

Informal Note
on
SBSTA 60 agenda item 4
Research and systematic observation

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Informal note by the co-facilitators

This informal note, prepared by the co-facilitators under their own responsibility, contains possible elements for draft conclusions shared by Parties in the informal consultations, informal informals and in writing. These elements have not been agreed upon, are not exhaustive and have no formal status. They are intended to assist Parties in their discussions and do not prejudice further work or prevent Parties from expressing any further views.

1. Context

- The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) noted the importance of discussion under this agenda item on scientific advances and research gaps and needs relevant to supporting work under the Convention and the Paris Agreement.

2. Reference to statements made during SB 60 opening plenary

- The SBSTA notes with appreciation the statements delivered at the opening plenary of this session by representatives of the Global Climate Observing System, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the World Climate Research Programme and the World Meteorological Organization.

2.1 Reference to international RSO organizations

- The SBSTA emphasized the need to ensure the continuity and sustainability of systematic observations and data availability, including for GCOS, which are fundamental for research. It encouraged Parties and relevant organizations to further strengthen their provision of support and capacity building for the research community.
- The SBSTA expressed its concerns about the limited financial support to research and systematic observations, at the global level, including for GCOS, and emphasized the need for enhanced support in this regard.
- The SBSTA emphasized the need to ensure the continuity and sustainability of research and systemic observation for data availability, which are fundamental for research, including for GCOS, and encouraged enhanced support in that regard.

2.2 Reference to national organizations

- The SBSTA acknowledged the pivotal role of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) and similar organizations in providing timely, reliable, and actionable information.

3. Reference to IPCC AR7

- The SBSTA welcomed the commencement of the seventh assessment cycle and the progress of work of the IPCC.
- The SBSTA, recalling decision 20/CMA.5 paragraph 6, invited the IPCC to continue providing relevant information to Parties on the scientific, technical and socioeconomic aspects of climate change and to take into account, in determining its future products and assessment cycles, work under the Convention and the Paris Agreement.

4. Reference to Research Dialogue 16

- The SBSTA took note of the 16th meeting of the Research Dialogue, held on 4 June 2024¹.
- The SBSTA recognized the need to improve the logistical arrangements and organization of the Research Dialogue to ensure a party-driven process, transparency, inclusiveness and sufficient time for Parties to prepare, and to continue to take into account submissions in the preparation of the Research Dialogue.
- The SBSTA welcomed the continuation of the RDs and, recalling decisions 9/CP.11 and 16/CP.17, encouraged the Chair and the secretariat to continue to take into account submissions in the preparation of the research dialogue and to communicate in a timely manner the logistical arrangements and organization of the research dialogue to support engagement and inclusivity.

5. Reference to research needs

- [Reflecting on the meeting and events referred to in paragraph XXX above], the SBSTA noted scientific advances and knowledge gaps, as well as research needs and research capacity building needs related to:

Scenarios

- Development of scenarios and models that allow considerations of equity and differentiation, including the achievement of the SDGs in the short term and a fair and equitable allocation of the mitigation burden in keeping with the principles of equity and CBDR&R.
- Revising and refining scenarios and models to more clearly reflect the need to significantly reduce emissions in countries most consequential to limit warming to 1.5C while also reflecting success towards achieving sustainable development goals alongside rapid emissions reductions
- Revising and refining, and developing new scenarios and models to better reflect regions to support sustainable development in pursuit of the Paris Agreement's long-term temperature goal and to support countries in their development of more ambitious NDCs and transformative NAPs
- Revising and refining scenarios that ensure fair and equitable achievement of sustainable development
- Revising and refining scenarios and models to better reflect regional differentiation to support sustainable development and poverty eradication and pursuit of the Paris Agreement's long term temperature goal

Adaptation/loss and damage

- Constraints to climate resilient development and sustainable development, from every increment of warming especially with global warming above 1.5°C; adaptation under continued global warming, adaptation limits and observed and projected economic and non-economic loss and damage.
- Development of global and regional adaptation indicators

Regional level

¹ Link to RD16 page

- Regionally-disaggregated feasibility assessment of adaptation and mitigation measures

Metrics/gases

- Implications of different emission metric choices to mitigation policies (e.g. global temperature potential (GTP) vs global warming potential GWP)
- Non-CO₂ greenhouse gasses other than methane and their relevance for limiting warming to 1.5C

Finance

- Alignment of the financial system

Attribution

- That, currently, knowledge of attribution science is inadequate and research is needed to increase the understanding of such

6. Follow-up activities on addressing research needs

- The SBSTA encouraged Parties and the scientific community to take action to address climate-related research gaps and needs, including by strengthening research capacity at the regional level and inclusivity, emphasizing the need for the provision of the means of implementation for developing countries to strengthen such research capacity. It also encouraged the IPCC to continue its efforts to enhance inclusivity and regional representation in its seventh assessment cycle
- The SBSTA encouraged Parties and the scientific community to take action to address climate-related research gaps and needs, including by strengthening research capacity at the national and regional level and inclusivity and by scientific cooperation.

6.1 Follow-up by Chair

- Recalling decision 9/CP.11, para 6, the SBSTA invited its Chair to present a proposal at SBSTA 62 on how Parties can be informed on how the research needs of the Convention identified by parties are being addressed by the scientific community and Parties
- Recalling decision 9/CP.11, the SBSTA Chair is invited to consider ways to communicate how research needs identified in previous RDs have been addressed when developing the next and forthcoming Research Dialogues.
- The SBSTA requested the secretariat to perform an analysis of past research dialogue topics and presentations as well as proposed topics for the research dialogue from previous submissions by Parties and include their findings in the information note for the next research dialogue. The SBSTA also requested the SBSTA Chair to take into account the analysis in paragraph xx above in the design of future research dialogues.

7. Follow-up activities under RSO

The SBSTA invited Parties and relevant organizations to submit via the submission portal² by 14 March 2025 views on possible themes for the seventeenth meeting of the research dialogue, to be held in conjunction with SBSTA 62 (June 2025)

² <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx>.