



SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Twentieth session

Bonn, 16–25 June 2004

Agenda item 6

Research and systematic observation

**Draft conclusions proposed by the co-chairs of the contact group
on agenda item 6**

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) recognized with appreciation the progress made by the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) secretariat, under the guidance of the GCOS steering committee, in the development of the 5- to 10-year implementation plan for the integrated global observing systems for climate,¹ in particular the publication of the draft implementation plan for open review.² It urged the GCOS secretariat, in finalizing this plan, to clearly identify priorities for actions, taking into account the views expressed by Parties and relevant international programmes and bodies.
2. The SBSTA noted the progress made by the ad hoc Group on Earth Observations (GEO) to develop a 10-year implementation plan for a global Earth observation system of systems (GEOSS). It welcomed the collaboration between GCOS and GEO in developing their respective implementation plans and urged both bodies to integrate them to the extent possible. The SBSTA emphasized the need to treat global climate monitoring as a priority within GEOSS.
3. The SBSTA welcomed the progress made in the regional workshop programme run by the GCOS secretariat. It encouraged Parties to continue to pursue the implementation of elements of the regional action plans developed under this programme.
4. The SBSTA invited the GCOS secretariat to report on progress made in implementing the regional action plans in relation to global observing systems for climate, including support from the financial mechanism of the Convention and other bilateral and multilateral agencies and mechanisms, for consideration by the SBSTA at its twenty-first session and subsequent sessions as appropriate.

¹ See decision 11/CP.9.

² The draft *Implementation Plan for the Global Observing Systems for Climate* is available from the web site of the GCOS secretariat at <<http://www.wmo.ch/web/gcos/gcoshome.html>>.

5. The SBSTA noted the ongoing development of the GCOS Cooperation Mechanism to address priority needs for improvements in global observing systems for climate in developing countries, in particular the plans to develop an inventory of donor activities relating to global observing systems for climate.

6. The SBSTA noted the preliminary report on data exchange problems provided by the GCOS secretariat.³ Reinforcing its conclusions at its eighteenth session, the SBSTA invited the GCOS secretariat, in consultation with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), to provide the full report on this issue for consideration by the SBSTA at its twenty-second session. The SBSTA particularly encouraged the inclusion of options to remedy existing data exchange problems and advice on problems associated with the accessibility of data by and from global data centres.

7. The SBSTA welcomed the exchange of views among representatives of government research programmes and international programmes and bodies during the event requested by the SBSTA,⁴ and held at the twentieth session of the SBSTA on research in response to the recommendations of the Third Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The following were noted as requiring further consideration:

- (a) The need to assess the adequacy of research activities and their international coordination to meet the needs of the Convention
- (b) The importance of social as well as natural sciences, and the interaction between the two, in responding to the research needs arising from the assessment reports of the IPCC
- (c) The enhancement of the capacity of developing countries to contribute to and participate in global climate change research efforts, such as those coordinated by the World Climate Research Programme (WCRP), the International Geosphere–Biosphere Programme (IGBP), the International Human Dimensions Programme (IHDP) and DIVERSITAS.

8. The SBSTA requested Parties to submit to the secretariat, by 15 September 2004, their views on how to adequately address the main issues from the event requested by the SBSTA,⁴ in particular those mentioned in paragraph 7 above, for consideration by the SBSTA at its twenty-first session. The SBSTA requested Parties to submit to the secretariat additional views on this subject by 24 January 2005 for consideration by the SBSTA at its twenty-second session. It requested the secretariat to compile both sets of submissions into miscellaneous documents and to prepare a synthesis of all the views of Parties for consideration by the SBSTA at its twenty-second session.

³ The preliminary summary report *Analysis of Data Exchange Problems in Global Atmospheric and Hydrological Networks* is available from the web site of the GCOS secretariat at <<http://www.wmo.ch/web/gcos/gcoshome.html>>.

⁴ See document FCCC/SBSTA/2003/15, paragraph 40 (c).