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**SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE**

**Thirtieth session**

**Bonn, 1–10 June 2009**

**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 expert meeting on methodological issues relating to reference emission levels and reference levels, which was held in Bonn, Germany, from 23 to 24 March 2009.<sup>1</sup> It expressed its appreciation to the Governments of Belgium, Norway and Switzerland for providing financial support for the expert meeting. It also expressed its appreciation to the Government of Germany for providing the meeting facilities.
2. Continuing in its programme of work on methodological issues, as contained in decision 2/CP.13, paragraphs 7 (a) and 11, the SBSTA considered the text of a draft decision on methodological guidance for the implementation of activities relating to decision 2/CP.13 (this draft is contained in the annex). In its consideration of the draft text, the SBSTA took into account the following, *inter alia*:
  - (a) The outcomes of the expert meeting referred to in paragraph 1 above as described in the report on the meeting;
  - (b) The information contained in the technical paper entitled “Cost of implementing methodologies and monitoring systems relating 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”.<sup>2</sup>
3. The SBSTA agreed to continue its work on this matter at its thirty-first session, on the basis of the draft text contained in the annex.

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<sup>1</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2009/2.

<sup>2</sup> FCCC/TP/2009/1.

4. The SBSTA took note of the information on experiences and views submitted by Parties on needs for technical and institutional capacity-building and cooperation,<sup>3</sup> and the views of Parties and accredited observers on issues relating to indigenous peoples and local communities for the development and application of methodologies.<sup>4</sup>

5. The SBSTA recognized that in order to generate accurate and precise data and information for establishing reference emission levels and reference levels as contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2008/13, paragraph 40, and for establishing and operating monitoring systems, there are research priorities and capacity-building needs, such as those identified in the outcomes of the expert meeting referred to in paragraph 1 above and the views submitted by Parties referred to in paragraph 4 above.

6. The SBSTA took note of the oral report by its Chair, made during its opening plenary meeting on 1 June 2009, on ways of facilitating the coordination of the activities relating to decision 2/CP.13. It requested its Chair to continue exploring ways of facilitating such coordination and to report back at its thirty-first session.

7. The SBSTA took note of the importance of all methodological issues contained in decision 2/CP.13 and those referred to in paragraph 2 above, and noted that it may need to consider further guidance on methodological issues in accordance with any relevant decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fifteenth session.

8. The SBSTA reminded and encouraged Parties, relevant organizations and stakeholders to continue sharing information relating to decision 2/CP.13, paragraphs 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11, via the Web Platform on the UNFCCC website.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2009/MISC.2 and Add.1 and 2.

<sup>4</sup> The submissions from Parties are contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2009/MISC.1 and Add.1 and 2. The submissions from accredited observers are posted on the UNFCCC website at <[http://unfccc.int/parties\\_observers/ngo/submissions/items/3689.php](http://unfccc.int/parties_observers/ngo/submissions/items/3689.php)>.

<sup>5</sup> <[http://unfccc.int/methods\\_science/redd/items/4531.php](http://unfccc.int/methods_science/redd/items/4531.php)>.

## ANNEX

**Draft text for a decision on methodological guidance for activities relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries****[Draft decision [-/CP.15]****Decision on methodological guidance for activities relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* decisions 1/CP.13 and 2/CP.13,

*Acknowledging* the importance of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries,

*Noting* the progress made by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice in its programme of work on methodological issues related to a range of policy approaches and positive incentives,

*Noting also* the range of ongoing activities and cooperative efforts being undertaken by Parties and international organizations, in accordance with decision 2/CP.13, paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 5,

*Recognizing* the need for full and effective engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities in, and the potential contribution of their knowledge to, monitoring and reporting of activities relating to decision 1/CP.13, paragraph 1 (b) (iii),

*Recognizing* the importance of promoting sustainable management of forests and co-benefits, including biodiversity, that may complement the aims and objectives of national forest programmes and relevant international conventions and agreements,

*Noting* experiences and lessons learned from ongoing activities and efforts in capacity-building, testing methodologies and monitoring approaches, and a range of policy approaches and positive incentives[, including those guided by the indicative guidance contained in the annex to decision 2/CP.13],

1. *Requests* developing country Parties, on the basis of work conducted on the methodological issues set out in decision 2/CP.13, paragraphs 7 and 11, to take the following guidance into account for activities relating to decision 2/CP.13, and without prejudging any further relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties[, in particular those relating to measurement and reporting]:

- (a) [To identify drivers and activities within the country that result in reduced emissions, increases in removals and stabilization of carbon stocks in the forestry sector;]
- (b) Use the most recently adopted Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change guidance and guidelines, as appropriate, as a basis for estimating[, as appropriate,] anthropogenic

forest-related greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks and forest area changes;

- (c) To establish, according to national circumstances and capabilities, robust and transparent [national forest<sup>1</sup>] monitoring systems and, if appropriate, subnational systems as part of national monitoring systems that] [forest monitoring systems that]:
- (i) Use a combination of remote sensing and ground-based forest carbon inventory approaches for estimating, as appropriate, anthropogenic forest-related greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks and forest area changes;
  - (ii) Provide estimates that are transparent, consistent, as far as possible accurate, and that reduce uncertainties, taking into account national capabilities and capacities;
  - (iii) [Ensure that these monitoring systems and their results are open to independent review as agreed by the Conference of the Parties;]

2. *[Recognizes* that further work may be needed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, in accordance with any relevant decisions by the Conference of the Parties, to provide supplemental guidance on the application of methodologies for estimating anthropogenic forest-related greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks and forest area changes;]

3. *Encourages*, as appropriate, the development of guidance for effective engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities in monitoring and reporting;

4. *Encourages* all Parties in a position to do so to support and strengthen developing countries' capacities to collect and access, analyse and interpret data, in order to develop estimates;

5. *[Recognizes* that [developing countries, when establishing] [methodologies to establish] [national] reference emission levels and reference levels [should] take into account, [inter alia,] national circumstances; respective national capabilities and capacities; historical data; [if necessary adjustments for expected future emission trends]; relevant socio-economic factors; drivers of deforestation; and existing domestic legislation, policies and measures[, or those under development], as appropriate;]

6. *Invites* Parties to share lessons learned and experiences gained in the application of the guidance referred to in paragraph 1 above and the annex to decision 2/CP.13 through the web platform on the UNFCCC website;

7. *Urges* relevant international organizations, non-governmental organizations and stakeholders to integrate and coordinate their efforts in order to avoid duplication and enhance synergy with regard to activities relating to decision 2/CP.13.]

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<sup>1</sup> [Taking note of, if appropriate, the guidance on consistent representation of land in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change *Good Practice Guidance for Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry*.]