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**Subsidiary Body for Scientific and
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Forty-ninth session

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Item 9(a) of the provisional agenda

Impact of the implementation of response measures

Improved forum and work programme

Subsidiary Body for Implementation

Forty-ninth session

Katowice, 2–8 December 2018

Item 17(a) of the provisional agenda

Impact of the implementation of response measures

Improved forum and work programme

**Work of the improved forum on the impact of the
implementation of response measures**

Synthesis report by the secretariat

Summary

This is a synthesis of views expressed by Parties and an observer organization in their submissions to the secretariat on the work of the improved forum on the impact of the implementation of response measures. The synthesis includes the specific proposals made by Parties for consideration in the development of the future work programme of the improved forum. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation may wish to use this synthesis report as background material for concluding the review of the improved forum's work and for taking forward the work on the impacts of the implementation of response measures.

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Contents

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction	1–4	3
A. Mandate	1–2	3
B. Scope	3	3
C. Possible action by the subsidiary bodies	4	3
II. Background	5–7	3
III. Approach	8–12	4
IV. Views on the work programme of the improved forum	13–55	4
A. Work programme areas	16–19	5
B. Work programme and its outputs	20–25	5
C. Effectiveness of the work programme to provide a platform for sharing information, experiences, case studies, best practices and views in an interactive manner	26–28	6
D. Effectiveness of the work programme to facilitate assessment and analysis of the impact of the implementation of response measures with a view to recommending specific actions	29–32	6
E. Effectiveness of the assessment and analysis of impacts, including use of economic modelling, taking into account all relevant policy issues of concern	33–34	6
F. Effectiveness of the work programme in providing concrete examples, case studies and practices in order to enhance the capacity of Parties	35–37	7
G. Facilitation of the provision of recommendations to the Conference of the Parties and the subsidiary bodies on specific actions	38–40	7
H. Views for further consideration	41–55	7
V. Views on the effectiveness of the modalities of operation of the improved forum .	56–95	9
A. Technical papers	61–63	9
B. Submissions from Parties and organizations	64–66	10
C. Interactions with external experts and relevant institutions and organizations	67–74	10
D. Workshops	75–80	11
E. Ad hoc technical expert group	81–87	11
F. In-forum discussions as contact group	88–91	12
G. Review of the work of the improved forum	92–95	13
VI. Summary	96–100	13

I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), at the first part of their forty-eighth sessions, invited Parties and observers to submit their views on the work of the improved forum on the impact of the implementation of response measures on the basis of the agreed scope of the review.¹

2. The SBSTA and the SBI requested the secretariat to prepare a synthesis report based on the submissions with a view to informing Parties' discussions on the review of the work of the improved forum to take place at SBSTA 49 and SBI 49.

B. Scope

3. This report contains a synthesis of views on the work of the improved forum contained in the nine submissions received from Parties and one submission received from an observer organization.²

C. Possible action by the subsidiary bodies

4. The SBSTA and the SBI may wish to use this report as background material for concluding the review of the work of the improved forum and for taking forward the work on the impacts of the implementation of response measures.

II. Background

5. At its twenty-first session, the Conference of the Parties (COP) decided:

(a) To continue and improve the forum on the impact of the implementation of response measures, which shall provide a platform allowing Parties to share, in an interactive manner, information, experiences, case studies, best practices and views, and to facilitate assessment and analysis of the impact of the implementation of response measures, with a view to recommending specific actions;³

(b) To focus work under the improved forum on, inter alia, the provision of concrete examples, case studies and practices in order to enhance the capacity of Parties, in particular developing country Parties, to deal with the impact of the implementation of response measures;⁴

(c) That the implementation of the work programme on the impact of the implementation of response measures shall address the needs of all Parties, in particular developing country Parties, and shall be informed, inter alia, by the assessment and analysis of impacts, including the use and development of economic modelling, taking into account all relevant policy issues of concern.⁵

6. At the same session, the COP adopted a work programme comprising: (1) economic diversification and transformation; and (2) just transition of the workforce, and the creation

¹ FCCC/SBI/2018/9, paragraph 110 and annex II, and FCCC/SBSTA/2018/4, paragraph 73 and annex II.

² Available at <http://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionportal/Pages/Home.aspx>.

³ Decision 11/CP.21, paragraph 1.

⁴ Decision 11/CP.21, paragraph 2.

⁵ Decision 11/CP.21, paragraph 6.

of decent work and quality jobs.⁶ It requested the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies to convene the improved forum in order to implement the work programme.⁷

7. The SBSTA and the SBI, at their forty-fourth sessions, convened the first meeting of the improved forum and agreed to implement the work programme.⁸

III. Approach

8. This report aims to synthesize the views of Parties and an observer organization contained in the submissions referred to in paragraph 3 above. It follows the structure of the scope of the review of the work of the improved forum referred to in paragraph 1 above. Thus, chapters IV and V mirror the two sections of the agreed scope of the review. The subheadings under these chapters represent the guiding questions of the agreed scope of the review either in full or in part, as the information has been further organized to facilitate identification, navigation and reference with regard to the information related to a particular issue. In section IV, the views expressed by Parties for further consideration in a future work programme have been synthesized under the subheading “Views for further consideration”. However, any view related to the enhancement of a modality for a future work programme has been included under the relevant modality without any further organization.

9. In their submissions, some Parties responded in detail to each section and each guiding question of the agreed scope of the review of the work of the improved forum, while others responded to the two main sections addressing the guiding questions. Some of the submissions did not respond to every guiding question. Therefore, the synthesis under each subheading corresponds the level of detail submitted by Parties.

10. The synthesis captures the key views of Parties; where views were not substantively different they were consolidated to prevent duplication. No judgement has been made on the appropriateness of the views while synthesizing the information. The original submissions made by Parties can be referred to for complete details.

11. The two work programme areas referred to in the report are “economic diversification and transformation” and “just transition of the workforce and the creation of decent work and quality jobs”. The term “work programme” refers to the activities that have been carried out by the improved forum after its establishment at COP 21.

12. Wherever a view was expressed in a majority of the submissions, it is presented as the view of most of the Parties. If a view was expressed by a group or groups of Parties or more than one Party, it has been presented as the view of some Parties. Finally, when a view was expressed by only one Party, it has been presented as the view of a Party.

IV. Views on the work programme of the improved forum

13. In their submissions, some Parties stated that the improved forum has contributed to a better understanding of the possible positive and negative impacts of the implementation of response measures and provided opportunities for Parties to increase their capacities to address those impacts and thus has successfully supported the objectives of the improved forum, as defined in decision 11/CP.21.

14. Some Parties mentioned that there is a clear improvement in the improved forum’s work programme compared with the forum’s work programme; the latter was established at COP 17 and focuses on eight areas.⁹

15. However, some Parties raised the concern that the work programme has yet to deliver: (1) a proactive forum on response measures that is solution oriented; (2) a forum that is effective and efficient in reviewing and addressing how response measures can adversely

⁶ Decision 11/CP.21, paragraph 5.

⁷ Decision 11/CP.21, paragraph 3.

⁸ FCCC/SBI/2016/8, paragraph 119 and annex II, and FCCC/SBSTA/2016/2, paragraph 53 and annex I.

⁹ Decision 8/CP.17, paragraphs 1 and 2.

impact trade-led development priorities of developing country Parties; and (3) support for limiting the adverse impact of response measures on developing country Parties.

A. Work programme areas

16. Some Parties are of the view that the work programme areas should be broad, dynamic and of interest to all Parties and contribute to enhancing the understanding of possible impacts of the implementation of response measures.

17. These Parties believe that the existing two work programme areas are broad enough to reflect the opportunities and challenges that all Parties may face currently or in the future when looking to design and implement climate policies as part of the global transition to a low greenhouse gas emission and climate-resilient future. These Parties also state that working with the existing two work programme areas ensures continuity, effectiveness and the possibility of incremental improvement based on experience with the existing improved forum.

18. Other Parties are of the view that the existing work programme areas have not adequately supported the objectives of the improved forum as outlined in decision 11/CP.21, since (1) they have not sufficiently addressed the impacts on international trade resulting from measures taken to combat climate change, especially when it comes to assessing cross-border impacts; (2) they have not addressed the needs of developing country Parties related to the assessment and analysis of cross-border impacts of the response measures on other countries' domestic plans (including their diversification and transformation policies) and inclusive growth.

19. Some Parties consider that the work programme area on economic diversification and transformation has not accommodated economic diversification in the context of structural transformation. It was also mentioned that Parties are not predisposed to use economic diversification as a measure to reduce the adverse impacts of the implementation of climate change mitigation policies that have cross-border effects.

B. Work programme and its outputs

20. A Party indicated that outlining a three-year work programme at the outset of the improved forum's establishment was useful in focusing the work of the improved forum.

21. Most of the Parties are of the view that technical progress has been made by combining analytical work and the sharing of case studies but that much more needs to be explored in the existing work programme areas.

22. Some Parties believe that the work programme has facilitated a range of activities; however, others indicated that these activities have not produced tangible technical work that allows Parties to address the socioeconomic impacts of the implementation of response measures, in particular measures to minimize the adverse impacts.

23. According to some Parties, the work programme outputs on economic diversification and transformation, including the technical paper titled "The concept of economic diversification in the context of response measures"¹⁰ and subsequent discussions under the improved forum, were inadequate to address their needs, taking into consideration their national circumstances and developmental issues.

24. Moreover, some Parties think that the work programme on just transition, including the technical paper titled "Just transition of the workforce, and the creation of decent work and quality jobs"¹¹ and subsequent discussions under the improved forum and at workshops, have not addressed the reality of the economies where the application of just transition is premature because of low levels of industrialization and development as well as high rates of unemployment.

¹⁰ FCCC/TP/2016/3.

¹¹ FCCC/TP/2016/7.

25. However, these Parties recognize that just transition can inform and support Parties in designing national policy frameworks that aim to minimize loss of employment while enhancing opportunities for the creation of decent jobs; hence this aspect should be further explored.

C. Effectiveness of the work programme to provide a platform for sharing information, experiences, case studies, best practices and views in an interactive manner

26. In their submissions, most of the Parties acknowledged that the work programme helped Parties and non-Party experts exchange information and experience related to work programme areas and facilitated a more focused substantive discussion.

27. However, some Parties indicated that owing to the limited number of discussion-based activities and workshops, and their taking place only in session, the current work programme did not provide enough time and opportunities to share information, experience, case studies, best practices and views effectively. Therefore, the effectiveness of the work programme related to this function has been limited with regard to sharing technical work.

28. Some Parties also mentioned that many developing country Parties, especially African countries, do not participate in this work programme effectively as they lack information, experience and case studies on the impacts of the implementation of response measures.

D. Effectiveness of the work programme to facilitate assessment and analysis of the impact of the implementation of response measures with a view to recommending specific actions

29. The Parties that submitted their views on assessment and analysis stated that limited or no technical work has been undertaken with respect to the compilation of measures to maximize the positive impacts and minimize the adverse impacts of response measures.

30. Some Parties are of the view that the experience is limited to developed countries only; moreover, wider and cross-border impacts are yet to be assessed.

31. Some Parties also mentioned that no significant work has been undertaken at the international level on the qualitative and quantitative assessment and analysis of cross-border impacts of the implementation of response measures on developing country Parties. Developing countries are also constrained because of limited knowledge of the use of modelling tools and lack of capacity to undertake and develop such tools themselves.

32. Therefore, according to the views of these Parties, the work programme did not address or partially facilitated assessment and analysis of the impact of the implementation of response measures with a view to recommending specific actions.

E. Effectiveness of the assessment and analysis of impacts, including use of economic modelling, taking into account all relevant policy issues of concern

33. In addition to the views synthesized in chapter IV.D above, some Parties recognized the importance of economic models to the assessment of the impacts of the implementation of response measures on different sectors of the economy, as well as the consequences on developing countries of response measures taken by developed country Parties in the area of, inter alia, trade, investment, income, employment and economic growth rates of developing countries.

34. Some Parties appreciated the knowledge tool (guidance document for the assessment of impacts, including modelling) and the in-session workshop conducted on the use and development of economic modelling tools. However, they raised the issue that given the complexity and data-demanding nature of the models, in-session training workshops are not

be able to provide the capacity, knowledge and know-how needed to effectively use modelling tools.

F. Effectiveness of the work programme in providing concrete examples, case studies and practices in order to enhance the capacity of Parties

35. Some Parties acknowledged the importance of, and the efforts made under the work programme in relation to, providing concrete examples, case studies and best practices to enhance the capacity of Parties.

36. Other Parties believe that very limited examples, case studies and practices have been shared. According to them, most of the shared case studies were skewed, focused on developed countries and did not address the policy issues of developing countries. These Parties further stated that as there are limited case studies and the work programme did not include developing case studies, including the assessment and analysis of measures relevant to developing countries, it was not effective or only partially effective in enhancing the capacity of developing country Parties to deal with the impact of the implementation of response measures.

37. A Party mentioned that the work programme has not focused on implementing Article 3, paragraph 5, of the Convention with regard to trade.

G. Facilitation of the provision of recommendations to the Conference of the Parties and the subsidiary bodies on specific actions

38. In their submission, some Parties stated that no specific recommendations had been made to COP 23 on measures to minimize negative impacts or maximize positive impacts as per the agreed work programme.

39. Some Parties indicated that the improved forum struggled to recommend specific actions to (1) enhance the capacity of Parties to deal with impacts and (2) assess minimization measures, and contributions to, dealing with the impact of implementing response measures. They mentioned the lack of assessment and analysis aimed at identifying and making recommendations and the hybrid technical–political nature of the discussions of the in-session forum not allowing for clear recommendations as probable causes.

40. Some Parties raised the concern that developed countries have prevented the improved forum from examining the work of the ad hoc technical expert group (TEG) in detail and making recommendations to the COP. The findings and recommendations of the TEG to the improved forum are yet to be taken up by the improved forum. Such recommendations need to be made at the forty-ninth sessions of the subsidiary bodies and be action oriented to achieve the desired results on the ground. They indicated that as a mandate under the existing work programme this is a function of the improved forum. A Party supporting this argument added that the principle of ‘no backsliding’ should apply in this context.

H. Views for further consideration

41. Most of the Party submissions included views for consideration on the improved forum’s future work programme.

42. Most of the Parties are of the view that there is a need to further explore and undertake a significant amount of work under the two existing work programme areas.

43. In this respect, some Parties expressed the need for more focused discussions within the two existing work programme areas on, for example, economic structures and within sectors (e.g. mining, fossil fuels, energy generation, industry, agriculture and transport).

44. Regarding economic diversification and transformation, some Parties proposed focusing on economic transformation and the socioeconomic impacts of divestment and stranded assets on developing countries, especially African countries.

45. Regarding just transition of the work force and the creation of decent work and quality jobs, some Parties mentioned that transition to a low-emission future represents both opportunities and challenges that vary by country. This requires just transition policies to be country driven and specific. Therefore, there is a need for international cooperation on sharing information, experience and best practices, and for more targeted and technical work in this area by the improved forum.

46. Some Parties indicated that the implementation of just transition should address the concerns of economies that have not peaked, have high unemployment rates and have to prioritize job creation and inclusive growth. The work programme should further explore the area of informing and supporting Parties in designing national policy frameworks with the aim of minimizing loss of employment while enhancing opportunities for the creation of decent work and quality jobs.

47. Another Party proposed the consideration of fossil fuel subsidy reform under the work programme area on just transition.

48. Some Parties mentioned that the future work programme of the improved forum must adequately address all the objectives and all the policy issues of concern, particularly to developing country Parties. This includes allocation of equal time, activities and resources to cover all objectives.

49. In this regard, some Parties proposed that the work programme include a work area that addresses Article 3 of the Convention: “Parties should cooperate to promote a supportive and open international economic system that would lead to sustainable economic growth and development in all Parties, particularly developing country Parties...Measures taken to combat climate change, including unilateral ones, should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade.”

50. A Party proposed that a work programme area focus on measures to minimize the impacts of the implementation of response measures. This could include the implementation, monitoring and verification of those provisions enjoining Parties to consider the specific needs and concerns of countries by minimizing the impacts of response measures.

51. Some Parties proposed reviewing and strengthening the guidelines on reporting by Parties on cross-border impacts.

52. In order to enhance the capacity of Parties and to consider the concerns of Parties with economies most affected by the impacts of response measures, particularly developing country Parties, and to recommend specific actions informed by the assessment and analysis of impacts, including the use and development of economic modelling, taking into account all relevant policy issues of concern, some Parties believe that the improved forum’s work programme should:

(a) Include a provision for the systematic examination of response measures to enhance the understanding of the systemic implications of response measures, particularly for developing countries;

(b) Provide adequate time and support at the international, regional and national levels to facilitate the assessment and analysis of the impact of the implementation of response measures with a view to recommending specific actions;

(c) Include a provision for developing case studies;

(d) Include a provision for undertaking assessment and analysis as well as cooperating with relevant external organizations and bodies to facilitate assessment and analysis, including modelling the impact of the implementation of response measures, in order to recommend specific actions on the socioeconomic consequences of response measures.

53. In this regard, a Party proposed that analyses be undertaken under the work programme, including:

(a) A review of national experiences through country case studies;

(b) A review of sectoral experiences through case studies in specific sectors (e.g. mining, fossil fuels, energy-intensive industries and agriculture). Some Parties are of the view that examples and case studies should cover the spectrum from in-country to cross-border assessments.

54. Some Parties indicated that the lessons learned from the assessments should also pave the way for addressing the gaps in capacity-building and implementation of measures to minimize the negative and maximize the positive impacts of the implementation of response measures.

55. In this regard, some Parties highlighted the need for capacity-building at the regional level for the assessment and analysis of impacts. They also proposed that awareness-raising be included in these regional training programmes.

V. Views on the effectiveness of the modalities of operation of the improved forum

56. Most of the Parties are of the view that that the current modalities of operation and structure of the improved forum are useful but could be enhanced further.

57. Some Parties think that the present work programme, which includes analytical work such as technical papers, interactive workshops and in-forum training, provides a good balance and the opportunity to understand the impacts of the implementation of response measures.

58. Some Parties are of the view that the current modalities need to be enhanced to meet the needs of all Parties, particularly developing country Parties, and to make the work of the improved forum more relevant.

59. A Party recommended that the number of agenda sub-items that have been held in abeyance for several years be closed in order to limit the amount of procedural discussions that occupy Party time and to encourage substantive discussions. This Party believes that Parties have come to an agreement on the continuation of a single forum to serve the Paris Agreement, and therefore that adding items is not necessary. A single joint subsidiary bodies agenda item dedicated to the work of the forum (a single forum on response measures that will serve the Paris Agreement, in accordance with the mandate in decision 1/CP.21, paras. 33 and 34) serving the Paris Agreement after the forty-ninth sessions of the subsidiary bodies would help to reduce procedural discussions and use Party time more effectively.

60. This Party also recommended that ways to promote the outputs of the improved forum to date be considered. Better organization of the existing response measures page on the UNFCCC website with links to the improved forum's outputs, including reports, presentations, technical papers and workshop summaries, would be a valuable contribution to the legacy and continuation of the forum. Consideration could also be given to highlighting relevant work conducted by other organizations relevant to the work programme, such as the work of the International Labour Organization (ILO) on just transition.

A. Technical papers

61. Parties confirmed that the preparation of technical papers was found to be a useful and helpful modality for the improved forum. Ensuring their accessibility on the UNFCCC website has also been seen as valuable in ensuring wide dissemination.

62. However, some Parties likened the technical papers to a literature review of the existing work and knowledge. They stated that this knowledge needs to be translated into actual case studies as the papers did not produce new information relevant to the functions of the improved forum.

63. Some Parties are of the view that experts, in collaboration with international organizations, need to conduct new assessments and research, covering more thematic areas with broader and more varied country contexts, as well as an analysis of cross-border impacts.

B. Submissions from Parties and organizations

64. All Parties agree that the submissions from Parties and observers have been a useful in highlighting their experience and views in a timely manner so as to advance the work of the improved forum.

65. However, some Parties raised the concern that the response of Parties, especially developing countries, and observer organizations to the call for submissions has been limited. This, they felt emphasizes the low level of awareness of and, in some cases, of knowledge about response measures.

66. Some Parties are of the view that awareness-raising and capacity-building must be part of the new work programme for better contributions, especially from developing countries.

C. Interactions with external experts and relevant institutions and organizations

67. Collaboration with relevant external experts and relevant institutions and organizations in the improved forum's work has been viewed by Parties as useful. Some Parties mentioned that the implementation of the work programme of the improved forum to date has demonstrated that a significant amount of relevant work has been undertaken by institutions and organizations related to the issues being discussed under the improved forum. A Party further noted that the experience under the current work programme also demonstrated that the technical expertise already exists in the improved forum.

68. Many Parties referred to the usefulness and added value of the cooperation with ILO. Some cited this cooperation as an example of how the engagement of external experts ensures that the forum's work is evidence-based and relevant. It also demonstrated how an external organization can help to achieve more robust, comprehensive and coherent solutions. These Parties stressed the need to investigate and strengthen synergies with other relevant expert organizations as the improved forum moves forward.

69. Some Parties mentioned the lack of participation of non-Party representatives over the last three years, noting that the participation of, for example, think tanks, academia, other United Nations bodies, civil society groups, labour union representatives and private sector entities can add value to the improved forum's discussions.

70. Some Parties cautioned that while the use of external inputs, including work done by other institutions and organizations active in the improved forum's work programme areas, should be encouraged and optimized, any potential overlaps and duplication of work undertaken in other forums should be avoided.

71. One Party also highlighted that the improved forum should also capitalize on the expertise of relevant bodies and processes under the Convention. For example, the forum could engage in the implementation of the gender action plan and with the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform to better access expertise on impacts on vulnerable and minority groups.

72. Some Parties recalled that when external experts and institutions had been engaged in the past, it was observed that they had not been properly inducted into the issue of response measures under the Convention and the scope of the improved forum. They suggested that for the future there is a need for the improved forum to develop briefing notes or background information for the invited experts. The improved forum should develop knowledge products like fact sheets, policy briefs and frequently asked questions on response measures that can also be shared with prospective presenters.

73. In its submission, the observer organization stated that the interaction with negotiators and other climate constituencies in sharing views and experience on economic diversification and transformation, just transition of the work force and the creation of decent work and quality jobs, in the context of sustainable development, has been extremely valuable. It

reiterated its readiness to further contribute to, and support the work of, Parties in assessing and understanding the impact of response measures, including cross-border impacts.

74. In addition, the organization requested Parties to consider ways to enhance synergy with processes and engagement with actors in the world of work, including ministries of labour, workers' and employers' organizations that have the capacity to provide solutions to address possible adverse impacts of the transformation to low-carbon economies on employment and incomes. It further mentioned that the ILO "Guidelines for a just transition towards environmentally sustainable economies and societies for all" offer a valuable set of policies to support Parties. Furthermore, it highlighted just transition councils as a means to provide advice and promote consensus-building on just transition pathways.

D. Workshops

75. Most of the Parties were of the opinion that workshops were effective. They emphasized that the two workshops under the improved forum provided useful opportunities for Parties to learn about economic modelling and engage in substantive conversations.

76. Some Parties expressed the opinion that the workshops need to be held outside the subsidiary bodies' sessions and comprise more focused and action-oriented activities targeting specific sectors. Scheduling meetings of the improved forum only during the sessions of the COP and the subsidiary bodies hinders the advancement of technical work and provides limited opportunity for technical engagement. Other Parties backed this statement by noting that in-session training workshops are challenging, limit participation of the right audience and do not allow for adequate training time and capacity-building. They also stated that the topics were packed for the time available and there was no time for hands-on training or break-out groups for adequate skill transfer.

77. These Parties furthermore proposed that the training workshops be held regionally and bring together the appropriate audience, and that adequate time be allocated for skill transfer and hands-on training. According to them, this is not possible during the sessions, when the focus is on political issues and there is limited time to negotiate these issues.

78. A Party referred to the several regional workshops that were not included in the original list of activities but were organized under the auspices of the improved forum. The Party indicated that organizing these workshops outside the sessions of the subsidiary bodies did not lead to a broad participation of Parties.

79. A Party stated that to preserve the Party-driven nature of the process under the Convention, it is imperative that any workshops convened under or in relation to the improved forum be mandated on a consensus basis by Parties under the improved forum to ensure that the workshops are inclusive and that the work is focused on areas of consensus.

80. In addition, some Parties mentioned the need to increase the number case studies from developing countries and thereby of concrete and relevant examples at the workshops.

E. Ad hoc technical expert group

81. Most of the Parties agree on the need to engage in technical work. Many Parties are of the opinion that the TEG is an important feature of the improved forum. During the three-year work programme, the TEG met for two days, in session.

82. Some Parties mentioned that the TEG meeting allowed for more dedicated and independent discussions that were helpful in identifying gaps and enhanced the ability of the improved forum to identify issues for an improved, results-oriented work programme. Therefore, the usefulness of the TEG in promoting technical analysis and discussions cannot be disputed.

83. A Party indicated that in-forum technical work can also draw on the key findings of the TEG. However, it will be important not to duplicate or distract from the in-forum work once under way.

84. Another Party is of the view that the TEG modality is underutilized and noted the need to put in place a system or work programme for the systematic review of response measures so as to identify and quantify their impacts on Parties, particularly developing country Parties. The improved forum's work programme must be strengthened to take technical work into consideration with a view to developing recommendations.

85. In contrast, a Party stated that the TEG was an experiment in finding a home for technical and substantive discussions. However, it proved difficult to ensure that a wide variety of perspectives were included in discussions given that the format limited the participation of experts. According to this Party's view, focused and inclusive in-forum discussions were much more useful in elaborating on the technical work of the improved forum.

86. Some Parties think that most of the experience shared by developed countries highlighted a strong focus on assessing the domestic impacts of climate action measures and not the transboundary ones. Therefore, a future work programme must consider how the TEG can define policy issues that are of interest to developing countries and which would inform further technical work.

87. Some Parties are of the view that the improved forum, as the forum serving the Paris Agreement, could be strengthened in such a way as to serve as a contact group deliberating on and making recommendations and implementing decisions on the basis of the technical outputs of the TEG. These Parties believe that the independent technical work done by the TEG as an input to the forum is the most effective way to deliver an enhanced, action-oriented and focused work programme. They are of the opinion that:

- (a) The TEG should be established as a permanent body to lead the technical work;
- (b) The TEG would be under the forum and be considered as the technical arm of the forum;
- (c) The function of the TEG would be to produce technical guidance and provide recommendations to the forum;
- (d) Like other UNFCCC bodies, the TEG should be allowed to draw up its long-term workplan;
- (e) In its independent meetings, the TEG would be expected to invite relevant organizations as participants or observers so to enrich the discussions;
- (f) The TEG should not be constrained to meeting only during the sessions of the COP and the subsidiary bodies, but should be given the flexibility to hold intersessional meetings.

F. In-forum discussions as contact group

88. Most of the Parties indicated that the improved forum operating as a contact group has helped to consolidate broad discussions and foster a better understanding of response measures by all. This has drawn greater attention to response measures and increased its prominence in the UNFCCC process.

89. Several Parties raised the concern that limited time for the meetings of the contact groups in session hindered progress on technical work of interest to Parties, especially developing countries. Limited time, along with a limited level of participation of the right professionals and a limited number of in-session meetings during the improved forum, is not an efficient and effective way to achieve the objectives of the improved forum and its work programme. A Party also noted that usually less time is allocated for contact groups on response measures than for other agenda items of the subsidiary bodies, and that there should be parity in the future.

90. Other Parties are of the view that the workshops and other activities taking place in conjunction with the sessions of the subsidiary bodies ensured inclusive participation of Parties and stakeholders present at those sessions. Such scheduling of the activities of the improved forum furthermore fosters a diverse exchange of views and enables Parties and

other stakeholders to benefit equally from, and maximize the effect of, the work of the improved forum.

91. Some Parties stated that the in-forum discussions need to focus on identifying the areas of work that can better inform policy decisions and produce recommendations for specific actions to the COP. According to them, the detailed technical work needs to be done by the TEG or relevant experts, with regional balance ensured in order to reflect challenges from various regions.

G. Review of the work of the improved forum

92. All Parties believe that the review of the work of the improved forum is important for objectively identifying achievements and identifying and addressing areas of underperformance of the improved forum and of work that still has to be done, and for factually reflecting on its performance and value.

93. Some Parties are of the view that the future improved forum's work programme should be regularly reviewed in order to guarantee that the areas of focus continue to be of interest to all Parties.

94. A Party noted that the review should be carried out every three years.

95. Another Party believes that aligning reviews with the completion of the work programme activities can help to ensure that the work remains relevant and useful to Parties.

VI. Summary

96. Parties have observed significant improvement in the improved forum's work programme compared with the forum's work programme that was established under decision 8/CP.17 and that focused on eight areas.

97. Parties views diverge notably in relation to the work programme areas, scheduling of activities under the work programme and the role of the TEG.

98. Many proposals have been made regarding the development of the future work programme. These include: the continuation and further expansion of work in the existing two work areas; consideration of international trade; assessment and analysis of cross-border impacts, specifically impacts on developing countries; development of case studies considering country circumstances, specifically developing country circumstances; building the awareness and capacity of developing countries with regard to the analysis, assessment and mitigation of the negative impacts of the implementation of response measures.

99. Some Parties have expressed concern that no recommendations were made to COP 23 as per the agreed work programme and urged that recommendations be made to COP 24.

100. Parties found that the modalities of the improved forum have been useful. However, some Parties raised issues with the use of these modalities in pursuing the objectives of the improved forum.
