

DRAFT TEXT

on

SBSTA agenda item 4 Research and systematic observation

Version 18/6/2025 22:45

Informal note by the co-facilitators

1. 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. *Placeholder for statements submitted to the opening plenary of SBSTA 62*
3. The SBSTA expressed appreciation to its Chair and the secretariat for organizing the seventeenth meeting of the research dialogue, held on 17 June 2025, particularly for its participatory and engaging approach which included plenary, breakout discussions and poster sessions, as well as the informal consultations with Parties held ahead of the meeting. It welcomed the scope of thematic areas, which reflects the views expressed in the submissions¹ from Parties and organizations, and that the meeting provided relevant research updates and a platform for engagement with the scientific community.
4. The SBSTA thanked the experts and representatives from relevant organizations who contributed to the meeting, the contributors to the poster session and welcomed the opportunity for informal exchanges.
5. The SBSTA took note with appreciation of the statement made by the Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and welcomed the update on the ongoing work of the IPCC in its seventh assessment cycle, including the launch of work on the Special Report on Climate Change and Cities. The SBSTA encouraged the IPCC to continue providing policy-relevant and timely scientific information to processes under the UNFCCC.
6. The SBSTA took note of the WMO *State of the Global Climate 2024*² and the WMO *Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update 2025–2029*³. The SBSTA noted that 2024 was the warmest year on record, the increasing glacier mass loss, sea levels reached record high, that the Arctic and Antarctic sea ice extent were below average in 2024, and that extreme events increased globally. It also noted that long-term global warming remains below 1.5 °C.
7. The SBSTA welcomed advances in the understanding of observed and projected changes in the climate system and the synergies and trade-offs between 1.5°C aligned pathways with sustainable development, noting the importance of adaptation and mitigation actions.
8. The SBSTA noted the information, including of scientific findings, presented by representatives of research programmes and organizations including in relation to:
 - (a) Every increment of warming which increases risks and lowers effectiveness of adaptation strategies leading to increased losses and damages, with compounding effects on the cryosphere, biodiversity and ecosystems, water and health;
 - (b) Advances in attribution science, and the need to improve climate attribution at the regional level;

¹ Submissions can be accessed through the submissions portal

<https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx> (search “research”)

² WMO. 2025. *State of the Global Climate 2024*. Geneva, Switzerland: WMO. Available at <https://library.wmo.int/records/item/69455-state-of-the-global-climate-2024>.

³ WMO. 2024. *WMO Global Annual to Decadal Climate Update Target years: 2024 and 2024-2028*. Geneva, Switzerland: WMO. Available at <https://library.wmo.int/records/item/68910-wmo-global-annual-to-decadal-climate-update>.

(c) Gaps in the modelling of sustainable development and 1.5 °C-aligned pathways, including the consideration of equity in these,

(d) Gaps in methodologies related to assessing adaptation interventions and risk reduction;

(e) The role of and importance of Indigenous and local knowledge in climate change adaptation and barriers to accessing that knowledge;

(f) Monsoon pattern changes and their attribution to anthropogenic climate change;

(g) Barriers and gaps related to the acceleration of the deployment of carbon dioxide removal technologies.

9. The SBSTA also noted the importance of the research dialogue for providing the latest scientific information, and identifying research gaps, needs and research capacity constraints, particularly in developing countries, and further noted the need to strengthen research capacity, especially in the least developed countries and small island developing States. The SBSTA called for further broadening of the representation during the dialogue, including by increasing the participation of experts from developing countries.

10. The SBSTA encouraged the scientific community to address the identified gaps and needs.

11. The SBSTA requested its Chair to prepare, with the assistance of the secretariat, an informal summary report on the seventeenth meeting of the research dialogue, to be made available in advance of SBSTA 64 (June 2026).

12. The SBSTA also requested its Chair to prepare a report on how gaps identified by the SBSTA during its sessions are being addressed by the scientific community, following the conclusion of each IPCC assessment cycle.

13. The SBSTA invited Parties and relevant organizations to submit via the submission portal⁴ by 14 March 2026 views on possible themes for the eighteenth meeting of the research dialogue, to be held in conjunction with SBSTA 64.

14. The SBSTA took note of the estimated budgetary implications of the activities to be undertaken by the secretariat referred to in these conclusions.

15. It requested that the actions of the secretariat called for in these conclusions be undertaken subject to the availability of financial resources.

⁴ <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx>.