



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, 23rd 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.