

DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGIES

Draft text of proceedings and conclusions by the Chairman

1. Proceedings

1. The Subsidiary for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) considered this item at its 6th and 12th meetings, on 4 and 12 June, respectively. It had before it the following documents: FCCC/SBSTA/1998/5, FCCC/SBSTA/1998/INF.2, FCCC/SBSTA/1998/INF.5 and FCCC/SBSTA/1998/MISC.4. The Chairman recalled that, for technical reasons, document FCCC/TP/1998/1 would not be available at the current session. Instead, the document would be presented to the SBSTA at its ninth session.

2. At the 6th meeting on 4 June, a statement was made by the Vice-Chairman of the International Energy Agency (IEA) Energy and Environmental Technologies Information Centres (EETIC). The SBSTA welcomed the statement that the IEA/OECD GREENTIE will accept information from all Parties in its database of companies and products to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, and, in particular, the invitation to participants from developing countries to attend its annual meetings, and the investigation of channels of support for participation by developing countries and countries with economies in transition. The SBSTA also encouraged other organizations involved in similar activities from other sectors to provide information on those activities.

2. Conclusions

4. The SBSTA noted with appreciation the progress report on development and transfer of technologies prepared by the secretariat (FCCC/SBSTA/1998/5), the report on technology and technology information needs arising from the survey of developing country Parties (FCCC/SBSTA/1998/INF.5), the report on the options for technology information centres and networks (FCCC/SBSTA/1998/INF.2) and the final report of the survey of technology and technology information needs prepared by the University of Amsterdam (IVAM Environmental Research).

5. The SBSTA noted the results of the expanded technology and technology needs survey, and in particular:

(a) Agreed that the identification of technology and technology information needs at the country level is an important step in relation to the improvement and/or development of modalities for the diffusion and transfer of and access to those technologies, particularly for developing countries;

(b) Noted that the national communications of non-Annex I Parties are an important means of identifying technology and technology information needs to facilitate [adequate adaptation to climate change] [the implementation of their obligations under the Convention], and urged non-Annex I Parties to identify their financial and technological needs in accordance with decision 10/CP.2, paragraph 20;

(c) Requested the SBI in considering additional guidance to the Global Environment Facility (GEF), to take note that priority should be given to the need to build capacity in developing countries to identify and analyse technology and technology information needs; and

(d) Urged Annex II Parties to continue to provide support to non-Annex I Parties to identify and assess their technology and technology information needs.

6. The SBSTA requested the secretariat to prepare an initial draft of a work programme on the development and transfer of technology for the ninth session, and in so doing, to consult with other relevant international organizations and bodies. It also requested the Chairman of the SBSTA to convene informal open-ended consultations on these questions at its ninth session.

7. The SBSTA took up the question of technology information centres and enhancing support for national or regional centres but was not able to reach a consensus. Views put forward by several Parties during the discussions were made available in document FCCC/SBSTA/1998/MISC.5. The SBSTA decided to continue the discussion of this matter at its ninth session with the intention of forwarding its conclusions for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth session (COP 4).

8. Having considered the positive experience drawn from the technology round table, held during COP 3, involving the participation of Parties as well as the business community, international organizations and relevant non-governmental organizations, the SBSTA requested the secretariat to organize another such event in conjunction with COP 4 focused on the analysis of barriers to the development and transfer of technology (in both Annex I and non-Annex I Parties) and on the identification and elimination of these barriers in order to facilitate the development and transfer of technology.

9. The SBSTA requested the SBI to take note that the Conference of the Parties at its fourth session should review the implementation of Article 4.5 and 4.1(c) of the Convention as a separate agenda item in accordance with decision 13/CP.1.

10. The SBSTA noted the secretariat activities on terms of transfer of technology and know-how and urged the secretariat to complete the technical paper on barriers and opportunities related to the transfer of technology to developing countries for the ninth session.

11. The SBSTA took note of the secretariat's preliminary analysis of adaptation technologies and encouraged the secretariat to continue its work on different adaptation topics.

12. The SBSTA took note of the submission by the Group of 77 and China of draft decisions regarding technology development and transfer, and capacity building (FCCC/SBSTA/1998/CRP.1).

13. The SBSTA invited Parties to provide, by 15 August 1998, for compilation into a miscellaneous document, their views regarding:

(a) Technology development and transfer, and capacity building; and

(b) The tasks described in document FCCC/SB/1997/1, and any additional tasks, as well as the strategic focus of the secretariat's work programme on the development and transfer of technologies (see para. 6).

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