

SWITZERLAND

SBSTA 22, Bonn, 19-27 May 2005

Statement under the SBSTA agenda 3 :

Scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of impacts of, and vulnerability and adaptation to, climate change

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to make some specific proposals for the content of the structured 5-year program of work on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change.

First of all we would like to point out that the national circumstances of Parties are very diverse and therefore it may be difficult to cover all particular needs under the 5-year program of work that the SBSTA will adopt.

Nevertheless, decision 1/CP.10 will allow us to define elements of the programme of work that may be of interest to all Parties. We also would like to mention that decision 1/CP.10 requests the SBSTA to work in the context of its terms of reference that are to identify options, assess them and advise the COP, in this case on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change.

Switzerland is situated in the mountainous region of the Alps and the Jura, an environment that is very sensitive to the impacts of climate change. Switzerland has therefore much experience on matters related to natural dangers in this particular environment. This experience extends to mountains, waters, snow, glaciers, permafrost, forests, as well as tourism and other economic activities in the alpine environment, in particular the generation of electricity from hydropower.

We are willing to share our experience on adaptation in these sectors with other Parties.

For the 5-year program of work that the SBSTA will adopt, our proposals are the following :

- **On methodologies, data and modeling:**
We propose that the Secretariat make available to all Parties in the most efficient way information on methodological and modeling tools to evaluate impacts, vulnerability and adaptation options. The Secretariat should also identify and maintain list and addresses of sources of data. In our view, this work has to be considered as a permanent effort during the next five years, and should be conducted in consultation with other relevant bodies. The Secretariat should also aim at collecting experience of users of these methodological and modeling tools and data and make it available to the SBSTA.
- **We propose to establish a theme on “response to the threat posed by natural hazards arising from climate variability and climate change”.**
The rationale is that it is expected that climate change will increase the intensity and the frequency of natural hazards such as those related to the hydrological cycle, to the wind regime, etc.. And these hazards will cause high human and property losses. Therefore, we propose that the structured 5-year program of work consider how to respond to natural hazards arising from climate variability and climate change.
- **A third element of the structured 5-year program of work should reflect on sectoral impacts of climate change.**
We propose to consider both ecosystems and managed and economic systems. Under this heading Parties should aim at exchanging information and experience on adopted and planned measures for adaptation. Given its importance for the climate system as well as for human development, we propose to start considering the cryosphere, the hydrological cycle and water management. The sectoral approach should allow us to review impacts and actions in a number of sectors and consider how integration in sustainable development is addressed by Parties.
- **Finally, we would like to point out that a number of international organizations are active in matters related to adaptation and that they could contribute to the work of the SBSTA on this issue.**

We think, *inter alia*, of the recently established Global Earth Observation (GEO) with its Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS). Of course, there are also a number of organizations with which the SBSTA should consider exchanging information and experience on adaptation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.