



Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

Forty-first session

Lima, 1–6 December 2014

Agenda item 8(b)

Matters relating to science and review

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 by representatives of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) secretariat, and of Japan on behalf of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) and the Coordination Group for Meteorological Satellites (CGMS).¹
2. The SBSTA welcomed the Synthesis Report of the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and noted the continued key importance of research and systematic observation to the work of the IPCC.
3. The SBSTA welcomed the report by the GCOS secretariat on its recent and planned activities,² including on the outcomes and recommendations of the GCOS programme review by its sponsors, which confirmed the significance of the programme and that it should continue. The SBSTA noted that the GCOS workshop on observations for climate change mitigation³ contributed to a better understanding of the observational requirements for mitigation.
4. The SBSTA noted the progress made by GCOS towards the development of a status report that will be presented at SBSTA 43 (November–December 2015), and on the new implementation plan that will be presented at SBSTA 45 (November–December 2016).

¹ The statements are available at <<http://unfccc.int/8744>>.

² The submission by the GCOS secretariat to SBSTA 41 is available at <<http://unfccc.int/7482>>.

³ The workshop was co-sponsored by the Land Cover Project Office of the Global Observation for Forest Cover and Land Dynamics Programme and was held from 5 to 7 May 2014 in Geneva, Switzerland. The report on the workshop is available at <<http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/gcos/Publications/gcos-185.pdf>>.

5. The SBSTA recalled the conclusions from SBSTA 37⁴ and encouraged Parties to actively engage in the review of the status report and to support the development of the new implementation plan, including on aspects related to ocean observation and acidification.
6. The SBSTA recalled the conclusions from SBSTA 39⁵ and welcomed the plans of the GCOS secretariat to organize, in collaboration with the IPCC and the secretariat, a workshop to identify ways to enhance systematic observation and related capacity, especially in developing countries to support preparedness and adaptation in a changing climate proposed to be held in February 2015 in Bonn, Germany. It invited the GCOS secretariat to provide a report on the workshop by SBSTA 43.
7. The SBSTA expressed its appreciation to CEOS and CGMS for their updated report on the progress made by space agencies providing global observations in their coordinated response to relevant needs of the Convention.⁶ It noted the importance of continuing and sustaining satellite observations on a long-term basis and welcomed the efforts to develop an architecture for climate monitoring from space. It invited CEOS to report on progress at SBSTA 43, and at subsequent sessions, as appropriate.
8. The SBSTA noted with appreciation the information provided by WMO on the developments regarding the implementation of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) and the outcome of the second session of the Intergovernmental Board on Climate Services.⁷ The SBSTA noted that GFCS has moved into an implementation phase and encouraged Parties to make use of the opportunities that GFCS provides to help to address climate variability and change at the national level, including to enhance climate observations and monitoring, and to support the formulation and implementation of national adaptation planning processes, as appropriate. The SBSTA invited WMO to report, by SBSTA 43, on progress made on the implementation of GFCS.
9. The SBSTA recalled paragraphs 45 and 47 of the conclusions from SBSTA 39⁸ and reemphasized the importance of systematic observation for the UNFCCC process at large and the continued need to secure funding to meet the essential needs for national, regional and global climate observations under the Convention on a long-term basis.

⁴ FCCC/SBSTA/2012/5, paragraph 39.

⁵ FCCC/SBSTA/2013/5, paragraph 48.

⁶ The submission from CEOS to SBSTA 41 is available at <<http://unfccc.int/7482>>.

⁷ The submission from WMO to SBSTA 41 is available at <<http://unfccc.int/7482>>.

⁸ FCCC/SBSTA/2013/5.