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SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

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Agenda item 3

**Five-year programme of work on impacts, vulnerability
and adaptation to climate change**

**Recommendation of the Subsidiary Body for
Scientific and Technological Advice on the five-year programme of work on
impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change***

*The text in this document is an edited version of the text contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2006/5, annex I, and includes technical corrections and adjustments to the timing of certain elements in the programme of work.

General

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) agreed to further implement the five-year programme of work on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, as identified in paragraphs 9 to 45 below, and to invite relevant organizations and other stakeholders to implement the activities of the programme of work, as described in these paragraphs. It requested the secretariat to strive to engage a wide range of organizations, institutions, experts and communities in the implementation of the five-year programme of work.
2. The SBSTA requested the secretariat to report, at its twenty-sixth session (May 2007) and its twenty-seventh session (December 2007), on progress made in implementing the five-year programme of work.
3. The SBSTA requested the secretariat to prepare a summary report on the results of the implementation of the five-year programme of work for the period up to the twenty-eighth session (June 2008) of the SBSTA, for consideration and providing further guidance, as appropriate.
4. This summary report, and the deliverables as appropriate, should contain information on, inter alia, the following:
 - (a) Analysis of the issues addressed by each activity, including current status and lessons learned;
 - (b) Identification of gaps, needs (including any capacity needs), opportunities, barriers and constraints;
 - (c) Recommendations.
5. The SBSTA agreed that the deliverables resulting from the implementation of the five-year programme of work should be widely disseminated to relevant stakeholders by effective means, including by the secretariat where appropriate.
6. The SBSTA invited Parties to submit to the secretariat, by 23 February 2007, their views on the possible need for a group of experts and the role that they could have in the implementation of the five-year programme of work. The SBSTA requested the secretariat to compile these submissions into a miscellaneous document for consideration by the SBSTA, at its twenty-sixth session, with a view to making recommendations, as appropriate, to the Conference of the Parties at its thirteenth session. It further invited Parties to submit to the secretariat, before the twenty-eight session of the SBSTA, their views on further activities, based on experience with the implementation of the five-year programme of work, in order to decide on possible further activities for inclusion in the five-year programme of work as well as appropriate timing and modalities.
7. The SBSTA noted that the implementation of the five-year programme of work in the period up to the twenty-eighth session of the SBSTA cannot be fully covered by the resources available from the core budget for the biennium 2006–2007 and that supplementary funds will need to be raised for this work.
8. The SBSTA expressed its appreciation to the Governments of Canada, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland for providing financial support towards the implementation of the five-year programme of work and urged Parties included in Annex II to the Convention, and other Parties in a position to do so, to provide financial support for the implementation of the five-year programme of work.

Methods and tools

9. The SBSTA decided that activities under sub-themes¹ 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*”, and 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*”, are to be implemented to assist all Parties in their efforts to:

- (a) Apply and develop methodologies and tools for impact, vulnerability and adaptation assessments;
- (b) Develop methodologies and tools for adaptation planning, measures and actions, and integration with sustainable development;
- (c) Disseminate existing and emerging methods and tools and facilitate the sharing of experiences and lessons, including those contained in the UNFCCC Compendium on methods and tools to evaluate impacts of, vulnerability and adaptation to, climate change.²

10. The SBSTA invited Parties and relevant organizations to submit to the secretariat, by 23 February 2007, information and views on the development and dissemination of methods and tools with a view to identifying existing and emerging assessment methodologies and tools; lessons learned; opportunities, gaps and needs; possible ways to better disseminate information; and training opportunities. It requested the secretariat to compile these submissions into a miscellaneous document for consideration by the SBSTA at its twenty-sixth session.

11. The SBSTA requested the secretariat to prepare a synthesis report, by its twenty-seventh session, based on the above-mentioned submissions and taking into account relevant outputs from the work of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE) and the Expert Group on Technology Transfer (EGTT).

12. The SBSTA requested the secretariat, under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA, to organize an expert meeting, before the twenty-eighth session of the SBSTA, with the participation of Parties, users of methods and tools, relevant organizations, and representatives from sectoral and other communities to advance consideration of sub-themes a(i) and b(i) and taking into account the information contained in the synthesis report referred to in paragraph 11. It requested the secretariat to prepare a technical report from this meeting for consideration by the SBSTA at its twenty-eighth session.

13. The SBSTA identified the following deliverables that should be developed and disseminated in accordance with paragraphs 4 and 5:

- (a) Miscellaneous document referred to in paragraph 10;
- (b) Synthesis report referred to in paragraph 11;
- (c) Report from the expert meeting referred to in paragraph 12.

¹ All sub-themes in this document refer to those in paragraph 3 of the annex to decision 2/CP.11.

² <http://unfccc.int/adaptation/methodologies_for/vulnerability_and_adaptation/items/2674.php>.

*Data and observations*³

14. The SBSTA decided that activities under sub-theme a(ii), “*Improving collection, management, exchange, access to and use of observational data and other relevant information on current and historical climate and its impacts, and promoting improvement of observations, including the monitoring of climate variability*”, are to be implemented to assist all Parties in their efforts to:

- (a) Promote the implementation of systematic observation (including through the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) Implementation Plan and the regional workshops programme), focusing on issues relating to impacts, vulnerability and adaptation and taking into account stakeholder data needs and needs to enhance capacity to supply and use the data, especially at the regional and national levels;
- (b) Improve capacity for collecting, managing and using observational data, and identify practical ways of enhancing technical capacity;
- (c) Exchange information on observed climate change impacts, including those observed through traditional knowledge.

15. The SBSTA invited the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and its member states, and the GCOS secretariat and its partner organizations, to submit their views, by 21 September 2007, in a report exploring how their work could contribute more to the work on impacts and vulnerability as identified under sub-theme a(ii), including the identification of gaps and deficiencies and ways to improve technical infrastructure, taking into account stakeholder data needs and needs to enhance capacity to supply and use the data, especially at regional and national levels. The SBSTA requested the secretariat to compile the responses and make them available to the SBSTA at its twenty-seventh session.

16. The SBSTA requested the secretariat to include consideration of matters related to sub-theme a (ii) in the expert meeting referred to in paragraph 12.

17. The SBSTA identified the following deliverables that should be developed and disseminated in accordance with paragraphs 4 and 5:

- (a) Reports by the GCOS secretariat and WMO secretariat referred to in paragraph 15;
- (b) Input to the report from the expert meeting as referred to in paragraph 16.

Climate modelling, scenarios and downscaling

18. The SBSTA decided that activities under sub-theme a (iii), “*Promoting the development of, access to, and use of information and data on projected climate change*”, are to be implemented to assist all Parties in their efforts to:

- (a) Identify gaps in the development of regional and subregional climate scenarios, including the need for, and the availability and applicability of, climate models, and the options to fill them;
- (b) Identify practical opportunities to improve access to, and use of different models’ outputs, including assessment of their applicability and training opportunities;
- (c) Analyse means to improve the availability and applicability of climate change modelling and downscaling data to policy makers at all levels.

19. The SBSTA invited inputs, by 21 September 2007, for compilation into a miscellaneous document for consideration by the SBSTA at its twenty-seventh session, from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, from other international organizations, and from modelling centres and

³ Under the work of the SBSTA on research and systematic observation.

regional and national agencies with relevant experience on matters identified under sub-theme a(iii), including on work undertaken on reducing uncertainties in model projections, on the following:

- (a) Availability of regional and sub-regional climate scenario data, including data downscaled from general circulation models (GCMs);
- (b) Use of different models and their outputs;
- (c) Any available training opportunities.

20. The SBSTA requested the secretariat to organize an in-session workshop under this sub-theme at its twenty-eighth session, with the participation of experts from Parties and representatives from relevant organizations.

21. The SBSTA identified the following deliverables that should be developed and disseminated in accordance with paragraphs 4 and 5:

- (a) Miscellaneous document that compiles the submissions referred to in paragraph 19;
- (b) Output of the in-session workshop referred to in paragraph 20.

Climate related risks and extreme events

22. The SBSTA decided that activities under sub-theme a(iv), “*Promoting understanding of impacts of, and vulnerability to, climate change, current and future climate variability and extreme events, and the implications for sustainable development*”, are to be implemented to assist all Parties in their efforts to:

- (a) Enhance capacity and ability to predict extreme events and analyse their impacts;
- (b) Enhance capacity to use information on extreme events and their impacts, including use of this information to analyse their impacts, including assessment of climate related risks, impact thresholds, trends, and implications for sustainable development;
- (c) Share and use information on, and analysis of, experiences in climate risk assessment and management;
- (d) Promote 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.

23. The SBSTA invited Parties and relevant organizations to identify programmes and activities in progress, and submit to the secretariat, by 23 February 2007, information on impacts of, and vulnerability to, climate change, on current and future climate variability and extreme events, and on the ability to predict these across regions and hazards and the implications for sustainable development. It requested the secretariat to compile these submissions into a miscellaneous document for consideration by the SBSTA at its twenty-sixth session.

24. The SBSTA requested the secretariat, under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA, to organize, before its twenty-seventh session, a workshop with the participation of Parties, experts and relevant organizations. It further requested the secretariat to prepare a report of the workshop, taking into account the submissions referred to in paragraph 23 and considering the following issues:

- (a) Current and future climate variability and extreme events;
- (b) Ability to predict climate variability and extreme events across regions and hazards;
- (c) Contribution of traditional knowledge;
- (d) Implications for sustainable development.

25. The SBSTA identified the following deliverables that should be developed and disseminated in accordance with paragraphs 4 and 5:

- (a) Miscellaneous document referred to in paragraph 23;
- (b) Report on the workshop referred to in paragraph 24.

Socio-economic information

26. The SBSTA decided that activities under 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*”, are to be implemented to assist all Parties in their efforts to:

- (a) Undertake stocktaking on what socio-economic information and approaches are available (and being used), and on what needs to be done to ensure better integration of socio-economic information.

27. The SBSTA invited Parties and relevant organizations to submit to the secretariat, by 23 February 2007, information and views on matters relating to the availability and use of information for developing socio-economic scenarios and assessments of vulnerability, adaptive capacity and adaptation options and requested the secretariat to compile these submissions into a miscellaneous document for consideration by the SBSTA at its twenty-sixth session with a view to identifying:

- (a) Existing approaches and available data;
- (b) Needs and gaps;
- (c) Ways and means to improve availability and access to relevant information as well as its better integration.

28. The SBSTA requested the secretariat to organize an expert meeting before the twenty-seventh session of the SBSTA, possibly in conjunction with the expert meeting referred to in paragraph 12 above, on ways and means to improve the integration of socio-economic information into impact and vulnerability assessments and adaptation planning, taking into account the miscellaneous document.

29. The SBSTA identified the following deliverables that should be developed and disseminated in accordance with paragraphs 4 and 5:

- (a) Miscellaneous document referred to in paragraph 27;
- (b) Report on the expert meeting referred to in paragraph 28.

Adaptation planning and practices

30. The SBSTA decided that activities under sub-themes b(ii), “*Collecting, analysing 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*”, and b(iv), “*Facilitating communication and cooperation among and between Parties and relevant organizations, business, civil society, and decision makers, and other stakeholders*”, are to be implemented to assist all Parties in their efforts to:

- (a) Exchange information on experiences, lessons learned, constraints and barriers of past and current adaptation measures and actions, and the implications for sustainable development, and make recommendations for enhancing adaptation measures and actions;
- (b) Promote different ways and means for information sharing and for the enhancement of cooperation among Parties and relevant institutions and communities, including the

provision of a forum to exchange information between Parties and relevant communities, in particular sectoral and disaster risk reduction and management communities;

- (c) Promote understanding of response strategies, including early warning systems, local coping strategies and lessons learned that can be applied elsewhere;
- (d) Assess available resources to support adaptation and address barriers and constraints to its implementation.

31. The SBSTA invited Parties and relevant organizations to provide input, by 23 February 2007, through structured submissions on adaptation approaches, practices and technologies at the regional, national and local levels in different sectors, as well as on needs and concerns. It requested the secretariat to develop, by 20 January 2007, the structure for these submissions and make it available to the Parties and organizations. It further requested the secretariat to compile these submissions into a miscellaneous document for consideration by the SBSTA at its twenty-sixth session.

32. The SBSTA requested the secretariat to organize, before the twenty-seventh session of the SBSTA, a workshop to exchange information on the contribution of existing adaptation practices and traditional knowledge to the work on impacts and vulnerability assessment and adaptation, taking into account the submissions from Parties and relevant outputs from the work of the LEG, CGE and EGTT.

33. The SBSTA requested the secretariat to prepare a report on this workshop for consideration by the SBSTA at its twenty-seventh session and to prepare a web-based interface providing information on existing adaptation practices and traditional knowledge for adaptation, before its twenty-eighth session.

34. The SBSTA identified the following deliverables that should be developed and disseminated in accordance with paragraphs 4 and 5:

- (a) Miscellaneous document compiling the submissions referred to in paragraph 31;
- (b) Report on the workshop and the web-based interface referred to in paragraph 33.

Research⁴

35. The SBSTA decided that activities under part of 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*”, relating to research are to be implemented to assist all Parties in their efforts to:

- (a) Analyse opportunities and ways to promote research and development of adaptive capacities and adaptation practices that increase resilience.

36. The SBSTA requested the secretariat to prepare, before the twenty-seventh session of the SBSTA, a synthesis report on ongoing and planned adaptation research, as well as research needs identified in the submissions from Parties and relevant organizations.

37. The SBSTA identified the following deliverable that should be developed and disseminated in accordance with paragraphs 4 and 5:

- (a) Report referred to in paragraph 36.

Technologies for adaptation⁵

⁴ Under the work of the SBSTA on research and systematic observation.

⁵ Under the work of the SBSTA on technology transfer.

38. The SBSTA decided that activities under the part of 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*”, relating to technologies for adaptation are to be implemented to assist all Parties in their efforts to:

- (a) Enhance work on different aspects of technologies and know-how for adaptation, as well as on opportunities for their transfer and diffusion, taking into account local and indigenous knowledge and experience as well as ongoing activities and projects.

39. The SBSTA requested the secretariat to prepare a synthesis report, by the twenty-sixth session of the SBSTA, on adaptation technologies identified in the submissions from Parties and relevant organizations referred to in paragraph 31.

40. The SBSTA took note of the conclusions on technology transfer from its twenty-fourth session⁶. It agreed to take into account in its future work on this activity the synthesis of technology needs assessments for adaptation⁷, information relating to technologies for adaptation in national communications, national adaptation programmes of action, the technical paper on the application of technologies for adaptation,⁸ relevant deliberations by the SBSTA and the outcome of the EGTT side event held at the twenty-fifth session of the SBSTA.

41. The deliverables from this process should be developed and disseminated in accordance with paragraphs 4 and 5 and should include the following:

- (a) Synthesis report referred to in paragraph 39;
- (b) Technical paper referred to in paragraph 40.

Economic diversification

42. The SBSTA decided that activities under sub-theme b(v), “*Promoting understanding and the development and dissemination of measures, methodologies and tools including for economic diversification aimed at increasing economic resilience and reducing reliance on vulnerable economic sectors, especially for relevant categories of countries listed in Article 4, paragraph 8, of the Convention*”, are to be implemented to assist all Parties in their efforts to:

- (a) Exchange experiences and opportunities on the development and dissemination of measures, methodologies and tools aimed at increasing economic resilience.

43. The SBSTA invited Parties and relevant organizations to submit to the secretariat, by 21 September 2007, information on examples of measures to increase the economic resilience of vulnerable sectors. It requested the secretariat to compile these submissions into a miscellaneous document for consideration by the SBSTA at its twenty-seventh session.

44. The SBSTA requested the secretariat to prepare a synthesis report based on the submissions mentioned in paragraph 43 by the twenty-seventh session of the SBSTA.

45. The SBSTA identified the following deliverables that should be developed and disseminated in accordance with paragraphs 4 and 5:

- (a) Miscellaneous document referred to in paragraph 43;
- (b) Synthesis report referred to in paragraph 44.

⁶ FCCC/SBSTA/2006/5, paras. 20–34.

⁷ FCCC/SBSTA/2006/INF.1.

⁸ FCCC/TP/2006/2.