

Decision 2/CP.11

Five-year programme of work of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decisions 1/CP.8, 11/CP.9 and 1/CP.10,

Noting that adaptation to climate change and its adverse effects is of high priority for all countries and that developing countries, especially the least developed countries and small island developing States, are particularly vulnerable,

Noting further the increasing body and evolving nature of scientific knowledge, including new information about significant changes in the Arctic and other areas, and of practical experiences responding to adaptation needs,

Reaffirming that responses to climate change should be coordinated with social and economic development in an integrated manner with a view to avoiding adverse impacts on the latter, taking into full account the legitimate priority needs of developing countries for the achievement of sustained economic growth and the eradication of poverty,

Recognizing and encouraging the activities relating to impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change undertaken by Parties and relevant international and regional organizations and institutions, and the importance of local and indigenous knowledge,

Noting that the five-year programme of work of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change is of broad concern to all Parties,

Having considered the recommendations of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice at its twenty-third session,

1. *Adopts* the five-year programme of work of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change (hereinafter referred to as the programme of work) as contained in the annex to this decision;
2. *Decides* that the programme of work should be undertaken consistent with the terms of reference of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice as referred to in Article 9 of the Convention;
3. *Urges* all Parties to participate in the implementation of the programme of work;
4. *Requests* Parties in a position to do so to support the implementation of the programme of work;
5. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, under the guidance of its Chair and with the assistance of the secretariat, to coordinate the implementation of the programme of work, subject to the availability of resources;
6. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice:
 - (a) To start the implementation of the programme of work by undertaking the initial activities specified in the conclusions of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice at its twenty-third session;
 - (b) To consider and further elaborate, at its twenty-fourth session (May 2006), additional activities and modalities of the programme of work, including the timing of these activities and the possible need for and role that a group or groups of experts could have

in the implementation of the programme of work, based on the draft indicative list of activities in an annex to the final report of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice at its twenty-third session;

- (c) To consider at subsequent sessions the results of initial activities and to provide guidance, as appropriate, on further action;
- (d) To consider, at its twenty-eighth session (June 2008), further activities as well as appropriate timing and modalities for their inclusion in the programme of work based on the results of the initial activities, information presented in the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and other new scientific information, as well as relevant activities from international and regional institutions;
- (e) To review and report on the programme of work to the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth session (December 2010).

ANNEX

Five-year programme of work of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change

I. Objective

1. The objective of this programme of work of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) is to assist all Parties, in particular developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island developing States, to improve their understanding and assessment of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation, and to make informed decisions on practical adaptation actions and measures to respond to climate change on a sound, scientific, technical and socio-economic basis, taking into account current and future climate change and variability.

II. Expected outcome

2. The expected outcomes of the programme of work are:

(a) Enhanced capacity at international, regional, national, sectoral and local levels to further identify and understand impacts, vulnerability, and adaptation responses, and to select and implement practical, effective and high priority adaptation actions;

(b) Improved information and advice to the Conference of the Parties (COP) and its subsidiary bodies on the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation, including facilitating the implementation of decision 1/CP.10, where relevant;

(c) Enhanced development, dissemination and use of knowledge from practical adaptation activities;

(d) Enhanced cooperation among Parties, relevant organizations, business, civil society and decision makers, aimed at enhancing their ability to manage climate change risks;

(e) Enhanced integration of actions to adapt to climate change with sustainable development.

III. Scope of work

3. The programme of work comprises two thematic areas, each with several action-oriented sub-themes:

(a) Impacts and vulnerability:

(i) Promoting development and dissemination of methodologies and tools for impact and vulnerability assessments, such as rapid assessments and bottom-up approaches, including as they apply to sustainable development;

(ii) Improving collection, management, exchange, access to and use of observational data and other relevant information on current and historical climate and its impacts, and promoting improvement of observations, including the monitoring of climate variability;

(iii) Promoting the development of, access to, and use of information and data on projected climate change;

(iv) Promoting understanding of impacts of, and vulnerability to, climate change, current and future climate variability and extreme events, and the implications for sustainable development;

(v) Promoting the availability of information on the socio-economic aspects of climate change and improving the integration of socio-economic information into impact and vulnerability assessments;

- (b) Adaptation planning, measures and actions:
 - (i) Promoting the development and dissemination of methods and tools for assessment and improvement of adaptation planning, measures and actions, and integration with sustainable development;
 - (ii) Collecting, analysing and disseminating information on past and current practical adaptation actions and measures, including adaptation projects, short- and long-term adaptation strategies, and local and indigenous knowledge;
 - (iii) Promoting research on adaptation options and the development and diffusion of technologies, know-how and practices for adaptation, particularly addressing identified adaptation priorities and building on lessons learned from current adaptation projects and strategies;
 - (iv) Facilitating communication and cooperation among and between Parties and relevant organizations, business, civil society and decision makers, and other stakeholders;
 - (v) Promoting understanding and the development and dissemination of measures, methodologies and tools including for economic diversification aimed at increasing economic resilience and reducing reliance on vulnerable economic sectors, especially for relevant categories of countries listed in Article 4, paragraph 8, of the Convention.

4. The programme of work will be implemented through specific activities under each sub-theme. The implementation of such activities should incorporate the following cross-cutting issues:

- (a) Methodologies, data and modelling
- (b) Integration into sustainable development.

5. The work should draw on relevant information and activities under the Convention, as well as information from, and activities being undertaken in, other relevant international, regional and other organizations.

IV. Modalities

6. The modalities for implementation of the programme of work, depending on the nature of the specific activities and availability of resources, may include:

- (a) Workshops and meetings;
- (b) The drawing on of knowledge, expertise and input from experts, practitioners and relevant organizations, including to prepare reports and other materials for considerations by Parties and the SBSTA;
- (c) The building on and/or updating of relevant existing compendiums and web-based resources;
- (d) Targeted submissions, including those based on questionnaires, from Parties and organizations;
- (e) Reports and technical papers, assessments prepared by the secretariat, Convention expert groups or experts from other organizations;
- (f) Other modalities, such as a group or groups of experts, upon agreement by the SBSTA.