



United Nations

FCCC/SBSTA/2012/L.17



Framework Convention on  
Climate Change

Distr.: Limited  
24 May 2012

Original: English

---

## **Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice**

**Thirty-sixth session**

**Bonn, 14–25 May 2012**

Agenda item 6

**Research and systematic observation**

### **Research and systematic observation**

#### **Draft conclusions proposed by the Chair**

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) took note of the views of Parties and of the progress made in developing draft conclusions under this agenda item.
2. The SBSTA agreed to continue its consideration of this agenda item at its thirty-seventh session on the basis of the draft text contained in the annex.

## Annex

[English only]

1. [The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) noted with appreciation the statements delivered by representatives of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).
2. The SBSTA welcomed the plan of the GCOS Steering Committee and secretariat to prepare, in broad consultation with relevant partners, by early 2015, a third report on the adequacy of the global observing systems for climate<sup>1</sup> and, by 2016, a new implementation plan for the global observing system for climate, which would, inter alia, support the Convention.<sup>2</sup> The SBSTA invited the GCOS secretariat to provide the final implementation plan to the SBSTA in 2016 by its [45th] session, and the third adequacy report to the SBSTA by 2015 at its [43rd] session. The SBSTA encouraged the GCOS to provide a draft of the implementation plan to the SBSTA by its [43rd] session in 2015.
3. [The SBSTA noted that the GCOS secretariat would consider, inter alia, [emerging observational needs for adaptation and for the provision of climate services, and] the findings of the Fifth Assessment Report of the IPCC, in the development of the third adequacy report.]
4. The SBSTA welcomed the activities undertaken by the GCOS secretariat to support efforts to address the needs for climate observations, including the preparation of an update of the Satellite Supplement<sup>3</sup> to the 2010 updated GCOS implementation plan. The SBSTA invited the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) to respond to this new supplement when reporting to the thirty-seventh session of the SBSTA on progress made.<sup>4</sup>
5. The SBSTA further welcomed the regional initiatives of the GCOS secretariat<sup>5</sup> in supporting the development of and improvements to climate observation capacities. The SBSTA invited the GCOS secretariat to further expand such initiatives<sup>6</sup> and encouraged Parties, in a position to do so, to support these efforts.
6. The SBSTA noted that the report on progress by the Global Terrestrial Observing System (GTOS) secretariat was not submitted to the SBSTA by its thirty-sixth session,<sup>7</sup> and

---

<sup>1</sup> A report on the adequacy of the climate observing systems was prepared in 1998, followed by a second such report in 2003, both of which are available at <<http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/gcos/index.php?name=Publications>>.

<sup>2</sup> For the summary of the GCOS *Implementation Plan for the Global Observing System for Climate in Support of the UNFCCC*, prepared in 2004, see document FCCC/SBSTA/2004/MISC.16. For the summary of the 2010 update of the plan see document FCCC/SBSTA/2010/MISC.9.

<sup>3</sup> Full title of the Satellite Supplement: *Systematic Observation Requirements for Satellite-based Products for Climate*. This report provides supplemental details to the satellite-based component of the 2010 update of the GCOS implementation plan. The full report is available at <<http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/gcos/Publications/gcos-154.pdf>>.

<sup>4</sup> At its thirty-third session, the SBSTA invited CEOS to provide, by the thirty-seventh session of the SBSTA, an updated report on progress made on major achievements in relevant areas (FCCC/SBSTA/2010/13, para. 53).

<sup>5</sup> Recent regional initiatives of the GCOS secretariat have focused on Africa and South America, as indicated by the GCOS secretariat in its submission to the SBSTA (see FCCC/SBSTA/2012/MISC.4).

<sup>6</sup> For example, to the Asia-Pacific region and the Caribbean.

<sup>7</sup> At its thirty-third session, the SBSTA invited the secretariat of the GTOS to report to the SBSTA at its thirty-fifth session on progress made on a number of matters relating to climate-related terrestrial observations (see FCCC/SBSTA/2010/13, paras. 47–50). At the thirty-fifth session of the SBSTA, the

encouraged the GTOS secretariat to submit that report to the SBSTA by its xxth session. The SBSTA highlighted the importance of such reports for the work of the SBSTA.

7. The SBSTA expressed its appreciation to the GCOS sponsors<sup>8</sup> for the support provided to the GCOS programme for the past 20 years, and encouraged them to continue to provide such support. The SBSTA also welcomed the initiative by the GCOS sponsors to undertake a review of GCOS, and invited the GCOS sponsors, through WMO, to inform the SBSTA on the outcome of this review.

8. The SBSTA noted with appreciation the information by WMO on progress made towards implementation of the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), including on the draft GFCS Implementation Plan. The SBSTA invited WMO to keep the SBSTA informed on the developments of the GFCS.

9. The SBSTA noted the importance of systematic observation for vulnerability assessments and adaptation, with specific emphasis on developing countries. The SBSTA encouraged Parties to contribute to the identification of emerging needs for systematic observation in the context of the Convention, in support of the activities mentioned in paragraph 2 above.

10. [The SBSTA noted the potential of systematic observation for carbon monitoring, such as for monitoring carbon fluxes in ecosystems[, and invited GCOS to consider enhancing its activities in this regard.]]

11. [The SBSTA agreed to continue its consideration of systematic observation at its thirty-seventh session, and then revert to its customary practice of focusing on research during the first sessional period of a year and on systematic observation during the second sessional period of a year.]

12. [The SBSTA welcomed the continuation of the research dialogue held during the thirty-sixth session of the SBSTA. It also conveyed its appreciation to the regional and international programs and organizations [footnote on participants] engaged in climate change research, the IPCC and scientific experts for their active participations and contribution to the research dialogue. The SBSTA also expressed its appreciation to Parties for sharing their views on their research needs and priorities.]

13. [SBSTA agreed to focus the next Research Dialogue at SBSTA 38. The SBSTA invited Parties to provide, by 31 January 2013, their views on the research dialogue, including on-going activities, associated modalities and ways to enhance the dialogue. The SBSTA requested the secretariat to compile these submissions to a miscellaneous document for consideration by the SBSTA at its 38th session.]

14. [SBSTA agreed to focus the next research dialogue at SBSTA 38th session on socio-economic and scientific aspects of climate change. SBSTA invited Parties to submit their views on this theme by [date] with the view to organize a workshop before SBSTA 38 to allow in-depth consideration of this theme.]]

---

GTOS secretariat provided a summary of progress (FCCC/SBSTA/2011/MISC. 14), indicating that the report invited by the SBSTA at its thirty-third session would be submitted to the SBSTA at its thirty-sixth session.

<sup>8</sup> The sponsors of GCOS are the following: WMO, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme and the International Council for Science.