent national forest² monitoring systems, following consideration of their requirements;
- (c) If appropriate, the need to establish robust and transparent sub-national forest³ monitoring systems, following consideration of their requirements;
- (d) The encouragement of national forest monitoring systems that allow transparent and independent review of their results;
- (e) The consideration of national circumstances and respective capabilities and capacities.

¹ Taking note of the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, if appropriate.

² Taking note of, if appropriate, the guidance on consistent representation of land in the *IPCC Good Practice Guidance for Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry* (IPCC good practice guidance for LULUCF).

³ Taking note of, if appropriate, the guidance on consistent representation of land in the IPCC good practice guidance for LULUCF.