



SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Eighteenth session

Bonn, 4–13 June 2003

Agenda item 7

RESEARCH AND SYSTEMATIC OBSERVATION

Draft conclusions proposed by the Chair

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) welcomed the *Second Report on the Adequacy of the Global Observing Systems for Climate in Support of the UNFCCC* (second adequacy report)¹ prepared under the guidance of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) steering committee, and acknowledged the work of those involved in its preparation.
2. The SBSTA took note of document FCCC/SBSTA/2003/9 and welcomed the oral report of the Chair of the SBSTA on the exchange of views and the presentations given at the pre-sessional consultations organized by the secretariat.
3. The SBSTA noted that the second adequacy report provides an opportunity to build momentum among governments to improve the global observing systems for climate, but that work remains to be done to identify priorities for actions, to remedy deficiencies within the domain-based networks, and to estimate the cost implications. It noted that approaches to establishing these priorities should involve a wide range of user communities, and that the GCOS provides the global-scale context for regional and national activities.
4. The SBSTA noted that the GCOS steering committee report² to the SBSTA at its eighteenth session identified four overarching and equally high-priority recommendations relating to observing standards and data exchange, integrated global climate-quality products, capacity-building and systems improvements, and the issue of reporting by Parties, and agreed to consider these recommendations in its further work.
5. The SBSTA noted that there have been improvements and progress in implementing global observing systems for climate, especially in the use of satellite information and in the provision of some ocean observations. Many components of the global terrestrial networks are, however, still not fully implemented, the global ocean networks lack full coverage and commitment to sustained operation, and the global atmospheric networks are not operating with the required global coverage and quality.

¹ Available as report no. GCOS-82 at <http://www.wmo.ch/web/gcos/gcoshome.html>

² "Report to SBSTA 18 from the GCOS steering committee regarding the Second Report on the Adequacy of the Global Observing Systems for Climate", available at <http://www.wmo.ch/web/gcos/gcoshome.html>

6. The SBSTA noted that the generation and exchange of high-quality data and products are essential to meeting the needs of the Convention. It urged Parties to address, as a high priority, the following two types of problem that affect the availability of data, as identified in the second adequacy report:

(a) Many data are not being collected or, if collected at the national level, are not being received by global data centres;

(b) Valuable historical data sets exist, but have not been digitized and quality-controlled.

7. To better understand the barriers to improving the receipt, at global data centres, of data from atmospheric and hydrological networks, the SBSTA invited the GCOS secretariat to prepare, in consultation with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), an analysis of specific problems and of options to remedy them, for consideration by the SBSTA at its twentieth session. The SBSTA further invited the GCOS secretariat to comment, in its report, on the accessibility of data from global data centres.

8. The SBSTA also noted that the global observing systems for climate are not designed to meet all of the needs of the community concerned with climate change impacts. To address this and related issues, future planning activities by Parties and intergovernmental organizations should examine the potential to enhance links with, or establish, specialized networks in regions vulnerable to climate change.

9. The SBSTA requested Parties to submit, by 15 September 2003, views on the priorities for actions arising from the second adequacy report, with particular reference to the above-mentioned GCOS steering committee report to the SBSTA at its eighteenth session, as a further step towards the development by the GCOS secretariat of an implementation plan for integrated global observations for climate, and requested the secretariat to compile these submissions into a miscellaneous document. The SBSTA also requested the GCOS secretariat to prepare a synthesis of these submissions and to forward this synthesis to the secretariat for consideration by the SBSTA at its nineteenth session.

10. The SBSTA agreed to consider, at its nineteenth session, the draft decision contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2003/L.4/Add.1, with the aim of forwarding it for adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its ninth session.
