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UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

**Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice**

**Thirty-fifth session**

**Durban, 28 November to 3 December 2011**

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

**Research and systematic observation**

**Views on the research dialogue, including ongoing activities,  
associated modalities and ways to enhance it**

**Submissions from Parties**

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), at its thirty-fourth session, requested the secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, to continue to support the SBSTA dialogue on developments in research activities relevant to the needs of the Convention being held in the context of decision 9/CP.11 (hereinafter referred to as the research dialogue), including organizing further workshops, as appropriate, and to be agreed by the SBSTA, and enhancing the visibility of scientific information of relevance to the Convention on its website.<sup>1</sup>
2. At the same session, the SBSTA invited Parties to provide their views, by 19 September 2011, on the research dialogue, including ongoing activities, associated modalities and ways to enhance the dialogue, and to compile these submissions into a miscellaneous document for consideration by the SBSTA at its thirty-fifth session.<sup>2</sup>
3. The secretariat has received five such submissions.<sup>3</sup> In accordance with the procedure for miscellaneous documents, these submissions are attached and reproduced\* in the language in which they were received and without formal editing.

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<sup>1</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2011/2, paragraph 55(a) and (b).

<sup>2</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2011/2, paragraph 56.

<sup>3</sup> Also made available at <<http://unfccc.int/5901.php>>.

\* These submissions have been electronically imported in order to make them available on electronic systems, including the World Wide Web. The secretariat has made every effort to ensure the correct reproduction of the texts as submitted.

**FCCC/SBSTA/2011/MISC.8**

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\* This submission is supported by Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey.

**Submission under the Cancun Agreements | September 2011**

**Views on the research dialogue, including ongoing activities, associated modalities and ways to enhance the dialogue | SBSTA**

**I. Overview**

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This submission contains the views of the Australian Government on the research dialogue, including ongoing activities, associated modalities and ways to enhance the dialogue, as requested under FCCC/SBSTA/2011/L.4, paragraph 13.

Australia welcomes the opportunity to submit its views under the Cancun agreements on this matter. In summary, Australia considers:

- the objectives of the research dialogue to be important and valuable;
- that the research dialogue meeting held in conjunction with every second SBSTA session should be continued and enhanced as a primary vehicle for the dialogue;
- that other cost effective modalities should be explored, including the greater use of the UNFCCC website and webcasts, vodcasts and other new media channels.

**II. Views on the research dialogue, including ongoing activities, associated modalities and ways to enhance the dialogue**

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Australia supports the underlying objectives of the research dialogue. It is important that the discussions and deliberations of the Parties to the UNFCCC be informed by the best available and most current science in relation to climate change, and also that the research agenda of the climate change science community is informed by the information needs of policy makers.

Australia therefore supports the continuation and enhancement of the research dialogue. Australia would, however, add the following caveats:

Any particular modality adopted for the research dialogue should:

- be cost effective and in particular should not impose significant additional cost burdens on developing countries;
- maximize opportunity for involvement by developing countries, especially those who otherwise have limited access to advice on climate change science;
- be periodically reviewed as to its effectiveness in achieving the objectives of the dialogue.

The research dialogue should inform, but should not seek to prescribe, policy responses.

Likewise, the research dialogue should inform, but should not seek to prescribe, the research agenda.

In relation to enhancing the research dialogue, particularly in relation to specific modalities, Australia offers the comments below:

## **1. Research Dialogue Meetings**

A Research Dialogue meeting (in various forms) has been held in association with every second SBSTA session since SBSTA 24 and has been a primary vehicle for the research dialogue. Australia supports the continuance of these meetings and that they be held within the SBSTA session and be scheduled to allow the maximum opportunity for participation by Parties.

To ensure relevance to the Parties, the dialogue should continue to focus on those research activities relevant to the needs of the Convention, such as those listed in FCCC/SBSTA/2007/4, paragraphs 47 (a-f):

- a) Emerging scientific findings;
- b) Research planning activities (including in response to key uncertainties and research needs identified by the IPCC or raised by Parties);
- c) Research priorities, and gaps in the implementation of these priorities;
- d) Research capacity-building activities, particularly in developing countries;
- e) Regional climate change research networks;
- f) Relevant communication issues.

In addition, a presentation by the IPCC, giving an update on its plans and activities, should continue to be routinely provided as part of the research dialogue meeting.

Presentations from Parties in relation to their identified information needs, including gaps and key areas of uncertainty, should be a stronger feature of the research dialogue, including at least one presentation representing the needs of developing country Parties. These should also, where appropriate, provide feedback to research programmes and organisations on the benefits realised from their research.

To assess the effectiveness of the research dialogue meetings it would be useful to occasionally canvass opinion on this from attending delegates by survey or other appropriate means.

## **2. Submissions from Research Programmes and Organisations**

At SBSTA 32 research programmes and organisations were invited to provide written submissions to SBSTA 33 in relation to research outcomes and emerging scientific findings. Australia would welcome a routine invitation for such submissions and/or bulletins to be regularly provided by research programmes and organisations outlining scientific advances and made available to Parties at SBSTA and through the UNFCCC website.

### **3. Side events and stands**

Research programmes and organisations should continue to be encouraged to hold side events and information stands in association with SBSTA sessions. They should, however, be encouraged to particularly address those research activities relevant to the needs of the Convention as listed above.

### **4. Research Dialogue Workshops**

Australia views the Research Dialogue Workshop, which was organized by the Secretariat and held directly preceding SBSTA 34, as a useful innovation in the research dialogue. It provided an opportunity for greater in-depth consideration of issues and provided a strong basis for the research dialogue meeting which followed it in the SBSTA session itself. It also provided increased opportunity for presentations concerning capacity building and other issues relevant to developing country Parties.

Holding the Workshop directly preceding the SBSTA session meant that additional costs in attendance were minimized. Despite this, however, attendance is still a significant extra cost, particularly for developing country Parties. So while positively assessing the Workshop held in relation to SBSTA 34 and endorsing the concept in general, Australia would caution about this becoming an annual practice due to the significant extra costs entailed. Once every few years, perhaps around the approximate midpoint between IPCC Assessment Reports, might be a reasonable frequency.

### **5. Use of internet and other channels**

Australia supports the exploration and identification of additional ways to accomplish the communication and information sharing objectives of the research dialogue involving the internet and various new media channels. Particularly, greater and more effective use of the UNFCCC site as a channel to make information and research outcomes from research programmes and organisations readily and easily available to Parties at low cost. This could not only include links to copies of formal submissions, as currently, but also links to relevant bulletins from research programmes and organisations outlining scientific advances and/or links to their respective websites.

Other options that could be explored or expanded include:

- webcast (live) and/or vodcast (recorded) presentations from research programmes and organisations, including the research dialogue meeting and any workshops;
- webinars or other interactive web-based sessions;
- use of new media channels for alerting in relation to research results.

Any use of new media would need to be contingent on an analysis of whether use of such channels would disadvantage developing country Parties.

## Paper no. 2: Colombia

### Submission from Colombia with views on research dialogue, including ongoing activities associated modalities and ways to enhance the dialogue (Research and Systematic Observation-SBSTA)

The government of Colombia welcomes this opportunity to present its views on research dialogue, including ongoing activities, associated modalities and ways to enhance the dialogue related to research and systematic observations.

Colombia, through its Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies – IDEAM, has worked over the last 10 years on vulnerability assessments related to climate impacts. Over the last 7 years the country has been developing and implementing specific pilot projects on issues of adaptation to climate change with the support of multilateral and international agencies and the participation of local environmental authorities and NGOs.

The results and lessons learned of these pilot projects made possible to identify lines of research and to enhance the adaptation actions undertaken at the local level. Through this process, the country has gathered some elements and guidance that have served as inputs for the design of the National Adaptation Plan that is now under construction.

As a complement to these processes, IDEAM participates in international initiatives of regional scope in which the experiences and lessons learned from the neighbouring countries have been shared. Colombia has also taken part in cooperation agreements and agendas to support adaptation projects in the region. Nevertheless, the exchange of research and the capacity to implement systematic observation is still weak and needs more enhancement and tools.

Some of the research topics and priority issues to be treated in the research dialogue should include:

- Adaptation Sector: Agriculture in dry climates (arid, semiarid and dry sub-humid), with threat of meteorological drought in the integrated management of water resources
- Tools, methodologies and best practices for assessing vulnerability
- Strengthening ministries and institutions for decision making and project implementation, with support of academia and science, with outcomes of mechanisms that are put in place, that can then be translated into a sub-regional level for their implementation
- Presence of technical experts in the regions, provision and facilitation of data and information – including the following databases and platforms of information (among others):
  - database on financial instruments
  - database on complementary networks and initiatives
  - database of existing information, sources and literature
  - collection of tools, methodologies and best practices,
  - platform for a permanent discussion, knowledge transfer, and technology development

*Ways to improve Knowledge Management at the local level:*

- Research on mountain environments, their relationship with climate (glaciology and study of high mountain ecosystems), and adaptation in mountain ecosystems.
- Liaison between climate models and processes (eg. water)
- Monitoring of impacts of climate change (Glacier Global Monitoring Service, GGMS)
- Natural disasters, risk reduction related to climate change
- Perspectives on issues of human disaster and climate change

*Monitoring tools for biodiversity, carbon stocks:*

- Territorial analysis including land occupation, in order to identify regional and sectoral vulnerabilities for integrated risk management.
- Instruments of territorial and environmental planning: Analysis of prospective scenarios including variability, climate change and socio-economic and cultural aspects.
- Cultural adaptation and climate change.
- Food Security / autonomy / sovereignty and climate change including climate variability.
- Hydro-climatic warning system with community participation.
- Methodologies and protocols for the analysis of impacts of climate change and multi-criteria evaluation incorporating social, political, economic and environmental aspects for the formulation of adaptation measures.
- Design of a methodology and protocol multi-criteria to evaluate the effectiveness of proposed incentives.
- Appropriate technologies for adaptation / mitigation, including cost / benefit of them.
- Intercultural communication and adaptation.
- Public policy and climate change.
- Modelling the information towards statistical, geo-statistical, mathematical and cartographical models.
- Primary information, baseline
- Specific social, cultural and economic data and indicators regarding climate change
- Information on organization, solidarity, social tissue and other community responses to the impacts of climate change
- Impact indicators
- Downscaling methodologies and protocols designed for the national level to the regional levels and the formulation and implementation of adequate adaptation measures
- Systematization of ancestral and native knowledge in order to include them in politics and plans.
- Ecosystem-based adaptation, valuing environmental goods and services in terms of climate change.
- Strengthening of the capacity for the development of GHG emissions inventory

*Integrated water resources management to address climate variability and climate change:*

- Strengthening of the hydro meteorological network of reference supporting the modernization of monitoring instruments for both the record and for making information
- Training and exchanges with international research institutes in terms of experience in the design and implementation of monitoring networks (surface and groundwater) and development of methodologies and modelling of the vulnerability of water resources to climate variability and climate change.
- Strengthening capacity on issues of treatment of hydro meteorological information.
- Information systems and databases management for the development of projects related to the vulnerability of water resources to climate variability and climate change.
- Capacity for the use of specialized equipment and software for modelling.
- Financing regional research projects and modelling

### Paper no. 3: Japan

Submission by the Government of Japan on “Research and systematic observation”

We welcome SBSTA for requesting submission of the future research dialogue to each country because the workshop and research dialogue in the margin of the item “Research and systematic observation” in the 34th session of the SBSTA was extremely meaningful to make clear the outstanding scientific findings and the needs for policy relevant scientific research after the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report (AR4).

We welcome to implement the workshop and research dialogue annually in conjunction with SBSTA sessions.

In the workshop, several topics will be taken up including observation, projection, impact assessment of the climate change in the globe and the region, emission scenario and interdisciplinary climate research. The result of this research will be discussed in the research dialogue, and it is effective way to provide world's latest scientific knowledge to the process of UNFCCC for some time until the issue of the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (AR5).

If the workshop is organized in the item of research and systematic organization in the future session of the SBSTA, Japan is ready to provide the latest result of our climate change projection research, KAKUSHIN program, and the results of Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research as well as other relevant outstanding climate research results. With regard to KAKUSHIN program, Japan can provide the results of major experiments on long-term global change projection, near-term climate prediction and extreme event projection.

On the other hand, it is necessary to minimize the cost for organizing the workshop. From this standpoint, UNFCCC secretariat must consider to ensure the participation of researchers from developing countries by gaining voluntary cooperation from the regional and international programmes and organizations, etc.



## **SUBMISSIONS TO THE UNFCCC-19 September, 2011**

Pakistan appreciate efforts of the Secretariat in moving the climate change agenda forward and their efforts in effective reflection of the views of the Parties to facilitate the ongoing negotiation process. Pakistan would like to make submission on the items below.

### **9. Research and Systematic Observation (SBSTA)**

The Government of Pakistan recognizes the importance of research and development in the field of climate change, which is impacting the lives of more than 170 million population. The Government in 2002 established Global Change Impact Studies Centre (GCISC) as a dedicated Centre for Climate Change research and providing assistance to national planners & policy makers for strategic planning in the wake of climate change. Since that time the GCISC has focused on the following:

- Climate Scenarios for Pakistan
- Impacts on Water Resources
- Impacts on Food Security
- Adaptation Measures

The on-going research activities of GCISC are based on the following:

- Dynamical downscaling of GCM scenarios using Regional Climate Models;
- Development of climate extreme indices for the South Asia region together with predictability of extreme events;
- Development of seasonal, inter-annual and decadal predictability systems.
- Prediction of crop yields under various climatic conditions, using Crop Growth Simulation Models;
- Assessment of Food Security and Water Security in Pakistan under Climate Change scenarios;
- Analysis of past hydro-meteorological data;
- Development of capacity to monitor temporal changes in Karakoram glaciers;
- Application of watershed models to simulate the flows of major rivers in Pakistan and to assess the impact of CC on their flows;
- Assessment of CC impacts on glaciers and river flows.
- Development of GHG inventory for Pakistan

The aforementioned research activities are not only shared with all stakeholders in Pakistan through seminars and conferences but are also taken to the grass roots level through various NGOs in the form of dissemination products in local languages. Moreover, the Government is encouraging initiatives for cross learning and exchange of information through visits and participation of the relevant scientists/researchers to present their findings and reports in seminars, conferences and workshops within the country and abroad.

## **SUBMISSION BY POLAND AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES**

**This submission is supported by Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey.**

**Warsaw, 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2011**

**Subject: Research and Systematic observation: research dialogue**

**Submission on views on the research dialogue, including on-going activities, associated modalities and ways to enhance the dialogue (decision FCCC/SBSTA/2011/L.4)**

### **1. Introduction and General Comments**

The European Union and its 27 Member States (EU), welcome the conclusions of SBSTA at its thirty-fourth session (FCCC/SBSTA/2011/L.4) and the invitation to submit views on the research dialogue, including on-going activities, associated modalities and ways to enhance the dialogue. The EU acknowledges the importance of science for informing UNFCCC negotiations and ensuring that decision-making on climate change is based on the best available scientific knowledge. This is primarily provided periodically by the assessment reports of the IPCC.. We note that the outputs of research programmes are essential for the IPCC and are of relevance to many ongoing areas of work under the Convention, and will be highly relevant to the upcoming 2013-2015 review under the LCA.

To this effect, it is imperative to continue to ensure there is regular dissemination and discussion of the findings of climate change research and systematic observation initiatives. At the same time, it is necessary to provide increased opportunities for interactions between scientists and policy-makers in order to enhance the policy relevance of research efforts and to ensure that results are adequately communicated and continuously fed into the policy-making process. The EU considers that the Research Dialogue has provided a suitable means for doing this.

### **2. Success of the Research Dialogue**

The EU considers that the Research Dialogue has been a highly effective vehicle for facilitating dialogue between research programmes and policy makers. Successful dialogue sessions since SBSTA 28 have allowed research organisations to update policy makers, and policy makers to communicate their research priorities to those organisations. In addition, the additional workshop held in advance of SBSTA 34 afforded excellent opportunity for more in-depth discussion of these issues.

The EU welcomes the active participation of regional and international climate change research programmes and organisations in the dialogue and associated workshops and thanks these organisations for their useful contributions to date.

### **3. Options to further enhance the Research Dialogue**

Further to the success of the workshop held in advance of SBSTA 34, the EU would welcome additional opportunities for in-depth discussion. The timing of such sessions should reflect the pace of emerging research findings for example after publication of the Fifth Assessment Report of the IPCC. Parties should be invited to submit topics for consideration in advance of such workshops.

As new international research programmes develop, the EU would welcome their inclusion in the research dialogue process. For example an update from WMO on the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) would be timely.

The EU notes that the UNFCCC website has provided opportunity for Parties to learn about the outputs of research programmes and invites the Secretariat to continue to develop this source of information.

### **4. A possible COP decision**

In line with recent developments in the research dialogue, and reflecting the crucial importance of research and its communication for the work of the Convention, the EU proposes to update COP Decision 9/CP.11 (2005) at COP17, to reflect the success of the research dialogue, and the importance of its continuation. This short Decision should note the contribution of the research dialogue to the work of the UNFCCC and to the identification of research needs for the International Research Bodies, formally recognise the participation of the research bodies in the dialogue, and endorse continuation of the dialogue.

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