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Agenda item 4

Methodological guidance for activities relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries

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Draft conclusions proposed by the Chair

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) took note of the report on the expert meeting on guidance on systems for providing information on how safeguards for REDD-plus¹ activities are addressed and respected,² held in Panama City, Panama, on 8 and 9 October 2011, and the report on the expert meeting on forest reference emission levels and forest reference levels for implementation of REDD-plus activities, held in Bonn, Germany, on 14 and 15 November 2011.³ It expressed its appreciation to the Governments of Australia, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for providing financial support for the expert meetings.
2. The SBSTA took note of the views submitted by Parties⁴ on the issues identified in document FCCC/SBSTA/2011/2, paragraphs 28–30. It also took note of the views submitted by accredited observers on those issues.⁵
3. The SBSTA continued its consideration of the methodological guidance for activities relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the

¹ REDD-plus refers to activities relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries.

² FCCC/SBSTA/2011/INF.17.

³ FCCC/SBSTA/2011/INF.18.

⁴ FCCC/SBSTA/2011/MISC.7.

⁵ Submissions by intergovernmental organizations are available at <<http://unfccc.int/3714>>. Submissions by non-governmental organizations are available at <<http://unfccc.int/3689>>.

role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries, taking into consideration the outcomes of the expert meetings referred to in paragraph 1 above and the views submitted by Parties referred to in paragraph 2 above.

4. The SBSTA agreed to continue its work on guidance for the remaining issues as contained in the annex and those identified in decision 1/CP.16, appendix II, with the aim of completing its work on these matters at its thirty-seventh session and reporting to the Conference of the Parties (COP) at its eighteenth session on the progress made, including any recommendations for draft decisions on these matters.

5. The SBSTA invited Parties and accredited observers to submit to the secretariat, by 28 February 2012, their views on issues identified in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 72 and appendix II, in particular on how to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and on robust and transparent national forest monitoring systems as referred to in its paragraph 71(c). It requested the secretariat to compile the submissions from Parties into a miscellaneous document for consideration by the SBSTA at its thirty-sixth session.

6. The SBSTA decided to recommend a draft decision on guidance on systems for providing information on how the safeguards referred to in decision 1/CP.16, appendix I, are addressed and respected and on modalities relating to forest reference emission levels and forest reference levels for adoption by the COP at its seventeenth session (the text of the draft decision is contained in the L.25/Add.1).

Annex I

[Modalities for measuring, reporting and verifying

x. Decides that measuring, reporting and verifying anthropogenic forest-related emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks and forest-area changes resulting from the implementation of the activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70, should be consistent with existing methodological guidance provided in decision 4/CP.15 and guidance on measuring, reporting and verifying nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing country Parties agreed by the Conference of the Parties, without prejudging any future relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties;

xx. Encourages Parties when developing a system for measuring, reporting and verifying anthropogenic forest-related emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks, and forest carbon stock and forest-area changes resulting from the implementation of activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70 to provide data and information that is transparent, complete, consistent, comparable and accurate;

xxx. Invites the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to elaborate methods and provide good practice guidance on measuring, reporting and verifying anthropogenic forest-related emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks and forest-area changes resulting from the implementation of the activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70, to be submitted for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference of the Parties at a future session;

xxxx. Requests the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice to continue its consideration of modalities for measuring, reporting and verifying anthropogenic forest-related emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks and forest-area changes resulting from the implementation of the activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70, with the aim of completing its work on this matter at its thirty-seventh session and reporting to the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth session on progress made, including any recommendation for a draft decision on this matter;

Modalities for national forest monitoring systems

xxx Decides that the development of national forest monitoring systems for the monitoring and reporting of activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70, with, if appropriate, subnational monitoring and reporting as an interim measure, shall take into account the guidance provided in decision 4/CP.15 and be guided by the most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change guidance and guidelines, as adopted or encouraged by the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate, as a basis for estimating anthropogenic forest-related greenhouse gas emissions by sources, and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks and forest area changes;

xxx Also decides that national forest monitoring systems should provide data and information that are transparent, consistent over time, robust, complete, comparable and be subject to quality assurance and quality control.]
