

7 May 2021

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

### I. Introduction

1. Turning to the work of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) in 2021, I have drawn up this note under my own responsibility as Chair of SBSTA to provide Parties, in advance of this year's first sessional period, information on the state of play and how I propose that work might be organized. The session will be held from 31 May to 17 June 2021 as decided by the Bureau at its meeting on 15 April 2021. The note is complementary to, and should be read in conjunction with, the draft provisional agenda (DPA) for the 2021 session of the SBSTA<sup>1</sup> and the note by the Chairs of the SBSTA and SBI that provides background information on the modalities and organization of work,<sup>2</sup> as requested by the Bureau at its meeting on 15 April 2021.
2. More specifically, this note provides:
  - Proposals for working efficiently, effectively and transparently;
  - 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);
  - Information on other activities and their related events.
3. 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 June session can truly contribute to supporting strengthened implementation and enhanced ambition and hence to meeting the objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the goals of the Paris Agreement.
4. I look forward to a constructive and productive session so that we can make the best possible progress in June, which will serve as an important step towards further progress during our subsequent sessions and the decisions to be adopted in Glasgow in November by the Conference of the Parties (COP) at its twenty-sixth session, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP) at its sixteenth session and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) at its third session.

### II. Working efficiently, effectively and transparently

5. These are the first SBSTA and SBI sessions to be convened since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, although in a virtual setting. 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, CMP and CMA. Moreover, mandated events will take place during the session along with events that I may organize in support of the work.
6. In 2021, the SBSTA will have to consider a wide range of issues relating to the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. Given limited daily time for work in the virtual setting, it may not be possible to address all areas at our June session. Please see my proposed approach by agenda item in section III below.
7. In general terms, I propose organizing work at the SBSTA session in May–June 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 section III on each agenda item or topic;
  - (b) I will present the DPA for SBSTA 2021, which is an integrated agenda reflecting all items mandated for 2020–2021,<sup>3</sup> at the opening plenary meeting on Monday, 31 May 2021, with the understanding that the agenda will be considered and proposed for adoption only when the SBSTA meets in person. I will count on Parties'

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<sup>1</sup> [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/2021\\_dpa\\_sbsta.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/2021_dpa_sbsta.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> Available on the conference page: <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/conferences/may-june-2021-climate-change-conference-sessions-of-the-subsidiary-bodies>.

<sup>3</sup> As footnote 1 above.

support and flexibility to engage in informal consultations on the basis of the DPA and according to the guidance provided in this note;

- (c) I will launch informal work on a wide range of issues mandated for 2020–2021 and included in the draft provisional agenda and set the direction of this work. For most items, I will propose to convene informal consultations to take work forward (for further details see section III below), and to invite a pair of co-facilitators to assist me in that work. This approach also applies, in close coordination with the Chair of SBI, to joint SBSTA–SBI items;
  - (d) Following the opening meetings of the SBSTA and SBI, a joint plenary meeting of the SBSTA and the SBI 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;
  - (e) Informal work under the SBSTA will then start in groups established in accordance with my proposal below in section III. For each item that will be considered in June, informal consultations of 90 minutes will be organized. Please refer to the note on the modalities for session organization for more information on how those consultations will be convened. The organization and scheduling of meetings will take into account previous relevant SBI conclusions;<sup>4</sup> all efforts will be made to avoid clashes on similar issues;
  - (f) Mandated and other events will take place as announced during the session;
  - (g) Informal documents capturing progress of the informal work at the June session will be prepared and made available before the plenary meeting on 17 June. Therefore, I will ask all informal consultation groups to finalize their work for this session on Wednesday, 16 June 2021, at the latest;
  - (h) A joint plenary meeting of the SBSTA and the SBI will be convened to take stock of progress in work at the end of the first week. This stocktaking meeting will aim to enhance transparency of the work and to provide an opportunity for participants to share brief reflections on progress as well as for the Chairs to make any adjustments in the organization of work for the remainder of the sessions;
  - (i) At the plenary meeting on 17 June 2021, I will invite co-facilitators of all informal consultation groups to report on progress in their work. I will then suspend the SBSTA plenary meeting and reconvene it as a joint SBSTA–SBI plenary meeting to hear brief statements or reflections on the June session from Parties and observers;
  - (j) After hearing the reflections, I will propose to suspend the 2021 session of the SBSTA and to resume it at our next meeting in or prior to Glasgow;
  - (k) I may undertake, as needed, further consultations during the session on how to address specific issues, to ensure work at the session advances in preparation for subsequent SBSTA sessions, as well as bilateral consultations with groups. The consultations on certain issues might include meetings of heads of delegation if deemed helpful for progress during the session.
8. Since the SBSTA first sessional period in 2021 will be organized in a virtual setting and considering the large number of informal consultations to organize, time management is important. Therefore, I developed together with the SBI Chair criteria to determine the timelines for the consideration of the items on our respective DPAs in 2021, including for our joint items. In particular, we have identified issues for which consideration is proposed to take place at the in-person SBSTA session in or prior to Glasgow:
- (a) Items for which the subsidiary bodies are expected to take a decision in plenary (e.g. adoption of agenda, elections, taking note of information);
  - (b) Items for which all documents to be considered will only become available after June will be considered at the SBSTA session in Glasgow, including, for example, the consideration of annual reports for 2021;<sup>5</sup>
  - (c) Work, including mandated events, mandated for SBSTA 55 will be considered at our session in Glasgow;
  - (d) Items for which little progress can be expected in June will be considered when more time can be provided in an in-person meeting.

<sup>4</sup> FCCC/SBI/2014/8, paras. 218–221.

<sup>5</sup> Available reports can be already accessed under the relevant provisional agenda item on the SBSTA session page.

### III. Status of work and suggested approach to the SBSTA<sup>6</sup>

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

*(Item 3 of the DPA)*

9. In the two years since SBSTA 50, the focus of the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change (NWP) has been curating and communicating knowledge as well as convening partnerships to close knowledge gaps identified by Parties so as to scale up adaptation. Progress made includes working with global and regional partners, expert groups, universities and NWP partners in the thematic areas of biodiversity and oceans, coastal areas and ecosystems. This includes supporting the work of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) in assisting developing countries in formulating and implementing national adaptation plans (NAPs) as well as supporting the work of the other constituted bodies.
10. SBSTA 48 agreed that matters related to the NWP would be considered at its first regular session of the year,<sup>7</sup> and that modalities of the stocktake of the operational and institutional modalities of the NWP would be determined at SBSTA 54. SBSTA 56 will take stock of the operational and institutional modalities of the NWP with a view to assessing the performance and effectiveness of the NWP in addressing knowledge needs relevant to the implementation of the Paris Agreement. I propose to convene informal consultations in response to these mandates and to invite a pair of co-facilitators to assist me in managing this work during the June session.
11. I encourage Parties to make good use of this opportunity at the June session and to 1) initiate discussion on 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 the constituted bodies that are relevant to the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

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

*(Item 4 of the DPA)*

12. At SB 51, the SBSTA and the SBI were, as mandated by decision 2/CP.17, invited to consider the report of the Adaptation Committee for 2019. Consideration of this item was not completed, and as per rule 16 of the draft rules of procedures being applied it was included in the agenda for SB 52.
13. Information on further progress made by the Adaptation Committee in the implementation of its workplan, including relevant mandates from the subsidiary bodies, the COP and the CMA, is included in the report of the Adaptation Committee for 2020.<sup>8</sup> The Adaptation Committee met several times in 2020 in a virtual format and agreed to include recommendations arising from its work for consideration by the COP and the CMA not in its 2020 report but its 2021 report.
14. In this regard and considering the time constraints, the SBI Chair and I propose to consider the 2019, 2020 and 2021 reports together at the sessions in Glasgow.

#### **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 DPA)*

15. The 2020 report of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism highlights the Committee's progress in implementing its five-year rolling workplan, including 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 Executive Committee for the three other expert groups, advising the Committee on work related to slow onset events, non-economic losses, and action and support respectively, thereby paving the way for launching the groups. The report also contains recommendations arising from work undertaken since November 2019.<sup>9</sup>
16. The Executive Committee is expected to report in 2021 on, among other areas, the progress by the three newly launched expert groups in implementing their respective rolling plans of action. Their work is integral to the technical advice and support that the Executive Committee is mandated to enhance and catalyse. The 2021 report is also expected to contain

<sup>6</sup> Joint SBSTA–SBI agenda items are marked with an asterisk.

<sup>7</sup> See the NWP annual progress report for 2020 ([FCCC/SBSTA/2020/INF.1](https://www.unfccc.int/documents/1362627/1362627/FCCC/SBSTA/2020/INF.1)) and annual progress report for 2021 (available soon).

<sup>8</sup> [FCCC/SB/2020/2](https://www.unfccc.int/documents/1362627/1362627/FCCC/SB/2020/2).

<sup>9</sup> [FCCC/SB/2020/3](https://www.unfccc.int/documents/1362627/1362627/FCCC/SB/2020/3).

information on progress by organizations 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.

17. In this regard and considering the time constraints, the SBI Chair and I propose to consider the 2020 and 2021 reports of the Executive Committee together at the sessions in Glasgow.

### **Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform**

*(Item 6 of the DPA)*

18. The Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) is a trusted and inclusive space that brings together people to build a climate-resilient world for all. The platform was established to promote exchange of experience and best practices, build capacity for engagement, and harness the power of diverse knowledge systems and innovations in designing and implementing climate policies and actions.<sup>10</sup> One of the purposes of the platform is to enhance the engagement of local communities and indigenous peoples in the UNFCCC process. Climate policy benefits from engaging with indigenous values and expertise, including the stewardship of nature. Since COP 25 in 2019, the Facilitative Working Group (FWG) has been implementing the LCIPP initial two-year workplan, including 12 activities as well as additional mandated activities such as a dedicated web portal.<sup>11</sup>
19. Decision 2/CP.24 mandated the SBSTA to review the outcomes and activities of the FWG at its session in November 2021. The COP 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 SBSTA at its session taking place in May–June 2021. The second three-year workplan will be drafted at FWG5, to be held virtually from 21 to 24 June 2021, and subsequently attached to the report on FWG5. Given this workplan and report will be available only after the May–June session and considering the time constraints, I propose to consider this item at the SBSTA session in Glasgow.
20. As announced earlier, as part of the SBSTA plan of informal activities for 2021, I intend to organize informal events in relation to the LCIPP. I plan to organize two events during the June session. One event will be 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 workplan. A second event will showcase how the dedicated web portal makes the work of the LCIPP widely accessible and demonstrate user-friendly ways to engage using the portal. The date and time of both events will be made known in due course on the UNFCCC web pages.<sup>12</sup>

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

*(Item 7 of the DPA)*

21. The joint annual report of the Technology Executive Committee (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. In accordance with Article 10, paragraph 3 of the Paris Agreement, the Technology Mechanism also serves the Paris Agreement. The 2020 report includes information on regular activities undertaken by the Technology Mechanism and recommendations to Parties, on the two bodies incorporating guidance from the technology framework into their workplans and programmes of work and on their joint activities for 2021 and 2022.<sup>13</sup>
22. In this regard and considering the time constraints, the SBI Chair and I propose to consider the 2020 and 2021 reports together at the SBSTA session in Glasgow.

### **Koronivia joint work on agriculture\***

*(Item 8 of the DPA)*

23. Under the Koronivia joint work on agriculture (KJWA), 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, approved at SB 48, Parties took part in six mandated workshops during SB 49–SB 51 and the Climate Dialogues.

<sup>10</sup> Decision 2/CP.23, paragraph 6.

<sup>11</sup> <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Initial%20two-year%20workplan%20of%20the%20LCIPP%20%282020-2021%29.pdf>.

<sup>12</sup> <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/conferences/may-june-2021-climate-change-conference-sessions-of-the-subsidiary-bodies> and <https://unfccc.int/LCIPP>.

<sup>13</sup> [FCCC/SB/2020/4](https://unfccc.int/SB/2020/4).

24. As at 21 April 2021, two Parties on behalf of groups of Parties and two observer organizations had submitted views on this matter in response to the invitation by the SBSTA and the SBI.<sup>14</sup> These submissions can be found on the submission portal.<sup>15</sup>
25. To advance work on this matter, the SBI Chair and I invite Parties to constructively engage in the informal consultations, in particular through the consideration of the reports on the three workshops – on improved nutrient use and manure management towards sustainable and resilient agricultural systems;<sup>16</sup> on improved livestock management systems, including agropastoral production systems and others;<sup>17</sup> and on socioeconomic and food security dimensions of climate change in the agricultural sector.<sup>18</sup>
26. It is the SBI Chair's and my expectation that Parties advance towards common understanding of the possible elements of the draft conclusion/decision on progress of work under the KJWA, which we will capture in an informal note under our authority. This informal note may inform further discussion with the aim of reaching agreement on this matter at COP 26.
27. Following the continuous guidance of the Bureau to minimize delays and maximize progress, the SBSTA Chair and I convened informal consultations on the KJWA on 13 April 2021.<sup>19</sup> Parties supported the approach to hold the first part of the workshop mandated by the subsidiary bodies<sup>20</sup> virtually as soon as possible, while the second part of this workshop will be organized in the period before COP 26. The first part of this workshop will be organized between 31 May and 17 June, in conjunction with the June sessions.

### **Sources of input for the global stocktake under the Paris Agreement**

*(Item 9 of the DPA)*

28. The CMA by decision 19/CMA.1, paragraph 38, invited the SBSTA to complement the non-exhaustive lists of sources of input in paragraphs 36 and 37 of the same decision at its session held prior to the start of the information collection and preparation component of the global stocktake, as appropriate, taking into account the thematic areas of the global stocktake (para. 6(b) of the same decision) and the importance of leveraging national-level reporting.
29. During the session, I will invite Parties to share their views on the need to complement the lists referred to in paragraph 28 above and on how to consider efficiently the potentially large number of submissions referred to in paragraphs 37(i) of decision 19/CMA 1. I propose to convene informal consultations on this matter and to invite a pair of co-facilitators to assist me in managing this work during the June session.

### **Matters related to science and review:**

*(Item 10 of the DPA)*

#### **(a) Research and systematic observation**

30. At the Climate Dialogues, two events mandated in relation to research and systematic observation (RSO) took place:
- The twelfth meeting of the research dialogue explored the scientific research and understanding of moving towards net-zero carbon dioxide emissions and building resilience to the impacts and risks of climate change in this context.<sup>21</sup>
  - Earth Information Day 2020 provided an update on the state of the global climate system in 2020 and its observation and allowed for discussion of recent advances in Earth observation technology and data processing to support decision-making on mitigation and adaptation.<sup>22</sup>
31. The SBSTA has invited a number of inputs from the scientific community on a regular basis, including progress updates from the Global Climate Observing System, the Joint Working Group on Climate of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites and Coordination Group for Meteorological Satellites, and the Global Framework for Climate Services as well

<sup>14</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2018/4, annex I.

<sup>15</sup> <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx>.

<sup>16</sup> <https://unfccc.int/event/improved-nutrient-use-and-manure-management-towards-sustainable-and-resilient-agricultural-systems>.

<sup>17</sup> <https://unfccc.int/event/koronivia-workshop-on-improved-livestock-management-systems>.

<sup>18</sup> <https://unfccc.int/event/koronivia-workshop-on-socioeconomic-and-food-security-dimensions-of-climate-change-in-the>.

<sup>19</sup> <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/subsidiary-bodies/subsidiary-body-for-implementation-sbi/sbi-chair-lobby#eq-6>.

<sup>20</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2019/2, para. 45.

<sup>21</sup> <https://unfccc.int/topics/science/events-meetings/research-dialogue/twelfth-meeting-of-the-research-dialogue>.

<sup>22</sup> <https://unfccc.int/event/earth-information-day-2020>.

as the WMO annual Greenhouse Gas Bulletin<sup>23</sup> and Statement on the State of the Global Climate.<sup>24</sup> In 2020, these updates were integrated into Earth Information Day 2020 rather than being provided through written statements.

32. As at 5 May 2021, six submissions were received in 2020 and six submissions in 2021 of views on possible topics and considerations for the meetings of the research dialogue, and three submissions were received in 2020 of views on possible themes for Earth Information Day. These submissions can be found on the submission portal.<sup>25</sup>
33. The thirteenth meeting of the research dialogue will take place on 1-2 June 2021 and focus on two themes. An information note and agenda will be provided in advance of the meeting.<sup>26</sup>
34. I propose to convene informal consultations to consider issues relating to both research and systematic observation, taking into account the events referred to in paragraphs 30 and 33 above. I will invite a pair of co-facilitators to assist me in managing 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\*

35. COP 25 decided that the second periodic review of the long-term global goal and the progress towards achieving it 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 at SB 53 (November 2020) and being completed at SB 55 (November 2021).
36. The first session of the meeting of the structured expert dialogue under the second periodic review (SED2-1.1) took place during the Climate Dialogues. SED2-1.2 will be convened during the June sessions. It is the SBI Chair's and my expectation that Parties have constructive discussions at SED2-1.2 in June and provide any further guidance to the co-facilitators of SED2 for the organization of SED2-2 and SED2-3.
37. Due to the postponement of the sessions in 2020, the second periodic review has not yet been considered by the subsidiary bodies in a joint contact group. Following the continuous guidance of the Bureau to minimize delays and maximize progress, the SBI Chair and I held informal consultations on this matter on 27 April 2021.<sup>27</sup> To advance on this matter, we will invite Parties to engage at the June session in informal consultations to reflect on SED2-1.1 and SED2-1.2 and to share views on the organization of the second and third meetings (SED2-2 and SED2-3, respectively). Additionally, we will invite discussions on convening SED2-3 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.
38. We will capture the outcome of the consultations in an informal note under our authority. This informal note may inform further discussion with the aim of reaching agreement on this item at COP 26.

**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 DPA)*

39. The forum on the impact of the implementation of response measures (RM forum), convened jointly under the SBSTA and the SBI, is implementing the six-year workplan of the forum and its KCI (2020–2025).<sup>28</sup> The implementation of the work by the RM forum is linked to progress by the KCI. As at 21 April 2021, the KCI had implemented two of the four activities mandated for 2020. The Chairs of the subsidiary bodies also held an informal event related to these two activities during the Climate Dialogues.<sup>29</sup> The KCI will be implementing the remaining two activities planned for 2020 at its 4<sup>th</sup> meeting scheduled for 25–27 May and 1–2 June 2021, in conjunction with the sessions of the subsidiary bodies. Owing to the postponement of the sessions in 2020, the RM forum has not yet considered the work undertaken by the KCI in 2020 or its own workplan. To minimize delays and maximize progress, the SBSTA Chair and I are organizing on 18 May an informal event in support of the implementation of the sixth-year workplan.<sup>30</sup>
40. To advance work on these matters, the SBI Chair and I will invite Parties to constructively engage in informal consultations to take stock of progress and provide any further guidance to the KCI and the RM forum on advancing

<sup>23</sup> [https://library.wmo.int/doc\\_num.php?explnum\\_id=10437](https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=10437).

<sup>24</sup> <https://public.wmo.int/en/our-mandate/climate/wmo-statement-state-of-global-climate>.

<sup>25</sup> <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx>.

<sup>26</sup> <https://unfccc.int/event/thirteenth-meeting-of-the-research-dialogue>.

<sup>27</sup> <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/subsidiary-bodies/subsidiary-body-for-implementation-sbi/sbi-chair-lobby#eq-7>.

<sup>28</sup> FCCC/CP/2019/13/Add.1, annex II.

<sup>29</sup> <https://unfccc.int/event/informal-event-of-the-forum-on-the-impacts-of-the-implementation-of-response-measures>.

<sup>30</sup> [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sb\\_chairs\\_cn\\_RM.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sb_chairs_cn_RM.pdf).

implementation of the workplan of the forum and its KCI, and to implement activities in line with the mandates for the session.

41. It is the expectation of the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies that Parties advance towards common understanding on key issues, which we will capture in an informal note under our authority. This informal note may inform further discussion with the aim of reaching agreement on this item at COP 26.

#### **Methodological issues under the Convention:**

*(Item 12 of the DPA)*

- (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
42. Considering the time constraints, I propose not to undertake informal work relating to these methodological issues under the Convention at the June session. Matters relating to experiences in conducting desk reviews<sup>31</sup> will be considered under sub-item (d) above. I will consult with Parties on how to advance work on these matters prior to the SBSTA session in Glasgow.

#### **Methodological issues under the Kyoto Protocol:**

*(Item 13 of the DPA)*

- (a) Land use, land-use change and forestry under Article 3, paragraphs 3 and 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
43. These two sub-items were deferred by SBSTA 50 to SBSTA 52. Considering the time constraints, I propose not to undertake informal work relating to these methodological issues under the Kyoto Protocol at the June session. I will consult with Parties on how to advance work on these matters prior to the next SBSTA session in or before Glasgow.

#### **Methodological issues under the Paris Agreement**

*(Item 14 of the DPA)*

- (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

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<sup>31</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2019/5, para. 59.

44. The SBSTA began its consideration of these methodological issues under the Paris Agreement in June 2019 with a view to completing this work by CMA 3, as per decision 18/CMA.1. Information events were held during the UNFCCC June Momentum on Climate Change and informal dialogues during the Climate Dialogues in 2020 to exchange views on the matters under sub-items (a–c).
45. I hear the growing concern of Parties about the urgency of finalizing the outstanding work by COP 26 so that systems and tools for reporting can be developed in time to facilitate the submission of biennial transparency reports by 2024. I have also heard, particularly from developing country Parties, a need for focused capacity-building efforts to enable the use of reporting tables, including calculation and reporting software.
46. Regarding the work on sub-items (a–c) and finalizing the common reporting tables (CRT) and common tabular format (CTF), Parties may recall that the information to be reported is already defined in the modalities, procedures and guidelines (MPGs) for the transparency framework (decision 18/CMA.1). The discussion now under the SBSTA is on *how* this information is reported. To advance this work, I convened an informal technical workshop on 5–7 May on sub-items (a–c). I very much appreciated the constructive engagement by participants in all three parts of the workshop, which were well informed by the submissions of Parties and observers on these matters. I also acknowledge the challenges that some meetings can pose on participants in certain time zones. I will take the views expressed by participants in the workshop into consideration when planning for the June session. I propose that Parties use the June session as an opportunity to engage in technical discussion on these sub-items and identify outstanding issues that need to be resolved to finalize the reporting tables. I know that these discussions are detailed and the volume of remaining work significant. Therefore, Parties may wish to consider the need for and the possible nature of informal technical work after the June session.
47. At SBSTA 50 and SBSTA 51, Parties pragmatically managed the linkages between work on tracking progress on nationally determined contributions (NDCs), in particular in relation to paragraph 77(d) of the annex to decision 18/CMA.1, the work under sub-item (b) (structured summary) and work on matters relating to Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, which helped to facilitate progress on these items. I welcome the constructive spirit demonstrated by Parties during the informal discussions in 2020 and the constructive views in the submissions on these matters. I propose to continue the pragmatic approach, with the understanding that any discussions on paragraph 77(d) under sub-item (b) are without prejudice to the outcomes on matters related to Article 6.
48. While much of the discussion last year focused on the reporting tables and tabular formats, sub-items (d), on outlines, and (e), on the training programme, also remain work in progress and are critical to timely operationalization of the enhanced transparency framework. Agreed outlines aim to provide a clear structure for the preparation of various reports, including review reports. Coming to a common understanding on the key elements of the training programme for review experts as soon as possible enables the development of materials needed to train a sufficient number of experts in accordance with the timeline contained in the MPGs.
49. I propose the following approach for this sessional period:
- Launch discussions under all five sub-items – (a–e) – by opening informal consultations. This will provide an opportunity for Parties to reflect on the status of the work done on these matters over the past two years, including the informal workshop on sub-items (a–c) that I organized on 5–7 May 2021;
  - I will invite a pair of co-facilitators, one from a developed country and one from a developing country, to assist me in managing the work on these matters at the session;
  - Discussions and progress will be captured in informal documents;
  - The last meeting of informal consultations would provide an opportunity for Parties to reflect on the key elements discussed and discuss possible next steps in the lead-up to Glasgow.

### **Matters relating to Article 6 of the Paris Agreement**

*(Item 15 of the DPA)*

- (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
50. In April 2021, I launched a series of short technical expert dialogues, particularly on unresolved issues, with the assistance of co-facilitators. For each dialogue, I encouraged Parties and observers to make informal submissions. I found the dialogues so far to be very useful and informative. Parties demonstrated a clear focus on addressing unresolved issues and a clear commitment to a successful outcome on Article 6 at COP 26. The next informal technical expert dialogues



are planned for 20 and 21 May 2021, on the topic of ensuring rapid operationalization (Articles 6.2, 6.4, and 6.8) and for which guiding questions have been published.

51. I intend to continue this approach to convening Article 6 discussions during the June sessional period. I propose to address topics in the same order as previously communicated to Parties, thus accelerating our work on unresolved issues. We will take up at least the topics that were already communicated to Parties as the dialogues under this series, namely: enabling ambition in Article 6 instruments, clean development mechanism activity transition to the Article 6.4 mechanism; implementing overall mitigation in global emissions in the Article 6.4 mechanism; use of Kyoto Protocol units towards NDCs and reporting and accounting for GHGs and non-GHGs under Article 6.2. If time allows, we will also cover aspects of implementing the Article 6.8 framework and other topics identified by Parties as necessary, on which I invite submissions.
52. For each of these topics, I encourage informal submissions from Parties groups and observers while recognizing that time for preparation of submissions is limited. For each dialogue, I will produce, under my authority, an informal summary of the discussions and related submissions. I will aim to keep the summaries concise and focused on possible solutions, without producing negotiation text. Also, to the extent that time allows, I may convene an informal heads of delegation meeting on Article 6 matters at the end of the June sessional period to take stock and consider how to further advance discussions on Article 6 matters in the period after the June sessions.

### **Market and non-market mechanisms under the Convention:**

*(Item 16 of the DPA)*

- (a) Framework for various approaches
- (b) Non-market-based approaches
- (c) New market-based mechanism

53. These sub-items were deferred at SBSTA 50 to SBSTA 52. Considering the time constraints, I propose not to undertake informal work relating to the 3 sub-items above at the session. I will consult with Parties on how to advance or conclude work on these matters during the pre-sessional period prior to the SBSTA session in Glasgow.

### **Cooperation with other international organizations**

*(Item 17 of the DPA)*

54. As it does every year before the first sessional period, the secretariat has prepared a report on its cooperation with United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations.<sup>32</sup> I encourage Parties to use this opportunity at the June session to take stock of progress and provide further guidance to the secretariat that they may consider necessary for this area of work.
55. As done at previous sessions and in order to give visibility to this work by the secretariat, I will invite the secretariat to hold an information event during the session to provide a briefing on its inter-agency activities. I will chair this special event, which will be open to all participants and will include a presentation from the secretariat as well as time for questions and discussion.
56. Following the information event, I propose to consult Parties informally on possible short procedural elements capturing progress in this work for further consideration at the SBSTA session in Glasgow.

### **Annual reports on technical reviews:**

*(Item 18 of the DPA)*

- (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

57. I propose that these annual reports on technical reviews conducted in 2020 and 2021 be taken note of by the SBSTA session in Glasgow.

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<sup>32</sup> <https://unfccc.int/documents/274031>.