

16 April 2010

ENGLISH ONLY

UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE

Thirty-second session

Bonn, 31 May to 9 June 2010

Item 6 of the provisional agenda

Research and systematic observation

**Views on topics for discussion at the research dialogue meeting during the
thirty-second 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 thirtieth session, agreed that meetings under the research dialogue taking place in the context of decision 9/CP.11 should be continued during the thirty-second and subsequent sessions of the SBSTA.¹
2. At the same session, the SBSTA invited Parties to provide to the secretariat, by 22 March 2010, their views on topics to be discussed at the dialogue meeting to take place during SBSTA 32,² taking into account developments in research activities outlined in document FCCC/SBSTA/2007/4, paragraph 47 (a–f).
3. The secretariat has received two such submissions. In accordance with the procedure for miscellaneous documents, these submissions are attached and reproduced* in the language in which they were received and without formal editing.

¹ FCCC/SBSTA/2009/3, paragraph 49.

² FCCC/SBSTA/2009/3, paragraph 50.

* These submissions have been electronically imported in order to make them available on electronic systems, including the World Wide Web. The secretariat has made every effort to ensure the correct reproduction of the texts as submitted.

FCCC/SBSTA/2010/MISC.4

GE.10-60652

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
1. SPAIN AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES* (Submission received 5 March 2010).....	3
2. UZBEKISTAN (Submission received 23 March 2010).....	6

* This submission is supported by Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey.

PAPER NO. 1: SPAIN AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON BEHALF OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES

**SUBMISSION BY SPAIN AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON BEHALF OF THE
EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES**

**This submission is supported by Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia,
Serbia and Turkey.
Madrid, 5 March 2010**

**Subject: Research and systematic observation (SBSTA)
Views on topics to be discussed at the research dialogue meeting to take place
during SBSTA 32, taking into account developments in research activities
outlined in document FCCC/SBSTA/2007/4, paragraph 47 (a) to (f)**

The European Union and its Member States, welcomes the conclusions of SBSTA at its thirtieth session (FCCC/SBSTA/2009/3) and the invitation to submit, views on topics to be discussed at the dialogue meeting to take place during SBSTA 32, taking into account developments in research activities outlined in document FCCC/SBSTA/2007/4, paragraph 47 (a-f).

The EU welcomes the opportunity to continue the research dialogue between Parties and regional and international climate change research programmes and organizations. In addition to the EU's previous submissions on this issue (FCCC/SBSTA/2002/MISC.15 and FCCC/SBSTA/2006/MISC.3), the EU would like to propose some other specific issues to be discussed during the research dialogue in SBSTA 32.

The EU recognises that although our knowledge on climate and climate change has expanded considerably over recent years, there are still gaps in the international research activities with respect to the needs of the Convention.

The EU notes that SBSTA has encouraged greater consideration of adaptation in dialogue between international and regional research bodies, and the need to enhance efforts to support research for adaptation, taking into account the efforts under the Nairobi Work Programme and the adaptation research needs identified in document FCCC/SBSTA/2007/12.

The EU recalls the need to maintain the development of a comprehensive research approach to the climate change problem. This would include further developing of a real science-policy dialogue on climate change within the UNFCCC.

General considerations

The EU recalls the need to inform the scientific community on needs and expectations from climate change policy makers, as well as to inform decision makers on developments in research activities and on emerging scientific findings relevant to the Convention.

The EU emphasizes the need to facilitate the negotiating process based on science relevant issues via a direct dialogue between representatives of the scientific community and policymakers.

The EU highlights the importance of building the research dialogue on IPCC outcomes and plans. In this line, the EU also highlights the importance of informing decision makers and

scientific community about the ongoing work on the elaboration of the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (AR5), in particular of its Synthesis Report that is aiming at addressing in an integrated way policy relevant topics.

The EU notes the needs to increase learning on how to organise research in the most efficient way to support decision-making. Science-policy interface mechanisms and options for improving the science-policy dialogue should be identified.

The EU considers that, in order to facilitate in-depth discussion, the research dialogue should focus on a few topics covering both: (i) research outcomes and gaps in research programmes with respect to the need of the Convention and its negotiations, and (ii) science-policy interface mechanisms (such as policy supporting tools and ‘toolboxes’). Priority is to be given to issues that link to the current negotiations and that would facilitate reaching an agreement in Mexico

In order to meet the objectives of the dialogue, the EU proposes to allow enough time for the dialogue as well as to increase its visibility in the framework of the Convention and its SBs

Topics to be discussed at SBSTA 32: research outcome and needs and science-policy interface mechanism

Taking into account the previous considerations and in line with previous submissions, the EU looks forward to proposing the following issues for discussion at the research dialogue in the frame of the thirty second session of SBSTA

The EU suggests paying special attention **socio-economic aspects of climate change** such as: current estimates of costs of mitigation and adaptation; observed and projected economic impacts of CC; costs and benefits from a transition to low carbon society; and benefits from a rationale risk management approach. The scope of these issues should include both the global and the regional scales.

The EU also proposes to take into account topics relevant to the **alternative pathways associated with different levels of climate change targets** (2° C, 1.5° C), including better estimates of thresholds and probabilities for abrupt, or irreversible events, and assessment of the risk of the possible amplification of anthropogenic climate change. The EU also proposes to take into consideration the associated (avoided) impacts, especially for the countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, of alternative pathways; the alternative metrics and additional forcing agents (especially black carbon); the relative vulnerability and capability for adaptation in DC (influencing potential distribution of funds); the technology and lifestyle transitions and transfers.

The EU recognises the need to progress on the identification and promotion of relevant **science-policy interface mechanisms** as well as to facilitate the programming of international research on climate and climate change via relevant scientific bodies (*inter alia* Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP) and its components and other relevant initiatives from the International Council for Science (ICSU). It would also be worth to take into consideration the science aspects related to the decision from the World Climate Conference – 3 (WCC3) to establish a Global Framework for Climate Services to strengthen the production, availability, delivery and application of science-based climate prediction and services.

Both regional and global approaches should complement each other in the science-policy interface mechanisms. The EU would also like to update on follow-up activities by Parties to facilitate a greater involvement of Developing Countries in climate research international programmes.

IPCC should have the opportunity to inform decision makers on the IPCC scoping processes, in particular of the Synthesis Report that is aiming at addressing in an integrated way policy relevant topics, and to counteract the negative comments to the address of the IPCC. Representatives of international programmes could give a short update to reemphasize the scientific basis.

PAPER NO. 2: UZBEKISTAN

**The opinion of Republic of Uzbekistan
on the studies and systematic observations**

Republic of Uzbekistan highly appreciates the activity of GCOS and its Secretariat for the conducted work and, as a country with economy in transition and Non-Annex I country to UN FCCC considers the following tasks in the field of research and systematic observations as prior ones:

- financing of the regional plans of actions for supporting the national and local networks of climate observation in developing countries
- elaboration of standards for collection of data needed for the assessment of impact and analysis of measures of adaptation to climates change (“non-climate data”)
- strengthening of functions of international centres of climate data
- regular updating of national reports for UNFCCC
- strengthening the role of regional climate centres set up under WMO framework and their links with UNFCCC.

Regional Action Plans

Taking into account such issue as Regional Actions Plans on GCOS it is desirable to assess the appropriateness of every Regional Plan in order to reveal which Regional Plans should be revised and to foresee their updating and funding.

Uzbekistan emphasizes the need of the strengthening of networks of snow cover observations, the collection and archiving of data for Central Asia but points out that for the solution of problem of deficit of observations in the mountain zone of the formation of flow of the rivers of Aral Sea basin it is necessary to update and realize the Regional Action Plan.

Via the Regional Action Plan it will be feasible to take the account of the demands of the less developed countries, small island developing countries and a number of countries with the economy in transition to provide for systematic observations on climate and development of climate studies.

Development of standards or recommendations for collection of “non-climate data”

From the point of view of vulnerability to climate change and adaptation the information about damage defined by objective method using the methodology uniform for all countries is needed as well as recommendations and list of other data needed for the assessment of impacts on the water resources, agriculture, public health, dangerous and extreme phenomena related to climate and infrastructure, etc. in compatible units.

Study and assessment of links of “impact-response-damage” type should be based on the actual including also social-and-economical data. In this regard it is necessary to develop recommendations, schemes and mechanisms of presentation of data to the national centres responsible for the implementation of UN FCCC, data needed for the assessment of the impact of climate change.

Elaboration and implementation of international standards for statistical reporting for “non-climate data” will make it possible to reliably assess the vulnerability of the economy sectors to the climate change and to develop cost-effective adaptation measures.

Strengthening of functions of international centres of climate data

For countries with insufficient capacity in the field of research and systematic observations it is very important to facilitate the access to the archived homogeneous gridded data for the principle climate variables. These data are necessary for the use of methods recommended by IPCC and UN FCCC in the assessment of climate change impact, especially within the region scale.

In this regard Uzbekistan considers that:

- activities of International Data Centres (IDC) should be strengthened;
- besides the collection and storage of information IDCs should cooperate with the information providers – NHMS and to support the developing countries;
- the trainings on the analysis and control over data homogeneity, standards and up-to-date data formats should be organized
- IDCs should provide the data providers with possibility of using the archived data (samples from archives according to the requests for the conduction of regional assessments of the climate change impacts)

Regular updating of national reports for UN FCCC

Uzbekistan supports the opinion that the regular updating of national reports for UN FCCC from Non-Annex I countries regarding the conditions and requirements of the development of observation systems should be done in the framework of development of National Reports.

Strengthening the role of Regional Climate Centres

Strengthening the role of the Regional climate centres being established under WMO is needed for the strengthening of the regional climate studies, development and dissemination of the global climate products (results of monitoring, climate forecasts for short time, and scenarios for long time).

Strengthening of cooperation in the framework of Regional climate centres will facilitate the development of research studies, strengthening of observation systems, information exchange in the region. Results of studies and assessments and operational climate production should be accessible for all Member countries of WMO and Parties to UN FCCC.
