

14 June 2002

ENGLISH ONLY

SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Sixteenth session

Bonn, 5–14 June 2002

Agenda item 3

**THIRD ASSESSMENT REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL  
ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

**Draft conclusions proposed by the Chair**

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) welcomed the presentation made by the Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on the current activities of the IPCC.
2. The SBSTA took note of the report of the workshop on the Third Assessment Report (TAR) of the IPCC, held in Bonn from 4 to 6 April 2002 (FCCC/SBSTA/2002/INF.4) and the information contained in the submissions by Parties on the TAR and possible IPCC activities in support of the needs of the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol (FCCC/SBSTA/2002/MISC.5).
3. The SBSTA noted that the TAR covers three broad areas of climate change: the scientific basis, impacts, adaptation and vulnerability, and mitigation in addressing natural and anthropogenic climate change. The SBSTA agreed that in general the TAR should be used routinely as a useful reference for informing the deliberations on agenda items of the COP and its subsidiary bodies.
4. In addition, the SBSTA identified three preliminary areas which could be considered regularly by the SBSTA, taking into account relevant agenda items, the workload of the SBSTA available resources, and the need to avoid duplication, as follows:
  - (a) *Research and systematic observation.* The SBSTA noted the robust findings, the key uncertainties and priorities for future research and systematic observation reported in the TAR. The SBSTA further noted the need for enhanced interaction with international research programmes on the scientific questions related to the work of the Convention and the importance of retaining the close linkage with the ongoing SBSTA consideration of the Global Climate Observing System. The SBSTA also noted the importance of enhancing research and observational activities in developing countries and urged developing and developed country Parties to increase their cooperation on climate change research and systematic observation. The SBSTA noted that possible items for consideration by the scientific community could be, *inter alia*, assessment of the effects of the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol, quantification and reduction of uncertainty, climate sensitivity and improved climate and economic modelling. The SBSTA further noted a need for more scientific research on greenhouse gas atmospheric concentration and forcing agents which can influence the climate system;
  - (b) *Scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of impacts of, and vulnerability and adaptation to climate change.* The SBSTA noted that vulnerability to climate change and adaptation is covered in volume 2 of the TAR and is of general relevance to the Parties. The SBSTA agreed to consider further the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of impacts of, and vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, incorporating the ongoing work on methods and tools to evaluate impacts and adaptation;

(c) *Scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of mitigation.* The SBSTA noted that mitigation of climate change is covered in volume 3 of the TAR and is of general relevance to the Parties. The SBSTA agreed to consider further the scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of mitigation.

5. The SBSTA noted that the synthesis report of the TAR covers the broad aspects of the TAR and wider cross-cutting and integration issues of general relevance to the Parties. It noted the significant progress achieved by the TAR in comparison to the Second Assessment Report in addressing scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects related to the ultimate objective, principles and relevant provisions of the Convention, however, there are many uncertainties related to these aspects and further research is required. The SBSTA further noted that there were many different aspects to the issues pertaining to the objective and relevant provisions of the Convention, and that there was a wide range of opinions. The SBSTA further noted that some exploration of an integrated approach to mitigation and adaptation could be useful.

6. The SBSTA noted that consideration of the TAR may lead to specific proposals for further work to address issues or problems identified therein. The SBSTA invited the SBI to take note of, and consider at future sessions, possible budgetary or financial implications that may arise from further development of the issues identified in these conclusions, including in its guidance to the financial mechanism of the Convention.

7. The SBSTA requested the secretariat to facilitate its consideration of the research recommendations proposed in the TAR. It requested the secretariat to invite representatives of the IPCC and international research programmes and bodies, including the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP), the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP), and the International Human Dimensions Programme (IHDP) to attend the seventeenth session of the SBSTA, being prepared to provide their views on the research recommendations identified in the TAR. The SBSTA also requested the secretariat to organize at the same session a question-and-answer special side event to enable Parties to have a substantial dialogue with the invited representatives.

8. The SBSTA invited Parties to submit, by 20 August 2002, their views for compilation into a miscellaneous document on priority areas of research and questions for the scientific community relevant to the Convention, as referred to in subparagraph 4 (a). The SBSTA decided to consider the submissions and requested the secretariat to prepare a synthesis of the submissions to facilitate further consideration of these issues at its seventeenth session.

9. The SBSTA also invited Parties to submit, by 31 January 2003, their views for compilation into a miscellaneous document on issues covered in these conclusions and on the aspects of the TAR that could help facilitate further consideration of the agenda items of the COP and its subsidiary bodies. The SBSTA decided to consider the submissions and requested the secretariat to prepare a synthesis of the submissions to facilitate further consideration of these issues at its eighteenth session, with a view to recommending a draft decision on these matters to the Conference of the Parties at its ninth session.

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