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

**Views on the five-year programme of work of the
Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice on the
scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of impacts of,
and vulnerability and adaptation to, climate change**

Submissions from Parties

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), by its decision 1/CP.10, requested the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) to develop a structured five-year programme of work on the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, which would address the following issues: methodologies, data and modelling; vulnerability assessments; adaptation planning, measures and actions; and integration into sustainable development in the context of the terms of reference of the SBSTA as referred to in Article 9 of the Convention.
2. The COP invited Parties to submit to the secretariat, by 31 March 2005, their views on the work programme and requested the secretariat to compile these views into a miscellaneous document for consideration by the SBSTA at its twenty-second session.
3. The secretariat received 11 such submissions. In accordance with the procedure for miscellaneous documents, these submissions are reproduced* in the language in which they were received and without formal editing.

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FCCC/SBSTA/2005/MISC.3

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** This submission is supported by Bulgaria, Croatia and Romania.

PAPER NO. 1: ARGENTINA

Decision 1/CP.10

Buenos Aires programme of work on adaptation and response measures

ARGENTINA

The Government of Argentina, according to paragraph 25 of Decision 1/CP.10, submits the following points of view related to the development of structured five-year programme of work by SBSTA on the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change.

For Argentina, this Work Programme, established by COP 10, should include the following elements:

a) Data and methodologies:

Gathering and assessment of climate and socio-economic data necessary to evaluate vulnerability; oversight of the Implementation Plan for the Global Observing System; building scientific capacity, particularly in developing countries.

b) Vulnerability assessments

Improving regional modeling (downscaling) and scenario building; participatory involvement of stakeholders in the vulnerability assessment process.

c) Adaptation planning

Selecting and prioritizing of regions/sectors; formulating concrete adaptation actions; early warning mechanisms; dialogue with the disaster scientific communities.

d) Integration into sustainable development

Scientific and technological aspects of the incorporation of adaptation policies and activities into national and sectoral development plans and business practices; public awareness; integrating climate risk within infrastructure investments by funding agencies.

e) Adaptation Actions

Scientific and technological aspects of the development of national programs for implementing adaptation projects identified during the planning processes; enhancing disaster management systems; promotion and incentives for the transfer of adaptation technologies; dialogue with the insurance industry; adaptation activities within the national communications; identification and preparation of projects for financing adaptation activities.

PAPER NO. 2: BANGLADESH ON BEHALF OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES GROUP

SBSTA's five-year Work Program on the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change.

Submission from Bangladesh (on behalf of the of the LDC Group)

Under Decision 1/CP.10 (para 23), the Conference of Parties “requests the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice to develop a structured five-year programme of work on the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, which would address the following issues: methodologies, data and modelling; vulnerability assessments; adaptation planning, measures and actions; and integration into sustainable development in the context of the terms of reference of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice as referred to in Article 9 of the Convention.”

Decision 1/CP.10 (para 25) also requests Parties to submit their views on the SBSTA work program. Bangladesh, on behalf of the LDC Group, welcomes this opportunity to provide input into the future work of SBSTA and wishes to submit the following views.

General

We suggest that, in general, the future SBSTA work program should support the Buenos Aires Programme of Work on Adaptation and Response Measures as agreed in 1/CP.10. It also should, however, be seen as an opportunity to support elements of previous COP decisions, which have not been implemented yet.

The SBSTA work programme should focus on further developing and improving methodologies for vulnerability assessments and adaptation planning especially in those countries that will be most affected by climate change impacts. This will require improvements in data collection and analysis in many LDCs and integration of climate data with other data, for example hydrological data, data on land use and data on agriculture. While climate change models for use at the regional level have been developed, these regional models require further improvements.

We wish to point out that in many LDCs such measures need to go hand in hand with capacity building measures, for example for meteorological and hydrological services and for climate change focal points. Furthermore, SBSTA's work on adaptation will only be meaningful to LDCs if it addresses the development and transfer of appropriate technology, especially technologies that assist in adaptation processes and in adaptation to changing environments.

Therefore, we suggest that SBSTA consider capacity building and development and transfer of adaptation technology as guiding principles for the entire work programme.

In more detail we suggest that SBSTA consider the following measures for inclusion in its future work program:

Methodologies, Data and Modelling

- Develop research & training programmes in regional/national centers in the Non-Annex-1 Countries (NA1Cs)/LDCs on application of downscaling tools of General Circulation Models (GCM).
- Develop easy-to-use and user-friendly manuals of appropriate statistical downscaling models (SDSM) for estimating climate change impacts at regional & national levels.

- Develop and further improve climate change models that can be run with limited informational, technological and human capacity; and design of dissemination strategies for these models, including capacity-building measures.
- Identify obstacles for the application and dissemination of such models in the LDC context and suggest ways to overcome the obstacles.
- Develop and further improve appropriate tools to assess the *risks* associated with climate change and variability in the LDC context.
- Specify the needs of specific data and information for downscaling the GCMs and estimation of risks from climate variations & suggest ways to improve their generation, collection and analysis.
- Develop appropriate mechanisms to involve more LDC experts in the IPCC process, particularly in their works for impact assessment methods and models.
- Develop appropriate training programmes for experts of LDC meteorological and hydrological services

Vulnerability Assessments

- Identify appropriate indicators of vulnerability of biophysical systems to climate change and variability.
- Identify and further develop the indicators of vulnerability of socio-economic systems of the LDCs, particularly of their food security systems.
- Develop easy-to-use and user-friendly manuals of Forecasting by Analogy, composite Vulnerability Indices and Livelihood Sensitivity Exercise for training of LDC analysts.
- Promote research and marketing of flood and drought resistant food and cash crop varieties at regional and national centers of the LDCs.
- Improve systems of monitoring of diseases and vectors affected by climate change and in this context, improve methods for disease control and prevention.
- Develop tools to assess the social and economic costs of impacts of and vulnerabilities to climate change and variability by economic sectors, as well as on national & regional scales in the NA1C context.
- Prepare and disseminate an easy-to-use training manual on methods of estimating socio-economic costs of climate variations.

Adaptation Planning, Measures and Actions

- Develop and further improve appropriate planning and decision-making tools to assist NA1Cs/LDCs to assess and implement appropriate adaptation measures and actions;
- Prepare and disseminate easy-to-use manuals for training in adaptation planning techniques, including for Adaptation Decision Matrix (ADM), UNDP Adaptation Policy Framework, and Tools

for Environmental Assessment and Management (TEAM), which include, among other issues, the cost-benefit, cost effectiveness and multi-criteria analyses.

- Develop mechanisms for sharing and dissemination of best and emerging practices in adaptation.
- Develop methodologies that assist LDCs in identifying new agricultural products, which are suitable to changing environments resulting from climate change impacts, and their market potentials.
- Design, testing and dissemination of simple tools for adaptation technology assessments.
- Specify and assess the mitigation and adaptation measures that will bring in simultaneous benefits.
- Assess the economic costs and benefits of adaptation technologies including their externalities, as appropriate to the LDCs & their social acceptability.
- Develop appropriate indicators for ensuring effective *interface* between the facilitation and implementation types of adaptation measures; the former refers to activities that enhance *adaptive capacity*, thereby improving the conditions for the implementation of adaptation measures, such as raising of public awareness, stakeholder participation, capacity building at various levels and agencies for adaptation planning, establishment of appropriate institutions, information networks, policy and legal frameworks etc.; on the other hand, the latter refers to activities that actually avoid adverse climate *impacts* on a system by reducing its *exposure* or *sensitivity* to climatic hazards, or by moderating *non-climatic factors*.
- Study the socio-economic and institutional feasibility of micro-insurance and other financial hedging tools for management of risks from extreme climatic events, such as floods, cyclones, storm surges etc.
- Suggest appropriate ways and means of monitoring and evaluation of adaptation measures and actions.

Integration into Sustainable Development

- Suggest appropriate means of integrating adaptation planning and disaster management for floods, cyclones, drought, storm surges etc.
- Specify a generic set of adaptation measures and actions that are complementary to and will produce real benefits in support of sustainable development.
- Initiate research on analyzing the relationship between adaptation measures and sustainable development efforts from the prism of poverty reduction.
- Assess the costs and benefits of integration/mainstreaming of adaptation measures into sustainable development efforts.

PAPER NO. 3: CANADA

Submission by the Government of Canada

Views on the five-year programme of work on the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change

In Decision 1/CP.10, the Conference of the Parties requested the SBSTA to develop a structured five-year programme of work on the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, addressing methodologies, data and modeling, vulnerability assessment, adaptation planning, measures and actions and integration into sustainable development. Canada welcomes the opportunity to provide our views on this wide range of interrelated issues.

Canada recognizes that all Parties will experience social, economic and environmental impacts resulting from changing climate, and that sharing of knowledge and experience related to adaptation is of benefit to both developed and developing countries. We commend the Secretariat for its organization of the adaptation workshops that were held at SBSTA20 and SBSTA 21, and believe that the information exchanged through those workshops and associated reports help provide focus for the new programme of work.

The expert presentations at the previous SBSTA workshops, as well as recent workshops and reports of other organizations demonstrate that there is an abundance of ongoing activities related to vulnerability and adaptation. We note that the Fourth Assessment Report of the IPCC, to be completed in 2007, will be key to understanding of this issue.

Canada looks forward to the in-session workshop that will be held during SBSTA22 to facilitate development of the programme of work. We believe the work programme should promote practical analysis and methodological work that will benefit all countries in adapting to climate change. In that vein, we note that methodologies, data, research and modeling are all important considerations, and there is need for discussion and progress in all of these areas. However, there is a tendency to stress the importance of climate data and modeling capacity, while some of the most significant knowledge gaps relate to socio-economic data and scenario development. Hence it is important that the programme of work consider these broader data and modeling needs at some point, while recognizing that they do not preclude our ability to start taking adaptation actions.

While the SBSTA has identified the above range of issues as important, it may be very challenging to make substantial progress on all of the issues included in the work programme over a five-year period if we begin with too broad a programme. It would be helpful for Parties to identify priorities upon which they would place initial focus, anticipating that the programme of work will evolve based on the rapidly growing understanding of these issues and on discussions in the SBSTA. We offer the following as potential areas of focus and discussion at the upcoming session.

Vulnerability and Adaptive Capacity Assessment

Assessment of vulnerability is a fundamental starting point in consideration of adaptation strategies. However, it cannot be properly understood in isolation from assessment of adaptive capacity. While there have been numerous presentations and papers in recent years dealing with the former, these tend to emphasize assessment of exposure to climate change and sensitivity of systems, while the key issue of assessing adaptive capacity remains less well understood. This is in spite of the fact that assessment of adaptive capacity is critical to ensuring that investments in adaptation are maximized with respect to reducing vulnerability.

Activities under this theme could start by requesting the Secretariat to provide a paper summarizing recent research on, and established methodologies for, assessing adaptive capacity as well as strategies for enhancing adaptive capacity. This work would need to include establishing agreed upon definitions of key terms related to climate change adaptation. Additional adaptation research addressing key knowledge gaps identified through the Fourth Assessment Report of the IPCC would likely be needed to inform future activities.

Adaptation Planning and Measurement

Adaptation should involve integration of climate change considerations into a wide range of relevant national and sectoral planning and policy processes. Many of the tools that will be critical for adaptation planning are the means of dealing with uncertainty in both climate and socio-economic conditions, which will always be significant when considering climate change. Examination of existing risk management-based tools, and their ability to incorporate climate change with other stressors, would be useful to facilitate discussion of adaptation planning and mainstreaming.

There is also a need for results-based measures of climate change adaptation, as highlighted in the Dehli Declaration. While linked to measures of sustainable development, there is need to establish specific measures that will reflect changes in vulnerability to climate change. These measures are needed by all parties to establish a baseline and evaluate the effectiveness of adaptation investments. A review of recent literature that compiles and begins to assess potential measures is a necessary first task.

Integration into Sustainable Development

There are multiple linkages between adaptation and sustainable development. Adaptation can help to remove the barriers posed by climate change to achieving sustainability. Progress in development may be undermined by climate change and the resulting damage and losses. Climate change compounds the multiple risks faced by society, and thus adaptation will occur in response to many different factors.

Successful integration of climate change adaptation into sustainable development planning provides practical ways to reduce vulnerability, increase adaptive capacity and alleviate poverty. We would like to see continued exchange of practical experiences on this topic, as started at the SBSTA 21 adaptation workshop, as a means of moving this issue forward within the programme of work. Discussion of institutional, and other, barriers that inhibit integration of climate change adaptation into sustainable development, and the means of overcoming these barriers, should also be included. In addition, it is critical to address these issues in cooperation with other multilateral environmental agreements and intergovernmental organizations dealing with poverty eradication, trade, finance and development assistance.

Canada looks forward to engaging in the ongoing development of the five-year programme of work under the SBSTA. We are confident that the outcomes of this programme will also contribute substantively to the activities of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, as well as to the efforts of individual Parties in developing and implementing their adaptation strategies and programmes.

**China's Views on Five-year Programme of Work
on the Scientific, Technical and Socio-economic Aspects of Impacts of, and
Vulnerability and Adaptation to, Climate Change**

China welcomes the opportunity to express its views on five-year programme of work on the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of impacts of, and vulnerability and adaptation to, climate change, as referred to in paragraph 1 and paragraph 2, respectively, of FCCC/SBSTA/2004/L.31, and Decision 1/CP.10 (Buenos Aires programme of work on adaptation and response measures). In response to this request, China is of the opinion that we need to:

I. Methodologies, data and modeling

1. Facilitate the data collection and information gathering; share data and information among Parties;
2. Improve the availability of, and access to global and regional climate models, and provide training, financial and technical assistance to non-Annex I parties for the development and application of climate scenarios at regional and national levels;
3. Improve the availability of, and access to impact assessment models, and provide training, financial and technical assistance to non-Annex I parties for their impact assessment at regional and national levels;
4. Promote the development of methodologies, models or tools related to the integrated climate change impact and vulnerability assessment across all relevant sectors, and for environmental management relating to climate

change; and provide technical training on such models and/or tools for developing countries;

5. Urge GEF to provide full financial support to developing countries on research activities related to methodologies, data and modeling of impact of, and vulnerability and adaptation to climate change;

II. Impact and vulnerability assessments

6. Improve the application and utilization of the assessment models/tools for impact of, and vulnerability to climate change, at regional and national levels, in particular for developing countries, by providing training and other technical assistance, and financial support to developing countries;
7. Assess possible impact of extreme weather and climate events caused by climate change;
8. Share information and experiences among Parties through technical workshops on impact and vulnerability assessment, and increase the accuracy of such assessments by improving data collections, models/tools, etc;

III. Adaptation planning, measures and actions

9. Provide technical assistance and training to developing countries for the development of adaptation planning;
10. Facilitate the availability of, and access to, the methods and tools for the analysis of adaptation cost-effectiveness and cost estimation for the implementation of adaptation measures and actions at national level;

11. Compile inventory for main adaptation technologies, and establish mechanism to transfer such technologies to developing countries;
12. Build capacity, including institutional capacity, for preventive measures, planning, preparedness and management for adaptation actions to climate change; Support education and training in, and public awareness of, issues relating to adaptation;
13. Share information and experiences among Parties on the adaptation planning, measures and actions to climate change through workshops;
14. Support developing countries, through GEF and other financial mechanisms, to implement demonstration adaptation planning, measures, actions and projects, with priority given to the establishment of monitoring, forecasting, and warning system of extreme weather and climate events;

IV. Integration into sustainable development

15. Help developing countries, with financial and technical support, to integrate the considerations of the adaptation to climate change into national social and economic development strategy;
16. Share information and experiences among Parties on the integration of adaptation to climate change into national sustainable development.

PAPER NO. 5: COLOMBIA

Programa de trabajo de Buenos Aires sobre las medidas de adaptación y de respuesta

De acuerdo a la propuesta del proyecto de decisión del *programa de trabajo sobre las medidas de adaptación y respuesta* para su examen por el Órgano Subsidiario de Asesoramiento Científico y Tecnológico en su 22º período de sesiones (mayo de 2005), una vez revisado el documento Colombia esta de acuerdo con el programa de trabajo y solamente tiene unas pequeñas sugerencias, además de comprometerse a participar activamente en la revisión, comentarios y ajustes del mismo.

▪ **I. Efectos adversos del cambio climático**

Párrafo 4. Insiste en que las actividades relacionadas con la adaptación se sometan a un proceso de apreciación y evaluación, basado en las comunicaciones nacionales y/o en otra información pertinente, a fin de evitar una adaptación incorrecta y de garantizar que las actividades de adaptación sean ambientalmente racionales y produzcan beneficios reales en apoyo del desarrollo sostenible;

Comentario: para llevar a cabo el proceso de apreciación y evaluación de las actividades de adaptación una vez sean presentadas, ¿Se establecerá algún tipo de mecanismo técnico y científico de evaluación de las medidas de adaptación propuestas por los países?. Lo anterior implicaría que; ¿El país no podría implementar estas medidas hasta que no recibiera el visto bueno del organismo a cargo de esta evaluación? Así mismo, ¿Qué se entiende por adaptación incorrecta? y ¿Cómo se cuantificará o medirá cualitativamente la racionalidad ambiental de una medida de adaptación y los beneficios reales de la misma?.

Con los cuestionamientos anteriores, se abre la necesidad que los órganos técnicos y científicos de la Convención generen mecanismos de discusión y capacitación a los países que empezarán a proponer medidas de adaptación al cambio climático,

Párrafo 7. Pide al Fondo para el Medio Ambiente Mundial que amplíe su apoyo a la elaboración de estrategias de adaptación, como parte del proceso de las comunicaciones nacionales, en las Partes no incluidas en el anexo I;

Comentario 1: A partir de que fecha el Fondo para el Medio Ambiente Mundial ampliaría su apoyo para el desarrollo de estrategias de adaptación, como parte del proceso de las comunicaciones nacionales.

Comentario 2: Los países que inician el proceso para la elaboración de su Segunda Comunicación Nacional como Colombia a inicios del año 2006, alcanzarían a ser beneficiados de este apoyo; así mismo, este apoyo esta representado en recursos financieros adicionales a los ya establecidos para comunicaciones nacionales.

▪ **Párrafo 8.** Pide a la secretaria que organice tres talleres regionales que recojan las prioridades regionales.

Comentario 1: Después de los tres talleres regionales se debería organizar un taller de socialización inter-regional en el que se analicen las prioridades regionales y se identifiquen las necesidades y preocupaciones a nivel global en materia de adaptación.

Modelización

- **Párrafo 10.** Alienta al Grupo Intergubernamental de expertos sobre el Cambio Climático a que incorpore en su Cuarto Informe de Evaluación, en la medida de lo posible, información de modelización sobre los efectos negativos del cambio climático para cada región y a que favorezca la participación de investigadores de los países en desarrollo en el proceso de evaluación;

Comentario 1: de acuerdo a la definición de adaptación del segundo reporte del IPCC (Impactos, adaptación y vulnerabilidad), se debería informar sobre los efectos positivos del cambio climático como una oportunidad de beneficiarnos de los mismos.

PAPER NO. 6: LUXEMBOURG ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY
AND ITS MEMBER STATES

SUBMISSION BY LUXEMBOURG ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND ITS MEMBER STATES

This submission is supported by Bulgaria, Croatia and Romania

Brussels, 18 March 2005

Subject: Decision 1/CP.10 (Buenos Aires programme of work on adaptation and response measures), Section IV: SBSTA programme of work on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change: 5-year programme of work on the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change.

Introduction

As requested in Section IV of Decision 1/CP.10 (Buenos Aires programme of work on adaptation and response measures), Luxembourg, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, welcomes the opportunity to submit its views on a structured 5-year programme of work on the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change (hereafter referred to as the '5-year programme of work').

Section IV of Decision 1/CP.10 identifies the following topics for this 5-year programme of work: methodologies, data and modelling; vulnerability assessments; adaptation planning, measures and actions; and integration into sustainable development.

The EU recalls that the SBSTA's mandate is broadly to provide advice on scientific, technical and methodological issues and that it draws widely on the work of existing institutions, such as the IPCC, in doing so. In the context of Decision 1/CP.10, the EU believes it would be important to work with others in developing the work programme. Furthermore, the EU believes it is necessary to take account of the work of the SBI on adaptation noting that this body is responsible for considering implementation issues.

The EU notes that the need for adaptation is strongly related to overall levels of climate change, and consequently to mitigation efforts. At the same time, we note that adaptation is an essential complementary action as we will not be able to avoid all climate change. To deal with climate change on a global basis requires multilateral agreement whereas adaptation can and needs to be carried out at national level. Nevertheless, the Convention can facilitate national level action and this work programme is important in that context.

The following sections include **preliminary** views of the EU on the 5-year programme of work: role, relevant items, steps and information sources. The submission concludes with some views on the in-session workshop at SBSTA22.

Role of the 5-year programme of work

The 5-year programme of work should assist all Parties to identify and assess impacts, vulnerabilities and risks, regionally and locally, at different levels of climate change related to, e.g., water, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity. In this manner, the programme contributes also to Parties' understanding of what could constitute dangerous interference with the climate system for them. In addition, the 5-year programme of work should disseminate key policy messages and advices to existing processes and institutions to promote the integration of climate change risks into plans, policies and strategies of all Parties.

Items of the 5-year programme of work

With regard to the subjects agreed by SBSTA to be included in the 5-year programme of work, we suggest that initially these could cover the following:

- a. methodologies, data and modelling: availability, diffusion, analysis, interpretation and use of data as well as tools¹ for their assessment as a basis for policy making at local, regional and national level;
- b. vulnerability assessments: assessments of national, regional and local impacts, risks, vulnerabilities associated with different global emission and climate change scenarios identifying related adaptation requirements and limits to adaptation;
- c. adaptation planning, measures and actions: providing analytical tools for approaches to scope adaptation options;
- d. integration of adaptation into sustainable development: providing analytical tools that allow e.g. to identify synergies across policy areas, assess limits of adaptation in safeguarding sustainable development, hazard for reaching sustainable development goals under different climate change scenarios, the role of sustainable development policies in reducing risk and vulnerability to climate change and contributing to adaptation.

The above items might be further specified in order to better identify key areas of interest.

Steps of the 5-year programme of work

The following steps might help to deliver policy relevant products:

1. taking stock of how far Parties have come in identifying and assessing climate change impacts, risks, vulnerabilities and adaptation, including lessons learned as well as sharing of experiences with other stakeholders;
2. identification of problems, needs and opportunities;
3. identification of existing institutional mechanisms/delivery agents;
4. identification of possible outcomes for the 5-year programme of work.

The EU suggests that a review of the 5-year programme of work is undertaken after the IPCC publishes its 4th Assessment Report in 2007.

¹

Tools for both bottom-up and top-down approaches as compiled in the UNFCCC Compendium of Methods and Tools to Evaluate Impacts of, and Vulnerability and Adaptation, to Climate Change and in the Secretariat's 'Application of Methods and Tools for Assessing Impacts and Vulnerability, and Developing Adaptation Responses' (doc. FCCC/SBSTA/2004/INF.13).

Information sources of the 5-year programme of work

The 5-year programme of work should take note of, and build on, existing information processes and avoid duplication of effort:

- a. the work under the IPCC (in particular the preparation and the outcomes of the 4th Assessment Report);
- b. relevant work of the Convention such as submissions, Chair Conclusions and presentations relating to in-session SBSTA workshops at SBSTA20, 21 & 22, as well as conclusions to be drawn at CoP11 on this agenda item;
- c. National Communications, National Adaptation Programmes of Action and national development strategies;
- d. relevant activities of other international organizations (e.g. other MEAs, World Bank, the Global Environment Facility, FAO, CBD, UNESCO, WMO, IJC, ISB, UNEP, UNDP, OECD);
- e. other relevant international activities (e.g. World Climate Research Programme, VARG - Vulnerability and Adaptation Resource Group);
- f. ongoing activities and co-operation between Parties (EU Action Plan on Climate Change in the context of Development Cooperation, bilateral projects).

Views on the in-session workshop at SBSTA22

The EU suggests that the workshop aim to produce an outline programme for discussion by the SBSTA, based upon the submissions from Parties. Opportunity should be given to working in small groups and with the facilitation of experts in programme management and in adaptation.

PAPER NO. 7: NEW ZEALAND

**New Zealand submission on the five-year programme of work of the SBSTA on the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change
5 April 2005**

Introduction

This submission is in response to FCCC/CP/2004/L.16, paragraph 25. New Zealand welcomes the development of a long-term agenda item on the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change in the context of the five-year programme of work of the SBSTA agreed to at COP10.

We would note that the needs and interests of Parties are likely to evolve significantly during the five years of the work programme. For this reason we believe that SBSTA should therefore develop a very broad scope for the full work programme, and decide detailed priorities for sessions on shorter time frames of one to two years, building in a mid-programme "review" to ensure that the programme is on track to meet the needs and aims identified by Parties.

New Zealand has provided many specific suggestions for detailed issues for consideration in the on-going work programme (FCCC/SBSTA/2003/MISC.11, FCCC/SBSTA/2004/MISC.6, and FCCC/SBSTA/2004/MISC.12 refer), some of which have been taken up, while others remain valid suggestions for future work - we will not repeat the detail in this submission.

What should the work programme include and what should it aim to achieve?

New Zealand acknowledges the importance of having a broad process that will encompass all the elements described in paragraph 23 of FCCC/CP/2004/L.16. At the same time we believe that there should be some clear aims for the five-year programme of work. This, in our view, would help make the five-year programme of work more productive and provide some intermediate outputs that could be of immediate application to Parties in their domestic climate change impacts and adaptation work programmes. It is important that SBSTA's work programme adds value to the work that is already going on regarding adaptation.

Workshops with case study presentations continue to be useful, especially those involving external stakeholders. This exchange of information is vital in improving understanding of what the challenges are, and what countries or communities are already doing in their response to the impacts of climate change. However, in our view, to get even more out of the five-year programme of work, the SBSTA should aim to:

- agree conclusions relating to governance and sustainable development principles that facilitate effective adaptation;
- agree on approaches that help Parties define their national critical limits for climate change and climate change impacts; and,
- request Parties to submit, based on the above agreed approaches and on a voluntary basis as part of their next national communications (post 1 January 2006), their views on global, regional and national critical thresholds and vulnerabilities to climate change impacts, and limits to adaptive capacity.

Broad themes for the work programme

New Zealand is of the view that it would be useful to have some broad themes that are reflected throughout the work programme:

- Benefits of, and decision-criteria for, early decision-making and proactive adaptation;

- Success stories and case studies, where broader development and the decision-making context that supports adaptation is a key feature of discussion;
- Links and synergies of adaptation with other development-related decisions, and options to reduce lock-in and future resource conflicts caused by a combination of climate and non-climate stresses on societies and ecosystems;
- Approaches to developing a "metric" for climate change impacts, adaptation, and residual damages - exploring common economic metrics and their limitations, and alternative approaches that capture "quality of life" and "ecosystem resilience";
- A value-neutral consideration of climate change effects, i.e. consider positive opportunities that result from climate change as well as reducing negative impacts;
- Conceptual and methodological issues related to natural climate variability on daily to decadal scales, and human-induced climate change over decadal to millennial scales; the role of this distinction in the UNFCCC process and its subsidiary bodies, and options to separate natural from human-induced climatic changes within an adaptation and development context.

PAPER NO. 8: SAUDI ARABIA

SUBMISSION BY SAUDI ARABIA

March 30, 2005

Buenos Aires Programme of Work on Adaptation And Response Measures (Decision 1/CP10)

REFERENCE

The Conference of Parties at its 10th session invited Parties to submit to the secretariat, by 31 March 2005, their views on the work programme on impacts, vulnerability, and adaptation. (Draft conclusions proposed by the President, Document FCCC/CP/2004/L.16 Paragraph 25)

The structured five-year programme of work on the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation, should address the following issues: methodologies; data and modelling; vulnerability assessments; adaptation planning, measures and actions; and integration into sustainable development. (Draft conclusions proposed by the President, Document FCCC/CP/2004/L.16 Paragraph 23)

INTRODUCTION

Year 2004 marked the 10th year since the UNFCCC entered into force. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has continuously voiced its strong concerns about the lack of progress in the implementation of the article 4.8 during the past 10 years. Up to COP10, the only significant step taken has been the adoption of decision 5/CP.7, and there were even concerns with the implementation of this step.

Decision 1/CP.10 is a positive move in the implementation of Article 4.8 and decision 5/CP.7. It is important however to stress that decision 1/CP.10 is an addition and a continuation to 5/CP.7, but not a replacement. There are a number of paragraphs and pending commitments in 5/CP.7 that still needs to be addressed.

Saudi Arabia welcomes the opportunity to submit views on the programme for adaptation in the Buenos Aires Plan for Adaptation and Response Measurers (1/CP.10). Saudi Arabia views the decision in its entirety.

COMMENTS ON 1/CP.10

Decision 1/CP.10 is a key decision that incorporates scientific and technological issues as well as implementation matters. For this reason, discussions on modalities for 1/CP.10 should be done under both SBI and SBSTA, each within their respective mandate as outlined in Articles 9 and 10 of the Convention. We expect that 1/CP.10 be a permanent agenda item under both SBI and SBSTA.

Saudi Arabia would like to emphasize that any exchange of information and sharing of experiences and views, and lessons learned on practical opportunities and alternative solutions to be presented for the implementation of 1/CP.10 must be within the context of Article 4 of the Convention, where commitments for Annex I and non-Annex I have been clearly outlined and identified. To be concise, all issues to be considered must emanate from a certain paragraph within the Convention that mandates it. It is also crucial to note that any deliberations of this decision must not lead to, or become a mean for, introducing any new commitments on the developing country parties.

The economic impacts of policies and measures taken by Annex I Parties on Non-Annex I Parties need to be continuously evaluated. In the implementation of commitments, Annex I Parties must give full consideration to what actions are lagging in terms of implementation under the Convention. This includes, and not limited to, actions related to economic diversification, funding, insurance and the transfer of technology, to meet the specific needs and concerns of developing countries arising from the impacts of the implementation of response measures.

Workshops and Expert Meetings

Decision 1/CP.10 incorporates a number of workshops and expert meetings. It is important that all workshops and expert meetings receive full resource allocation from the UNFCCC without selectivity. All workshops and expert meetings must be held within the dates specified in the decision without any delays.

The agenda, terms of reference, and programme for the workshops and expert meetings should not be prepared by the secretariat or any consultants. Agenda for each workshop and expert meeting should be prepared by experts to be nominated from the five UN regions, with specific emphasis on experts from the impacted regions. The nominated experts should conduct regional meetings in preparation for the workshops and expert meetings, in order to finalize agendas and terms of reference. They will be responsible for organizing and running the meetings and workshops in addition to the preparation of outcome reports.

The expert meeting on modeling and insurance identified in paragraph 16(a) of 1/CP.10 must have experts from the subject areas. The meeting should consider the following:

1. The outcome of the workshop on insurance, and the need for establishing a work programme to address the specific needs and concerns of developing country Parties arising from the impact of the implementation of response measures, and include the following elements, in order to provide feedback to the Conference of the Parties on recommendations for further action,
 - a) Possible collaboration between the climate change community, government programmes and private insurance sectors;
 - b) Private-public partnerships linking insurance mechanisms and risk-reduction mechanisms;
 - c) Ways to build capacity, at the national level, for risk management, risk financing and risk transfer to better manage the impacts of the implementation of response measures;
 - d) Means to engage the private sector in the development of alternative risk transfer mechanisms;
2. The outcome of the workshop on modelling activities, and provide feedback to the Conference of the Parties on recommendations for further action to support the following:

- a) Dissemination of modelling tools and models to Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention and ensuring increased collaboration in modelling activities on an ongoing basis;
- b) Development of methodologies to assist developing countries to examine vulnerability to the impact of the implementation of response measures;
- c) Development of draft guidance documents on how to undertake socio-economic assessments of response measures to be piloted in selected countries as a basis for detailed and comprehensive guidelines;
- d) Development, as a high priority and in collaboration with international organizations, of methodologies to assess the impacts on developing countries of policies already implemented by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention by expanding coverage of current models for evaluating the adverse effects of climate and the impact of the implementation of response measures;
- e) Coordination with the scientific research community, including the IPCC, to improve the quality of models, in particular those that assess the impact of response measures on developing countries, with a view to fully addressing this issue in the 4th IPCC assessment report.

The expert meeting on economic diversification identified in paragraph 16(b) must have experts from the subject area. The meeting should consider elements arising from the report of the workshop on economic diversification, amongst other issues related to economic diversification, for countries whose economies are highly vulnerable to the impact of response measures, and to provide recommendation to the Conference of the Parties on further action for;

- a) Providing support for the integration of economic diversification into sustainable development strategies;
- b) Exchanging of experience in economic diversification and lessons learned, with a view to identifying what technical assistance may be needed to develop structural and institutional capacity and/or to establishing a mechanism for facilitating efforts to achieve economic diversification;
- c) Coordination by the secretariat with relevant international organizations and the private sector in developed countries on matters relating to economic diversification;
- d) Building capacity, at the national level, in the areas of economic diversification
- e) Promoting Private-public partnerships in various areas to support economic diversification;
- f) Providing recommendations for encouraging direct investment and technology transfer from developed countries to assist in the economic diversification of developing countries listed in article 4.8 (h) of the Convention;
- g) Addressing the extent to which trade and export barriers effect economic diversification in Parties addressed under article 4.8 of the Convention.

The reporting and follow-up action for the workshops and expert meetings are important issues that needs to be highlighted. These meetings and workshops are means to an end. The end goal is to reach recommendations for the COP on specific actions to address the concerns of developing country Parties arriving from the impact of response measures. Holding the expert meetings is a step towards identifying these specific actions. Decision 1/CP.10 identifies reporting timings that must be observed and followed for timely implementation.

COMMENTS ON THE MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME

The multi-year programme to be developed should focus on the further implementation of commitments under the Convention and Kyoto protocol. It is crucial to stress that this programme, or any other future programme, must not change the balance of rights and obligations under the Convention.

The programme needs to further elaborate on the work of the IPCC Third Assessment Report and Working Group III on spillover effects and impacts of response measures. The programme shall promote and advance options to reduce impact of response measures and spillover effects.

The programme must establish and enhance grounds to provide financial and technical support, to share experiences, and to take up opportunities, in order to incorporate and integrate adaptation within sustainable development, specifically in the area of economic adaptation to the impact of response measures.

Saudi Arabia is highly concerned about economic adaptation to the impacts of response measures. A clear process should be identified in the programme to advance solutions and opportunities to contribute to sustainable development, through economic adaptation to the impact of response measures. It is therefore vital for any programme of work to incorporate economic diversification as an adaptation mean for countries whose economies are highly vulnerable to the impact of response measures, with specific emphasis on countries whose economies are highly dependent on income generated from the production, processing and export, and/or on consumption of fossil fuels and associated energy-intensive products.

The programme should establish methodologies to guide Annex I Parties in implementing win-win policies and measures, which have long been requested and advocated by developing countries. Such policies must meet both the need to reduce emissions and the need to minimize adverse social, environmental and economic impacts on developing country Parties, especially those identified in Article 4.8. This should be given a high priority since no methodological work is established under Article 4.8 on impacts of response measures.

The work programme should address capacity building and transfer of adaptive and advanced technologies to adapt to climate change and response measures and also address the following:

- a) Assessment of cost effective options including capacity building and transfer of technology for adaptation to contribute to sustainable development in the area of adaptation to climate change and adaptation to the impact of response measures;
- b) Emphases on the integration of economic diversification in the sustainable development efforts;
- c) Promotion of the exchange of views on experiences in economic diversification and lessons learned.

The programme should promote the exchange of information and sharing of experiences and views, to improve and enhance efforts towards,

- a) Understanding of the scientific, technical and socio-economic impact of climate change and the impact of response measures;
- b) Identifying innovative and efficient adaptation technologies for both the impacts for climate change and the impact of response measure.

The work programme should direct SBSTA to coordinate with the scientific research community such as the IPCC, and collaborate with other organizations such as IEA and OPEC, to improve

the quality of models, in particular those that assess the impact of response measures on developing countries. The IPCC Third Assessment Report acknowledges the adverse impacts of response measures on developing countries. Further modeling work is needed to determine, with less uncertainty, the magnitude of the impact of response measures, and to assess such impacts on individual countries.

In modeling and assessing the effects of policies, such factors as market approaches (taxes, subsidies, and cap-and-trade), regulations and research and development need to be included in the simulation. The international research community needs to address the major constraint for assessing the above factors such as:

- The incomplete data on specific policy information and a lack of methods to parameterize them properly;
- The ambiguity of interactions among multiple policies - either within or across countries;
- The inadequate details on the logic and data needs of individual models;
- The inadequate assessment of technology development;
- The inadequate participation of developing country experts in preparation of the IPCC reports and assessment of modeling activities;
- The testing of models against present day observations.

PAPER NO. 9: SOUTH AFRICA

SBSTA PROGRAMME OF WORK ON IMPACTS, VULNERABILITY AND ADAPTATION

The above matter refers.

Please see below the submission of views by South Africa.

Parties have been invited (FCCC/CP/2004/L.16, paragraph 25) to submit to the Secretariat, by 31 March 2005, their views on the work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation, to facilitate its consideration by SBSTA at the twenty-second session (May 2005).

South Africa welcomes the decision to develop a programme of work on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation, and to hold an in-session workshop at SBSTA-22. Adaptation, i.e. responses to the adverse impacts of climate change, is a top priority for all countries and particularly developing countries. We recognize that poor countries and communities are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. South Africa reiterates the urgency of addressing the adaptation needs of least developed countries (most of whom are in Africa) and in our own poor communities.

In structuring the SBSTA work programme, it is critical to collate and review existing knowledge to identify and focus on what makes communities and systems vulnerable to climate change, and on the potential impacts and prioritisation and planning for the implementation of adaptation activities.

South Africa has conducted a country study on vulnerability and adaptation, and reported key findings in its Initial National Communication. This study focused largely on the key sectors that would be affected by climate changes, such as agriculture, forestry and water. Other key dimensions of climate risks in the country need more detailed investigation, such as urban settlements, health (malaria, for example, and the impacts of HIV/AIDS, in relation to climate change) and the trade-offs to be made between managing risks and vital development activities that are required in the country. Ongoing support (including financial support) is needed for a wider and more detailed assessments of vulnerabilities to climate stress as aggravated by a range of other stresses.

This requires a focus on collating existing information and improving the methodologies, data and modelling on which such assessments were based. The work needs to build on the wide range of knowledge that has already been generated with regard to impacts and adaptation to climate change, as well as in identifying the gaps where more research is needed. In particular, methodologies addressing the human dimensions of climate change impacts should be developed.

In line with the decision on capacity-building, a priority is focus on support for institutional capacity. South Africa is ready to work with partners, particularly in Southern Africa, to develop research capacity and monitoring systems (including warning systems), as well as capacity to promote wider awareness of the adverse effects of climate change.

A process of prioritizing critical adaptation activities in a NAPA-like process is needed to ensure that the most vulnerable groups are targeted, without prejudicing the mainstream economy and its ability to create sustainable growth.. South Africa's own climate change response strategy is centered on sustainable development, and we therefore support integrating adaptation into sustainable development, while understanding that adaptation will require additional funding. The programme of work must take us forward in developing adaptation activities that, where possible, should be coupled to development activities. These should not remain at the level of planning, but should progress to practical measures and actions.

Hoping that you find the above in order.

Yours sincerely

Mr Itumeleng Reginald Mabalane
DIRECTOR: AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT
DATE: 06/ 04/ 2005

PAPER NO. 10: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Submission of the United States

FCCC/CP/2004/L.16

Views on the Programme of Work on the Scientific, Technical and Socio-economic Aspects of Impacts of, and Vulnerability and Adaptation to Climate Change

March 31, 2005

The Tenth Session of the Conference of the Parties in December 2004 (COP 10) requested the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technical Advice, in accordance with its mandate, “to develop a structured five-year programme of work on the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, which would address the following issues: methodologies, data and modelling; vulnerability assessments; adaptation planning, measures and actions; and integration into sustainable development”. It also invited Parties to submit their views on the work programme to facilitate consideration by the SBSTA at its twenty-second session.

Economic growth, environmental protection, and poverty alleviation go hand in hand, for affluent societies are not only inherently more resilient and adaptable to changing economic, social or environmental conditions of all kinds but are in a position to afford higher levels of environmental protection. Thus, the best way to address climate variability and change is through economic growth that takes place in a manner that preserves the environment for future generations. The United States encourages nations to help themselves, and create thriving, prosperous economies, recognizing that successful growth must be predicated upon education, rule of law, good governance, the protection of human freedom and economic reforms. This successful and proven approach underpins our wide range of programs and activities that assist developing countries, ranging from our trade policies, development assistance programs, and international environmental initiatives, as well as our support for such internationally-agreed strategies as the Doha Development Agenda, the Monterrey Consensus, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and the Delhi Declaration. Countries that have flexible and resilient societies and economies are best placed to address both the challenges and the opportunities presented by changing climatic conditions.

Bearing that in mind, the United States supports the development of a work programme on the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, and welcomes the opportunity to provide views. As we seek to formulate a useful and forward-looking work programme we are cognizant of three central conceptual and practical challenges:

- Climate-related vulnerability and adaptation issues are cross-cutting and touch on issues not primarily addressed by the UNFCCC. Vulnerability and adaptation to climate change are integrally connected to a range of sectoral and development goals. In addressing climate-related vulnerability and adaptation SBSTA should therefore take an integrated approach and aim to complement those other goals. It is essential to consider vulnerability and adaptation in the broader context of socio-economic and environmental stresses, recognizing that adaptation to climate change is just one of a number of adaptive responses to a variety of risks and issues that could threaten sectoral and development goals. Further, it is important to coordinate with relevant development and planning processes as well as local, regional and international players that are addressing vulnerability and adaptation issues. Emphasizing appropriate linkages and addressing adaptation within this broader context, rather than considering it in isolation, will take advantage of complementarities, facilitate cost-effective solutions and help avoid maladaptation.
- Adaptation needs vary from local to national to regional to global scales. Adaptation is a multifaceted cross-sectoral issue that is broad in scope though adaptation solutions often require country or region specific actions. Moreover, risk assessment depends in significant part on

knowledge of the potential local or regional impacts of climate change, as well as the relevant socio-economic and environmental factors. Therefore, adaptation requires a range of tailored, flexible and decentralized responses. Given those challenges, the United States believes that SBSTA's work could most usefully feed into national and regional efforts to integrate adaptation responses into development and planning processes.

- Definitions of adaptation to climate change differ. The UNFCCC and the IPCC (an important source of scientific, technical and socio-economic information on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation), define climate change differently. The UNFCCC limits the scope of climate change to the “change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods (emphasis added)” (Article 1.2). In contrast, the IPCC definition refers to “any change in climate over time, whether due to natural variability or as a result of human activity”. Given the uncertainties associated with the relationship between climate change impacts and impacts from natural climatic variability, the United States recommends that the SBSTA work programme consider impacts, vulnerability and adaptation within the broader definition of climate change, recognizing that not all outcomes and recommendations will be appropriate for UNFCCC action. We note that the decision to take a broad approach within SBSTA is without prejudice to the narrower obligations of Parties under the UNFCCC when it comes to funding or otherwise assisting the efforts of other Parties to adapt to climate change.

A Framework for the Work Programme

The United States supports addressing the issues outlined in FCCC/CP/2004/L.16, including: methodologies, data and modelling; vulnerability assessments; adaptation planning, measures and actions; and integration into sustainable development. We propose further structuring the work programme according to sectors, in order to promote practical outcomes on these issues.

The work programme could begin with an analysis of the water resources, agriculture and coastal zone management sectors, as outlined in Article 4.1(e) of the Convention. While it would be necessary to focus the work program on a few key sectors, in order to allow for the type of in-depth analysis that is needed, it would not be to the exclusion of other relevant sectors. Many other sectoral communities, for example, energy, health, biodiversity, food security and natural disaster management, could also have an important role to play in the SBSTA's consideration of vulnerability and adaptation regardless of the specific sectors on which we choose to focus. For example, there might be workshop presentations on water-borne disease or coastal disaster preparedness as a part of the SBSTA workshops on water and coastal zones, respectively.

We envision a five-year work programme that would consider one sector each year for the first three years. Sustainable development implications and practical applications at different scales would be taken into consideration during each workshop. The fourth year could be structured specifically to encourage cross-sectoral consideration of the integration of adaptation into sustainable development planning and practice. The fifth year could focus on practical actions at the local, national, regional and international levels. As a starting point for discussions, the United States suggests consideration of the following five-year work programme:

	Topic	Inputs	Outcomes
Year 1: SBSTA 24/25 COP 12	Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Overview paper: methodologies (including vulnerability assessments), data and modeling ➤ Expert's workshop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recommendations to SBSTA/SBI for future work ➤ Recommendations to relevant parties and sectoral communities
Year 2: SBSTA 26/27 COP 13	Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Overview paper: methodologies (including vulnerability assessments), data and modeling ➤ Expert's workshop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recommendations to SBSTA/SBI for future work ➤ Recommendations to relevant parties and sectoral communities
Year 3: SBSTA 28/29 COP 14	Coastal Zone Mgmt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Overview paper: methodologies (including vulnerability assessments), data and modeling ➤ Expert's workshop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recommendations to SBSTA/SBI for future work ➤ Recommendations to relevant parties and sectoral communities
Year 4: SBSTA 30/31 COP 15	Integration with Sustainable Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sectoral recommendations ➤ Expert's workshop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recommendations to SBSTA/SBI for future work ➤ Recommendations to relevant parties and sectoral communities
Year 5: SBSTA 32/33 COP 16	Local, Nat'l & Int'l Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sectoral recommendations ➤ Expert's workshop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Recommendations to SBSTA/SBI for future work ➤ Recommendations to relevant parties and sectoral communities

The United States believes that the exchange of practical information and experiences through SBSTA's work on adaptation to date has been very useful. We support continuing and expanding this exchange of information. In the context of the new work programme, we believe it would be useful for the Secretariat to prepare background papers that provide an overview of the body of knowledge related to the topic selected for each year. Specifically, the background papers should present the state of knowledge on methodologies, data and modelling, and vulnerability assessments.

SBSTA should sponsor annual workshops to provide an opportunity for interaction with experts outside the climate field. The workshops should consider:

- Practical experiences and long-term planning processes of national and local experts in relevant sectoral communities;
- Programs and priorities of key relevant international organizations (UN FAO, World Water Forum, OECD, etc.); and
- The adaptation experience of climate experts in the chosen sector.

The SBSTA discussions also could aim to generate recommendations to the COP on appropriate adaptation measures and actions that would further agreed priorities, including consideration of appropriate work at the international level.

The United States believes that success in this undertaking will depend in large part upon the SBSTA's ability to engage key members of relevant sectoral communities to work in partnership with the UNFCCC. It will also depend on the ability of Parties to engage their own sectoral experts, as appropriate. If the right experts are engaged, SBSTA can facilitate a rigorous technical consideration of the risks and benefits that may result from climate change. Then, to move the discussion forward, we must be able to incorporate the input from sectoral community experts and apply climate considerations in support of existing sectoral as well as local, national and international priorities. In this way, we will most effectively utilize complementarities between sectoral communities, focus on practical outcomes, and encourage adaptation in cost-effective as well as integrated and more holistic ways.

OPINION ON BUENOS-AIRES PROGRAM ON ADAPTATION AND RESPONSE MEASURES

The Republic of Uzbekistan supports the efforts of UNFCCC Secretariat on the elaboration of Buenos-Aires program of work on adaptation and response measures” (FCCC/CP/2004/L.16).

The proposed framework of the Program with the outline of such activities as: vulnerability, information and methodology, modeling, information presentation, unfavorable consequences of climate change presents all necessary measures which are to be implemented in the area of adaptation and capacity strengthening.

The Republic of Uzbekistan thinks it to be expedient to proceed with the activities with SBSTA in the following directions:

- Promotion of a regular exchange with the available regional models
- Further development and improvement of the regional models based on the improved observation data
- Regular updating and reviewing of the compendium (Brief reference book) of UNFCCC on the methods and instruments of the assessment of the impact and vulnerability.

The implementation of the pilot and demonstration projects as well as facilitating the urgent transfer of adaptation technologies will provide for the essential support in reaching the progress in the area of adaptation.

The realization of efforts of prevention of natural disasters, planning, ensuring the readiness and organization of activities on the liquidation of the aftereffects of the natural disasters related to the climate change will enable the capacity strengthening as well as of the institutional one.

The carrying out of activities in the field of elaboration and implementation of the program of actions in the area of adaptation is impossible without the investments. That is why we approve all proposed measures on the liquidation of all existing obstacles and are looking forward to the opening up of possibilities on using GEF financial support as well as the other special funds.

We support the idea of involving the experts from the countries with the economy in transfer for preparation of the Fourth Evaluation Report.
