



Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

Thirty-seventh session

Doha, 26 November to 1 December 2012

Agenda item 7

Research and systematic observation

Research and systematic observation

Draft conclusions proposed by the Chair

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) noted with appreciation the statements delivered at its thirty-sixth session by representatives of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and at its thirty-seventh session by representatives of WMO and the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS).
2. The SBSTA welcomed the plan of the GCOS Steering Committee and secretariat to prepare, in broad consultation with relevant partners, by early 2015, a third report on the adequacy of the global observing systems for climate¹ and, by 2016, a new implementation plan for the global observing system for climate, which would, inter alia, support the Convention.² The SBSTA invited the GCOS secretariat to provide the third adequacy report to the SBSTA in 2015 by its forty-third session, and the final implementation plan to the SBSTA in 2016 by its forty-fifth session. The SBSTA encouraged the GCOS secretariat to provide a draft of the new implementation plan to the SBSTA by its forty-third session in 2015.
3. The SBSTA noted that the GCOS secretariat would consider, inter alia, the findings of the Fifth Assessment Report of the IPCC, in the development of the third adequacy report.
4. The SBSTA noted the importance of systematic observation for vulnerability assessments and adaptation, with a specific emphasis on developing countries. It encouraged Parties to contribute to the identification of emerging needs for systematic

¹ A report on the adequacy of the global climate observing systems was prepared in 1998, followed by a second such report in 2003; they are available at <http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/gcos/Publications/gcos-48.pdf> and http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/gcos/Publications/gcos-82_2AR.pdf.

² For the summary of the GCOS *Implementation Plan for the Global Observing System for Climate in Support of the UNFCCC*, prepared in 2004, see document FCCC/SBSTA/2004/MISC.16. For the summary of the 2010 update of the plan, see document FCCC/SBSTA/2010/MISC.9.

observation in the context of the Convention, in support of the activities mentioned in paragraph 2 above.

5. The SBSTA welcomed the activities undertaken by the GCOS secretariat to support efforts to address the needs for climate observations, including the preparation of an update of the Satellite Supplement³ to the 2010 updated GCOS implementation plan.

6. The SBSTA expressed its appreciation to CEOS for its update on progress made by space agencies providing global observations in their coordinated response to relevant needs of the Convention.⁴ It noted the importance of continuing and sustaining satellite observations on a long-term basis, and the role of CEOS in promoting full and open data sharing, in order to support the work under the Convention. It invited CEOS to provide, by SBSTA 41, an updated report on progress made by space agencies providing global observations in their coordinated response to relevant needs of the Convention.

7. The SBSTA welcomed the regional initiatives of the GCOS secretariat⁵ in supporting the development of and improvements to climate observation capacities. It invited the GCOS secretariat to further expand such initiatives⁶ and encouraged Parties in a position to do so to support these efforts.

8. The SBSTA took note of the report on progress in the development of methodologies, standards and protocols for climate-related terrestrial observations and related matters, which was provided by the GCOS secretariat on behalf of the Global Terrestrial Observing System.⁷ The SBSTA highlighted the importance of such reports for its work.

9. The SBSTA expressed its appreciation to the GCOS sponsors⁸ for the support provided by them to the GCOS programme for the past 20 years, and encouraged them to continue to provide such support. It welcomed the initiative of the GCOS sponsors to undertake a review of GCOS, and invited the sponsors, through WMO, to inform the SBSTA on the outcome of that review.

10. The SBSTA noted with appreciation the information from WMO⁹ on the outcome of the Extraordinary Session of the World Meteorological Congress, held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 29 to 31 October 2012, with respect to the implementation of the Global Framework for Climate Services.¹⁰ It invited WMO to provide, at SBSTA 39, information on the outcome of the first session of the Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services, to be held in July 2013. The SBSTA recommended draft conclusions on this matter for adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth session (for the text of the conclusions, see FCCC/SBSTA/2012/L.25/Add.1).

³ Full title of the Satellite Supplement: *Systematic Observation Requirements for Satellite-based Data Products for Climate*. This report provides supplemental details to the satellite-based component of the 2010 update of the GCOS implementation plan. The full report is available at <<http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/gcos/Publications/gcos-154.pdf>>.

⁴ FCCC/SBSTA/2012/MISC.14.

⁵ Recent regional initiatives of the GCOS secretariat have focused on Africa and South America, as indicated by the GCOS secretariat in its submission to the SBSTA (FCCC/SBSTA/2012/MISC.4).

⁶ For example, to the Asia-Pacific region and the Caribbean.

⁷ FCCC/SBSTA/2012/MISC.15.

⁸ The sponsors of GCOS are the following: WMO, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme and the International Council for Science.

⁹ FCCC/SBSTA/2012/MISC.21.

¹⁰ See <http://www.wmo.int/pages/gfcs/index_en.php>.

11. The SBSTA recalled the conclusions of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation at its twenty-fourth session¹¹ and concluded that it would continue to focus its consideration on research during the first sessional period of a year and on systematic observation during the second sessional period of a year.

12. The SBSTA welcomed the continuation of the research dialogue during SBSTA 36. It expressed its appreciation to the representatives of regional and international research programmes and organizations active in climate change research, and to the IPCC, for their contributions to the dialogue.¹² It also expressed its appreciation to Parties for sharing their views on their research needs and priorities in the context of the dialogue.¹³

13. The SBSTA invited Parties to submit to the secretariat, by 25 March 2013, their views on possible items for consideration as part of the research dialogue during SBSTA 38 and requested the secretariat to compile these submissions into a miscellaneous document.

14. The SBSTA noted the views submitted by Parties contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2012/MISC.2 and Add.1 and 2.

15. The SBSTA requested the secretariat to organize a workshop, subject to the availability of financial resources, to be held by SBSTA 39, to consider information on the technical and scientific aspects of ecosystems with high-carbon reservoirs not covered by other agenda items under the Convention, such as coastal marine ecosystems, in the context of wider mitigation and adaptation efforts.

16. The SBSTA invited Parties to submit to the secretariat, by 25 March 2013, their views on the content of that workshop and requested the secretariat to compile these submissions into a miscellaneous document.

17. The SBSTA invited Parties and regional and international research programmes and organizations active in climate change research to provide information on the technical and scientific aspects of emissions by sources, removals by sinks, and reservoirs of all greenhouse gases, including emissions and removals from terrestrial ecosystems such as steppe, savannah, tundra and peatlands, with a view to identifying and quantifying the impact of human activities. This information would be considered as a theme for the next research dialogue, also taking into account the submissions received in accordance with paragraph 13 above.

18. The SBSTA took note of the estimated budgetary implications of the activities to be undertaken by the secretariat pursuant to the provisions contained in paragraph 15 above.

19. The SBSTA requested that the actions of the secretariat called for in paragraph 15 above be undertaken subject to the availability of financial resources.

¹¹ FCCC/SBI/2006/11, paragraph 109(a).

¹² This information was provided in the submissions contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2012/MISC.3 and in the presentations given during the research dialogue. For information on research programmes and organizations that contributed to the research dialogue, see <<http://unfccc.int/6896.php>>.

¹³ This information was provided in the submissions contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2012/MISC.2 and Add.1 and 2 and in the presentations given during the research dialogue, see <<http://unfccc.int/6896.php>>.