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UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Twenty-second session

Bonn, 19–27 May 2005

Item 8 of the provisional agenda

Research needs relating to the Convention

**Additional views on issues from the research event at the twentieth session
of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice**

Submissions from Parties

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), at its twentieth session, welcomed the exchange of views among representatives of government research programmes and international programmes and bodies during the event requested by the SBSTA, 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, the International Geosphere–Biosphere Programme, the International Human Dimensions Programme and DIVERSITAS.

2. The SBSTA requested Parties to submit to the secretariat, by 15 September 2004, their views on how to adequately address the main issues arising from the event requested by the SBSTA, in particular those mentioned in paragraph 1 above, and, by 24 January 2005, additional views on this subject for consideration by the SBSTA at its twenty-second session.

3. The first set of submissions, due on 15 September 2004, is contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2004/MISC.14. The secretariat has received one submission (on 8 February 2005) containing additional views.
4. In accordance with the procedure for miscellaneous documents, this submission is reproduced* in the language in which it was received and without formal editing.

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SUBMISSION FROM LUXEMBOURG ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY
AND ITS MEMBER STATES

**SUBMISSION BY LUXEMBOURG ON BEHALF OF THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND ITS MEMBER STATES**

This submission is supported by Romania.

Brussels, 5 February 2005

Subject: Research and Systematic Observation.

Additional views to the assessment of adequacy of research activities and their international coordination to meet the needs of the Convention; to the interaction between social and natural sciences, and to the enhancement of the capacity of developing countries to contribute to and participate in global climate change research efforts (document FCCC/SBSTA/2004/7).

Luxembourg, on behalf of the European Community and its Member States, welcomes the opportunity to submit its additional views on how to address adequately the main issues arising from the event held at SBSTA20 on research arising from the recommendations of the IPCC TAR, as requested in document FCCC/SBSTA/2004/7.

The EU believes that communication and information sharing with research organisations through the side events on research that took place at SBSTAs 17 and 20 has been beneficial to both the Parties and the research organisations and could be developed further to enable the organisations to take into account the needs of the Convention in their work programmes. The EU considers that we could build on these side events by providing the research organisations with a clear assessment of the scientific and technical needs of the Convention that require further research. This would be complimentary to the work of the IPCC which assesses existing research.

Previously the Parties identified their individual research priorities, but further work to focus this list on the needs of the Convention, which could help inform the research organisations, has not yet been undertaken. Therefore, the EU, in its submission of September 2004 (reproduced in doc. FCCC/SBSTA/2004/MISC.14) proposed a process to assess the adequacy of research in meeting the objectives of the Convention and identify areas in which Convention research needs are not being met.

Our motivation in suggesting such a process is to ensure that research is being undertaken which meets the specific needs of the work of the Convention. For example, real problems such as those being addressed by the Convention often require cross disciplinary research and it is here that gaps are likely to occur, unless the nature of the problem is properly identified. Similarly, an assessment can help to define the role of developing countries in identifying gaps and involvement in research.

We believe that it would be straightforward to obtain the information needed to assess the adequacy of current research with regard to the Convention, as this job has already been started by the IPCC and previous submissions to the SBSTA. In our view, a study that does not require many resources would result in a synthesis of that information into a format useful for the Parties at SBSTA23.

The study would draw on the research priorities submitted by Parties to SBSTA17 (SBSTA/2002/MISC.15 and FCCC/SBSTA/2002/INF.17), which describe the research needs of the Parties to the Convention, and the Parties' submission to SBSTA21 (FCCC/SBSTA/2004/MISC.14) which presented some additional views on their priority areas for research. The views of the IPCC and the international research programmes should then be sought to clarify how far existing research can meet those needs. National Communications could also provide useful information on national activities and Parties participation in the international programmes. The international bodies could then provide advice on and how any gaps identified could best be addressed with new work or incremental modifications to existing programmes. These bodies could also give some indication of the resource implications, and propose the most effective approaches to implementing new work. Particular attention should be paid to the activities and needs of developing countries.

Terms of reference for the study could be as follows:

1. To compose a combined list of research recommendations from submissions from Parties and research recommendations from the TAR.
2. To identify where existing or planned research will address those recommendations and identify gaps.
3. To propose how gaps can be addressed, through discussion with the IPCC and the research organisations and to consider resource implications.
4. To prepare a report on the above by SBSTA23.

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