

24 May 2019

Reflections note by the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

1. The fiftieth session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) will take place in Bonn from Monday 17 to Thursday 27 June 2019. Turning fifty invites a moment for reflection on what has been achieved so far, and I would invite everyone to consider the following information: when our first Chair, Tibor Faragó from Hungary, opened the first session of SBSTA in Geneva on 28 August 1995, weekly CO₂ concentrations in the atmosphere were 359.29ppm.¹ It has been reported in the past few days that the average daily CO₂ concentration on 11 May 2019 was above 415ppm for the first time in human history.² Despite the outputs of our many meetings since 1995, the fact is that we remain far from stabilising greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere. Indeed, global emissions continue to rise and, as recognised by the Talanoa Call for Action, this leaves a significant gap in the effort needed to limit global warming to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C.³ To remind us of the challenge that faces us, I will ask the secretariat to put the Keeling Curve showing the evolution of global CO₂ concentrations on the screen when we open SBSTA 50. I urge everyone to work throughout the session so that our work during SBSTA 50 can truly contribute to supporting strengthened implementation and enhanced ambition and hence to meeting the objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the goals of the Paris Agreement.

2. Turning to the work of SBSTA 50, I have drawn up this note under my own responsibility as Chair of SBSTA to provide Parties, in advance of the session, with information on the state of play and how I propose that work might be organised. The note is complementary to, and should be read in conjunction with, the provisional agenda and annotations that provide background information about all agenda items, their mandates and expected action by SBSTA 50.⁴

3. More specifically, the note provides:

- Some proposals for working efficiently, effectively and harmoniously;
- Some information on the status of work and suggested ways forward by agenda item, including several joint items with the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI);
- Some information on other activities and related events.

4. It is not my intention to prejudge or limit in any way the choices that Parties will make, but I hope that this note will prove useful to Parties in their preparation for the session and enable the pre-session consultations that I undertake to be more effective.

5. I look forward to a busy and productive session in June, with conclusions on all issues, which will serve as an important step towards further progress during SBSTA 51 and the decisions to be taken by the 25th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP), the 15th session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP) and the 2nd session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) in Santiago in December 2019.

¹ Average weekly CO₂ concentration at Mauna Loa Observatory, Hawaii (representative of the concentration in the Northern Hemisphere) from data set accessed at http://scrippsco2.ucsd.edu/assets/data/atmospheric/stations/in_situ_co2/weekly/weekly_in_situ_co2_mlo.csv

² As reported by the Keeling Curve twitter account on 12 May 2019 https://twitter.com/Keeling_curve/status/1127614826081964038

³ Talanoa Call for Action by the Presidents of COP23 and COP24 https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/9fc76f74-a749-4eec-9a06-5907e013dbc9/downloads/1cuk0273o_417799.pdf

⁴ FCCC/SBSTA/2019/1.

I. Working efficiently, effectively and harmoniously

6. For the first time since 2005, only two subsidiary bodies – SBSTA and SBI – will be meeting during the June session. Both subsidiary bodies, however, have a heavy workload with new mandates arising from the Katowice outcomes adopted by the CMA and from previous sessions of SBSTA, the COP and the CMP. There will also be many mandated events to fit in between our opening on Monday 17 June 2019 and closing on Thursday 27 June 2019.
7. SBSTA 50 will have a wide-ranging agenda including items relating to the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.
8. I propose organising work at SBSTA 50 as follows:
- (a) I shall consult groups and Parties in the days preceding the opening of the session on how best to achieve the objectives of the session, including on the approaches outlined in this note, in particular those set out in section II in relation to work on each agenda item;
 - (b) SBSTA will adopt its agenda and set the direction of its work at the first plenary meeting on Monday 17 June 2019. For most items, I shall propose to set up a contact group or informal consultations to take work forward (further details of how I propose to proceed on each agenda item are in section II below) and invite a pair of co-chairs or co-facilitators to assist me in that work. This approach also applies, in close coordination with the Chair of SBI, to items that are jointly under SBSTA and SBI;
 - (c) A number of intergovernmental organisations will make statements in the opening plenary of SBSTA after work has been launched for all agenda items;
 - (d) Following the opening plenary, a joint plenary session of SBSTA and SBI will hear statements from groups, Parties and observers;
 - (e) SBSTA will then move swiftly to undertake its work in the negotiation groups established under its agenda items;
 - (f) Mandated and other events will take place as announced during the session;⁵
 - (g) All contact groups and informal consultations will have to finalise their draft conclusions at the latest by lunchtime on Wednesday 26 June 2019 to allow time for them to be made available in the six official United Nations languages before the closing plenary;
 - (h) SBSTA will adopt its conclusions on all the items on the agenda at its closing plenary meeting on Thursday 27 June 2019;
 - (i) I may undertake, as needed, further consultations during the session to discuss how to address specific issues, to ensure the advancement of the work at SBSTA 50 and the preparation for SBSTA 51. As well as bilateral consultations with groups, these might also include meetings of heads of delegation on specific issues should that appear helpful for progress during the session.
9. Given our workload, the large number of meetings to organise and the limited time available, time management matters. I have, therefore, asked the secretariat to assist me, in close collaboration with SBI, to ensure that there is sufficient time and space for negotiation group meetings on all agenda items so that we can make the best possible progress at the session. As always, it will be important to minimise clashes between meetings on related items, including where relevant with items not only on the SBSTA agenda but also on that of SBI (work on transparency related issues will pose a particular challenge). An approach that has proved valuable in past sessions has been to secure the same room for topics that are related and that involve many of the same negotiators: I hope that will be possible, although I recognise that logistical constraints may not always permit this.

⁵ See the overview schedule at <https://unfccc.int/SB-50>. Updated information will be communicated in the daily programme and on CCTV during the session.

10. It will remain essential for negotiation group meetings to start and finish on time and I will insist on this from the co-chairs and co-facilitators who assist me during the session. Meetings will respect the "six o'clock rule" to give Parties and regional groups sufficient time to prepare and coordinate their work and daily meetings, taking into account relevant conclusions agreed in the past by SBI.⁶ In addition, it is important that delegates can work (relatively) normal hours since, despite our bad habits in the UNFCCC process, there is no evidence that being overly tired and stressed produce better results.

11. I look forward to continuing the good practice of strong coordination between Presiding Officers and to working closely with the Chair of SBI, the Polish Presidency of COP 24 and the incoming Chilean Presidency of COP 25, as well as with the secretariat, so as to deliver coherent and successful results in Bonn and Santiago. We shall meet regularly throughout the session.

12. More particularly, four items on the SBSTA 50 provisional agenda (items 4, 5, 6(a) and 7) are joint items that are also included in the provisional agenda of SBI 50. In preparing this note, I have, therefore, consulted the Chair of SBI to ensure the consistency of approach between the subsidiary bodies on our joint items. These items are marked with an asterisk (*) in the note and in the provisional agenda. A number of mandated events are also organised jointly by SBSTA and SBI. I shall work closely with the Chair of SBI throughout the session to ensure that the work under these items is successfully concluded.

13. I give great importance to openness in our work and would like to encourage Parties to allow all meetings of contact groups and informal consultations to be open to observers wherever possible in accordance with the relevant conclusions agreed in the past by SBI.⁷ I look forward to meeting observers during the session. Along with the Chair of SBI, I will ensure that observers have the chance to present their views on our work in the joint plenary session.

14. A Code of Ethics⁸ for elected and appointed officers was developed in 2018, at the request of the Presiding Officers, to set out the standards of conduct expected of elected or appointed officers in the performance of their duties, including when chairing bodies, facilitating formal and informal meetings, and their relations with Parties, the secretariat and other participants in undertaking those duties. The Bureau of the COP agreed in Katowice to apply the Code of Ethics provisionally and to establish an Ethics Committee to further review and improve the document: that Committee was established by the Bureau in March 2019 and will consider whether to revise the Code of Ethics. I will draw the attention of all chairs and facilitators working under SBSTA in Bonn to the Code of Ethics, and to any revisions that the Bureau may agree, and underline the importance of respecting its provisions. Furthermore, in accordance with the Code of Conduct for UNFCCC conferences, meetings and events,⁹ I will remind all co-chairs and co-facilitators that officers are not to engage in any form of discrimination or harassment in any form, including sexual harassment.

15. As in past sessions, I shall hold a daily coordination meeting with all co-chairs and co-facilitators working under SBSTA to monitor progress towards our objectives for the session, and to give them guidance as necessary on how to proceed, in close cooperation with the Chair of SBI on joint items.

⁶ FCCC/SBI/2014/8, paragraph 218–221.

⁷ FCCC/SBI/2014/8, paragraph 222–223.

⁸ <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Code%20of%20Ethics%20for%20elected%20and%20appointed%20officers.pdf>

⁹ https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Final_CoC_UNFCCC%20Conferences2.0_WEB.pdf

II. Status of work and suggested approach on agenda items

Agenda item 3: Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change

16. The Nairobi work programme (NWP)¹⁰ is an excellent illustration of one of the main tasks of SBSTA – bringing together experts and practitioners to share knowledge and experience and to close knowledge gaps, in this case on the impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change. SBSTA decided last year that it would henceforth consider matters related to the NWP at its first regular session of the year (although the NWP Focal Point Forum will continue to meet in conjunction with the second regular session of the year, and the theme of the 13th Focal Point Forum in the margins of SBSTA 51 in December this year will be *Oceans*, in line with the advice given by the Adaptation Committee (AC)).

17. Since SBSTA 48, the secretariat, under my guidance, and despite resource constraints, has worked with partner organisations as well as experts and other organisations to advance the work of the NWP, including by:

- Producing useable knowledge products and catalysing actions in thematic areas of economic diversification, human settlements,¹¹ ecosystems and communities¹² and developing indicative workplans to continue work on existing thematic areas as well as undertaking activities addressing new thematic areas;
- Advancing the work on the Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative (LAKI)¹³ in partnership with the University of Michigan¹⁴ and other partners in closing priority knowledge gaps identified during the first phase of LAKI;
- Collaborating with the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) in supporting the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans (NAPs), with a specific focus on vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems;¹⁵
- Enhancing the user-friendliness of the adaptation knowledge portal¹⁶ by improving the design of the interface as well as enhancing accessibility and linkages with other social media platforms under the UNFCCC.

18. In addition, the AC, in response to an invitation from SBSTA 48, provided advice on the delivery of NWP mandates that relate to the work programmes of constituted bodies, and on opportunities to align efforts with relevant bodies, workstreams and institutional arrangements at its fifteenth meeting (in response to SBSTA 48 outcomes).¹⁷ The advice also includes collaboration with NWP partners in implementing the work mandated to the AC by CMA and adaptation-knowledge related activities in the AC's flexible three-year workplan.

19. I encourage Parties to make good use of this opportunity to review the outcomes of work under the NWP since SBSTA 48 set out in the concise annual report prepared by the secretariat¹⁸ and to provide feedback on the progress as well on the indicative workplan. I look forward to Parties agreeing conclusions on this item at this session that will provide any guidance that they may wish to give to provide visibility for the outcomes and direction to deliver the work under the NWP in a manner that enhances its role as a knowledge-for-action hub for adaptation and resilience in light of the Paris Agreement.

¹⁰ <https://unfccc.int/nwp>.

¹¹ <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWPStaging/Pages/HS-page.aspx>.

¹² <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWPStaging/Pages/ecosystems-page.aspx>.

¹³ <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWPStaging/Pages/laki.aspx>.

¹⁴ https://seas.umich.edu/academics/resources/capstone/improving_climate_resilience_seychelles_evaluating_impacts_sea_level.

¹⁵ <http://napexpo.org/2019/sessions/parallel-session-7-2/>.

¹⁶ <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWPStaging/Pages/Home.aspx>.

¹⁷ <https://unfccc.int/node/194841>.

¹⁸ FCCC/SBSTA/2019/INF.1.

20. I propose to set up informal consultations on this item and to invite a pair of co-facilitators to assist me in managing this work during SBSTA 50.

Agenda item 4: Terms of reference for the 2019 review of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts *

(Joint issue with SBI agenda item 9)

21. In line with the recommendations of COP 22,¹⁹ SBSTA and SBI will work together at this session to finalise the terms of reference for the 2019 review of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with climate change impacts (WIM).

22. As of mid-May 2019, six Parties and groups, one admitted non-governmental organisation on behalf of a network, and one non-admitted entity have provided their inputs on this matter in response to the invitation by the COP.²⁰ These submissions can be found on the submission portal.²¹

23. Along with the Chair of SBI, I encourage Parties to study all the submissions before coming to SB 50 and to make good use of the pre-session consultations:

- To deepen their understanding of the views of Parties on scope, sources of input and modalities of the review without prejudging the expected outcomes of the review;
- To identify areas of convergence which would enable Parties to focus during the session on finding solutions to issues where divergent views exist.

24. Along with the Chair of SBI, I encourage Parties to direct their deliberations to fulfilling the specific task entrusted to the subsidiary bodies at this session and, to this end, to continue the understanding among Parties in Katowice to take technical work forward without prejudging outcomes of future consideration of the governance of the WIM.²²

25. Such preparation and understanding would provide a good basis for successful negotiations so that Parties can finalise in Bonn the terms of reference for the review of the WIM and hence enable the review to take place effectively at SB 51 in December 2019.

26. The Chair of SBI and I propose to set up informal consultations on this item and to invite a pair of co-facilitators to assist us in managing this work during SB 50.

Agenda item 5: Koronivia joint work on agriculture *

(Joint issue with SBI agenda item 8)

27. Under the Koronivia joint work on agriculture (KJWA), SBSTA and SBI jointly address issues related to agriculture, including through workshops and expert meetings, working with constituted bodies under the Convention and taking into consideration the vulnerabilities of agriculture to climate change and approaches to addressing food security. Following the approval by SB 48 of the Koronivia road map running until 2020, Parties undertook the first activities of the KJWA during SB 49 in Katowice, including the first workshop.

28. Along with the SBI Chair, I look forward to seeing work under the KJWA progress during the June session, in particular through:

- The successful organisation and active participation of Parties and observers in the two workshops that will be held during the session on:
 - o Methods and approaches for assessing adaptation, adaptation co-benefits and resilience,

¹⁹ Decision 4/CP.22, paragraph 2 (c)–(e).

²⁰ Decision 5/CP.23, paragraph 12.

²¹ <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx>.

²² Report of COP 24 as contained in document FCCC/CP/2018/10, paragraph 83.

- Improved soil carbon, soil health and soil fertility under grassland and cropland as well as integrated systems, including water management.
 - The views of Parties and observers on the topics of these workshops. As of mid-May 2019, six Parties and groups, 16 admitted non-governmental organisation on behalf of a network, and three non-admitted entities, have provided their inputs on this matter²³ and these submissions can be found on the submission portal.²⁴
 - The outcomes of the consideration of the report of the first workshop held in Katowice on *Modalities for implementation of the outcomes of the five in-session workshops on issues related to agriculture and other future topics that may arise from this work*²⁵ which may include any possible follow-up activities;
 - The outcomes of the consideration of the proposal from New Zealand to host a workshop related to the Koronivia road map.
29. The Chair of the SBI and I propose to set up informal consultations on this item and to invite a pair of co-facilitators to assist us in managing this work during SB 50.

Agenda item 6: Matters relating to science and review

- (a) Scope of the next periodic review of the long-term global goal under the Convention and of overall progress towards achieving it *

(Joint issue with SBI agenda item 7)

30. At the June session, SBSTA and SBI are to consider the scope of the next periodic review and prepare a recommendation for consideration by COP 25.²⁶

31. In line with the decision taken by COP 17, periodic reviews should take place following the adoption of an assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) or at least every seven years.²⁷ COP 21 agreed that the next periodic review should be conducted in an effective and efficient manner, avoiding duplication of work and taking into account the results of relevant work conducted under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol and by the subsidiary bodies.²⁸ COP 21 also requested SBSTA and SBI to consider the scope of the next periodic review with a view to forwarding a recommendation for consideration by the COP by no later than 2018, as appropriate.²⁹ In response to this request, the subsidiary bodies, at SB 44, jointly noted the relevance of the work on modalities and sources of input for the global stocktake of the Paris Agreement, the 2018 Talanoa Dialogue (both concluded at COP 24) and the technical examination processes (ongoing since 2016). COP 23 decided that the consideration of the scope of the next periodic review should be resumed by SBSTA50 and SBI50.³⁰

32. The Chair of the SBI and I encourage Parties to address this issue constructively in Bonn and to consider whether it would now be appropriate to modify in any way the scope of the next periodic review which is due to look at the adequacy of the long-term global goal under the Convention and progress towards that goal. In doing so, Parties may wish to look closely at decision 19/CMA.1, which sets out how the global stocktake under Article 14 of the Paris Agreement will operate, since there may be consequences for the periodic review under the Convention. Depending on their recommendation, Parties may also wish to consider whether any changes to the modalities of the review might be needed (such as modifying the timeline or the duration of the review). Along with the Chair of SBI, I look forward to finalising conclusions at SB 50 with a recommendation to be sent to COP 25 on the matter.

²³ FCCC/SBSTA/2018/4, paragraph 65; FCCC/SBI/2018/9, paragraph 43.

²⁴ <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx>.

²⁵ FCCC/SB/2019/INF.1.

²⁶ Decision 18/CP.23.

²⁷ Decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 167.

²⁸ Decision 10/CP.21, paragraph 9.

²⁹ Decision 10/CP.21, paragraph 10.

³⁰ Decision 18/CP.23.

33. The Chair of the SBI and I propose to set up informal consultations on this item and invite co-facilitators to assist us in managing this work during SB 50.

(b) Research and systematic observation

34. Our work on research and systematic observation (RSO) lies at the heart of the role of SBSTA as the interface between the UNFCCC process and the scientific community: on the one hand it gives the scientific community the opportunity to present the most recent scientific information on climate observations, research and services to SBSTA; on the other hand it enables Parties to identify progress, gaps and needs, in order to support effective action under the relevant workstreams of the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.

35. As a standing item, work on RSO at SBSTA 50 will cover research, as it usually does for the first regular session of the year, but it will also continue the work that was not completed by SBSTA 49 on systematic observation³¹ I look forward to SBSTA 50 reaching substantive conclusions on both components of this work.

36. Looking first at the research component of our work, the key event will be the 11th meeting of the research dialogue which will take place on Thursday 20 June 2019: the poster session will be opened during lunchtime; the dialogue will be held during the afternoon. As of mid-May 2019, four Parties and groups have provided their inputs on possible themes for the research dialogue in response to the invitation by SBSTA³² and these submissions can be found on the submission portal.³³

37. I would like to confirm the following themes for the dialogue:

- Transformation of energy and other sectoral systems to achieve the purpose and long-term goals of the Paris Agreement;
- Transformative adaptation and climate resilient development;
- Changing levels of risk and the attribution of extreme climate events and impacts to climate change;
- Role of the ocean in the climate system.

The dialogue will focus on the first two themes, whilst the poster session will cover all four.

38. An information note will be published in advance of the dialogue that will provide further information not only on the organisation of the dialogue but also a summary of action underway on research by a range of key scientific partners. All relevant information will also be posted on the web page for the dialogue that will be updated regularly.³⁴ Parties are invited to come prepared to participate in the dialogue as well as to identify research and research capacity building gaps and needs. Given the importance of this dialogue, which I will chair, I would encourage heads of delegation to take part. I would also encourage all Parties and observers to make good use of the poster session that will be opened at lunchtime before the dialogue on 20 June 2019 and will remain in place for several days and provide an opportunity for one-to-one exchanges with many researchers.

39. Informal consultations on research will continue after the dialogue and I encourage Parties to consider the information presented during the dialogue, along with other inputs such as statements and submissions, when preparing conclusions on this topic for SBSTA 50. Given that there is a separate agenda item 6(c) that will consider further the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C (SR1.5), I would encourage Parties to focus under this agenda item on new scientific information since the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) and the SR1.5 and the links to other workstreams such as adaptation, the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform, loss and damage, national communications, greenhouse gas inventories (support from systematic observation), and the global stocktake.

³¹ <https://unfccc.int/topics/science/workstreams/research/upcoming-negotiations>.

³² FCCC/SBSTA/2018/3, paragraph 53.

³³ <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx>.

³⁴ <https://unfccc.int/event/eleventh-meeting-of-the-research-dialogue-rd-11>.

40. As for systematic observation, I regret that SBSTA 49 was unable to reach conclusions on this important issue. I believe that Parties were, however, close to agreement in Katowice on most of the substantive elements of draft conclusions on systematic observation. The issue they were unable to solve was about a possible reference to the SR1.5. COP 24 subsequently agreed on a decision that included several paragraphs on the SR1.5,³⁵ and consideration of that matter by SBSTA 50 will take place under a separate agenda sub-item 6(c). I therefore hope that SBSTA 50 can overcome the disagreements that marked the closing of SBSTA 49 and focus on completing work on systematic observation and prepare conclusions for this session, including on issues such as the possible organisation of an Earth Information Day.³⁶ I would recall that a number of organisations, including the World Meteorological Organization, the Global Climate Observing System, and the satellite community through the Joint Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) and the Coordination Group for Meteorological Satellites (CGMS) Working Group on Climate, had provided submissions on systematic observation at SBSTA 49 and these remain relevant to work on this item in Bonn.

41. I propose to set up informal consultations on this item and invite a pair of co-facilitators to assist me in managing this work during SBSTA 50.

(c) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 °C

42. COP 24 requested SBSTA to consider the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 °C (SR1.5)³⁷ with a view to strengthening the scientific knowledge on the 1.5°C goal, including in the context of the preparation of the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) of the IPCC and the implementation of the Convention and the Paris Agreement.³⁸ The COP also invited Parties to make use of the information contained in the SR1.5 in their discussions under all relevant agenda items of the subsidiary and governing bodies.³⁹

43. I encourage Parties to deepen their consideration of this important report with a focus on ways in which our understanding of the 1.5°C goal can be strengthened, both in terms of the work of the scientific community (for example by identifying gaps in scientific knowledge that were highlighted by the report and ways by which these might be addressed by the research community, including for generating new knowledge in time to be considered during the preparation of AR6) as well in ways that will assist Parties in the implementation of the Convention and the Paris Agreement.

44. I will invite the IPCC representative to be available to respond to any inquiry from Parties so as to support deliberations on this matter, as needed.

45. I propose to set up informal consultations on this item and invite a pair of co-facilitators to assist me in managing this work during SBSTA 50.

Agenda item 7: Matters relating to the forum on the impact of the implementation of response measures serving the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement *

(Joint issue with SBI agenda item 14)

46. The COP, the CMP and the CMA each adopted a decision in Katowice to relaunch the work of the forum on the impact of the implementation of response measures.⁴⁰ All three decisions make it clear that there is a single forum that covers the work of the COP, the CMP and the CMA on all

³⁵ Decision 1/CP.24, paragraphs 24 to 29.

³⁶ <https://unfccc.int/topics/science/workstreams/systematic-observation/upcoming-negotiations>.

³⁷ IPCC 2018. *Global Warming of 1.5 °C: An IPCC Special Report on the Impacts of Global Warming of 1.5 °C above Pre-industrial Levels and Related Global Greenhouse Gas Emission Pathways in the Context of Strengthening the Global Response to the Threat of Climate Change, Sustainable Development, and Efforts to Eradicate Poverty*. Geneva: IPCC. Available at <http://ipcc.ch/report/sr15/>.

³⁸ Decision 1/CP.24, paragraph 28.

³⁹ Decision 1/CP.24, paragraph 27.

⁴⁰ Decisions 7/CP.24, 3/CMP.14 and 7/CMA.1.

matters related to the impact of the implementation of response measures and which shall report to each of the governing bodies on issues related to its responsibilities.⁴¹

47. Those decisions identified the following four areas for the work programme:⁴²

- (a) Economic diversification and transformation;
- (b) Just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs;
- (c) Assessing and analysing the impacts of the implementation of response measures;
- (d) Facilitating the development of tools and methodologies to assess the impacts of the implementation of response measures.

48. In addition, the decisions provided for the creation of the Katowice Committee of Experts on the Impacts of the Implementation of Response Measures (KCI) to support the work programme of the forum in accordance with the agreed modalities and terms of reference.⁴³ The first meeting of the KCI will be convened on 13-14 June 2019. Parties were invited to nominate KCI members by 15 April 2019: as of mid-May 2019, not all nominations had been received. Along with the Chair of SBI, I urge Parties to complete nominations to the KCI as soon as possible and in any case well before the start of the SB 50 pre-session meetings in June. The secretariat will regularly update the list of members on the UNFCCC website.⁴⁴ The Chair of SBI and I propose that representatives of relevant intergovernmental organisations (IGOs) participate in the work of the first meeting of the KCI as observers. This will be a provisional arrangement applying only for the first meeting of the KCI. The Chair of SBI and I will propose an arrangement for selecting the two members from relevant IGOs which would apply for subsequent meetings of the KCI.

49. The forum is expected to develop and recommend in June a six-year workplan for the forum in line with its functions, work programme and modalities, taking into account relevant policy issues of concern to Parties for consideration and adoption by the subsidiary bodies at this session.⁴⁵

50. Parties were invited to submit their views by 15 April 2019. As of mid-May 2019, the secretariat has received four submissions from Parties and groups, one from an admitted intergovernmental organisation and one from an admitted non-governmental organisation. These submissions can be found on the submission portal.⁴⁶

51. The Chair of SBI and I encourage Parties to examine the views expressed in their submissions and consider how to take them into account when developing the six-year workplan. The six-year workplan could for example include a range of activities over the period with clear outputs related to the four areas of the work programme. The SBI Chair and I look forward to the successful deliberations among Parties on the six-year workplan which will enable the forum on the impacts of the implementation of response measures to promptly start its activities to serve the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement as envisaged in the Katowice outcomes.

52. The Chair of SBI and I propose to set up a joint contact group on this item, in accordance with the modalities of the forum, and to invite a pair of co-chairs to assist us in managing this work during SB 50.

⁴¹ Matters that were addressed by SBSTA in past sessions under the agenda item on *matters relating to Article 2, paragraph 3, of the Kyoto Protocol* will be addressed along with all other matters related to the impact of the implementation of response measures under the forum.

⁴² Paragraph 2 of the annex to decision 7/CMA.1.

⁴³ Paragraphs 4 and 5 of the annex to decision 7/CMA.1.

⁴⁴ https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Membership_chart.pdf.

⁴⁵ Decision 7/CMA.1.

⁴⁶ <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx>.

Agenda item 8: Methodological issues under the Convention

- (a) Training programme for review experts for the technical review of greenhouse gas inventories of Parties included in Annex I to the Convention
- (b) Training programme for review experts for the technical review of biennial reports and national communications of Parties included in Annex I to the Convention

53. I propose to handle sub-items 8(a) and (b) together at this session because of their close links. For these two sub-items, SBSTA 50 will:

(a) Assess the results of the ongoing training programme for review experts for the technical review of greenhouse gas inventories⁴⁷ and consider the need for further development and enhancement of the programme,⁴⁸ as well as the timeline of its implementation in accordance with the need for reviewers for the greenhouse gas inventory submissions of Parties included in Annex I to the Convention.⁴⁹

(b) Consider the timeline of the implementation of the ongoing training programme for review experts for the technical review of biennial reports and national communications of Parties including in Annex I⁵⁰ in accordance with the needs for the reviewers for the Annex I Parties' biennial reports and national communications.⁵¹

54. Training is a vital part of ensuring the effectiveness of review processes under the Convention. Since there are several items related to training on our agenda at this session, both in relation to these two sub-items under the Convention and to the Paris Agreement (item 10(e)), I have asked the secretariat to organise a special event to provide a briefing to Parties including an overview of existing training programmes. This event will be held on 17 June 2019.

55. I hope that Parties will make rapid progress on these two sub-items, considering the timeline of the implementation on the current training programmes and produce recommendations, including on when it might be appropriate to revisit the issue (for example, in 2023). Back-to-back meetings with other training related items may be organised to facilitate work.

56. I propose to set up informal consultations on these two sub-items and invite a pair of co-facilitators to assist me in managing this work during SBSTA 50.

(c) Greenhouse gas data interface

57. The secretariat has made good progress in implementing the current mandate⁵² for developing the greenhouse gas data interface and will make a presentation on this work, highlighting that only one module remains to be upgraded to complete work. One issue that Parties may wish to consider is how to reflect the information provided by the increasing number of non-Annex I Parties who provide data using the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories. I look forward to Parties providing guidance on the further development of the greenhouse gas data interface.

58. I propose to set up informal consultations on this item and invite a pair of co-facilitators to assist me in managing this work during SBSTA 50.

(d) Common metrics to calculate the carbon dioxide equivalence of greenhouse gases

59. Parties have been discussing under SBSTA the question of common metrics for a number of years and agreed at SBSTA 47 to continue consideration of the issue at SBSTA 50 so as to be able to take account of outcome of deliberations under the Paris Agreement work programme. As they

⁴⁷ Decision 14/CP.20 and its annex.

⁴⁸ FCCC/SBSTA/2017/4, paragraphs 79 and 80.

⁴⁹ Decision 1/CP.24, paragraphs 42 and 44.

⁵⁰ Decision 19/CP.23 and its annex.

⁵¹ Decision 1/CP.24, paragraphs 39 and 46.

⁵² FCCC/SBSTA/2013/3, paragraph 121 and FCCC/SBSTA/2013/5, paragraph 86.

resume work on this issue, Parties may therefore wish to take into account paragraph 37 of the annex to decision 18/CMA.1, which requires Parties that are Parties to the Paris Agreement to use the 100-year time-horizon global warming potential values from the IPCC AR5 to report aggregate emissions and removals of greenhouse gases for their reporting pursuant the modalities, procedures and guidelines (MPGs) for the transparency framework for action and support. They may also wish to consider the merits of common metrics to be used by Parties under the Convention that are consistent with those already agreed under the Paris Agreement with a view to enhance synchronisation and consistency in reporting by Parties under the Convention and the Paris Agreement.

60. I encourage Parties to constructively work together and to conclude at this session their consideration of common metrics with an agreement on a recommendation on this matter for consideration by COP25.

61. I propose to set up informal consultations on this item and invite a pair of co-facilitators to assist me in managing this work during SBSTA 50.

(e) Emissions from fuel used for international aviation and maritime transport

62. Parties were unable to complete work on this agenda item at SBSTA 48 and 49 and rule 16 of the draft rules of procedure applied each time. Despite their failure to reach conclusions, Parties did engage in a constructive exchange on procedural and substantive issues at SBSTA 49 during the informal consultations that were held, and I would urge them to pursue these discussions further and to reach conclusions at SBSTA 50.

63. I propose to set up informal consultations on this item and invite a pair of co-facilitators to assist me in managing this work during SBSTA 50.

Agenda item 9: Methodological issues under the Kyoto Protocol

(a) Land use, land-use change and forestry under Article 3, paragraphs 3 and 4, of the Kyoto Protocol and under the clean development mechanism

64. In line with a request from the CMP,⁵³ SBSTA has been undertaking for a number of years work programmes to explore more comprehensive accounting of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks from land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF); to consider and, as appropriate, develop and recommend modalities and procedures for possible additional LULUCF activities and alternative approaches to addressing the risk of non-permanence under the clean development mechanism (CDM); and for applying the concept of additionality in accounting of LULUCF activities under Article 3, paragraphs 3 and 4, of the Kyoto Protocol.

65. SBSTA 48 postponed the consideration of this item to SBSTA 50.

66. I will consult Parties before the opening of the session on whether there are realistic prospects of making progress in June 2019, either to reach substantive conclusions or to agree to close the item. Depending on the results of those consultations, I shall either propose to defer consideration of this sub-item to SBSTA 52 without further discussion during SBSTA 50 or, if there is no agreement on deferral, I shall propose to set up informal consultations on this item and invite co-facilitators to assist me in managing this work during SBSTA 50.

⁵³ In accordance with decision 2/CMP.7, paragraphs 5, 6, 7 and 10.

(b) Implications of the inclusion of reforestation of lands with forest in exhaustion as afforestation and reforestation clean development mechanism project activities

67. In line with a request from the CMP,⁵⁴ SBSTA has been assessing for a number of years the implications of the recommendation regarding “forests in exhaustion” contained in annex I to the 2008–2009 annual report of the Executive Board of the CDM.⁵⁵

68. SBSTA 46 postponed the consideration of this item to SBSTA 50.

69. I will consult Parties before the opening of the session on whether there are realistic prospects of making progress in June, either to reach substantive conclusions or to agree to close the item. Depending on the results of those consultations, I shall either propose to defer consideration to SBSTA 52 without further discussion during SBSTA 50 or, if there is no agreement on deferral, I shall propose to set up informal consultations on this item and invite co-facilitators to assist me in managing this work during SBSTA 50.

Agenda item 10: Methodological issues under the Paris Agreement

70. The work on *Methodological issues under the Paris Agreement* constitutes a major new mandate for SBSTA following the agreement, as part of the Katowice outcomes, of decision 18/CMA.1 that delivered modalities, procedures and guidelines (MPGs) for the enhanced transparency framework (ETF) for action and support referred to in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement. The MPGs provide comprehensive requirements regarding the information that must be reported by Parties in relation to the implementation of their nationally determined contributions and how this information would be considered under the Agreement.

71. The CMA requested SBSTA⁵⁶ to undertake further technical work on a number of issues in relation to how reported and reviewed information should be organised and presented, and how programmes for training of experts taking part in reviews should be elaborated. Our task is to produce these operational tools for Parties to be able to implement the agreed ETF. The detailed mandate from the CMA is reflected in the five sub-items 10(a)-(e) with the deadline of preparing recommendations on all of these issues to CMA 3 at the end of 2020.

72. The CMA requested Parties⁵⁷ to submit by 31 March 2019 their views on the technical work mandated to SBSTA. As of mid-May 2019, the secretariat has received eight submissions from Parties and groups in response to the invitation by the CMA. These submissions can be found on the submission portal.⁵⁸

73. The mandate given to SBSTA covers a number of distinct but closely related issues. As a result, it is going to be important to organise work on this block of work at SBSTA 50 in a manner that provides both a coherent overall management of all the methodological issues under the Paris Agreement whilst allowing for the specific characteristics of each element to be fully addressed.

74. To achieve this, I propose that work on these five sub-items be organised at two levels:

- When organising work at the opening of SBSTA, I will propose to set up a single contact group covering all five sub-items 10(a)-(e) and to invite a pair of co-chairs to assist me in managing the overall work of these MPGs during SBSTA 50. The contact group will ensure an overview of all the work under agenda item 10, ensure coherence across all issues, and prepare conclusions for all five sub-items;
- The co-chairs of the contact group will plan how to advance work throughout the session, in particular by setting up informal consultations on individual sub-items to address the substance of each in depth. The co-chairs may facilitate these consultations themselves or ask other facilitators to assist them in that task. The informal consultations will report back to the contact group, including on any cross-cutting issues that need to be addressed.

⁵⁴ In accordance with decision 2/CMP.5, paragraph 28.

⁵⁵ FCCC/KP/CMP/2009/16.

⁵⁶ Decision 18/CMA.1, paragraph 12.

⁵⁷ Decision 18/CMA.1, paragraph 13.

⁵⁸ <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx>.

75. I shall make sure that Parties have a clear view on how this arrangement will work when I organise work at the opening of SBSTA 50. Full details on the organisation of informal consultations within the contact group will be made available on the SBSTA web page and updated during the session.

76. Many delegations will have the same negotiators follow all of these issues – indeed, they may also be following other transparency-related issues under SBSTA as well as SBI. A wider group of negotiators may be involved in item 10(c) on common tabular formats for reporting support because of the need to have expertise on finance, technology development and transfer and capacity building. Given these linkages, it is going to be particularly important to avoid clashes across the wider transparency block of work. I will ask the secretariat to give particular attention to this and to coordinate closely with SBI on its issues related to transparency, finance, technology and capacity building. I hope that the arrangements I propose for items 10(a)-(e) will contribute to that goal.

77. As Parties develop the common reporting tables and common tabular formats for the ETF, they will want to take account of the existing common tabular formats and common reporting formats under the Convention.⁵⁹ To this end, I have requested the secretariat to organise a special event to provide a briefing to Parties on experience with the current measurement, reporting and verification system.⁶⁰ Another special event will be organised to provide a briefing to Parties on training-related issues (see above sub-items 8(a) and 8(b) and below item 10(e)).

78. Given the timeline to CMA 3 at the end of 2020, work at SBSTA 50 will be primarily devoted to initiating substantive work on these five sub-items and developing initial draft texts, although I encourage Parties to make as much progress as possible and to not exclude the possibility of completing some sub-items before the end of 2020. The conclusions at SBSTA 50 on these sub-items will, therefore, probably be largely procedural. Parties may find it useful to consider how to organise their work in the lead up to 2020, including the scope for inter-sessional work, such as the preparation of technical papers by the secretariat or the organisation of workshops or expert meetings, that might assist Parties in their further work.

(a) Common reporting tables for the electronic reporting of the information in the national inventory reports of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases

79. Many Parties have begun to elaborate in their submissions how the development of the common reporting tables could build on experience, including with the existing common reporting format (CRF) tables for Annex I Parties⁶¹ and the CRF software. They have also suggested ways that the flexibility provided to developing country Parties might be addressed. I encourage Parties to constructively engage with each other, to identify the convergences and divergences and possible starting points, and to initiate substantive work on the development of the common reporting tables during this session.

(b) Common tabular formats for the electronic reporting of the information necessary to track progress made in implementing and achieving nationally determined contributions under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement

80. Submissions so far received from Parties suggest that the tables currently used for biennial reporting might usefully serve as the starting point for the tables on the summary of GHG emissions and removals, mitigation policies and measures, actions and plans, and GHG projections. Further work will be needed to enable the structured summary to accommodate all types of NDCs.

81. I note that negotiations will continue in parallel this year to develop guidance related to Article 6 of the Paris Agreement for adoption by CMA 2 and that this guidance could have consequences for the application of paragraph 77(d) of the MPGs. As a result, it might be prudent

⁵⁹ Decision 18/CMA.1, paragraph 12(a).

⁶⁰ This event will take place on 19 June 2019.

⁶¹ Annex to decision 24/CP.19.

in discussions on the structured summary to give priority to matters other than those related to Article 6 until greater clarity can be provided by the decisions to be adopted by CMA 2.

82. Parties will also want to consider how to handle the interaction between the development, in parallel, of the summary tables of GHG emissions and removals under this sub-item and the development under sub-item 10(a) of the CRF tables on national GHG inventories. They may wish to start by working on the other tables under this item during this session, then move on to the summary table of GHG emissions and removals as clarity emerges on the results of negotiations on the CRF tables on national GHG inventories.

(c) Common tabular formats for the electronic reporting of the information on financial, technology development and transfer and capacity-building support provided and mobilised as well as support needed and received under Articles 9–11 of the Paris Agreement

83. The MPGs define which information on financial, technology development and transfer and capacity-building support shall or should be provided in biennial transparency report (BTR) CTFs. Already, in their submissions, Parties have indicated that the existing biennial report CTFs may represent a good starting point for the development of the BTR CTFs.

84. I encourage Parties to identify elements from chapters V and VI in the MPGs that are to be reflected in BTR CTFs. To facilitate the work on this matter, I suggest that work on this sub-item be further structured into three main workstreams: finance, technology and capacity-building. Due to the limited time and high volume of work in front of us, I encourage Parties to constructively engage with each other also in informal settings. I believe that Parties could use this opportunity to present and exchange their views, identify the convergences and divergences, and initiate the work on this item in an efficient manner.

(d) Outlines of the biennial transparency report, national inventory document and technical expert review report pursuant to the modalities, procedures and guidelines for the transparency framework for action and support

85. SBSTA has been asked to develop the outlines of the biennial transparency report (BTR), national inventory document (NID) and technical expert review report (TERR), pursuant to the MPGs for the transparency framework for action and support at CMA 3.

86. Parties have indicated in their submissions that the outlines of the different documents could be developed based on the headings and subheading of the MPGs so as to follow the reporting requirements of the MPGs. Following this approach:

- The NID outline could be guided by the content of chapter II of the MPGs and could take the Guidelines for the preparation of national communications by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention, Part I: UNFCCC reporting guidelines on annual greenhouse gas inventories⁶² as the starting point for discussions;
- The BTR outline could be guided by the content of the chapters III, V and VI of the MPGs and might contain elements of the relevant subsections therein. It might also include cross-cutting information on areas of improvement or capacity-building needs and other reporting matters;
- The outline for the TERR could be a general one that reflects in a structured manner the results from the technical review that is conducted in accordance with its scope as reflected in chapter VII of the MPGs. This could then be further developed and updated by the secretariat under the guidance of the lead reviewers on the basis of experience gained during the review process.

87. Importantly, the discussion on these outlines should address how the flexibility provided to those developing country Parties that need it in the light of their capacities could be reflected in the different outlines.

⁶² Annex to decision 24/CP.19.

88. I would invite Parties to engage constructively, including on possible draft outlines on the basis of Parties' submissions, to facilitate progress on this sub-item.

(e) Training programme for technical experts participating in the technical expert review

89. SBSTA has been requested to develop a training programme for technical experts participating in the technical expert review.

90. Training is a vital part of ensuring the effectiveness of review processes under the Paris Agreement and existing arrangements under the Convention. Since there are several items related to training on our agenda at this session, both in relation to the Paris Agreement (this sub-item) and the Convention (items 8(a) and (b)), I have asked the secretariat to organise a special event to provide a briefing to Parties including an overview of existing training programmes. This event will be held on 17 June 2019 before work begins on these agenda items. I shall also ask the secretariat to try to organise consultations on this item back-to-back with those on items 8(a) and (b) on training issues under the Convention.

91. I look forward to Parties developing a draft decision text that indicates the formats and coverage of the training programme, the timeline, the approaches and procedures for implementation and the description of the contents of the programme as an annex and believe that we can make good progress in Bonn towards making recommendations to CMA 3 in November 2020, and if possible completing work even sooner since this is an item where I hope it will be possible to make good progress.

Agenda item 11: Matters relating to Article 6 of the Paris Agreement

(a) Guidance on cooperative approaches referred to in Article 6, paragraph 2, of the Paris Agreement

(b) Rules, modalities and procedures for the mechanism established by Article 6, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement

(c) Work programme under the framework for non-market approaches referred to in Article 6, paragraph 8, of the Paris Agreement

92. Work on Article 6 under SBSTA before Katowice was an integral part of the Paris Agreement work programme. Like others, I was very disappointed that it was not possible to agree substantive decisions on Article 6, paragraphs 2, 4 and 8, in Katowice. It can happen, however, that a topic is not fully mature and needs more time to get a good outcome: this was the case for Article 6 in Katowice and Parties felt it necessary to allow one more year to finalise this work. CMA 1 therefore requested SBSTA⁶³ to continue consideration of the relevant mandates, taking into consideration the draft decision texts developed in Katowice.

93. It is our task in SBSTA 50 to respond to this mandate. That cannot be just continuation of business as usual. We are in extra time – a precious gift – and we need to use it wisely so that by the end of this year in Santiago we can make a recommendation on these three sub-items to CMA 2 so that it can adopt operational guidance for Article 6, similar to that on other Articles already adopted in Katowice. The 2019 Bonn session is a critical moment in this process and needs to deliver a major step forward in the negotiations.

94. While decision 8/CMA.1 is procedural, and of course “nothing is agreed until everything is agreed,” I do believe that significant substantive progress was made last year, especially during the two weeks in Katowice. One of the achievements of the Katowice session was the much greater degree of clarity on the issues that need to be resolved, and in many cases also on the options available to Parties to resolve those issues.

⁶³ Decision 8/CMA.1.

95. SBSTA made real progress on structuring and narrowing down the negotiation issues under Article 6, and that progress is reflected in the texts forwarded by SBSTA to the COP at the end of the first week in Katowice.⁶⁴ This was followed by a week of intensive negotiations under the lead of the Polish COP 24 Presidency, with the progress reflected in the “Katowice texts” which the Presidency put forward on 14 December 2018.⁶⁵ Decision 8/CMA.1 requested SBSTA to continue consideration of the Article 6 mandates, taking into consideration these draft decision texts.

96. In my assessment, both sets of texts referred to in decision 8/CMA.1 have elements that reflect substantive progress in the formulation of Parties' options and in the identification of possible “landing zones” on the issues. Parties did invest much in that progress. As we resume work on the texts in Bonn, I would urge Parties to focus on substance rather than procedure and to move swiftly to a next version of the text that builds on and uses fully the substantial progress that was made in Katowice whilst reflecting the range of options that Parties need to see “on the table” for consideration.

97. Parties began identifying last year which issues might require technical follow-up work after Katowice. It may be that CMA 2 will also need to provide similar mandates. However, key operational issues must be agreed at COP25 in Santiago for the outcome on Article 6 to be substantive and meaningful. Indeed, it may prove possible to complete issues this year that Parties before Katowice had been considering leaving for follow-up work.

98. Although work on Article 6 was not completed in Katowice, the remainder of the Katowice rulebook was adopted by the CMA. That changes the context of our discussions on Article 6. Before Katowice, Parties were negotiating different pieces of the package in different rooms and the complexity of the wider process and the linkages between many issues sometimes hindered progress in the Article 6 room. That has changed and we now know what the rest of the package looks like. Indeed, some of the decisions that were adopted in Katowice may have consequences for the remaining work on Article 6, including the decisions on the transparency framework,⁶⁶ on the guidance to the mitigation section of decision 1/CP.21,⁶⁷ on the committee to facilitate implementation and promote compliance⁶⁸ and on the Adaptation Fund.⁶⁹ It is, however, clear that these decisions do not weaken the need to finalise work on Article 6: indeed, several of them clearly provide for them to be implemented in a way that is consistent with relevant decisions adopted by the CMA on Article 6. I encourage Parties to discuss how the content of these decisions should be factored into the consideration of Article 6 issues. While views may differ on the interpretation of some of the linkages, the availability of adopted decisions that may be relevant to our work on Article 6 is an important factor that will help Parties in moving forward on these items.

99. The greater clarity on the issues that was achieved in Katowice, the maturity of the texts already developed under Article 6, and the availability of adopted decisions with relevance to Article 6 mean a somewhat different framing for the negotiations on Article 6 this year. With that background, we can and must move forward faster, having in view the need to deliver the outcome in Santiago. Our organisation of work must help make that possible.

100. I therefore propose the following approach to the organisation of work, aiming to combine the need for an overarching view of the progress with the need to have space for dedicated discussions on all parts of the Article 6 package, addressing both substantive issues and their reflection in the relevant texts on each sub-item:

- (a) At the opening plenary of SBSTA, I will propose setting up a contact group. The contact group would meet at least three times during the session to guide work, to provide an overarching view and to enable us to assess overall progress. It would also be responsible for

⁶⁴ <https://unfccc.int/documents/186331>, <https://unfccc.int/documents/186333> and <https://unfccc.int/documents/186334>.

⁶⁵ https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Katowice%20text%2C%2014%20Dec2018_1015AM.pdf.

⁶⁶ Decision 18/CMA.1 where paragraphs 61 and 77(d) of the annex are particularly relevant to Article 6 issues.

⁶⁷ Decision 4/CMA.1.

⁶⁸ Decision 20/CMA.1.

⁶⁹ Paragraphs 3 and 5 of the CMA decision on the Adaptation Fund (13/CMA.1) refer to the share of proceeds under Article 6, paragraph 4 of the Paris Agreement.

preparing the formal conclusions from the session. I will propose to chair the contact group myself;

(b) I will also propose at the first meeting of the contact group that informal consultations be set up within the contact group. The informal consultations will be responsible for developing the texts and for managing substantive negotiations on sub-items 11(a), (b) and (c) of the agenda. I will provide information to Parties at the opening plenary of SBSTA on the pair of co-facilitators whom I intend to invite to manage this work;

(c) Within the informal consultations, it would be possible to make use of spin-off groups on specific issues,⁷⁰ operating in a structured, transparent and organised manner.

101. The substantive negotiations would therefore be managed through the informal consultations, where the overall coherence of the texts, as well as specific issues would be addressed. At the same time, as quite a few Parties indicated already in Katowice, there is still a need for detailed work on understanding the implications of various options for key issues. Thus, as noted above, I propose that spin-off groups be scheduled during the session in a transparent manner to carry out detailed work on key issues, similar to the practice used by Parties at earlier sessions, in particular in Bangkok and Katowice last year. The co-facilitators, under my guidance, may invite delegates to help lead those spin-off groups through structured discussions on those key issues and then report back to the informal consultations on their discussions to ensure full transparency and full participation in the negotiation process.

102. I also encourage heads of delegations to be closely and actively involved in work on Article 6 this year. Their participation in contact group meetings would provide a valuable opportunity for them to guide the negotiations and overcome any challenges that may arise. If needed, I may also consider organising informal meetings with heads of delegations, should the dynamics of the negotiations indicate that this would be helpful.

103. Regarding the issues themselves, we will have an opportunity to review them as we start working at the session. Despite the progress made in Katowice, we still have, across the broad Article 6 agenda, a lot to do in such areas as environmental integrity, governance, infrastructure, corresponding adjustments, transition, overall mitigation in global emissions, share of proceeds, and also how to define any work that might need to be done following CMA 2.

104. I plan to meet negotiating groups in the pre-session consultations and to use this opportunity to clarify with Parties what issues are key and how best to move forward on them. In that process, I will be also inviting Parties to share with me their views on where we should look for the resolution of the remaining outstanding issues and where the "landing zones" could be – with the understanding that Parties will need to find and own the solutions.

105. I believe that the multi-layered approach I propose would be the most effective way to work towards finding solutions on key issues that have so far eluded us. I am confident that, by building on the progress made in Katowice, we will be able to succeed at SBSTA 50 by delivering a next version of the textual basis for the negotiations, with a limited number of options that have been further refined and clarified, thus providing a solid foundation for our successful delivery, in Santiago, of decisions that operationalise Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. It is important that the open questions that remain after SBSTA 50 can be communicated in a way that is clear on the technical choices to be made and also is understandable to those who may not have spent two weeks in the negotiating room.

106. The conclusions of SBSTA 50 on these three sub-items on Article 6 will probably be largely procedural, but Parties may wish to consider whether there might be value in inter-sessional work between Bonn and Santiago that might assist them in reaching agreement on these issues.

⁷⁰ Often referred to in the negotiation process as "informal-informals".

Agenda item 12: Market and non-market mechanisms under the Convention

- (a) Framework for various approaches
- (b) Non-market-based approaches
- (c) New market-based mechanism

107. SBSTA has been conducting work programmes on these three items on market and non-market mechanisms under the Convention for a number of years in accordance with the mandates given by COP 18 to elaborate a framework for various approaches,⁷¹ non-market-based approaches⁷² and modalities and procedures for a new market-based mechanism.⁷³

108. It was decided at SBSTA 44⁷⁴ to postpone further consideration of these items until SBSTA 50.

109. I shall consult Parties before the opening of the session, but I think it would be wisest to postpone further consideration of these items on market and non-market mechanisms under the Convention until SBSTA 52. This would enable Parties to take an informed decision at that time on what further action might be appropriate on these items, including in the light of the outcome on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement at CMA 2. If Parties agree, I shall make this proposal directly when organising work at the opening plenary of SBSTA 50.

Agenda item 13: Cooperation with other international organisations

110. As it does every year for our first regular session, the secretariat has prepared a report to share information with Parties on its cooperation with United Nations and other intergovernmental organisations.⁷⁵ This agenda item provides the platform for Parties to give any further guidance to the secretariat they may consider necessary for this area of work.

111. In recent years, consideration of this item has been limited to the adoption of conclusions following consultations by the Chair on a draft prepared by a purely written procedure. That has been a very effective way to manage this item, but it may give the unfortunate impression that we give little attention to such important activities: our work on climate change under the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement cannot be seen in isolation from wider multilateral action on sustainable development. Furthermore, this interagency activity contributes directly or indirectly to many items on our agenda and to those of the SBI and the governing bodies. Indeed, this item is particularly relevant in a year of intense activity on climate change in the wider UN system, with the in-depth review of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13 at the High Level Political Forum⁷⁶ held under the auspices of the United Nations Economic and Social Council from 9–18 July 2019, the Secretary General's Climate Action Summit⁷⁷ to be held on 23 September 2019, and the SDG summit⁷⁸ to be held on 24–25 September 2019.

112. Although I do not sense a desire for major changes to our work on this item, I think it would be helpful to give it greater visibility. As a result, I shall invite the secretariat to hold a special event to provide a briefing on its interagency activities and relevant activities planned throughout 2019. I shall chair this special event which will be open to all participants and will include a presentation from the secretariat as well as time for questions and discussion. The special event will be held over lunchtime on Tuesday 18 June 2019.

113. Following that special event, I propose to consult Parties myself on draft conclusions on this item.

⁷¹ In accordance with decision 1/CP.18, paragraphs 41–46.

⁷² In accordance with decision 1/CP.18, paragraph 47.

⁷³ In accordance with decision 1/CP.18, paragraphs 50–51.

⁷⁴ FCCC/SBSTA/2016/2, paragraphs 90-92.

⁷⁵ FCCC/SBSTA/2019/INF.2.

⁷⁶ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2019>

⁷⁷ <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/un-climate-summit-2019.shtml>

⁷⁸ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sgdsummit>

III. Other activities and related events

114. The Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) will not be on the agenda of SBSTA 50, but a number of important activities related to the LCIPP will take place in conjunction with the session.

- The first meeting⁷⁹ of the Facilitative Working Group (FWG) of the LCIPP⁸⁰ will meet in Bonn from 14 to 16 June 2019. Membership of the body represents an equal number of representatives from Parties and from Indigenous Peoples Organisations. This first milestone meeting will address, inter alia, the development of the first two-year workplan of the group;
- A thematic in-session workshop⁸¹ under the LCIPP will be organised by the secretariat on 19 June 2019 on the topic of enhancing the participation of local communities, in addition to indigenous peoples, in the LCIPP;⁸²
- The secretariat is also developing additional activities related to the implementation of all three functions of the Platform at this session, in line with the incremental approach for the operationalisation of the LCIPP.⁸³ These include an informal dialogue on the development of the dedicated LCIPP web portal which will take place on 24 June,⁸⁴ an informal open dialogue between representatives of constituted bodies on the three functions of the LCIPP which will take place on 18 June, and a partnership-building dialogue to highlight LCIPP-relevant work outside of the Convention and identify linkages and areas for collaboration which will take place on 21 June.⁸⁵

115. These concrete signs are welcome proof that the LCIPP is now fully operational and I encourage an active participation in these meetings, workshops, and activities which will be open to observers and Parties. The LCIPP will return to our agenda at SBSTA 51 when we will consider the initial two-year workplan of the LCIPP for the period 2020–2021.

116. A number of activities will take place in conjunction with SB50 that are linked to agenda items described in section II of this note, including:

- Jointly with SBI, two Koronivia workshops (see item 5 in section II);
- Jointly with SBI, the first meeting of the Katowice Committee of Experts on the Impacts of the Implementation of Response Measures (see item 7 in section II);
- The eleventh meeting of the research dialogue (see item 6(b) in section II);
- A special event to provide a briefing on experience with the current measurement, reporting and verification system (see item 10 in section II).
- A special event to provide a briefing on existing training activities (see items 8(a)-(b) and 10(e) in section II)
- A special event to provide a briefing on the secretariat's interagency activities and relevant activities planned throughout 2019 (see item 13 in section II).

117. Along with the Chair of SBI, I encourage Parties and observers to participate actively in the technical expert meetings that will be held during the session on adaptation (focusing on adaptation

⁷⁹ <https://unfccc.int/node/194669>.

⁸⁰ Decision 2/CP.24, paragraph 1.

⁸¹ <https://unfccc.int/topics/local-communities-and-indigenous-peoples-platform/events-and-meetings/workshops/local-communities-and-indigenous-peoples-platform-in-session-thematic-workshop>.

⁸² As mandated by decision 2/CP.24, paragraph 22.

⁸³ As mandated by decision 2/CP.24, paragraph 23.

⁸⁴ Decision 2/CP.24, paragraph 21.

⁸⁵ For more information on these events see: <https://unfccc.int/topics/local-communities-and-indigenous-peoples-platform/events-and-meetings/activities-related-to-the-functions-of-the-local-communities-and-indigenous-peoples-platform#eq-3>.

finance, including from the private sector) and mitigation (focusing on off-grid and decentralised energy solutions for smart energy and water use in the agri-food chain) and to contribute to the greater visibility and effectiveness of these meetings. More details are available on the websites.⁸⁶

118. A number of constituted bodies have activities during the session that are related to their work plans, including the organisation of an expert dialogue jointly by the Executive Committee of the WIM and the Technology Executive Committee on 17 June 2019.⁸⁷ The results of the dialogue will facilitate the development of a policy brief on technologies for averting, minimising and addressing loss and damage in coastal zones, being developed jointly by the two committees.⁸⁸

119. The work of the IPCC has long provided the methodological underpinning for our inventory system, as was recognised in decision 18/CMA.1 that decided that each Party shall use the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for national greenhouse gas inventories (the 2006 IPCC Guidelines), and shall use any subsequent version or refinement of the IPCC guidelines agreed upon by the CMA.⁸⁹ At its 49th plenary session (Kyoto, Japan, 8–12 May 2019), the IPCC considered the 2019 Refinement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines and decided to adopt the Overview Chapter and to accept the underlying Methodology Report (Decision IPCCXLIX-9). To enable Parties to get a technical briefing from the IPCC, just a few weeks after the IPCC plenary, on the content and the elaboration of the 2019 Refinement, I will organise with the IPCC Technical Support Unit a special event on Friday 21 June 2019. Following that special event, I shall consult informally with Parties and the Presidencies on what further action might be required on the 2019 Refinement. This will be particularly relevant in the context of work that Parties will be beginning in Bonn on the consideration of common reporting tables under agenda item 10(a).

120. The IPCC is working on two further special reports this year: the Special Report on Climate Change and Land is currently due to be considered for approval on 2–6 August 2019; the Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate is due to be considered for approval on 20–23 September 2019. These reports should therefore be approved by the IPCC before SBSTA 51. There will be opportunities to exchange with the IPCC and some members of the scientific community who are participating in the preparation of these special reports during SBSTA 50, including during our discussions on research and systematic observation. I envisage organising special events with the IPCC on these two reports during SBSTA 51 and I shall also consult Parties during the session on whether, and if so how, we might give further consideration to these two special reports in future sessions.

121. At its 7th plenary meeting in Paris on 4 May 2019, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) approved the Summary for Policymakers of the Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services⁹⁰. Given the relevance of many of its findings to our work under SBSTA, I will organise a special event with IPBES during the session so that it can share the findings of its report with Parties and observers.

⁸⁶ <http://unfccc.int/resource/climateaction2020/tep/technical-expert-meetings/index.html>; <http://tep-a.org/technical-examination-process-on-adaptation/>.

⁸⁷ The organisation of the expert dialogue is as part of the implementation of the rolling work plans of the respective committees. The plan for holding the expert dialogue was reported in the 2018 annual reports of the two committees and welcomed by the COP. See FCCC/SB/2018/1 and 2 for the details and Decisions 10/CP.24 and 13/CP.24.

⁸⁸ <https://unfccc.int/node/195386>.

⁸⁹ Decision 18/CMA.1, paragraph 20.

⁹⁰ The advanced unedited version of 6 May 2019 of the Summary for Policymakers and the chapters of the Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services can be found at <https://www.ipbes.net/event/ipbes-7-plenary>