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Twenty-third session

Montreal, 28 November to 6 December 2005

Agenda item 3

**Scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of impacts of,
and vulnerability and adaptation to, climate change**

**Scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of impacts, vulnerability and
adaptation to climate change**

Draft conclusions proposed by the Chair

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) welcomed the exchange of views among Parties during the informal workshop to facilitate the development of the five-year programme of work on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change held in Bonn, Germany, from 17 to 19 October 2005.
2. The SBSTA expressed its appreciation to the Government of Canada for its financial support for the workshop.
3. The SBSTA decided to recommend a draft decision on the SBSTA programme of work on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change (FCCC/SBSTA/2005/L.30/Add.1) for adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its eleventh session.
4. The SBSTA considered an indicative draft list of activities for the programme of work, (contained in the annex below), and agreed to further consider and elaborate this list at its twenty-fourth session (May 2006), taking into account the summary of the workshop¹ referred to in paragraph 1.
5. As a first step to implementing the programme of work, the SBSTA requested the secretariat to compile and make available to the SBSTA at its twenty-fourth session an initial list of organizations and institutions active in areas relevant to the programme of work. It invited Parties and relevant organizations to provide the secretariat with information as an input for compiling this list by 13 February 2006.
6. The SBSTA requested the secretariat to organize, under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA, subject to the availability of resources, an informal meeting of representatives from Parties before its

¹ Working paper No. 2 (2005)

<http://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/sbsta_agenda_item_adaptation/application/pdf/workshop_summary_in_template_edit.pdf>.

twenty-fourth session in order to further elaborate the list referred to in paragraph 4. The SBSTA agreed to consider the outcome of this meeting at its twenty-fourth session, with a view to identifying the activities starting as of 2006.

ANNEX

Indicative list of activities for the programme of work

Activity	Action by the SBSTA	Tentative time of first consideration by the SBSTA
<i>Sub-theme A (i). Promoting development and dissemination of methodologies and tools for impact and vulnerability assessments, such as rapid assessments and bottom-up approaches, including as they apply to sustainable development</i>		
1. Sharing of experiences and lessons learned in using methodologies on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation assessments, including for rapid integrated assessment of vulnerability and adaptation and other bottom-up approaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite inputs from relevant communities, experts and UNFCCC expert groups • Organize workshop(s) (separate or in conjunction with other relevant UNFCCC and other meetings) with participation of practitioners, experts, users and Parties • Secretariat to prepare a synthesis paper based on the information from the above, and including relevant output from the regional workshops under decision 1/CP.10 	SBSTA 27
2. Analysis of available ways and means for dissemination and use of information on methodologies, including analysis of the needs, feasibility and possible ways to further develop the UNFCCC compendium on methods and tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretariat to develop a questionnaire • Invite submissions from Parties and organizations • Secretariat to prepare a synthesis paper 	SBSTA 25
3. Take stock of available methods and tools, existing needs and gaps and relevant organizations and actors engaged in the development of methodologies, models and tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretariat, under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA, to organize an expert meeting with participation of relevant bodies and organizations. Secretariat, in cooperation with experts and representatives of relevant organizations, to prepare a technical report 	SBSTA 28

Activity	Action by the SBSTA	Tentative time of first consideration by the SBSTA
<i>Sub-theme A (ii). Improving collection, management, exchange, access to, and use of, observational data and relevant information on current and historical climate</i>		
1. Promoting implementation of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) implementation plan as it relates to the supply of data and information for vulnerability and adaptation assessment and addressing deficiencies in observational networks at the national and regional level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request GCOS in submitting their report to the SBSTA as per decision 5/CP.10 to focus on the issues relating to the supply of data and information for vulnerability and adaptation assessment. Invite the GCOS secretariat in cooperation with the Regional Workshop Advisory Committee to report on the results of the programme 	SBSTA 27
2. Identifying stakeholders' needs for relevant climate observations and data, and dissemination of user-friendly climate products and services, and means to develop a comprehensive and effective international system for data management and archiving	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request the secretariat, involving GCOS and Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), to organize a special event with the participation of relevant stakeholders. • Invite input from GCOS and GEOSS secretariats on this matter 	SBSTA 28
<i>Sub-theme A (iii). [Promoting the development of, access to, and use of, information and data on projected climate change, [climate variability and extreme events]]</i>		
1. Identifying gaps on the development of regional and subregional climate scenarios, including the need, availability and applicability of climate models, and options to fill them	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submissions from Parties on these matters. Secretariat to prepare a synthesis report 	SBSTA 27

Activity	Action by the SBSTA	Tentative time of first consideration by the SBSTA
2. Analysing means to improve the availability and applicability of high quality climate change modelling and downscaling data to policymakers at all levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request the secretariat under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA to organize an expert meeting with participation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) task group on scenarios for climate impact assessment (TGICA), other international organizations, modelling centres, and regional and national agencies with relevant experience to present latest developments on climate products and to develop options for consideration by the SBSTA. Invite input from Consultative Group of Experts (CGE) and Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) 	SBSTA 27
3. Promoting the analysis, interpretation and prediction of the occurrence of extreme events, analysis of their impacts and the further development of tools and systems for these purposes	TBD	TBD
<p><i>Sub-theme A (iv). [Promoting understanding of impacts of and vulnerability to climate change, other climate related risks, including extreme events, and the implications for sustainable development] [Promoting understanding of current and future climate change impacts and vulnerability, associated extreme events and other climate-related risks, and the implications for sustainable development]</i></p>		
1. Informing SBSTA on recent scientific findings relating to possible thresholds, including information on possible abrupt events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request the secretariat to organize, during the SBSTA session, a special event with participation of the experts, IPCC and other relevant scientific organizations 	SBSTA 28
2. Sharing of information on activities to improve understanding and communication of climate change risks, extreme events and vulnerabilities, including communicating information to relevant organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request the secretariat to organise workshop(s) with the participation of organizations and institutions working in such areas and/or sectors as coastal zone management, water, agriculture, health, energy, ecosystems, infrastructure and others 	SBSTA 25–27

Activity	Action by the SBSTA	Tentative time of first consideration by the SBSTA
3. Enhancing communication of relevant and user-friendly information on climate risks and vulnerabilities to relevant international, regional, national sectoral and other organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parties and experts to be invited to identify relevant organizations, with the secretariat to prepare and disseminate a directory of these organizations to support the building of active networks and partnerships • Secretariat and Parties to inform identified organizations of relevant information, tools and methodologies, and encourage them to fully incorporate adaptation considerations into their work 	TBD
<i>Sub-theme A (v). Promoting the availability of information on the socio-economic aspects of climate change and improving the integration of socio-economic information into impact and vulnerability assessments</i>		
1. A stocktake on what socio-economic information is needed and available for the assessment of adaptive capacity and vulnerability and to create socio-economic scenarios, and how access to this information can be improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite submissions from Parties. Request the secretariat to develop, under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA, a questionnaire to assess the availability of information necessary for assessing vulnerability at all levels, including from the local community level. Invite input from IPCC TGICA. Request the secretariat to prepare synthesis of the information. 	SBSTA 30
<i>Sub-theme B (i). Promoting the development and dissemination of methods and tools for assessment and improvement of adaptation planning, measures and actions, and integration with sustainable development</i>		
1. Analysis of tools for adaptation planning, measures, actions, including assessing costs and benefits of adaptation options (including those contained in the UNFCCC compendium on methods and tools)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request the secretariat, under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA, to prepare a technical report with involvement of relevant experts and organizations. 	SBSTA 26

Activity	Action by the SBSTA	Tentative time of first consideration by the SBSTA
<i>Sub-theme B (ii). Collecting, analyzing and disseminating information on past and current practical adaptation actions and measures, including adaptation projects, short- and long-term adaptation strategies, and local and indigenous knowledge</i>		
1. Analysis of the need and feasibility of developing a web-based interface for dissemination of information on existing experiences and case studies on adaptation planning, measures and actions, taking into account existing sectoral, national and other relevant databases and information sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request the secretariat to undertake a feasibility study in consultation with invited experts and relevant organizations. Invite input from the LEG 	SBSTA 26
2. Provision of a forum to exchange information between Parties and relevant communities, in particular sectoral, disaster risk reduction and management communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request the secretariat to organize a workshop or a special SBSTA event with participation of practitioners and relevant organizations with the objective of providing Parties and organizations with relevant information and tools, and encourage them to incorporate adaptation considerations into their work 	SBSTA 30
3. Assessment of available resources to support adaptation and address barriers and constrains for its implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input from Parties and organizations and synthesis of information by the secretariat 	TBD
4. Encouraging other relevant organizations and forums to include consideration of adaptation experiences as an important element of their work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request the secretariat and Parties to identify and contact relevant organizations and forums, provide them with relevant information and tools and encourage them to fully incorporate adaptation consideration into their work 	TBD

Activity	Action by the SBSTA	Tentative time of first consideration by the SBSTA
<i>Sub-theme B (iii). Promoting research on adaptation options and the development and diffusion of technologies, know-how, and practices for adaptation, particularly addressing identified adaptation priorities and building on lessons learned from current adaptation projects and strategies</i>		
1. Analysis of opportunities and agents to promote research and development on adaptation solutions, including insurance and the role of technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use related output from SBSTA work on research needs under the Convention. SBSTA special event with participation of relevant international research organizations and bodies. Synthesis of information by the secretariat 	SBSTA 24
2. Encouragement of work on different aspects of technologies and know-how on adaptation, as well as on opportunities for their transfer, taking into account local and indigenous knowledge and experiences with the implementation of pilot projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite the Expert Group on technology Transfer (EGTT) to continue its work on technologies on adaptation and provide a report to the SBSTA. Invite the LEG to provide information on its work, taking into account local and indigenous knowledge 	SBSTA 25
<i>Sub-theme B (iv). Facilitating communication and cooperation among and between Parties and relevant organizations, business, civil society, and decision makers, and other stakeholders</i>		
1. Analysis of possibilities of, and means for, cooperation among Parties and other relevant actors on managing climate change risks aimed at assisting countries to enhance their capacity to adapt to climate change risks, giving priority to the most vulnerable countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request the secretariat to organize workshop(s) with participation of organizations and institutions relevant to the particular sectors 	SBSTA 25–27
2. Exchange of information on adaptation actions on the ground, including sharing of experiences and lessons learned relating to the linkage between climate change and sustainable development, to facilitate the implementation of adaptation projects and South–South cooperation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request the secretariat to compile information on adaptation actions undertaken in different countries and to organize a special side event on this matter with the participation of Parties and relevant organizations and practitioners 	SBSTA 26

Activity	Action by the SBSTA	Tentative time of first consideration by the SBSTA
3. Support of the process of learning by doing through the analysis of existing projects on adaptation and of experiences deriving from their implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request the secretariat to organize a workshop with participation of practitioners and institutions. Request the secretariat to issue a technical synthesis paper on lessons learned, issues, opportunities and solutions in relation to implementation of the adaptation projects. Invite the EGTT and other relevant groups to critically examine the relevant case studies, including pilot projects on adaptation, and provide a report to the SBSTA on lessons learned 	SBSTA 25–27
<p><i>Sub-theme B (v). [Promoting understanding and the development and dissemination of measures, methodologies and tools [for economic diversification aimed at reducing reliance on vulnerable economic sectors, for all categories of countries listed in Article 4.8 of the Convention] [including economic diversification aimed at increasing resilience of economic sectors that are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change]]</i></p>		
1. Exchange of experiences and opportunities on economic diversification and lessons learned, including activities undertaken by governments and the private sector in developed countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request the secretariat, under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA, to organize a meeting of experts and practitioners from governments and the private sector 	SBSTA 26
2. Sharing of experiences, lessons learned and other information on the development of economic models aimed at understanding vulnerable economic sectors, and on measures to promote economic diversification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request the secretariat, under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA, to organize a meeting of experts and practitioners 	SBSTA 26
