



## Framework Convention on Climate Change

Distr.: Limited  
15 June 2011

Original: English

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### Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

Thirty-fourth session

Bonn, 6–16 June 2011

Agenda item 10(c)

**Methodological issues under the Kyoto Protocol**

**Common metrics to calculate the CO<sub>2</sub> equivalence of greenhouse gases**

### Common metrics to calculate the CO<sub>2</sub> equivalence of greenhouse gases

#### Draft conclusions proposed by the Chair

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) continued its consideration of common metrics to calculate the carbon dioxide equivalence of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions by sources and removals by sinks (hereinafter referred to as common metrics), which was initiated at its thirtieth session.
2. The SBSTA expressed its appreciation to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) for holding an expert meeting on the science of alternative metrics, following an invitation to the IPCC by the Ad Hoc Working Group on Further Commitments for Annex I Parties under the Kyoto Protocol at its sixth session.<sup>1</sup> The expert meeting was held in Oslo, Norway, from 18 to 20 March 2009. The SBSTA welcomed the report<sup>2</sup> on the meeting and its conclusions and recommendations relating to the UNFCCC and to the scientific community regarding research needs and the scoping phase of the Fifth Assessment Report of the IPCC.
3. The SBSTA acknowledged:
  - (a) That alternative common metrics and shortcomings in the use of GWPs are still being assessed by the IPCC in the context of its work on its Fifth Assessment Report;
  - (b) That GWPs are a well-defined metric based on radiative forcing that continues to be useful in a multigas approach. However, GWPs were not designed with a particular policy goal in mind and, depending on the specific policy goals, alternative metrics may be preferable;
  - (c) The limitations in the use of GWPs based on the 100-year time horizon in evaluating the contribution to climate change of emissions of greenhouse gases with short lifetimes.

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<sup>1</sup> FCCC/KP/AWG/2008/5, paragraph 45.

<sup>2</sup> <<http://www.ipcc.ch/pdf/supporting-material/expert-meeting-metrics-oslo.pdf>>.

4. The SBSTA requested the secretariat to organize, subject to the availability of resources, a workshop on common metrics, to be held in the first half of 2012, with a focus on uncertainties, new and refined areas or metrics, policy goals, and the relationship between policy frameworks and metrics.

5. The SBSTA agreed to continue, at its thirty-sixth session, its consideration of common metrics under the methodological issues under the Convention, taking into account the report on the workshop referred to in paragraph 4 above.

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