Science and an effective response to climate change

Research Dialogue - SBSTA32

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Some key science challenges

UNFCCC

- Accord seeks to keep warming below 2°C, with option to 1.5°C – what are implications for emissions pathways?
- Improved assessment of risks of tipping points, amplification of changes and irreversibility;
- Improved quantification of negative impacts, including socio-economic aspects and regional risks.
- Improved understanding of adaptation processes, including practical tools and methods.
- Options for achieving low-emission future.
- Improve understanding role of short lived species – including black carbon
- Improving cost estimates for adaptation and mitigation.

CAPACITY

- Developing country participation in science improving but still too limited. Welcome efforts of START and those of regional programmes. Are there plans to do more?

Confidence and Communication

SCIENCE AND POLITICS

- Recognise science caught up in a political debate – and public confidence in climate science has fallen.
- IPCC essential to the UNFCCC – importance of IAC review.
- Importance of transparency in science.
- Are scientists from other disciplines sufficiently informed about climate change?

COMMUNICATION

- Need to communicate science clearly and effectively.
- Be clear what we do know and what uncertainties mean.
- Multiple voices helps build confidence
- Actively counter misinformation.

PROCESS

- Need to strengthen process/ auditing/ standards and reproducibility.
- Support scientists who are misrepresented or worse!

Enhance the dialogue

- Continue annual meetings through SBSTA.
- Presentation of emerging results to COP16 and beyond.
- Consider workshop for an in depth exchange of ideas?
- Consider ways for further communication with negotiators.