

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

I. Introduction

1. The second part of the 2021 session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA 52–55) will take place from Sunday, 31 October, to Saturday, 6 November 2021 at the Scottish Event Campus in Glasgow, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The provisional agenda and annotations for the session¹ reflect all mandated activities for 2020–2021. I began drafting this note under some uncertainties due to the evolving situation of the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. As I did for the first (May–June) part of the session, I have drawn up this note under my own responsibility as Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) to provide Parties, in advance of the session in Glasgow, with information on the state of play and how I propose that work under the SBSTA might be organized. The note is complementary to, and should be read in conjunction with, the provisional agenda and annotations, which provide background information on all agenda items, mandates and expected action by the SBSTA in Glasgow.
3. More specifically, this note provides:
 - (a) Proposals for working efficiently, effectively and transparently;
 - (b) Information on the status of work and proposed approach to the session by agenda item, including joint items with the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI);
 - (c) Information on other activities and their related events.
4. It is not my intention to prejudge or limit any approaches Parties may take, but I hope that this note will prove useful to Parties in their preparation for the session and that it will allow me to undertake pre-session consultations more effectively. I urge everyone to ensure that our work during the session can truly contribute to supporting strengthened implementation and enhanced ambition and hence to meeting the objectives of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.
5. Reading the recently released contribution of Working Group I to the Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and translating its messages into action should be a priority for us all. It leaves the reader with no doubts about the gravity and immediacy of the climate crisis and that the anthropogenic influences on the changes we are witnessing unequivocal. Devastating climate impacts are already being felt by vulnerable communities worldwide, however the extent to which these will increase depends on the speed and extent of climate action. We can still act, but we must do it now. By collectively reaching net zero CO₂ emissions by 2050, as well as major reductions in other greenhouse gas emissions, the goal of limiting temperature increase to 1.5°C by the end of the century will remain within reach. The AR6 will be completed next year, aided by the two other Working Group reports and the Synthesis Report, and together these will be an important input in the Global Stocktake (GST) process and the second periodic review under item 10(b) of our provisional agenda. As the UNFCCC interface with the scientific community, I trust that SBSTA will continue to utilize scientific information to inform and strengthen our work across agenda items.
6. I look forward to a busy and productive session. I very much hope that we will agree on conclusions for all issues that the SBSTA will consider, as part of the overall outcome of the Glasgow Conference, including the items on which the SBSTA will recommend finalized draft decisions for consideration and adoption at the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP), the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP) and the third session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA). With the possible exception of a limited number of matters related to aspects of Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, I do not envisage that any other issues will need to be left for resolution under the guidance of the Presidency of COP 26, CMP 16 and CMA 3 in the second week of the Conference. I also hope that there will be no item on the SBSTA agenda that remains without agreed conclusions, at least of a procedural nature.

II. Working efficiently, effectively and transparently

7. In May–June I prepared, with the assistance of co-facilitators, informal notes to capture the progress of the informal work during the session.² The elements outlined in the informal notes are not exhaustive, have no formal status and should not

¹ FCCC/SBSTA/2021/2.

² See <https://unfccc.int/documents/279105> (the links to the informal notes are in the annex).

be considered final in any way. They have been prepared to assist Parties in advancing the discussions and do not prejudge further work or prevent Parties from expressing their views at any time. I encourage Parties to build on that progress and bring their consideration of the matters to successful conclusion in Glasgow.

8. SB 52–55 will be convened in Glasgow despite the challenges due to the ongoing pandemic. Several health-related precautionary measures will be put in place to ensure the safety of all participants. Both subsidiary bodies have a heavy workload with mandates from Katowice and Madrid as well as previous sessions of the SBSTA, the SBI, the COP, the CMP and the CMA. Moreover, mandated events will take place during the session along with events that I may organize in support of the work under the SBSTA.
9. In Glasgow the SBSTA will have to advance and/or finalize its work on a wide range of issues relating to the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. Given the limited time available per day, it may not be possible for the SBSTA to address all issues mandated for 2020–2021 at the session. For details on my proposed approach by agenda item, see chapter III below.
10. In general, I propose organizing work at the SBSTA session as follows:
 - (a) I shall consult groups and Parties in the days before the session on how best to achieve its objectives, including on the approaches outlined in this note, in particular those set out in chapter III for each agenda item or topic;
 - (b) The SBSTA will be invited to adopt the agenda and set the direction of its work at its opening plenary in the afternoon of 31 October, following the opening of the sessions of the three governing bodies in the morning. It is vital that all of our work (including joint work with the SBI) can be successfully launched in an efficient manner on the first day of the session;
 - (c) For most items I shall propose to set up a contact group or informal consultations to take the work forward 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 the SBI, to items that are considered jointly under the SBSTA and the SBI;
 - (d) A number of intergovernmental organizations will make statements at the opening plenary of the SBSTA after work has been launched for all agenda items;
 - (e) Following the opening plenaries of the subsidiary bodies, a joint plenary session of all governing and subsidiary bodies will be convened to hear statements from groups, Parties and observers. Given the time constraints, it will be important to keep statements short, and there will be the possibility for groups, Parties and observers to upload the full version of their statements directly to the submission portal;³
 - (f) The SBSTA will then move swiftly to undertake its work in the negotiation groups established under its agenda items;
 - (g) Mandated and other events will take place during the session as announced;⁴
 - (h) All draft conclusions under contact groups and informal consultations will have to be finalized as early as possible with the last ones being finalized not later than 6 p.m. on Friday, 5 November, to allow time for them to be made available in the six official United Nations languages before the closing plenary;
 - (i) Under a number of agenda items, in particular in relation to the reports of constituted bodies, draft decisions may have to be forwarded to more than one governing body;
 - (j) The SBSTA will adopt its conclusions on all agenda items at its closing plenary on Saturday, 6 November and forward any draft decisions for consideration and adoption by the COP, the CMP and/or the CMA, as appropriate;
 - (k) With regard to participation of observers, it is my intention to continue to encourage Parties to allow informal consultations to be open to observers, in accordance with the relevant past conclusions of the SBI;
 - (l) I may undertake, as needed, further consultations during the session to discuss how to address specific issues and ensure advancement of the work at the session. In addition to bilateral consultations with groups, these might include meetings with heads of delegation on specific issues, should that appear helpful for making progress during the session (see in particular my proposals in relation to the work on methodological issues under the Paris Agreement (transparency matters) under agenda item 14 and on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement under agenda item 15).

³ <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx>.

⁴ See document FCCC/SBSTA/2021/2, para. 12.

III. Status of and proposed approach to the work (by agenda item)⁵

Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change

(Item 3 of the provisional agenda)

11. Since SBSTA 50, the focus of the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change (NWP) has been on enhancing adaptation action by addressing knowledge gaps identified by Parties. The NWP, the UNFCCC knowledge-to-action hub on adaptation and resilience, has convened partnerships with global and regional partners, expert groups, universities and over 430 NWP partners in countries and subregions.
12. In 2019–2021 the NWP was focused on the thematic areas of biodiversity and oceans, coastal areas and ecosystems. It supported the work of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group in assisting developing countries in formulating and implementing national adaptation plans as well as the work of the Adaptation Committee (AC) and the Technology Executive Committee (TEC), among other constituted bodies.
13. SBSTA 48 agreed that matters related to the NWP would be considered at its first regular session of the year,⁶ and that the modalities of a stocktake would be determined at SBSTA 54.⁷ SBSTA 56 will take stock of the operational and institutional modalities of the NWP with a view to assessing its performance and effectiveness in addressing knowledge needs relevant to the implementation of the Paris Agreement.
14. At the session in May–June 2021 the SBSTA conducted work informally on matters related to the NWP, and I prepared, with the assistance of the co-facilitators, an informal note to capture progress.⁸ I encourage Parties to build on that progress and to (1) continue their deliberations on the modalities of the stocktake of the operational and institutional modalities of the NWP, (2) review and provide feedback on progress in implementing activities under the NWP since SBSTA 50 and (3) provide additional guidance on how to strengthen the role of the NWP in addressing knowledge gaps in countries and supporting the work of constituted bodies relevant to the implementation of the Paris Agreement.
15. I propose to set up informal consultations on this item and to invite a pair of co-facilitators to assist me in this work during the session.

Report of the Adaptation Committee (for 2019, 2020 and 2021)*

(Item 4 of the provisional agenda)

16. The AC is the overall advisory body under the Convention for promoting the implementation of enhanced action on adaptation in a coherent manner. It also serves the Paris Agreement.⁹ In 2020 and 2021, the AC held its 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th meetings virtually. I would like to commend the efforts and work of the AC.
17. SB 51 considered the AC report for 2019.¹⁰ Since consideration of this item could not be completed, it has been included in the provisional agendas for SB 52–55, as per rule 16 of the draft rules of procedures being applied.
18. Information on the progress of the AC in implementing its workplan in 2020 and 2021, including fulfilling relevant mandates from the subsidiary bodies, the COP and the CMA, is included in the reports of the AC for 2020¹¹ and 2021.¹² The AC agreed to include recommendations arising from its work for consideration by the COP and the CMA in its 2021 report.
19. The SBI Chair and I propose to set up informal consultations on this item and to invite a pair of co-facilitators to assist us in this work during the sessions. We encourage Parties to move swiftly to consider the 2019, 2020 and 2021 reports, including the recommendations elaborated by the AC, and to forward a draft decision or conclusions for consideration and adoption by the COP and the CMA.
20. In addition, it can be anticipated that the COP will refer the review of the progress, effectiveness and performance of the AC to the SBSTA and the SBI.¹³ The SBI Chair and I expect this matter to be considered in the informal consultations referred to in paragraph 19 above.

⁵ Joint SBSTA–SBI agenda items are marked with an asterisk.

⁶ See the NWP annual progress reports for 2020 (FCCC/SBSTA/2020/INF.1) and 2021 (FCCC/SBSTA/2021/INF.2).

⁷ FCCC/SBSTA/2018/4, paras. 27–28.

⁸ Available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/279107>.

⁹ As per decision 11/CMA.1, para. 1.

¹⁰ FCCC/SB/2019/3.

¹¹ FCCC/SB/2020/2.

¹² FCCC/SB/2021/6.

¹³ As per document FCCC/CP/2021/1, para. 50.

Report of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts (for 2020 and 2021)*

(Item 5 of the provisional agenda)

21. The report of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts highlights the work undertaken by the Executive Committee and its expert groups and task force during the respective reporting period. The Executive Committee held its 11th, 12th, 13th and 14th meetings virtually in 2020–2021 and all five of its expert groups also held meetings. I would like to commend the efforts and work of the Executive Committee, which are critical for the implementation of the Convention and the Paris Agreement and the fight against climate change.
22. The 2020 report of the Executive Committee¹⁴ highlights its progress in implementing its five-year rolling workplan, including information on work carried out by the task force on displacement and the technical expert group on comprehensive risk management, and the terms of reference developed by the Committee for its three other expert groups, on slow onset events, non-economic losses, and action and support, thereby paving the way for launching the groups. The report also contains recommendations arising from work undertaken since November 2019.
23. The 2021 report of the Executive Committee¹⁵ highlights, among other areas, the progress of the three newly launched expert groups in developing their respective rolling plans of action. The work of the expert groups is integral to the technical advice and support that the Committee is mandated to enhance and catalyse. The report also contains recommendations arising from the work undertaken by the Committee and its expert groups and information on the progress of organizations in providing technical assistance to developing countries under the Santiago network for averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change.
24. The SBI Chair and I encourage Parties to move swiftly to consider the 2020 and 2021 reports, including the recommendations elaborated by the Executive Committee, and to forward a draft decision for consideration and adoption by the appropriate body or bodies.¹⁶
25. The SBI Chair and I propose to set up informal consultations on this item and to invite a pair of co-facilitators to assist us in this work during the sessions.

Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform

(Item 6 of the provisional agenda)

26. The Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) was established to facilitate the exchange of experience and the sharing of best practices and lessons learned related to mitigation and adaptation in a holistic and integrated manner and to enhance the engagement of local communities and indigenous peoples in the UNFCCC process.¹⁷
27. Since COP 25 the Facilitative Working Group (FWG) of the LCIPP has been implementing the activities in the LCIPP initial two-year workplan. Additional work, including development of a dedicated web portal,¹⁸ has contributed to the consideration of diverse knowledge systems and engagement with indigenous values and expertise, including stewardship of nature in climate policies and actions.
28. As part of the SBSTA plan of informal activities for 2021, I organized two informal events in relation to the LCIPP in May–June:
 - (a) An in-session dialogue on the implementation of good practices for the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in national climate policymaking as part of activity 10 of the LCIPP initial two-year workplan;
 - (b) An event to showcase how the dedicated web portal makes the work under the LCIPP widely accessible and to demonstrate user-friendly ways to engage using the portal.¹⁹

¹⁴ FCCC/SB/2020/3.

¹⁵ FCCC/SB/2021/4 and Add.1–2.

¹⁶ I understand that consultations on the issue of the governance of the Warsaw International Mechanism will be held under the authority of the incoming President of COP 26 and CMA 3.

¹⁷ Decision 2/CP.23; see also <https://lcipp.unfccc.int/lcipp-background/relevant-decisions-and-conclusions>.

¹⁸ <https://lcipp.unfccc.int/>.

¹⁹ See <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/subsidiary-bodies/sbsta-chair-lobby/january-june-2021-activities#eq-8> and <https://unfccc.int/LCIPP>.

29. COP 24 mandated the SBSTA to review the outcomes and activities of the FWG at the session in November 2021. It requested the FWG to report on its outcomes, including a draft second three-year workplan, and on the activities of the LCIPP for consideration by the COP through the SBSTA.²⁰
30. In the context of the review referred to in paragraph 29 above, the COP requested the SBSTA to consider, taking into account progress related to the representation of local communities, the addition of at least three additional representatives to represent local communities, as well as a process for the appointment of such representatives, and an equal number of Party representatives, with a view to recommending a draft decision on the representation of local communities on the LCIPP for consideration and adoption by the COP.²¹
31. I propose to set up informal consultations on this item and to invite a pair of co-facilitators to assist me in this work during the session.

Development and transfer of technologies: joint annual report of the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network (for 2020 and 2021)*

(Item 7 of the provisional agenda)

32. The joint annual report of the TEC and the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) highlights the work undertaken by the two bodies of the Technology Mechanism, established by the COP in 2010. The Technology Mechanism also serves the Paris Agreement.²² The joint annual reports of the TEC and the CTCN for 2020²³ and 2021²⁴ include information on regular activities under the Technology Mechanism and recommendations to Parties, on the two bodies incorporating guidance from the technology framework into their workplans and programmes of work, respectively, and on their joint activities for 2021–2022. I would like to commend the efforts and work of the TEC and the CTCN, which are critical for the implementation of the Convention and the Paris Agreement and the fight against climate change.
33. The SBI Chair and I encourage Parties to move swiftly to consider the joint annual reports and recommendations therein, and to prepare a draft decision or decisions for consideration and adoption by the COP and the CMA. These decisions shall provide further guidance to the TEC and the CTCN, as needed, to ensure the effective implementation of the Technology Mechanism in supporting the implementation of technology development and transfer related activities under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, in particular the technology framework.
34. The SBI Chair and I propose to set up informal consultations on this item and to invite a pair of co-facilitators to assist us in this work during the sessions.

Koronivia joint work on agriculture*

(Item 8 of the provisional agenda)

35. Under the Koronivia joint work on agriculture, the SBSTA and the 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. In line with the Koronivia road map,²⁵ approved at SB 48, six mandated workshops have taken place, held at SB 49, 50 and 51 and the UNFCCC Climate Dialogues 2020. I would like to commend Parties and other stakeholders for their intense engagement in the workshops, which has enabled successful implementation of various activities agreed in the Koronivia road map thus far.
36. The remaining mandated workshop²⁶ is being convened in two parts: the first part took place during the session in May–June, with a focus on element (a),²⁷ and the second part, with a focus on element (b),²⁸ will take place before the session in October–November. More information relating to the workshop will be provided in due time.²⁹

²⁰ Decision 2/CP.24, paras. 24 and 27.

²¹ Decision 2/CP.24, para. 4.

²² As per Article 10, para. 3, of the Paris Agreement.

²³ FCCC/SB/2020/4.

²⁴ FCCC/SB/2021/5.

²⁵ FCCC/SBSTA/2018/4, annex I, and FCCC/SBI/2018/9, annex I.

²⁶ FCCC/SBSTA/2019/2, para. 45, and FCCC/SBI/2019/9, para 47.

²⁷ Sustainable land and water management, including integrated watershed management strategies, to ensure food security.

²⁸ Strategies and modalities for scaling up implementation of best practices, innovations and technologies that increase resilience and sustainable production in agricultural systems.

²⁹ <https://unfccc.int/event/koronivia-intersessional-workshop-part-2>.

37. As at 6 October 2021, 6 Parties, including on behalf of 3 groups of Parties, and 4 observer organizations had submitted views, available on the submission portal, under this agenda item in response to the invitation of the SBSTA and the SBI.³⁰
38. In the first sessional period, in May–June 2021, the SBSTA and the SBI conducted work informally and the SBI Chair and I prepared, with the assistance of the co-facilitators, four informal notes to capture the progress of the work and the discussions on the outcomes of the three mandated workshops conducted in the sessional period (on topics 2(d), 2(e) and 2(f)).³¹
39. We encourage Parties to build on that progress and continue their constructive engagement, in particular through consideration of the workshop reports prepared for the sessions³² and taking into account the submissions from Parties and observers. The SBI Chair and I trust that Parties shall reach agreement on this matter with a view to reporting thereon at COP 26.
40. The SBI Chair and I propose to set up informal consultations on this item and to invite a pair of co-facilitators to assist us in this work during the sessions.

Sources of input for the global stocktake under the Paris Agreement

(Item 9 of the provisional agenda)

41. CMA 1 invited the SBSTA to complement the non-exhaustive lists of sources of input in paragraphs 36–37 of decision 19/CMA.1 at its session held prior to the start of the information collection and preparation component of the GST, as appropriate, taking into account the thematic areas of the GST (as per para. 6(b) of the same decision) and the importance of leveraging national-level reporting.³³
42. At the session in May–June 2021 the SBSTA conducted work on this matter informally and invited Parties to share their views on the need to complement the lists referred to in paragraph 41 above and on how to efficiently consider the potentially large number of submissions referred to in paragraph 37(i) of decision 19/CMA.1. I also prepared, with the assistance of the co-facilitators, an informal note to capture progress, which may inform further discussion among Parties with the aim of reaching agreement on this matter in Glasgow.³⁴
43. I propose to set up informal consultations on this item and to invite a pair of co-facilitators to assist me in this work during the session.

Matters related to science and review

(Item 10 of the provisional agenda)

(a) **Research and systematic observation**
(Sub-item 10(a) of the provisional agenda)

44. In 2020–2021, three events were held under this agenda sub-item: the twelfth and thirteenth meetings of the research dialogue and Earth Information Day 2020. At the session in May–June 2021, the SBSTA conducted work on this matter informally, including consideration of the information provided at those events. I prepared, with the assistance of the co-facilitators, an informal note to capture progress, which may inform further discussion among Parties with the aim of reaching agreement on this matter in Glasgow.³⁵
45. The SBSTA has mandated a number of inputs from the systematic observation community to support work on research and systematic observation. This includes the World Meteorological Organization Statement on the State of the Global Climate and Greenhouse Gas Bulletin, and progress updates from the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS), the Joint Working Group on Climate of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites and the Coordination Group for Meteorological Satellites, and the Global Framework for Climate Services. Updates for this session include the submission by GCOS of its 2021 Status Report.
46. Earth Information Day 2021 will be held on Wednesday, 3 November, and consist of a three-hour plenary session and a virtual poster Q&A session, which will take place in the poster gallery of the virtual conference portal. I will provide an information note in advance to provide details on the organization of the event. As agreed at SBSTA 50, Earth

³⁰ See document FCCC/SBSTA/2018/4, annex I, and footnote 3 above.

³¹ Available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/278837> (with further references provided in footnote 4 of the note).

³² FCCC/SB/2020/1, FCCC/SB/2021/1, FCCC/SB/2021/2 and FCCC/SB/2021/3.

³³ Decision 19/CMA.1, para. 38.

³⁴ Available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/279052>.

³⁵ Available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/279102>.

Information Day is an annual event and I hope that the session in Glasgow will provide an important opportunity for Parties to interact with the systematic observation community to lay a solid foundation for further work in this area.

47. As at 8 October 2021, 7 submissions of views, available on the submission portal,³⁶ had been received in 2021 on possible themes for Earth Information Day.
48. I look forward to the SBSTA reaching substantive conclusions on its work in this area, taking into account submissions, mandated inputs and statements by intergovernmental organizations at the SBSTA opening plenary, as well as information presented and discussed at the research dialogues³⁷ and Earth Information Days 2020 and 2021.³⁸
49. I propose to set up informal consultations on this sub-item and to invite a pair of co-facilitators to assist me in this work during the session.

(b) Second periodic review of the long-term global goal under the Convention and of overall progress towards achieving it*
(*Sub-item 10(b) of the provisional agenda*)

50. COP 25 decided that the second periodic review of the long-term global goal and progress towards achieving it would start in the second half of 2020 and conclude in 2022, with the structured expert dialogue under the second periodic review (SED2) to be held in conjunction with sessions of the subsidiary bodies, starting in November 2020 and to be completed in November 2021.³⁹
51. The first session of the first meeting of the structured expert dialogue under the second periodic review (SED2-1.1) took place during the Climate Dialogues in 2020. SED2-1.2 was convened in May–June 2021. The second meeting (SED2-2) will be convened during the sessions in Glasgow, tentatively scheduled for 2nd and 4th November 2021.⁴⁰ The SBI Chair and I expect that Parties will have constructive discussions at SED2-2.
52. In May–June 2021, the SBSTA and the SBI conducted work on the second periodic review informally and the SBI Chair and I prepared, with the assistance of the co-facilitators, an informal note to capture progress.⁴¹
53. The SBI Chair and I propose to establish a joint contact group on this sub-item, in line with the modalities of the second periodic review. We will invite a pair of co-chairs to assist us in this work during the sessions. We encourage Parties to build on the progress made in May–June with the aim of reaching conclusions on this matter in Glasgow.

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

(*Item 11 of the provisional agenda*)

54. The forum on the impact of the implementation of response measures, convened jointly under the SBSTA and the SBI, is implementing the six-year workplan of the forum and its Katowice Committee of Experts on the Impacts of the Implementation of Response Measures (KCI) (2020–2025).⁴² The implementation of the workplan is linked to the progress of the KCI. As at 30 September 2021, the KCI had completed implementation of one activity and is progressing on other activities mandated for 2020–2021. The next meeting of the KCI is scheduled to be held from 11 to 13 October and 28 to 30 October 2021 in conjunction with the sessions in Glasgow. To minimize delays and maximize progress, the SBI Chair and I are planning to hold two additional informal events on 18 and 20 October 2021 in support of the implementation of the six-year workplan.⁴³
55. In May–June 2021, the SBI and the SBSTA conducted work informally on matters relating to the forum. The SBI Chair and I prepared, with the assistance of the co-facilitators, an informal note to capture progress.⁴⁴ We look forward to the forum making progress on implementing activities in line with the mandates for the SB 52–55 and considering the annual report of the KCI as well as preparing its synthesis report as a contribution to the GST technical assessment that starts in June 2022. We encourage Parties to build on the progress already made, including as captured in the aforementioned informal note, and to forward recommendations for consideration by the subsidiary bodies with a view to the subsidiary bodies recommending actions to the COP, the CMP and the CMA.

³⁶ See footnote 3 above.

³⁷ See <https://unfccc.int/topics/science/events-meetings/research-dialogue>.

³⁸ See <https://unfccc.int/topics/science/events-meetings/earth-information-day>.

³⁹ Decision 5/CP.25, para.7.

⁴⁰ SED2-3 is tentatively planned to take place in conjunction with SB 56 in June 2022 to allow for consideration of the contributions of Working Groups II and III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

⁴¹ Available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/278132>.

⁴² Decision 4/CP.25, annex II.

⁴³ See <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/subsidiary-bodies/sbsta-chair-lobby#eq-4>.

⁴⁴ Available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/279078>.

56. The SBI Chair 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 this work during the sessions.

Methodological issues under the Convention

(Item 12 of the provisional agenda)

- (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
- (c) Revision of the UNFCCC reporting guidelines on annual inventories for Parties included in Annex I to the Convention
- (d) Guidelines for the technical review of information reported under the Convention related to greenhouse gas inventories, biennial reports and national communications by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention
- (e) Greenhouse gas data interface
- (f) Common metrics to calculate the carbon dioxide equivalence of greenhouse gases
- (g) Emissions from fuel used for international aviation and maritime transport

57. Considering the time constraints, I will consult with Parties before the opening of the session to see whether there are realistic prospects of making progress or reaching substantive conclusions on this item, including its sub-items, at this session. Depending on the results of those consultations, I shall propose either to set up informal consultations on some or all of the sub-items and to invite a pair of co-facilitators to assist me in the work under those sub-items during the session, or to defer consideration of some or all of them to SBSTA 56.

Methodological issues under the Kyoto Protocol

(Item 13 of the provisional agenda)

- (a) Land use, land-use change and forestry under Article 3, paragraphs 3–4, of the Kyoto Protocol and under the clean development mechanism
- (b) Implications of the inclusion of reforestation of lands with forest in exhaustion as afforestation and reforestation clean development mechanism project activities

58. These two sub-items were deferred at SBSTA 50 to SBSTA 52. Considering the time constraints, I will consult with Parties before the opening of the session to see whether there are realistic prospects of making progress or reaching substantive conclusions on this item at this session. Depending on the results of those consultations, I shall propose either to set up informal consultations on the sub-items and to invite a pair of co-facilitators to assist me in the work under each sub-item during the session, or to defer consideration of both sub-items to SBSTA 56.

Methodological issues under the Paris Agreement

(Item 14 of the provisional agenda)

- (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
- (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
- (c) Common tabular formats for the electronic reporting of the information on financial, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building support provided and mobilized, as well as support needed and received, under Articles 9–11 of the Paris Agreement
- (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
- (e) Training programme for technical experts participating in the technical expert review

59. The SBSTA began its consideration of these methodological issues under the Paris Agreement in June 2019 with a view to completing the work by the time of CMA 3, as per decision 18/CMA.1. Regarding the work on sub-items (a–c) and finalizing the common reporting tables and common tabular formats, Parties may recall that the information to be reported

is already defined in the modalities, procedures and guidelines for the transparency framework.⁴⁵ The discussion now under the SBSTA is on how this information will be reported.

60. At the session in May–June 2021 the SBSTA conducted work informally on these matters and I prepared, with the assistance of the co-facilitators, informal notes to capture progress.⁴⁶ During my consultations with Parties throughout the year, I have continued to hear their concern about the urgency of finalizing the outstanding work by the time of COP 26 so that systems and tools for reporting and review can be developed in time to facilitate the submission of biennial transparency reports, including the common reporting tables and common tabular formats, by 2024. I have also heard, particularly from developing country Parties, a need for enhanced capacity-building efforts to enable the use of reporting tables and formats, including the use of reporting software tools. In this context, I requested the secretariat to organize an information event to enhance capacity and understanding of Parties on the matters under this agenda item, which was held from 24 to 25 August 2021.
61. I acknowledge the challenges that Parties are facing in engaging in this highly technical work in a virtual setting. I understand that these discussions are detailed and the volume of remaining work is significant. I also acknowledge the need for convening a technical workshop requested by a number of Ministers during the pre-COP held in early October in Milan, Italy, to allow Parties to go through all reporting tables and formats developed thus far in preparation for enhancing effective engagement of their technical experts on these matters in Glasgow. I will consult with the Presidencies to determine how best to respond to this need taking into account the pandemic and travel related restrictions.
62. Regarding the linkages between work on tracking progress on nationally determined contributions, in particular under sub-item (b), and work on matters relating to Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, I welcome the constructive spirit demonstrated by Parties during the informal discussions in the past two years. I propose to continue the pragmatic approach, with the understanding that any discussions on paragraph 77(d) of the annex to decision 18/CMA.1 under sub-item (b) are without prejudice to the outcomes on matters related to Article 6. To the extent necessary, I may convene a meeting of heads of delegation to ensure the linkage is managed satisfactorily during our time in Glasgow.
63. I propose to continue with the same modalities of work on this item as during SBSTA 50 and 51, namely:
- (a) At the opening plenary of the SBSTA, I will propose to set up a single contact group to cover all five sub-items 14(a–e) and to invite a pair of co-chairs to assist me in the overall work under this item during the session. The contact group will guide the work, assist Parties in maintaining a good overview, ensure coherence across issues, monitor overall progress and prepare conclusions reflecting progress and the way forward;
 - (b) The co-chairs of the contact group will advance the work, including by setting up informal consultations on individual sub-items to address the substance of each issue in depth. The co-chairs may facilitate some of these consultations themselves and ask co-facilitators to assist them with other consultations. The informal consultations will report back to the contact group, including on any cross-cutting issues that need to be addressed. I urge the co-chairs and their co-facilitators to pay particular attention to ensuring coherence in the broad approaches they take to managing work across the sub-items, especially in relation to consultations with Parties and capturing progress;
 - (c) I have instructed the secretariat to avoid clashes of meetings on related work to the extent possible and to work with the SBI and the governing bodies to this end. Not only does this item comprise several sub-items, but in Glasgow there will be other strands of work on transparency-related issues, not only under the SBSTA but also under the SBI. Therefore, there may also be some overlaps with other topics on the agendas of the SBSTA, the SBI and the governing bodies during the sessions, especially in relation to support.
64. I encourage Parties to build on the progress made in May–June and the informal notes prepared by the co-facilitators referred to in paragraph 60 above.

Matters relating to Article 6 of the Paris Agreement

(Item 15 of the provisional agenda)

- (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

⁴⁵ Decision 18/CMA.1, annex.

⁴⁶ Available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/279025>, <https://unfccc.int/documents/279026>, <https://unfccc.int/documents/279099>, <https://unfccc.int/documents/279027>, <https://unfccc.int/documents/279028>.

65. Informal technical expert dialogues/informal consultations were held in 2021, including during the session in May–June and in the period up to Glasgow.⁴⁷ Each dialogue focused on certain unresolved issues, with guiding questions to support discussions. For each dialogue, I encouraged submissions from Parties and observers, and I issued or will issue informal summaries under my own authority. The discussions have enabled Parties to deepen their understanding and engage further on resolving technical issues and enabled observers to share their valuable perspectives. Most, if not all, unresolved issues relating to Article 6 have thus been discussed in the course of this year through these discussions.
66. At the pre-COP in Milan, it was suggested that the SBSTA Chair prepare a single document, ahead of COP 26 that would supplement the Madrid texts, to help summarize the discussions to date and the options on the table for Parties. I will prepare this document and make it available as soon as possible after the last of the informal technical expert dialogues in October.
67. Before the opening of this session, I will convene an informal meeting with heads of delegation to discuss the aims for the SBSTA⁴⁸ and engage them in the work supporting the Article 6 negotiators throughout the session to resolve issues and find consensus on as many outstanding items as possible under the SBSTA.
68. I propose the following mode of work for the session:
 - (a) I will convene heads of delegation informally during the session whenever it appears to me that it may be useful to take stock of progress, focus on difficult issues, clear obstacles, maintain balanced progress and identify any emerging package;
 - (b) In terms of technical work, I will convene a contact group under my own authority and appoint four co-facilitators to support me in informal consultations across the three sub-items, while ensuring progress across the three sub-items is balanced and no sub-item falls behind, and the co-facilitators of the informal consultations will report back to the contact group on progress;
 - (c) I will take into account linkages, including with matters on the agendas of other bodies, and work to ensure coherent progress through close coordination with the incoming COP Presidency and the SBI Chair.
69. As I have noted, we may not be able to resolve all outstanding issues under Article 6, but I aim to keep unresolved issues that need addressing in the second week of the Conference to a minimum and to provide clear, detailed and nuanced options for those unresolved issues so that engagement by heads of delegation and ministers in the second week is supported by clear text with options from the SBSTA.
70. It is our collective responsibility to complete the work on Article 6 in Glasgow and I need all experts to come to the remaining dialogues and to Glasgow having sought and obtained from their head of delegation the maximum authority to negotiate. I need all experts to ensure their head of delegation is fully appraised of the interests and positions of other groups and not just its own. I need groups and delegations to have planned scenarios collectively to find solutions that are acceptable to the Parties that oppose their views.
71. We can no longer delay our decision on Article 6. An agreed outcome on Article 6 will contribute towards a successful Glasgow Conference. There are linkages with other parts of the package of outcomes. But there must also be a point at which we collectively stop negotiating Article 6 and start implementing it. I have said before that it has to be at this Conference. We have to look for solutions for all issues, and not just assume that relief will come from elsewhere. I strongly believe that it is our duty to finish this work, at this Conference, this year.

Market and non-market mechanisms under the Convention

(Item 16 of the provisional agenda)

- (a) Framework for various approaches
 - (b) Non-market-based approaches
 - (c) New market-based mechanism
72. This item was deferred at SBSTA 50 to SBSTA 52. Considering the time constraints, I will consult with Parties before the opening of the session to see whether there are realistic prospects of making progress or reaching substantive conclusions on this item at this session. Depending on the results of those consultations, I shall propose either to set up informal consultations on the three sub-items and to invite a pair of co-facilitators to assist me in the work under this item during the session, or to defer consideration of the item to SBSTA 56.

⁴⁷ See <https://unfccc.int/process/the-paris-agreement/cooperative-implementation>.

⁴⁸ In the week commencing 18 October 2021.

Cooperation with other international organizations

(Item 17 of the provisional agenda)

73. As it does every year before the May–June session, the secretariat made available a report on its cooperation with United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations.⁴⁹ I invited the secretariat to organize an information event, which took place on 3 June 2021, on the secretariat's cooperative activities with United Nations entities and other intergovernmental organizations, and encouraged Parties to use this opportunity to take stock of progress and provide any further guidance to the secretariat that they may consider necessary for this area of work.
74. At this session I propose to consult with Parties myself on draft conclusions on this item, building on an informal note that I prepared at the session in May–June.⁵⁰

Annual reports on technical reviews

(Item 18 of the provisional agenda)

- (a) Technical review of information reported under the Convention by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention in their biennial reports and national communications
 - (b) Technical review of greenhouse gas inventories of Parties included in Annex I to the Convention
 - (c) Technical review of greenhouse gas inventories and other information reported by Parties included in Annex I, as defined in Article 1, paragraph 7, of the Kyoto Protocol
75. The six reports produced under this item in 2020–2021 include information on the review of greenhouse gas inventories, annual submissions, national communications and biennial reports submitted by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention in 2020–2021.⁵¹ They also include information on the composition of the teams of experts that conducted the reviews in 2020–2021 and on the training programmes for review experts.
76. I propose that the SBSTA take note of these reports, but remain available for Parties who may wish to bring any issue requiring further consideration to my attention.

⁴⁹ FCCC/SBSTA/2021/INF.1.

⁵⁰ Available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/278490>.

⁵¹ See document FCCC/SBSTA/2021/2, paras. 112–117.