

**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 room 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

Element 1

The SBSTA [took note of] [welcomed] [the information and activities reported in] 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.

Element 2

The SBSTA expressed its concern about the limited financial support to systematic observations at global level, in particular related to GCOS, and urged the provision of continued and adequate support, on a long-term sustained basis, to the systematic observations needed to meet the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreements goals.

Element 3

The SBSTA emphasized the need for sustained financial support to ensure the continuity and sustainability of systematic observations and data availability, which are fundamental for informed adaptation and mitigation planning.

Element 4

The SBSTA acknowledged the pivotal role of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) in providing timely, reliable, and actionable climate information, essential for the formulation and implementation of impactful Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Recognizing that robust climate science underpins well-implemented NDCs, which in turn enables the accurate characterization of anthropogenic climate change and weather extremes, the SBSTA urged Parties to prioritize the allocation of resources towards NMHS to ensure the maintenance and enhancement of essential climate services that are crucial for the successful implementation and efficacy of climate action.

3. Reference to IPCC AR7

Element 1

The SBSTA welcomed the commencement of the seventh assessment cycle and the progress of work of the IPCC.

Element 2

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 and research needs

Element 1

(a) Noting with serious concern the process for selecting the theme of the 16th Research Dialogue, and the need to ensure a party driven process.

(b) Recognize the need to improve the logistical arrangements and organization of the Research Dialogue to ensure transparency, inclusiveness, and sufficient time for Parties to prepare.

Element 2

(a) The SBSTA invited Parties and relevant organizations to submit their views on possible themes for RD16 in its 59th session. 12 submissions were received from Parties and observers

(b) The SBSTA noted that those submissions referred to in the paragraph above were not fully taken into account in RD16 and their respective issues will be considered in RD17

Element 3

The SBSTA expressed its appreciation to its Chair and the secretariat for organizing the sixteenth meeting of the research dialogue, held on 4 June 2024, on the development of new nationally determined contributions (NDCs), in particular how to transition to low-emission and resilient development reflecting the outcome of the first global stocktake (GST), and synergies and trade-offs with sustainable development

Element 4

The SBSTA appreciated the organisation of the Research Dialogue (*in line with previous practice and making use of standard text*)

Element 5

The SBSTA took note of the organization of the sixteenth meeting of the research dialogue, held on 4 June 2024.

5. Reference to research needs

Element 1

The SBSTA noted the following research needs:

- i. Revising and refining scenarios that ensure fair and equitable achievement of SDGs.
- ii. NDC implementation gaps in developing countries.
- iii. Implications of different emission metric choices to mitigation policies (e.g. global temperature potential (GTP) vs global warming potential GWP).

Element 2

The SBSTA noted the following key scientific advances, findings, and research needs:

- i. The continued need for scientific information, including global, regional and sectoral scenario information, that can inform the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C limit, to support countries in their development of more ambitious NDCs.

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- ii. That climate resilient development is progressively constrained with every increment of global warming and especially above 1.5°C, and that more adaptation limits will be reached especially above 1.5°C. This calls for more research on adaptation limits, and how a lack of mitigation efforts will inhibit sustainable development.
 - iii. That loss and damage is already observed, and that more research is needed on both economic and non-economic aspects of loss and damage, to inform climate resilient and sustainable development.

6. Follow-up activities on addressing research needs

Element 1

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

Element 2

The SBSTA encouraged Parties and the scientific community to take action to address climate-related research gaps and needs and to strengthen research capacity at the regional level and inclusivity, including in relation to understanding: global, regional and sectoral scenario information to support countries in their development of more ambitious NDCs; adaptation limits, especially above 1.5°C; how a lack of immediate mitigation efforts will inhibit sustainable development and increase economic and non-economic losses and damages.

Element 3

The SBSTA Chair is invited to propose, at SBSTA 62, a methodology for reporting on the research community responses to the identified research needs. This report, intended as annual input for future sessions, should aim to inform Parties of progress in addressing the needs highlighted in the previous Research session

7. Follow-up activities under RSO

The SBSTA invited Parties and relevant organizations to submit via the submission portal¹ by xxx views on possible themes for the seventeenth meeting of the research dialogue, to be held in conjunction with SBSTA 62 (June 2025)

¹ <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx>.