

## **SUBMISSION BY FRANCE AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES**

**Subject: Research and systematic observation (SBSTA). Views on possible themes for the fourteenth meeting of the Research Dialogue, to be held in conjunction with SBSTA 56**

Paris, 23 February 2022

### **1. Context**

The European Union and its Member States (EU) welcome the conclusions of SBSTA 52-55 on Research and Systematic Observation (FCCC/SBSTA/2021/L.5) and note the invitation to Parties to submit, by 28 February 2022, their views on possible themes for the fourteenth meeting of the Research Dialogue, to be held in conjunction with SBSTA 56.

The EU considers that the Research Dialogue is a valuable forum for exchanges on recent research findings and on needs for climate change research to inform climate action facilitating the dialogue between Parties and regional and international climate research programmes and organizations. These exchanges provide information for the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the Convention and support enhancing the ambition of climate actions. It is important to maintain this forum, build upon its experience and enhance its relevance as a key interface between the science, innovation communities and Parties to the UNFCCC.

### **2. Format for the Research Dialogue**

If SBSTA 56 is held as a physical session, the EU recommends to build on the format of the Research Dialogues 8, 9 and 10, with a half-day session including presentations, a Q&A session and a physical poster session, which worked well. The Q&A session allows for a valuable exchange between Parties and experts and should be given adequate time.

Considering the limited time available for the Research Dialogue, we suggest a small number of well-defined thematic areas should be selected from the proposals received so as to ensure sufficient time is provided for in-depth exchanges.

The Research Dialogue should avoid duplication of issues, which are being considered under other agenda items and processes.

### **3. Possible topics for the Research Dialogue to be held in June 2022 and beyond**

The EU suggests that the Research Dialogue considers new and emerging science. We suggest here four topics, with no order of preference, and looking forward to further in-depth discussions in these areas at the next or a later RD:

- **Short term climate predictability.** The aim is to provide an update on this topic, including on its inter-regional aspects. The contribution of Working Group I to the Sixth IPCC Assessment Report (The Physical Science Basis, AR6 WG I) includes new results on short-term climate predictability which are of interest for the Parties. The current and future skills of short-term climate predictions could be explored in the context of adaptation action and enhancing resilience against climate change, and the development of early-warning systems.

- **Non-CO<sub>2</sub> greenhouse gas observations and trends and their role in mitigating climate change.** Unpacking the findings of, inter alia, the IPCC AR6 report would be of great interest for Parties to better understand the role of non-CO<sub>2</sub> greenhouse gas emissions for achieving the Paris Agreement long-term temperature goal. We suggest to give priority to methane, also in light of the pledge made at COP26, and to nitrous oxide.
- **The role of Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR) in scenarios.** Emission scenarios assessed in recent IPCC reports that are in line with the long-term temperature goals of the Paris Agreement are characterized by CO<sub>2</sub> emissions declining to net zero around or after 2050, followed by varying levels of net negative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Presentations on the amount of negative emissions in various scenarios as well as on assumptions for CDR options including their feasibilities, risks and sustainability considerations, including for biodiversity.
- **Scientific research and understanding of the processes of adaptation monitoring and evaluation.** A consideration of the science of effective monitoring and evaluation of adaptation efforts (including inter alia indicators) would provide an opportunity to enhance the understanding of the available science in this field – which is evolving – including its limitations and research needs on these elements.

The EU looks forward to contributing and to interacting with science experts and other Parties at the next Research Dialogue in June 2022.