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**Twenty-sixth session
Bonn, 7–18 May 2007**

**Agenda item 6
Research and systematic observation**

Research and systematic observation

Draft conclusions proposed by the Chair

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) took note of the views from Parties on how the SBSTA might facilitate a more effective dialogue between Parties and regional and international climate change research programmes in the context of decision 9/CP.11 (FCCC/SBSTA/2007/MISC.7). It expressed its appreciation to the regional and international climate change research programmes and organizations for their views on this subject (FCCC/SBSTA/2007/MISC.8) and for the summary reports provided in response to the invitation of the SBSTA (FCCC/SBSTA/2006/5, para. 41), drawing on the special side event on research needs relating to the Convention that was held during the twenty-fourth session of the SBSTA (FCCC/SBSTA/2006/MISC.15) and on the synthesis report on research needs and priorities, which includes views by Parties on this matter (FCCC/SBSTA/2006/INF.2).
2. The SBSTA welcomed the exchange of views among Parties, the representatives of regional and international climate change research programmes and organizations¹ and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) during the informal meeting held on 8 May 2007, in Bonn, Germany, on how the SBSTA might facilitate a more effective dialogue between Parties and regional and international climate change research programmes and organizations (hereinafter referred to as research programmes and organizations) in the context of decision 9/CP.11. The SBSTA re-emphasized that the IPCC remains the primary provider of scientific, technical and socio-economic information to the Convention through its full range of reports.
3. The SBSTA agreed to develop and maintain the dialogue between Parties and research programmes and organizations, in the context of decision 9/CP.11. The SBSTA would welcome the continued participation by the Earth System Science Partnership and its member programmes, and by regional climate change research programmes and organizations in this dialogue.

¹ Earth System Science Partnership, World Climate Research Programme, International Geosphere–Biosphere Programme, International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change, START (Global Change System for Analysis, Research and Training), Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research and Asia–Pacific Network for Global Change Research.

4. The SBSTA further agreed that its role in this context should be facilitative and not prescriptive. In this regard, the SBSTA acknowledged the independence of research programmes and organizations in setting their research priorities. It also agreed that various approaches, within and outside the UNFCCC process (e.g. informal events, workshops, side events), could be used to ensure the effectiveness and flexibility of this dialogue.

5. The SBSTA noted the importance of this dialogue also to identify research gaps and research capacity constraints in developing countries and to consider possible opportunities to address these gaps and capacity constraints in order to enable developing countries to play a more active role in regional and international climate change research.

6. The SBSTA invited relevant research programmes and organizations to regularly inform the SBSTA of developments in research activities relevant to the needs of the Convention, including:

- (a) Emerging scientific findings;
- (b) Research planning activities, including those undertaken in response to key uncertainties and research needs identified by the IPCC or raised by Parties;
- (c) Research priorities, and gaps in the implementation of these priorities;
- (d) Research capacity-building activities, particularly in developing countries;
- (e) Regional climate change research networks;
- (f) Relevant communication issues.

The SBSTA requested the secretariat to invite these research programmes and organizations to consider these issues in an informal discussion at the twenty-eighth session of the SBSTA (June 2008).

7. The SBSTA again urged Parties to further strengthen the activities of research programmes and organizations, and encouraged Parties to consider the research priorities as identified by research programmes and organizations in developing their national programmes.

8. The SBSTA noted the importance of research activities that contribute to the work of the Convention, including activities undertaken as part of the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, such as the in-session workshop on climate modelling, scenarios and downscaling to be held at the twenty-eighth session of the SBSTA.

9. The SBSTA welcomed the oral statement delivered on behalf of the Global Terrestrial Observing System (GTOS) secretariat and the progress reports by the GTOS secretariat on the development of a framework for the preparation of guidance materials, standards and reporting guidelines for terrestrial observing systems for climate, and on the assessment of the status of development of standards for each of the essential climate variables in the terrestrial domain (FCCC/SBSTA/2007/MISC.6). The SBSTA agreed to consider these reports, as well as any updates received by the GTOS secretariat, at its twenty-seventh session (December 2007) when it considers issues relating to systematic observation.²

² In line with the recommendations by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation at its twenty-fourth session (FCCC/SBI/2006/11, para. 109 (a)), the topics under research and systematic observation are differentiated and considered by the SBSTA on an alternating basis.