

11 November 2019

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

1. The fifty-first session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) will take place from Monday 2 to Monday 9 December 2019. I began drafting this note a few weeks ago on the basis that we would be meeting in Santiago – as we know, that has changed and our meeting will finally take place in Madrid, but still under the leadership of the Chilean Presidency.

2. As I did for SBSTA 50, I have drawn up this note under my own responsibility as Chair of SBSTA to provide Parties, in advance of the session of SBSTA 51, with information on the state of play and how I propose that work might be organised. The note is complementary to, and should be read in conjunction with, the provisional agenda and annotations that provide background information about all agenda items, their mandates and expected action by SBSTA 51.¹

3. More specifically, the note provides some:

- Proposals for working efficiently, effectively and harmoniously;
- Information on the status of work and suggested ways forward by agenda item, including several joint items with the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI);
- Information on other activities and related events;
- Thoughts looking beyond Madrid.

4. It is not my intention to prejudge or limit in any way the choices that Parties will make, but I hope that this note will prove useful to them in their preparation for the session and enable the pre-session consultations that I undertake to be more effective.

5. I look forward to a busy and productive session in December. I very much hope that we will agree conclusions for all issues, as part of the overall outcome of the Madrid conference, including those items that will send finalised draft decisions for consideration and adoption by the 25th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP), the 15th session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP) and the 2nd session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) in Madrid. With the possible exception of a limited number of matters related to Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, I do not envisage that any other issues would need to be left for resolution under the guidance of the Presidency in the second week. I also hope that there will be no need for rule 16 of the draft rules of procedure being applied to apply to any items on the SBSTA 51 agenda.

I. Working efficiently, effectively and harmoniously

6. The Madrid session will be denser than our last session in Bonn since five bodies will be meeting in parallel. We will have only one week to undertake all of our substantive work under SBSTA before the closing of the subsidiary bodies on Monday 9 December 2019. In addition, there will be mandated events to fit in, including the meetings of several constituted bodies and workshops and other events which will be convened in conjunction with the session. So, although time will be limited, SBSTA 51 will still have a wide-ranging agenda including items relating to the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement.

7. Despite the very late decision to move the session to Madrid, I expect the timeline for negotiations to be maintained and that our mandated activities will take place as planned. However,

¹ FCCC/SBSTA/2019/3.

there may be consequences for some aspects of our planning, the dates and times mentioned for some activities may change and it is not yet certain that all non-mandated events can take place.

8. I propose organising work at SBSTA 51 as follows:

(a) I shall consult groups and Parties in the days preceding the opening of the session on how best to achieve the objectives of the session, including on the approaches outlined in this note, in particular those set out in section II in relation to work on each agenda item;

(b) SBSTA will adopt its agenda and set the direction of its work at the first plenary meeting in the afternoon of Monday 2 December 2019 following the launch of the three governing bodies in the morning. It is vital that all of our work (including joint work with SBI) can be successfully launched in an efficient manner on the first day of the session;

(c) For most items, I shall propose to set up a contact group or informal consultations to take work forward (further details of how I propose to proceed on each agenda item are in section II below) and invite a pair of co-chairs or co-facilitators to assist me in that work. This approach also applies, in close coordination with the Chair of SBI, to items that are jointly under SBSTA and SBI;

(d) A number of intergovernmental organisations will make statements in the opening plenary of SBSTA after work has been launched for all agenda items;

(e) Following the opening plenaries of the subsidiary bodies, a joint plenary session of all governing and subsidiary bodies will 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 their statements, or at least the full version, directly to the portal;

(f) SBSTA will then move swiftly to undertake its work in the negotiation groups established under its agenda items;

(g) Mandated and other events will take place as announced during the session;²

(h) All contact groups and informal consultations will have to finalise their draft conclusions at the latest by lunchtime on Saturday 7 December 2019 to allow time for them to be made available in the six official United Nations languages before the closing plenary;

(i) SBSTA will adopt its conclusions on all the items on the agenda at its closing plenary meeting on Monday 9 December 2019 and transmit any draft decisions for consideration and adoption by the COP, CMP or CMA as appropriate;

(j) I expect all issues under the SBSTA agenda to be finalised when conclusions are adopted on Monday 9 December, with the possible exception of matters related to Article 6 of the Paris Agreement where the draft decisions transmitted to the CMA may still include a small number of open issues that would require further consideration during the second week;

(k) A number of agenda items, in particular in relation to the reports of constituted bodies, may require draft decisions to be sent to more than one governing body;

(l) I may undertake, as needed, further consultations during the session to discuss how to address specific issues, to ensure the advancement of the work at SBSTA 51. As well as bilateral consultations with groups, these might also include meetings of heads of delegation on specific issues should that appear helpful for progress during the session (see in particular my proposals in relation to work on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement under agenda item 12).

9. Given our workload, the large number of meetings to organise and the limited time available, time management matters. I have, therefore, asked the secretariat to assist me, in close collaboration with SBI and the COP/CMP/CMA, to ensure that there is sufficient time and space for negotiation group meetings on all agenda items so that we can make the best possible progress at the session. As always, it will be important to minimise clashes between meetings on related items, including

² See section III of this note for more information on other activities and events and the [overview schedule](#). Dates and times may change, especially as the full schedule for Madrid has yet to be confirmed, so please check the daily programme and on CCTV during the session for updated information.

where relevant with items not only on the SBSTA agenda but also on that of SBI, COP, CMP or CMA (work on Article 6, transparency and finance related issues will pose a particular challenge). An approach that has proved valuable in past sessions has been to secure the same room for topics that are related and that involve many of the same negotiators: I hope that will be possible, although logistical constraints may not always permit this.

10. It will remain essential for negotiation group meetings to start and finish on time and I will insist on this from the co-chairs and co-facilitators who assist me during the session. Unless the bureau of the COP decides otherwise, meetings of contact groups and informal consultations will respect the "six o'clock rule" to give Parties and regional groups sufficient time to prepare and coordinate their work and daily meetings, taking into account relevant conclusions agreed in the past by SBI.³ I am conscious that it is often better to use a limited amount of time well than to use a lot of time unproductively, and that delegates deliver better results when they have time to prepare and to rest. However, in order to make adequate progress on all issues in Madrid, and given the time constraints, it may be necessary to allow some Party-led or informal-informal work to take place in the evenings on some topics, with the agreement of Parties, and with reporting back to the contact groups or informal consultations to ensure transparency. I do not want to prejudge the need for such work but would urge Parties to consider using such spaces constructively.

11. I look forward to continuing the good practice of strong coordination between Presiding Officers and to working closely with the Chair of SBI, the incoming Chilean Presidency of COP 25, CMP 15 and CMA 2, as well as with the secretariat, to deliver coherent and successful results in Madrid. We shall meet regularly throughout the session.

12. More particularly, six items on the SBSTA 51 provisional agenda (items 3, 4, 5, 6, 7(a) and 9) are joint items that are also included in the provisional agenda of SBI 51. In preparing this note, I have, therefore, consulted the Chair of SBI to ensure consistency of approach between the subsidiary bodies on our joint items. These items are marked with an asterisk (*) in the note and in the provisional agenda. A number of mandated events are also organised jointly by SBSTA and SBI.⁴ I shall work closely with the Chair of SBI throughout the session to ensure that work under these joint items is successfully concluded.

13. I give great importance to openness in our work and would like to encourage Parties to allow all meetings of contact groups and informal consultations to be open to observers wherever possible in accordance with the relevant conclusions agreed in the past by SBI.⁵ I look forward to meeting observers during the session. Along with the President of COP 25, CMP 15 and CMA 2 and the Chair of SBI, I will ensure that observers have the chance to present their views on our work in the joint plenary session.

14. A Code of Ethics for elected and appointed officers was developed in 2018, at the request of the Presiding Officers, to set out the standards of conduct expected of elected or appointed officers in the performance of their duties, including when chairing bodies, facilitating formal and informal meetings, and their relations with Parties, the secretariat and other participants in undertaking those duties.⁶ The Bureau of the COP agreed in Katowice to apply the Code of Ethics provisionally and to establish an Ethics Committee to further review and improve the document: that Committee was established by the Bureau in March 2019 and will consider whether to revise the Code of Ethics. I will draw the attention of all chairs and facilitators working under SBSTA in Madrid to the Code of Ethics, and to any revisions that the Bureau may agree, and underline the importance of respecting its provisions. Furthermore, in accordance with the Code of Conduct for UNFCCC conferences, meetings and events,⁷ I will remind all co-chairs and co-facilitators that officers are not to engage in any form of discrimination or harassment in any form, including sexual harassment.

15. As in past sessions, I shall hold a daily coordination meeting with all co-chairs and co-facilitators working under SBSTA to monitor progress towards our objectives for the session, and

³ FCCC/SBI/2014/8, paragraphs 218–221.

⁴ <https://unfccc.int/event/sbsta-51>

⁵ FCCC/SBI/2014/8, paragraphs 222–223, FCCC/SBI/2011/7, paragraph 167.

⁶ <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Code%20of%20Ethics%20for%20elected%20and%20appointed%20officers.pdf>

⁷ https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Final_CoC_UNFCCC%20Conferences2.0_WEB.pdf

to give them guidance as necessary on how to proceed, in close cooperation with the Chair of SBI on joint items.

16. I count on the support and active contribution of my very able colleagues, the vice-chair and rapporteur of SBSTA, in reaching the best possible outcomes in our work in Madrid. Under agenda item 2(c), SBSTA 51 will elect the members of the bureau of SBSTA other than the Chair (elected by the COP) to serve in 2020 and I would note that the current rapporteur would be eligible to serve a second term.

II. Status of work and suggested approach on agenda items

Agenda item 3: Report of the Adaptation Committee *

(Joint issue with SBI agenda item 10)

17. The Adaptation Committee (AC)⁸ is the overall advisory body to the Convention to promote the implementation of enhanced action on adaptation in a coherent manner. It also serves the Paris Agreement.⁹

18. The 2019 report of the AC outlines its work undertaken between October 2018 and October 2019, in line with its mandates and objective. In addition, the AC has begun the tasks mandated by CMA 1 in relation to the Paris Agreement and the report presents the timelines and milestones for each of them to guide their implementation, noting that they are included in the flexible workplan of the AC under the respective workstreams.

19. Parties will be invited to consider recommendations resulting from the AC's work, in particular in the areas of adaptation planning, including the private sector, and adaptation finance.

20. The AC plans to organise or co-organise several events during the session to present its work and deliverables, in particular in the area of coherent adaptation action and private sector engagement:

(a) Integrating local and indigenous knowledge in adaptation action (event jointly organised by the FWG, AC, LEG and NWP partners) (4 December 2019);

(b) Enhancing the engagement of the private sector in adaptation planning and implementation (9 December 2019).

(c) Twenty-five years of adaptation under the UNFCCC (12 December 2019);

21. Along with the Chair of SBI, I encourage Parties to move swiftly to consider the recommendations elaborated by the AC and forward a draft decision or conclusions for consideration and adoption by the COP. I also invite you to attend the events organised by the AC.

22. The Chair of SBI and I propose to set up informal consultations on this item and to invite a pair of co-facilitators to assist us in managing this work during SB 51.

Agenda item 4: Report of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts and the 2019 review of the Mechanism *

(Joint issue with SBI agenda item 9)

23. The report of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with climate change impacts (WIM) highlights the work undertaken by the Executive Committee and its substructures during the reporting period. Since the final meeting of the Executive Committee this year was scheduled to take place in late October, the report has been planned to be issued in two parts: part I containing information on progress made from October 2018 to September 2019, completed by part II with information on the proceedings of the 10th meeting of

⁸ <https://unfccc.int/Adaptation-Committee>.

⁹ Decision 11/CMA.1, paragraph 1.

the Executive Committee (23-25 October 2019) and other updates as appropriate. SBSTA will consider the report together with SBI to recommend any further action.

24. In addition, and in line with the terms of reference for the 2019 review of the WIM agreed at SB 50,¹⁰ SBSTA, together with SBI, will undertake the review of the WIM and recommend a draft decision regarding the outcomes of the review for consideration and adoption by the appropriate body or bodies.

25. Parties asked for an event to be organised as one of the modalities of the review and this will be held on Sunday 1 December 2019, under the guidance of the Chair of SBI and myself.¹¹ This will be an open, full-day event to provide an opportunity for Parties to examine, inter alia, the performance of the WIM since 2013, as part of their deliberations on the effectiveness and efficiency of the WIM, associated barriers and gaps, challenges and opportunities, and lessons learned. An information note by the Chair of SBI and myself on the organisation of this event will be published on the web.¹²

26. As of 11 November, two groups of Parties and four organisations have provided their submissions on the review.¹³ Along with the Chair of SBI, I encourage Parties to study all the submissions and actively participate in the pre-sessional event referred to in paragraph 25 above.

27. The Chair of SBI and I propose to set up informal consultations on this item and to invite a pair of co-facilitators to assist us in managing this work during SB 51.

28. Finally, Parties have expressed different interpretations of Article 8, paragraph 2 of the Paris Agreement for the governance of the WIM and its continuing relationship to the COP as well as to the CMA. The Chair of SBI and I have consulted the incoming President of COP 25 and CMA 2 and have also had the opportunity to consult many Parties, including during the informal Heads of Delegation meeting organised in Santiago at the end of August and at the pre-COP held in Costa Rica in October. As a result, it is my understanding and that of the Chair of SBI that the subsidiary bodies should not address the issue of governance but limit their work at SB 51 to examining the report of the Executive Committee of the WIM and undertaking the review of the WIM. Since SBSTA and SBI operate under both the Convention and the Paris Agreement, they can focus on the "what" by preparing a draft decision on these matters to be forwarded to the appropriate body or bodies without prejudging which body or bodies they should be. I understand that consultations on the issue of governance will be held under the authority of the incoming President of COP 25 and CMA 2. I hope that those consultations rapidly find a common understanding amongst Parties on the issue of governance, preferably before we complete our work under the subsidiary bodies on Monday 9 December 2019. Along with the Chair of SBI, I shall stay in close contact with the Presidency on this issue to ensure that it does not complicate completion of the review under the subsidiary bodies.

Agenda item 5: Development and transfer of technologies: Joint annual report of the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network *

(Joint issue with SBI agenda item 13 (a))

29. 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. So, this year, in addition to the reporting of regular activities undertaken by the Technology Mechanism in 2019, the report will include information on how the TEC and CTCN have responded to the guidance contained in the Technology Framework adopted at CMA 1 in Katowice.

30. Along with the Chair of SBI, I encourage Parties to consider the joint annual report and its recommendations, and to prepare a draft decision or draft decisions for consideration and adoption by COP 25 and CMA 2 to provide further guidance to the TEC and CTCN, as needed, to ensure the

¹⁰ FCCC/SBI/2019/9, para. 53, and FCCC/SBSTA/2019/2, para. 37.

¹¹ See paragraph 8(b) of the terms of reference.

¹² <https://unfccc.int/event/2019-wim-review-event>.

¹³ <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx>.

effective implementation of the Technology Mechanism in supporting the implementation of technology development and transfer related activities under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, in particular the Technology Framework established by Article 10, paragraph 4 of the Paris Agreement.

31. To complement the information provided in the report, an event on the Technology Mechanism, organised jointly by the TEC and the CTCN, is planned to be held on Monday 2 December 2019.¹⁴ The TEC also plans to organise, in collaboration with the Paris Committee on Capacity-building and the CTCN, a dialogue on endogenous capacities and technologies that will be held on Monday 9 December 2019.¹⁵

32. The Chair of SBI and I propose to set up informal consultations on this item and to invite a pair of co-facilitators to assist us in managing this work during SB 51.

Agenda item 6: Koronivia joint work on agriculture *

(Joint issue with SBI agenda item 8)

33. Under the Koronivia joint work on agriculture (KJWA), SBSTA and 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 until 2020, which was approved by SB 48, Parties have already undertaken three workshops during SB 49 and SB 50.

34. As of 11 November, 6 Parties including 1 on behalf of a group of Parties and 10 observer organisations, have provided their submissions on this matter in response to the invitation by the SBSTA and SBI.¹⁶ These submissions can be found on the submission portal.¹⁷

35. Along with the SBI Chair, I look forward to seeing work under the KJWA progress during the session, in particular through:

(a) The successful organisation and active participation of Parties and observers in the workshop that will be held on 3 and 4 December on improved nutrient use and manure management towards sustainable and resilient agricultural systems;¹⁸

(b) The consideration of the reports of the two workshops organised during SB 50 on methods and approaches for assessing adaptation, adaptation co-benefits and resilience¹⁹ and on improved soil carbon, soil health and soil fertility under grassland and cropland as well as integrated systems, including water management.²⁰

36. The Chair of SBI and I propose to set up informal consultations on this item and to invite a pair of co-facilitators to assist us in managing this work during SB 51.

Agenda item 7: Matters relating to science and review

(a) Scope of the next periodic review of the long-term global goal under the Convention and of overall progress towards achieving it *

(Joint issue with SBI agenda item 7)

37. During the June sessions in Bonn, SBSTA and SBI considered the scope of the next periodic review.²¹ Although they were unable to complete their consideration of this question, they had a constructive exchange of views and began identifying options for a possible recommendation for

¹⁴ <https://unfccc.int/ttclear/events/>

¹⁵ <https://unfccc.int/2nd-capacity-building-hub/Means-of-Implementation-Day#eq-5>

¹⁶ FCCC/SBSTA/2018/4, annex I.

¹⁷ <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx>.

¹⁸ <https://unfccc.int/event/improved-nutrient-use-and-manure-management-towards-sustainable-and-resilient-agricultural-systems>.

¹⁹ FCCC/SB/2019/1.

²⁰ FCCC/SB/2019/2.

²¹ FCCC/SBSTA/2019/2, paragraphs 49 to 53 and FCCC/SBI/2019/9, paragraphs 37 to 41.

the COP, as well as taking note of decision 19/CMA.1 on the global stocktake, the Talanoa Dialogue undertaken in 2018,²² and the ongoing technical examination processes.²³ As agreed in Bonn, Parties will therefore continue their consideration of the scope of the next periodic review at SB 51 with a view to preparing a recommendation for consideration at COP 25.

38. Along with the Chair of SBI, I strongly encourage Parties to finalise this matter at SB 51 and to submit a recommendation on the scope of the next periodic review to COP 25 so as to enable the next periodic review to take place in 2020 in accordance with the timeline set by the COP.²⁴ Parties should therefore carefully consider whether it would be appropriate to modify in any way the scope of the next periodic review which is due to look at the adequacy of the long-term global goal under the Convention and progress towards that goal. In doing so, Parties may wish to bear in mind the need to ensure that the next periodic review could be undertaken in an effective and efficient manner, avoiding duplication of work and taking into account the results of relevant work conducted under the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol, the Paris Agreement and by the subsidiary bodies.

39. The Chair of SBI and I propose to set up informal consultations on this item and to invite a pair of co-facilitators to assist us in managing this work during SB 51.

(b) Research and systematic observation

40. The work of SBSTA at this session will focus on systematic observation and will, I am sure, address issues such as the state of the global climate, the implementation of the global climate observing system,²⁵ the value and use of long-term, sustained observation to support climate monitoring and policy services; the importance of open data, information and knowledge, including in-situ and satellite data, for strengthening climate resilience; and the need for support from Parties and other funders for long-term observations with a global coverage.

41. SBSTA has mandated a number of inputs from the systematic observation community on an annual basis for the second session of the year when systematic observation is considered:

- (a) GCOS update on the implementation plan;
- (b) Annual WMO GHG bulletin, Statements on the State of the Global Climate and progress report in implementing the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS);
- (c) The Joint CEOS/CGMS Working Group on Climate report on progress.

42. The Earth Information Day will be held on Tuesday 3 December 2019 and will consist of a three-hour plenary session and a lunchtime poster session. An information note that will be published in advance will provide details on the organisation of the event as well as a summary of recent developments from WMO, GCOS, CEOS/CGMS and other members of the systematic observation and climate services community.²⁶ As agreed by SBSTA 50, the Earth Information Day will now be an annual event and I hope that Madrid will provide a solid basis for future sessions.

43. As of 11 November, 4 Parties including 2 on behalf of groups of Parties have provided their inputs on the Earth Information Day.²⁷ These submissions can be found on the submission portal.²⁸

44. I look forward to SBSTA 51 reaching substantive conclusions, based on submissions, mandated inputs, statements from intergovernmental organisations (IGOs) made at the opening SBSTA plenary, as well as information presented and discussed at the Earth Information Day.

45. I propose to set up informal consultations on this item and to invite a pair of co-facilitators to assist me in managing this work during SBSTA 51.

46. I am sure that Parties and observers will also wish to take part in the two special events that I shall organise during the session together with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

²² Decision 1/CP.24, section V.

²³ <http://unfccc.int/resource/climateaction2020/tep/index.html> and <https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/workstreams/technical-examination-process-on-adaptation-tep-a>.

²⁴ Decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 167.

²⁵ <https://gcos.wmo.int/en/gcos-implementation-plan>.

²⁶ <https://unfccc.int/topics/science/events-meetings/systematic-observation/earth-information-day-2019>.

²⁷ FCCC/SBSTA/2019/2, paragraph 58.

²⁸ <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx>.

(IPCC) on their recent special reports on climate change and land and on the ocean and cryosphere in a changing climate.

Agenda item 8: Local communities and indigenous peoples platform

47. The first meeting in June of the Facilitative Working Group (FWG) of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) marked another milestone in making the LCIPP fully operational. The FWG proposed a draft initial two-year workplan for the period 2020–2021 for implementing the functions of the LCIPP.²⁹ I encourage Parties to consider and agree on the initial two-year workplan so that the LCIPP can implement its activities.

48. A number of events in relation to the LCIPP are planned to take place in conjunction with SBSTA 51:

- (a) The second meeting of the FWG of the LCIPP (28–30 November 2019);
- (b) An informal dialogue between representatives of relevant constituted bodies on the three functions of the LCIPP to share information on existing collaboration and to explore new opportunities for collaboration between constituted bodies on implementing the three functions of the LCIPP (3 December 2019);
- (c) A joint event on integrating local and indigenous knowledge in adaptation action (event jointly organised by the FWG, AC, LEG and NWP partners) (4 December 2019).

49. I propose to set up informal consultations on this item and to invite a pair of co-facilitators to assist me in managing this work during SBSTA 51.

Agenda item 9: Matters relating to the forum on the impact of the implementation of response measures serving the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement *

(Joint issue with SBI agenda item 16)

50. During SB 50, the forum on the impact of the implementation of response measures (forum) began to develop the six-year work plan of the forum and its Katowice Committee of Experts on the impacts of the implementation of response measures (KCI). It was disappointing, however, that despite the constructive exchanges between Parties on the activities of the work plan and possible ways to organise work over the time period the work plan could not be finalised in June as it should have been. The Chair of SBI and I would like to underline that in line with decisions 7/CP.24, 3/CMP.14 and 7/CMA.1 the work plan has to be approved by SBSTA and SBI and hence that Parties must now complete their work on this before the closure of this session of the subsidiary bodies on Monday 9 December 2019, building on the progress made during SB 50, so that the forum can promptly start its activities to serve the Convention, the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement as mandated.

51. Following a successful first meeting in Bonn, the KCI will hold its second meeting in Madrid from 29 to 30 November 2019. As concluded by SBSTA 50 and SBI 50,³⁰ the KCI will exchange lessons learned and best practices on analysis and assessment of positive and negative impacts of the implementation of response measures by Parties during its second meeting. The Chair of SBI and I urge Parties and IGOs to complete outstanding nominations to the KCI as soon as possible. We would note that: nominations are pending from the Latin American and Caribbean States, as is one nomination from the Eastern European Group; and in line with the understanding reached amongst IGOs in Bonn, nominations of IGO members to the KCI have been received, namely, the International Labour Organization and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

52. Along with the Chair of SBI, I look forward to the forum considering the first annual report of the KCI and any recommendations made by the KCI. As agreed in Bonn, the draft rules of procedure of the KCI will be appended to the annual report of the KCI and will be considered by the forum at SB 51 with a view to forwarding them to the COP, the CMP and the CMA for adoption.

²⁹ FCCC/SBSTA/2019/4, annex I.

³⁰ FCCC/SBSTA/2019/2, paragraph 93 and FCCC/SBI/2019/9, paragraph 108.

53. The Chair of SBI and I propose to set up a joint contact group on this item, in accordance with the modalities of the forum, and to invite a pair of co-chairs to assist us in managing this work during SB 51.

Agenda item 10: Methodological issues under the Convention

(a) Revision of the UNFCCC reporting guidelines on annual inventories for Parties included in Annex I to the Convention

54. Parties have had discussions at past sessions, including at SBSTA 48, on reporting on harvested wood products and on the use of the 2013 Supplement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories: Wetlands. In pursuing their discussions under the Convention, Parties may wish to bear in mind that paragraphs 20 and 56 of the annex to decision 18/CMA.1 provide guidance for reporting on these topics by Parties under the Paris Agreement.

55. I will consult Parties before the opening of the session to see whether there are realistic prospects of making progress or reaching substantive conclusions on this item at this session. Depending on the results of those consultations, I shall propose either to set up informal consultations on this item and invite a pair of co-facilitators to assist me in managing this work during SBSTA 51 or to defer consideration of this sub-item to SBSTA 54.

(b) 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

56. I encourage Parties to take note of the conclusions and recommendations on desk reviews of greenhouse gas (GHG) annual inventories of Annex I Parties from the annual meetings of the GHG lead reviewers, included in the annual report to SBSTA by the secretariat.³¹

57. In my assessment, no substantial issues have been raised at or since SBSTA 48 and any procedural or organisational aspects could be implemented by the secretariat on the basis of existing SBSTA conclusions or with the guidance from GHG lead reviewers at their annual meetings, without the need to revise the Annex I GHG inventory review guidelines adopted by decision 13/CP.20. Therefore, I will consult Parties before the opening of the session to see if there is agreement to conclude this item at SBSTA 51. Of course, should there be no agreement to close this agenda sub-item, and depending on the results of those consultations, I shall propose either to defer consideration of this sub-item to SBSTA 54 or to set up informal consultations and invite a pair of co-facilitators to assist me in managing this work during SBSTA 51.

(c) Greenhouse gas data interface

58. Parties were unable to complete work on this agenda item at SBSTA 50 and rule 16 of the draft rules of procedure applied. Nevertheless, Parties did engage in a constructive exchange on procedural and substantive issues at SBSTA 50 and I would urge them to pursue these discussions further and to reach conclusions at SBSTA 51.

59. Parties may wish to note that by the time of the opening of SBSTA 51 the secretariat will have completed the upgrade of all modules of the GHG data interface, thus fulfilling the mandate received at SBSTA 38.

60. I propose to set up informal consultations on this item and to invite a pair of co-facilitators to assist me in managing this work during SBSTA 51.

³¹ The conclusions and recommendations of all annual meetings of GHG lead reviewers are available at <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/transparency-and-reporting/reporting-and-review-under-the-convention/greenhouse-gas-inventories-annex-i-parties/review-process>. Each year's conclusions and recommendations are included in the annual report to SBSTA on GHG reviews under the Convention. The report to SBSTA 51 (FCCC/SBSTA/2019/INF.4) is in preparation. The previous report, to SBSTA 49, is included in document FCCC/SBSTA/2018/INF.3, available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/184325>.

(d) Common metrics to calculate the carbon dioxide equivalence of greenhouse gases

61. Parties were unable to complete the work on this agenda item at SBSTA 50 and rule 16 of the draft rules of procedure applied. Nevertheless, Parties did engage in a constructive exchange of views on substantive issues related to common metrics at SBSTA 50, and I would urge Parties to pursue these discussions further and to reach conclusions at SBSTA 51.

62. I would remind Parties that they may wish to consider the merits of common metrics to be used by Parties under the Convention that are consistent with those already agreed under the Paris Agreement (paragraph 37 of the annex to decision 18/CMA.1), with a view to enhancing synchronisation and consistency in reporting by Parties under the Convention and the Paris Agreement.

63. I propose to set up informal consultations on this item and invite a pair of co-facilitators to assist me in managing this work during SBSTA 51.

(e) Emissions from fuel used for international aviation and maritime transport

64. Parties were unable to complete work on this agenda item at the past three sessions of SBSTA and rule 16 of the draft rules of procedure applied each time. However, I appreciated that Parties did have a constructive exchange on procedural and substantive issues at SBSTA 50 and I believe these started to identify the basis for a way forward. I urge them to pursue these discussions and to reach conclusions at SBSTA 51.

65. I propose to set up informal consultations on this item and to invite a pair of co-facilitators to assist me in managing this work during SBSTA 51.

Agenda item 11: Methodological issues under the Paris Agreement

(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 mobilised 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

66. SBSTA successfully began its consideration of these five sub-items in Bonn and it will be important to accelerate work at SBSTA 51 so that we can reach agreement on a set of decisions for adoption by CMA 3 at the end of 2020 in accordance with the mandate from decision 18/CMA.1. I trust that Parties will support me in this respect by deliberating in a productive and efficient manner, in particular by:

(a) Advancing work on all sub-items, based on progress made at the June session. In so doing, Parties may wish to make appropriate use of the informal notes prepared by the co-facilitators under their own responsibility and to seek convergence where they have divergent views;³²

(b) Making good progress during the session on items 11(a)-(c) on reporting tables and tabular formats. These tables and formats are technically complex and will require considerable negotiating time to complete. At this session it will be important to begin to sketch them out,

³² <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/conferences/bonn-climate-change-conference-june-2019/sessions/sbsta-50#eq-23>

drawing on experience with existing arrangements and submissions from Parties, and ensuring an appropriate balance between work on tracking action and support;

(c) Framing the debate on items 11(d) on outlines and 11(e) on training programmes in a manner that allows efficient progress at this session so that that work can be advanced as far as possible, or even largely completed, allowing the remaining time in the lead-up to CMA 3 to be used wisely for other issues to be advanced taking into account that Parties may wish to conclude the work for all the five sub-items as a package;

(d) Agreeing on the scope for intersessional work next year, which might for example include further submissions of views by Parties, technical or synthesis papers prepared by the secretariat, and technical workshops in 2020. Given the very technical nature of items 11(a)-(c) and the high volume of work that will be needed to conclude this work by CMA 3, I believe that some intersessional work in 2020 will be necessary and beneficial and I would encourage Parties to consider this matter carefully.

67. I propose to continue with the same modalities of work on this item as during SBSTA 50, namely:

(a) At the opening plenary of SBSTA, I will propose to set up a single contact group to cover all five sub-items 11(a)-(e) and to invite a pair of co-chairs to assist me in managing the overall work under this item during SBSTA 51. The contact group will guide the work, enable Parties to keep a good overview, ensure coherence across issues, monitor overall progress and prepare conclusions reflecting progress and the way forward;

(b) The co-chairs of the contact group will advance work, including by setting up informal consultations on individual sub-items to address the substance of each issue in depth. The co-chairs may facilitate some of these consultations themselves and ask facilitators to assist them with other consultations. The informal consultations will report back to the contact group, including on any cross-cutting issues that need to be addressed. I urge the co-chairs and their co-facilitators to pay particular attention to ensuring coherence in the broad approaches they take to managing work across the sub-items, especially in relation to consultations with Parties and to capturing progress.

(c) Not only does this item contain several sub-items, but in Madrid there will be other strands of work on transparency-related issues, not only under SBSTA but also under SBI. There may also be some overlaps with other topics on the agendas of SBSTA, SBI and the governing bodies during the session, especially in relation to support. I have therefore instructed the secretariat to avoid clashes to the maximum extent possible and to work with SBI and the governing bodies to this end.

68. Parties asked for a dedicated discussion at this session on how to operationalise the provisions in the modalities, procedures and guidelines (MPGs) on flexibility for those developing country Parties that need it in light of their capacities. I propose that the co-chairs organise this discussion during the first contact group, based on the various options on how to take the flexibility provisions into account. To facilitate this discussion, the co-chairs will propose guiding questions which will be made available to Parties prior to the first contact group meeting.

69. Work during the session will be informed by the submissions made by Parties, including submissions made in response to the invitation by SBSTA 50. As of 11 November, 5 Parties including 2 on behalf of groups of Parties have provided their inputs on the issues under discussion and these submissions can be found on the submission portal.³³

70. I am conscious that there is a balance to be found between making rapid progress to put in place these tools that are of a technical nature but which are essential to prepare for implementation of the enhanced transparency framework of the Paris Agreement, and the needs of Parties, especially developing country Parties, that have limited experience with these issues and so wish to enhance their understanding of existing practice and to strengthen their capacities both to facilitate the negotiations and to be ready to participate fully in implementation. I believe that these need to be addressed in parallel, including through work outside the negotiations such as capacity-building for

³³ <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx>.

transparency. However, the organisation of our work under these items can itself contribute to building capacity and enhancing understanding to implement the enhanced transparency framework, both by giving certainty on how reporting will operate, but also by learning from experience with the existing transparency system. In this spirit, I have requested the secretariat to organise information sessions on experience with reporting on quantitative information in GHG inventories, including using reporting tools such as the common reporting format (CRF) reporter, currently planned for lunchtime on Monday 2 December 2019, as well as on training programmes developed and implemented by the UNFCCC secretariat to support the implementation of the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol, currently planned for lunchtime on Tuesday 3 December 2019.

71. We found agreement in Bonn, albeit with some difficulty, on a way to handle during SBSTA 50 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 and the structured summary, and work on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. The approach found was to give priority under our work on transparency to aspects other than those relating to paragraph 77(d), that matters related to paragraph 77(d) were not prioritised, and that there would be no overlap between meetings addressing paragraph 77(d) and work on Article 6. In the event, there was no focused discussion in Bonn on paragraph 77(d). However, given that progress was made in Bonn on all other issues under sub-item 11(b), I think that Parties will need to have some exchanges on paragraph 77(d) under this sub-item in Madrid.

72. I would therefore like to seek the agreement of Parties, before we begin work in Madrid, on a pragmatic way forward to manage these linkages to reassure all Parties that no matters that figure in the Katowice rulebook will be neglected but also that any discussions on paragraph 77(d) under sub-item 11(b) will not pre-empt the necessary decisions on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. To that end:

- (a) I shall request the chairs, facilitators and secretariat teams supporting both items to coordinate closely and to ensure a regular exchange of information;
- (b) I shall request the secretariat to avoid scheduling any meetings on item 11(b) that are to address matters related to paragraph 77(d) in parallel with meetings on Article 6 – any meetings under sub-item 11(b) that address this issue will be clearly identified in the daily programme;
- (c) Work on paragraph 77(d) under sub-item 11(b) in Madrid will not advance any faster than other aspects of work under sub-item 11(b);
- (d) Any draft related to paragraph 77(d) developed during SBSTA 51 will require further development in 2020 and will not pre-empt the decisions to be taken on Article 6 by the CMA;
- (e) Any conclusions that SBSTA 51 may adopt providing for work in 2020 in relation to paragraph 77(d) will not prejudice the decisions that CMA 2 will adopt on matters related to Article 6 which may include provisions to inform further development in 2020 of the application of provisions of paragraph 77(d) of the MPGs, in particular on the structured summary and the use of internationally transferred mitigation outcomes (ITMOs) in the context of tracking progress in implementing and achieving NDCs.

73. I shall consult interested Parties on this issue during my pre-session consultations and I am sure that we can confirm how to manage this issue in a manner that is acceptable to all before we launch work under SBSTA.

74. Some Parties have asked what the consequences might be of the adoption/acceptance earlier this year by the IPCC of the 2019 IPCC Refinement³⁴ for our work under sub-item 11(a) on the development of common reporting tables for GHG inventories. I consider that there is a clear mandate from decision 18/CMA.1 for Parties to use the 2006 IPCC Guidelines to report on their GHG inventories, so I would expect that the common reporting tables developed by Parties under item 11(a) to be based on those 2006 IPCC Guidelines. The question of whether the CMA might wish to consider the use of the 2019 IPCC Refinement, in line with paragraph 20 of the annex to

³⁴ At its 49th plenary session (Kyoto, Japan, 8–12 May 2019), the IPCC considered the 2019 Refinement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines and decided to adopt the Overview Chapter and to accept the underlying Methodology Report (Decision IPCCXLIX-9)

decision 18/CMA.1, would appear to be for later consideration, not least because the decision was taken only a year ago to use the 2006 IPCC Guidelines. Some Parties may nonetheless wish to gain experience in the coming years with applying the 2019 IPCC Refinement on a voluntary basis, including on the opportunities and challenges that might arise in reporting emissions and removals estimated using the 2019 IPCC Refinement whilst using the common reporting tables developed under sub-item 11(a) on the basis of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines. Such experience would doubtless provide valuable insight to any consideration the CMA may decide to hold in the future regarding the use of the 2019 IPCC Refinement and relevant revisions to these tables.

Agenda item 12: Matters relating to Article 6 of the Paris Agreement

- (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

75. At the June session, we made progress on Article 6 matters. Most importantly, Parties developed a new version of the draft decision texts on the three sub-items under matters relating to Article 6 – 12(a), 12(b) and 12(c) of this agenda. However, the number of unresolved issues in these draft decision texts is still high and, despite a constructive mood, Parties did not make progress in solving the key issues in Bonn. Continuing in the same way would lead to failure in Madrid. The way we work must therefore change to achieve a substantive outcome on all three decisions.

76. Work under SBSTA on Article 6 in Madrid will be organised in close cooperation with the Chilean Presidency of CMA 2, to ensure consistency and complementarity between the work undertaken in the first week and the work the Presidency may need to oversee in the second week to complete the negotiations. For this to work, SBSTA must deliver to the CMA on Monday 9 December 2019 a set of three texts that are as clean as possible with, at most, only a handful of issues left to resolve in the final days under the guidance of the Presidency. That means that SBSTA must solve all the other issues and leave only those that require political heavy-lifting to the Presidency – and even those must be set up so as to maximise the chances of success.

77. I shall maintain the basic approach that I introduced in June, with a contact group on all three sub-items 12(a)-(c) that I will chair myself. Within the contact group, I will set up informal consultations to be facilitated by a pair of co-facilitators where the detailed work on the draft decision texts will be conducted. I will specifically request the co-facilitators to focus on those issues that can be resolved at the level of SBSTA, while recognising that some issues are linked to each other and that all issues would need to be resolved to a sufficient level by the end of CMA 2.

78. But business as usual in the way we worked in SBSTA 50 will not deliver. I was glad to see Heads of Delegation (HoDs) taking an active role in our work in Bonn and giving guidance at key points of our work. The importance of their involvement has been underlined by discussions in informal consultations organised by the incoming Chilean Presidency at the end of August and during the pre-COP in Costa Rica. I have heard from many HoDs that their engagement in Madrid will be necessary to provide the parameters for expert level discussions. Therefore, I intend to begin work on Article 6 in Madrid with a meeting of HoDs, to allow them to give guidance to the negotiations process, before opening the contact group and the informal consultations. I will convene HoDs as necessary during the first week to oversee progress, to seek their support for finalising the texts as far as possible, and to consult them on how the outcome of SBSTA's work on Article 6 should be framed and presented to the CMA. I will ask representatives of the Chilean CMA 2 Presidency to join me for these meetings.

79. We will have only one week under SBSTA in Madrid and we will need to work intensively and expeditiously in order to forward matured and nearly final draft decision texts to the CMA. It is therefore my intention to request the co-facilitators to come up with a first iteration of revised draft texts as soon as possible, not later than Wednesday 4 December 2019, and to prepare a second iteration of the texts by the end of the first week. This is, in my view, necessary to make successful

completion of negotiations on Article 6 possible in Madrid, and I ask Parties for their support in this final stretch of SBSTA's work on Article 6 in 2019.

80. To deliver that timetable, the co-facilitators and I will complement the informal consultations by consulting groups as appropriate to help identify together bridging proposals and landing zones. There may also be a need for some focused discussions in an "informal-informal" format.

81. I also ask Parties to come to the session with solutions to the well-known problems, but also to ensure that those solutions can garner cross-group support. It is not enough to get agreement amongst those who share similar views or to seek to isolate those with which they disagree. Instead solutions need to work for those who hold different views. I encourage all groups and Parties to work together to seek to overcome their differences and, working with the active support of the co-facilitators and me, to build the necessary common ground.

82. It will be important to focus on what is really needed to make Article 6 of the Paris Agreement operational from 2020. Whilst all issues matter, it will be vital to get the right level of detail in the three decisions on Article 6.2, 6.4 and 6.8 to provide the level of clarity that is needed on the key issues so as to make all three parts of Article 6 operational. Further work will be needed in the coming years to reach the necessary detail on some aspects, but decisions that are essential for operationalisation should not be postponed.

83. I have set out in paragraphs 71 to 73 above, under item 11 of our provisional agenda, how I propose to handle the linkages between Article 6 and work on transparency around paragraph 77(d) of the annex to decision 18/CMA.1.

84. All Parties have made clear their determination that the rules agreed for Article 6 ensure environmental integrity and hence contribute to raising our collective ambition to help put us on track to keeping global warming well below 2°C and pursuing efforts to limit it to 1.5°C. However, they have different interpretations of how best to achieve this on several critical issues. These differences must be resolved and I urge all Parties to engage with each other to find solutions that are acceptable to all and that ensure that the implementation of the Paris Agreement is robust and able to deal with any risks for the environmental integrity of its implementation that might arise.

85. I am fully convinced that an inclusive, balanced, comprehensive package for implementation for the three instruments on Article 6 is possible and "within reach" in Madrid. However, we will only succeed with a fundamental change in the pace of work and the engagement of all Parties in making solutions that work for all. Moreover, I consider it essential that we do succeed, and that CMA 2 does adopt the three decisions on Article 6 so that we can collectively ensure that the whole of the Paris Agreement is in full implementation mode from 2020. Failure to reach that outcome in Madrid would be a blow to the credibility of our multilateral process. So, it is vital that we frame our work as about making possible a decent deal that is acceptable to all. That can only be delivered if SBSTA fully plays its part by solving almost all of the outstanding issues in the first week and preparing a good basis for final decisions on any remaining issues in the second week. I count on the support of all to help us deliver and will work closely with the Chilean Presidency throughout the session to ensure that we have the best chance of doing so.

Agenda item 13: Annual reports on technical reviews

- (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

86. The three reports produced under this agenda item include information on the review of GHG inventories, annual submissions, national communications and biennial reports submitted by Annex I Parties. They also include information on the composition of the expert review teams and on the training programmes that experts need to complete before participating in these processes.

87. I propose that SBSTA takes note of these reports but encourage Parties to bring any issue requiring further consideration to my attention.

III. Other activities and related events

88. This section provides an overview of activities and events that are planned to take place in Madrid in relation to the work of SBSTA. As already mentioned, there are still some uncertainties on the detailed planning for Madrid, so dates and times are given on the basis of plans developed for Santiago that may still change, hence the necessity to check the overview schedule and the daily programme nearer the time. Events that are mandated to take part in conjunction with the session will certainly take place.³⁵ I expect other activities and events also to take place, but that will be confirmed as the schedule for the whole session is clarified in the coming days.

89. Together with the IPCC, I plan to organise two special events at SBSTA 51: one on the Special Report on Climate Change and Land,³⁶ the other on the Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate.³⁷ These two IPCC special reports have been made available by IPCC in August and September respectively. The events are planned to take place on 4 and 5 December 2019. A brief information note will be provided in advance for each of the special events to provide a short summary of how each will be conducted. All relevant information will also be posted online.³⁸

90. The 13th NWP Focal point forum will be held in Madrid on Friday 6 December 2019 on the topic of oceans in collaboration with NWP partners and relevant organisations. SBSTA will next consider progress in relation to the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change (NWP) at SBSTA 52 in June 2020.

91. A number of other activities are planned to take place in conjunction with SB 51 that are linked to agenda items described in section II of this note, several of which are joint items with SBI, including:

- Three events involving the Adaptation Committee (see item 3):
 - o A joint event on integrating local and indigenous knowledge in adaptation action (event jointly organised by the FWG, AC, LEG and NWP partners) on 4 December 2019;
 - o An event on enhancing the engagement of the private sector in adaptation planning and implementation on 9 December 2019;
 - o An event on twenty-five years of adaptation under the UNFCCC on 12 December 2019.
- An event as part of the review of the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage on 1 December 2019 (see item 4);
- An event of the Technology Executive Committee and the Climate Technology Centre and Network on the technology mechanism on 2 December 2019 (see item 5);
- A dialogue of the Technology Executive Committee with the Paris Committee on Capacity-building on endogenous capacities and technologies on Monday 9 December 2019 (see item 5);
- A workshop as part of the Koronivia joint work on agriculture on 3 and 4 December 2019 (see item 6);
- The Earth Information Day with plenary and poster session on 3 December 2019 (see sub-item 7(b));

³⁵ The mandated events are : the WIM review event; a workshop under the Koronivia joint work on agriculture; the Earth Information Day; the 2nd meeting of the LCIPP FWG and other activities related to the three functions of the LCIPP; the 2nd meeting of the KCI; the 13th Focal Point Forum of the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change. More details on these events are provided in the following paragraphs.

³⁶ <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/srccl/>.

³⁷ <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/srocc/>.

³⁸ See [SRCCL](#) and the [SROCC](#)

- Three events in relation to the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (see item 8):
 - o The second meeting of the FWG of the LCIPP from 28 to 30 November 2019;
 - o An informal dialogue between representatives of relevant constituted bodies on the three functions of the LCIPP to share ongoing collaborations and explore future inter-constituted body collaborative opportunities on 3 December 2019;
 - o A joint event on integrating local and indigenous knowledge in adaptation action (event jointly organised by the FWG, AC, LEG and NWP partners) on 4 December 2019.
- The second meeting of the Katowice Committee of Experts on the Impact of the Implementation of Response Measures on 29 and 30 November 2019 (see item 9);
- Two information sessions on methodological issues under the Paris Agreement (see item 11):
 - o Experience with reporting on quantitative information in GHG inventories including using reporting tools such as the common reporting format reporter at lunchtime on 2 December 2019
 - o Training programmes developed and implemented by the UNFCCC secretariat to support the implementation of the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol at lunchtime on 3 December 2019.

92. SBSTA will also contribute to the stocktake on pre-2020 implementation and ambition that is planned to take place on 4 December 2019 during COP 25.

93. I encourage Parties and observers to participate actively in these events. More details are available on the websites.³⁹

94. There may be further events during the session, including that the Chilean Presidency of COP 25, CMP 15 and CMA 2 may organise, that relate to our work under SBSTA, including on science issues.

IV. Looking beyond Madrid

95. I still have a full session of SBSTA to chair in Madrid, but having served two terms, and in line with the draft rules of procedure being applied, it will be time for me to step down at the end of the forthcoming session. Whilst I will be happy to pass on the chair of SBSTA to my successor next year, I shall continue to take a close interest in our future work and am particularly interested in how our work may develop and how it might be improved.

96. This is a time of transition for our wider UNFCCC process. It would be simplistic to present this as the “end of negotiations” since negotiation will remain a key modality for Parties to reach agreement on important issues in our future work. However, the focus and the balance of our work will evolve, and implementation will take centre stage with consequences for the future work of SBSTA too.

97. I am sure that SBSTA will continue to play a central role in supporting strengthened implementation of action and support and ambition, in particular through two broad sets of tasks:

- (a) Being the interface with the scientific community to help us improve our understanding and knowledge of climate change in the broadest sense – the causes, the impacts, but also our responses to climate change. This task will continue to be vital, helping us to strengthen our ability to understand, unpack and use best available science to strengthen implementation of action and support and to raise ambition. And we should continue to broaden our notion of knowledge as we have by recognising the importance of traditional knowledge in our work with local communities and indigenous peoples;

³⁹ <https://unfccc.int/topics/pre-2020>

(b) Providing a forum to develop, to review and to improve the methods and tools available to Parties to help them improve their implementation of mitigation and adaptation actions, dealing with loss and damage, mobilising support and means of implementation, and raising ambition to meet the long-term goals of the Convention and the Paris Agreement. Over time, SBSTA will deliver on existing mandates, as it did by completing many items in Katowice, but SBSTA will also begin to support future processes, including the global stocktake under the Paris Agreement and the review of the long-term global goal under the Convention.

98. I am conscious as Chair that there may be ways to improve our ways of working. The following are just some suggestions that might merit some reflection:

(a) Constituted bodies play a central role in our work, even more so after the decisions taken in Katowice. Although the annual reports of many of those bodies are considered by SBSTA – often jointly with SBI – at our second session every year, there is a sense that some key questions such as adaptation and the development and transfer of technologies are less present on our agenda since much of the work is being taken forward by the relevant constituted bodies throughout the year. Of course, related items do remain on our agendas (for example, the Nairobi work programme features on our agenda at the first session every year in relation to adaptation) but there does appear to be a genuine issue to be addressed. I do not think it would be wise to put items on our agendas for the sake of it or to alter the reporting cycle of the constituted bodies, but there may be ways to improve dialogue with them and to heighten the visibility of their ongoing work, especially during the first session of the year in May or June;

(b) There are six items on the agenda of SBSTA 51 that are also on the agenda of SBI 51 and many such joint items will feature on the agendas of future sessions. Our arrangements for handling those joint items are reasonably well-established and enable contact groups or informal consultations to work and report to both of the subsidiary bodies that then adopt conclusions in identical terms. However, there might be scope in the future to simplify our handling of these items – perhaps through a new reflection on the respective roles of SBSTA and SBI;

(c) A number of items, especially in relation to the reports of constituted bodies, now fall under both the COP and the CMA, and one item also falls under the CMP. We are going to have to develop modalities to ensure that we respond correctly to the mandates that come from each governing body and where our conclusions may need to provide recommendations to more than one governing body, sometimes including draft decisions for each governing body to consider and adopt;

(d) Our mandate as SBSTA is rightly to focus on tackling climate change. However, the recent Special Reports of the IPCC on Climate Change and Land and on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate as well as the Global Assessment of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and other reports underline that the challenges we face cannot be addressed successfully in silos. As a result, there will be a growing need to see our work on climate change in the wider framework of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to take account of interactions, especially with activities under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification and related fora such as on the ocean. In addition, the social dimension of tackling climate change will increasingly take centre stage. How far we should specifically address these issues on the SBSTA agenda is an open question that Parties will need to consider, but it will be relevant to explore how we can continue to better integrate the link between climate change and these issues into our existing agenda items;

(e) There may be opportunities for SBSTA to better integrate into its future work certain cross-cutting issues (some of which are on the SBI agenda, but which have consequences for aspects of our work) such as gender, youth, education and public awareness, and working with observers and non-Party stakeholders (including to build on the experiences of the technical examination processes on mitigation and adaptation).

99. It has been an honour and a pleasure for me to chair SBSTA throughout 2018 and 2019, although it has not always been straightforward, and I know that Madrid will bring its share of

challenges. I encourage Parties to identify my successor early enough in the session for her or him to take part in some of the activities of SBSTA to prepare their future role. I hope that the preparation of reflections notes will prove a helpful tool that can be further developed in the future. More generally, I trust that our collective work will provide a solid foundation for the continuing work of SBSTA into 2020 and beyond under the leadership of the person that COP 25 will elect as its chair for next year.

100. The final paragraph of this note is, of course, to recall the “Keeling Curve” that shows the evolution of CO₂ emissions since 1958 as measured at the Mauna Loa Observatory in Hawaii. The underlying upward trend in concentrations of CO₂ – and other greenhouse gases – will continue until we achieve the balance between emissions and absorptions. Until we stabilise concentrations, we cannot limit future temperature increases and impacts will be harder and harder to deal with. For now, however, global emissions continue to rise. I hope that the work of SBSTA will continue to help make it possible to transform that situation and that a future Chair of SBSTA – in not too many years – can present a “Keeling Curve” that no longer shows an underlying rise in concentrations of CO₂. In parallel, we must contribute to successfully addressing the consequences of climate change and ensuring that we can make the necessary transition in a way that is just and equitable. If we keep those aims at the forefront of all of our discussions and activities we can make a difference!
