Submission by South Africa

Views from Parties on possible items for consideration as part of the research dialogue during SBSTA 38

25 March 2013

South Africa welcomes the opportunity to provide views on topics to be discussed at the research dialogue. The research dialogues have provided a valuable and productive opportunity for parties to engage directly in the scientific and technical aspects relating to important agenda items, and to explore these in open discussion amongst themselves and with the immediate involvement of scientific experts.

With this in mind, South Africa suggests that the research dialogue during SBSTA 38 should emphasize the following topics:

- Emerging research outcomes including from developing countries on emissions from sources and removal by sinks in both terrestrial and marine ecosystems, and particularly the role of vegetation cover change and wildfire, and how these, and their broader implications, might be better observed, quantified, modelled and projected.

- Information on the latest Special Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to advance Climate Change Adaptation.

- Updated climate information such as that on future climate scenarios from Coupled Model Intercomparison Project Phase 5 (CMIP5) and Coordinated Regional Climate Downscaling Experiment (CORDEX). In particular, we are keen to be informed about how these new efforts are contributing to reducing uncertainties relative to the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report (AR4) , especially for Africa, and about the known limitations of these approaches and how these relate to potentially underestimating future climate risk.

Other aspects may include

- Climate change model projections downscaled to regional and where possible higher resolution, and the appropriateness of using downscaled climate projection information to support decision making at finer scale, especially given the relationship between finer scale of projections and increasing uncertainty.

- Relating to the above point, information on how best to quantify and represent uncertainties in climate model projections, to represent these in impacts projections, and to manage the implications
- Improving quantifying the implications of drought, land use, land degradation and land management for land-based carbon sources and sinks
- Management of risks associated with emission from sources and removal by sinks in consideration of vulnerability to impacts by sources and assimilative capacity of sinks respectively
- Relevant research aspects under the Global Framework for Climate Services and Global Ocean Observing System