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**THIRD ASSESSMENT REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL
ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

**SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF IMPACTS OF, AND
VULNERABILITY AND ADAPTATION TO, CLIMATE CHANGE**

SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF MITIGATION

**Synthesis of views submitted by Parties on the aspects of the Third Assessment Report that could
facilitate the work of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies**

Note by the secretariat*

Summary

The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), at its sixteenth session, agreed that in general the Third Assessment Report (TAR) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change should be used routinely as a reference for deliberations on agenda items of the Conference of the Parties (COP) and its subsidiary bodies. In addition, the SBSTA identified new areas which could be considered regularly by the SBSTA, and a number of other issues relating to the consideration of the TAR. The SBSTA invited Parties to submit their views on issues covered in these conclusions and requested the secretariat to prepare a synthesis of the submissions to facilitate further consideration of these issues at its eighteenth session.

This note contains a synthesis of views submitted by seven Parties on how the TAR should be considered in the ongoing work of the COP and its subsidiary bodies, how other topics and issues could be addressed, and what actions might be undertaken in this regard. Parties may wish to consider the information in this note and identify further actions in relation to the use of the TAR for facilitating the work of the COP and its subsidiary bodies.

* The submission of this document was delayed because necessary information could not be obtained within the deadline.

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. Mandate

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), at its sixteenth session, agreed that the Third Assessment Report (TAR) of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) should be used routinely as a reference for providing information for deliberations on agenda items of the Conference of the Parties (COP) and its subsidiary bodies.

2. In addition, the SBSTA identified three areas which could be considered regularly by the SBSTA, taking into account relevant agenda items, the workload of the SBSTA, available resources, and the need to avoid duplication: research and systematic observation; scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of impacts of, and vulnerability and adaptation to, climate change; and scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of mitigation. The SBSTA also noted that there were many different aspects to the issues pertaining to the objective and relevant provisions of the Convention, and that some exploration of an integrated approach to mitigation and adaptation could be useful.

3. The SBSTA invited Parties to submit, by 31 January 2003, their views, for compilation into a miscellaneous document, on issues covered in these conclusions and on the aspects of the TAR that could help facilitate further consideration of the agenda items of the COP and its subsidiary bodies. The SBSTA decided to consider the submissions at its eighteenth session, and requested the secretariat to prepare a synthesis of the submissions to facilitate further consideration of these issues, also at its eighteenth session, with a view to recommending a draft decision on these matters to the COP for adoption at its ninth session.

B. Scope of the note and approach to the synthesis of information

4. This document contains a synthesis of views submitted as of 15 March 2003 from Canada; China; Denmark on behalf of the European Community and of Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia; Japan; New Zealand; Switzerland; and the United States of America. The submissions from these Parties are contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2003/MISC.2.

5. In their submissions, Parties identified a broad range of topics, put forward ideas on how these topics may be taken up by the SBSTA, and suggested work that may be required from the Parties, the IPCC, the scientific community, international organizations and the secretariat. Some Parties clearly identified "new topics" to be considered by the subsidiary bodies, and/or proposed inputs to the ongoing work of the SBSTA or the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI); others explored topics without indicating how they should be taken up by the subsidiary bodies.

6. In this note, chapter II presents a synthesis of views on how the TAR could be considered in the ongoing work of the COP and its subsidiary bodies, and some examples of issues relating to ongoing work under the existing agenda. Sections III A and B provide a summary of views on two of the specific topics noted in the conclusions of the sixteenth session of the SBSTA, namely: scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of impacts of, and vulnerability and adaptation to, climate change; and scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of mitigation; section III C presents a synthesis of views on other topics and related possible actions. It should be noted that Parties explored similar issues under different topics and heading and therefore some aspects of these additional topics, where relevant, are also presented in the context of ongoing work (section II), and of scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of, and vulnerability and adaptation to, climate change, and scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of mitigation (sections III A and B).

C. Possible action by the SBSTA

7. The SBSTA may wish to take note of this document, and of document FCCC/SBSTA/2003/MISC.2, and consider the following questions:

(a) Does the SBSTA wish to consider the issues and topics identified in this document in the context of other issues under consideration by the SBSTA and/or initiate new activities, taking into account the ongoing work on methodologies¹ and the need to streamline the agendas of the subsidiary bodies noted in this and other UNFCCC documents?²

(b) Should additional information be developed on the issues and topics identified in this document, and if so, how should be this done? Is there a need for a work programme?

8. The SBSTA may also wish:

(a) To consider how to conduct any further work on this matter, taking into account possible actions proposed by Parties and presented in this document;

(b) To identify any topics that need to be referred to the SBI for consideration;

(c) To identify issues that need to be forwarded to the COP for a decision at its ninth session.

II. SYNTHESIS OF VIEWS ON THE USE OF THE TAR IN THE ONGOING WORK OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES AND ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES

A. Process of consideration

9. All Parties supported the view that information in the TAR should be used in the discussion on many of the current agenda items of the COP and its subsidiary bodies. Canada, the European Community and New Zealand proposed that a process be established whereby the TAR can be routinely considered. The European Community and New Zealand proposed that the secretariat organize question and answer side events with participation of the IPCC to consider in detail aspects of the TAR that could be helpful in deliberations on specific agenda items.

10. New Zealand and Switzerland recommended that the secretariat, when preparing the annotated agendas and other UNFCCC documents, refer to specific information in the TAR that is relevant to agenda items. New Zealand provided a detailed analysis of chapters and findings of the TAR that could be useful for specific agenda items.

11. Several Parties identified specific agenda items and information in the TAR that should be taken into account, and suggested actions that should be undertaken in this regard. Below are the examples of the issues and related actions under existing agenda items noted in the submissions.

B. Research and systematic observation

Summary of issues

12. All Parties welcomed the consideration of research and systematic observation under a separate item on the agenda of the SBSTA, and consideration of the research related issues at the seventeenth

¹ On this matter, Parties may wish to refer to document FCCC/SBSTA/2003/INF.1.

² Many Parties noted the length and complexity of the agendas of the subsidiary bodies, and the need to streamline them (see FCCC/SBI/2003/2, para. 24).

session of the SBSTA. Canada, Japan, Switzerland and the United States view the role of the SBSTA in promoting dialogue between experts of different disciplines, IPCC and Parties, and identifying gaps in existing information and priorities for research.

13. Switzerland presented views on the relationship between the SBSTA, IPCC and research and observing organizations. China listed specific scientific issues where further research and assessments by the IPCC are needed, including the causes of climate change, key processes and feedbacks in the climate system, and future projections of climate change.

14. On systematic observation, all Parties reiterated the importance of the work of the SBSTA in relation to the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS). Some Parties highlighted that consideration of the second report on the adequacy of global observing systems for climate should provide an opportunity at COP 9 to identify collective action to improve these systems. China, Japan and Switzerland stressed that these improvements, together with capacity-building in developing countries, are essential for detection and attribution of climate change, projections of atmospheric CO₂ and modelling activities. Parties also highlighted the importance of engaging developing country scientists in climate change research and observation efforts, and of their participation in the integrated global observing strategy.

Possible actions

15. Canada, the European Community, Canada, Japan and Switzerland suggested that the SBSTA at its future sessions should solicit further responses from the scientific community on activities in relation to the research priorities identified in documents FCCC/SBSTA/2002/INF.17 and FCCC/SBSTA/2002/MISC.15 and Add.1.

16. Switzerland proposed that the secretariat, in consultation with the relevant research and observation organizations and with the IPCC, compile a catalogue of current major research programmes on climate change to facilitate consideration by the SBSTA of how these research programmes respond to the needs identified by the IPCC and the UNFCCC.

17. Japan proposed that the SBSTA recommend a draft decision to the COP at its ninth session which should, inter alia, identify priority scientific issues and request the IPCC to further elaborate these issues in its Fourth Assessment Report due in 2007.

C. Technology transfer

Summary of issues

18. Most Parties referred to the issues relating to technologies and technology transfer when considering technical aspects of mitigation and adaptation. Their view was that in general the work on technology transfer should be built on the information in the IPCC *Special Report on Methodological and Technological Issues in Technology Transfer* and the TAR.

19. China indicated that further work by the IPCC is needed to give more focus on the demand for technologies in developing countries and on mechanisms for technology transfer under the UNFCCC. Japan noted that more consideration should be given to how specific technologies can contribute to reductions in emissions and sustainable development in Annex I and non-Annex I Parties. The United States highlighted the importance of research, development and diffusions of technologies. Canada and New Zealand suggested that the concepts of adaptive and mitigative capacity, put forth in the TAR as a means to better target capacity-building efforts, including financial and technological resources, is relevant to work on technology transfer.

Possible actions

20. Canada recommended that the issue of the adaptive and mitigative capacity should be taken up in the work of the Expert Group on Technology Transfer (EGTT) on technology needs assessment and enabling environments. Canada proposed that a compilation and synthesis of information from national communications on potential factors and constraints influencing adaptive capacity should be prepared to facilitate consideration of this issue. It also suggested that the SBSTA, through the EGTT, should provide further guidance to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as it completes its handbook on methodologies for technology needs assessments, so as to ensure the development of the handbook as the appropriate tool for needs assessment.

D. Matters relating to national communications

Summary of issues

21. Canada, Japan and New Zealand referred to the issue of availability and dissemination of data and information, in the context of reporting under the UNFCCC. Canada and Japan stressed the importance of national data and information for consideration of climate change actions, and noted that the COP and its subsidiary bodies are in a unique position to collect data and information through national communications.

Possible actions

22. Parties suggested that the SBI should continue to strengthen its efforts to ensure that national communications are submitted in a timely manner and to promote the improvement of national communications from Annex I and non-Annex I Parties. Japan stated that a reliable database on national circumstances of each country is extremely important in providing a basis for any consideration of climate change actions. It was also stressed that the secretariat should make every effort to synthesize and make available information in national communications and in any other reports provided by Parties.

23. Canada suggested that the SBSTA should seek to identify what data and information are needed to support the work of the COP and its subsidiary bodies, and then request the secretariat to prepare reports based on national communications, reviews of national communications, national adaptation plans of actions, and other relevant sources that assess the data needed to support such work. Canada and New Zealand noted the need to compile information on a number of specific topics, such as research activities and gaps in understanding climate processes, and regional climate change; impacts and mitigation options; adaptive and mitigative capacity and their factors; and issues relating to funding for adaptation.

E. Policies and measures

Summary of issues

24. Most Parties referred to policies and measures when considering scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of mitigation. New Zealand specified information in the TAR that should be taken into account in further deliberations of this agenda item. The United States suggested that all issues relating to mitigation should be addressed by the SBSTA under the existing SBSTA agenda item on policies and measures, in order to minimize overlap or duplication of efforts in different agenda items.

Possible actions

25. The United States proposed that the scope of work under the SBSTA agenda item on policies and measures be extended by including three new areas of focus for such work: research, development and

diffusion of technologies to address climate change; climate change mitigation and sustainable development; and future work on aerosols (see also paragraphs 66–67 below).

F. Implementation of Article 4, paragraphs 8 and 9, of the Convention

Summary of issues

26. New Zealand and the United States noted the information in the TAR relevant to Article 4, paragraphs 8 and 9, of the Convention. New Zealand noted information and references in the TAR relating to both aspects of these paragraphs of the Convention, namely adverse effects of climate change and impacts of response measures. The United States noted that many scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of adaptation were addressed in decision 5/CP.7 on these paragraphs of the Convention.

Possible actions

27. The United States suggested that all aspects of the work under this agenda item that relate to scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of adaptation should be dealt with by the SBSTA.

G. Methodological issues³

Summary of issues

28. Several Parties noted issues relevant to the existing methodological work under the Convention. These include methods and tools for assessment of climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation, and crosscutting methodological issues. In addition, New Zealand identified information in the TAR that could feed discussion on the SBSTA agenda sub-item on scientific and methodological assessment of contributions to climate change, proposed by Brazil.

29. Canada, China and New Zealand suggested that the SBSTA should play an active role in assessing, disseminating, promoting and facilitating the development of methods and tools for assessment of climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation. These Parties, together with the European Community and the United States, noted important elements for such assessments including development of socio-economic scenarios, assessments of risk, costs of damages, cost of adaptation options and integrated impact assessments.

30. Canada, China and the United States stressed that an important priority for the SBSTA should be to address methods to assess vulnerability and adaptive capacity. China highlighted that promoting testing of regional and global climate and impact models is an important activity for improving assessments of climate change impacts and adaptation.

31. Several Parties noted that the work of the SBSTA on methodologies is relevant to the work of the IPCC to generate global scenarios for climate impact assessment; to the work of UNDP on an adaptation policy framework; and to work by other international organizations. It was also proposed that the IPCC should provide further information on a number of issues relating to adaptation to climate change and its relation to adaptation to climate variability.

Possible actions

32. Canada proposed several specific actions in relation to methods and tools to assess impacts and adaptation. It suggested that the SBSTA invite the IPCC Task Group on Scenarios for Climate and

³ Several topics relating to methodologies are explored also in section III C.

Impacts Assessment (TG CIA) to present its work and explore how this work contributes to vulnerability assessment. It also noted that the SBSTA should further promote testing and refinement of comparable methodologies for establishing adaptation policy frameworks to be used by Parties in developing their national climate change strategies. UNDP and other organizations should be invited to the up-coming UNFCCC workshops on methods, in order to discuss the methodologies to assess vulnerability and adaptive capacity and integrate climate change concerns into medium- and long-term planning.

33. In relation to an approach to methodological work in general, Canada and the European Community suggested that the SBSTA should establish a process for assessment of cross-cutting issues to bring the scientific, policy-making and other relevant communities together to develop a shared understanding of the issues. The SBSTA should promote targeted research and modelling to produce comparable results to move emerging cross-cutting issues forward, as in case with work on the Brazilian proposal.

III. SYNTHESIS OF VIEWS ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION, AND ON OTHER TOPICS

34. Six Parties submitted views on the two topics identified in the conclusions of the SBSTA at its sixteenth session: scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of impacts of, and vulnerability and adaptation to, climate change; and scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of mitigation. China, the European Community and the United States (for the first topic) identified issues that should be considered under each topic.

35. Canada and New Zealand explored several issues relevant to scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of mitigation and adaptation in the context of other cross-cutting topics such as costs and benefits of climate policy, adaptive and mitigative capacities, risk management and risk assessments, and the adaptation and mitigation framework, and others presented in section C below. Japan submitted its view as a proposed draft decision on the TAR for recommendation to the COP at its ninth session.

36. Some Parties also suggested some specific actions by the SBSTA and others indicated that issues should be “addressed” or “considered”, without specifying any actions.

A. Scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of impacts of, and vulnerability and adaptation to, climate change

Summary of issues

37. Issues identified by the Parties relating to scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of impacts of, and vulnerability and adaptation to, climate change are listed below. Issues relating to methodologies, which are a subset of the first group, are considered in more detail in paragraphs 28–33 above.

38. Issues and topics relating to scientific and technical aspects include:

- (a) Improved projections of regional climate including extreme events (China, European Community, Japan);
- (b) Socio-economic scenarios for assessments of climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation (Canada, China, European Community, Japan);
- (c) Assessments of impacts, risks and key vulnerabilities including at different stabilization levels (Canada, European Community, New Zealand, United States);

- (d) Integrated assessment of impacts (Canada, China);
 - (e) Assessment of adaptation options by sector (European Community);
 - (f) Technologies for adaptation and technology transfer (Canada, China, Japan, United States);
 - (g) Adaptation policy frameworks (China, Canada);
 - (h) Methodologies and tools for assessment of vulnerability, adaptation and adaptive capacities (Canada, China, European Community, New Zealand);
 - (i) Risk assessment techniques to assess vulnerability and adaptation (Canada, China, European Community, New Zealand).
39. Issues and topics relating to socio-economic aspects include:
- (a) Adaptation in the context of sustainable development (Canada, China, European Community, Japan, New Zealand, United States);
 - (b) Stimuli to and constraints on adaptation (European Community, United States);
 - (c) Costs of damages and evaluations of the additional cost, including capital requirements, to implement adaptation measures (China, European Community, Japan);
 - (d) Role of non-climatic factors in adaptation choices/decision-making (Canada, China, United States);
 - (e) Development planning and adaptation, experiences and conditions in different countries (United States);
 - (f) Process of decision-making on adaptation at various decision-making levels (United States);
 - (g) National adaptive capacities (Canada, China, United States).

Possible actions

40. The European Community, Japan and the United States noted that it would be appropriate to initiate a standing agenda item on this topic. The United States also suggested that a number of aspects of the SBI agenda item on Article 4, paragraphs 8 and 9, that deal with scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of adaptation should be dealt with under this SBSTA agenda item.

41. Canada, China, the European Community and the United States suggested that such an agenda item would promote and facilitate the exchange of information and dissemination of methods that would assist in the effective implementation of adaptation measures. As a next step, Parties propose considering a scope of the work for this agenda item. To facilitate this consideration Canada and the European Community suggested organizing special events with participation by the IPCC and other organizations and international programmes.

42. Parties also pointed out that the SBSTA should work more closely with intergovernmental organizations that address current weather-related hazards, disaster reduction, and other related matters. Parties noted several issues where further work by the IPCC and the scientific community should be invited, including the relationship between adaptation and sustainable development. China noted that it

is necessary to strengthen scientific research and capacity-building relating to climate change impacts and adaptation.

B. Scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of mitigation

Summary of issues

43. Issues relating to the scientific and technical aspects of mitigation include:

(a) Mitigation assessment and its components, such as socio-economic impact analysis, analysis of case studies from developing countries, and mitigative capacities (Canada, China, European Community);

(b) Methodologies to assess specific technologies and measures in Annex I and non-Annex I Parties (Canada, China, Japan);

(c) Technological options to reduce emissions; timing of technological innovation, research, development and diffusion of technologies (China, European Community, Japan, United States);

(d) The demand for technologies in developing countries and mechanisms for technology transfer under the UNFCCC (China);

(e) Potential of biological mitigation (Canada);

(f) Development of a mitigation policy framework as a means of synthesizing a range of pertinent information and evaluating the effectiveness of national mitigation strategies (Canada);

(g) Consideration of aerosols in the mitigation strategies (United States).

44. Issues relating to socio-economic aspect of mitigation include:

(a) Policies and measures, including flexible market-based mechanisms and fiscal measures (European Community, Japan);

(b) Costs of mitigation, including low/negative costs measures (Canada, European Community);

(c) Ancillary benefits, including reduction of air pollution (China, European Community);

(d) Mitigation policy and sustainable development (Canada, China, European Community, United States);

(e) Timing of emissions reductions taking into account inertia in socio-economic systems (Canada, China, Japan);

(f) Mitigative capacities in developing countries (Canada, China, Japan);

(g) Mitigation policy and equity issues, including energy security, economic impacts of mitigation measures on developing countries, and consideration of economic development in formulating climate mitigation policies (China).

Possible actions

The European Community and Japan proposed that this should be a separate item on the agenda of the SBSTA. The United States argued that all issues relating to mitigation should be handled under the existing agenda item on policies and measures.

45. Canada, China, the European Community and the United States suggested that the SBSTA should focus on the dissemination and exchange of information, and on promoting the research and methods relating to the above issues. The European Community suggested developing a work programme, and as a first step organizing a side event with participation of the IPCC, practitioners, experts and representatives of Parties to share experiences on mitigation. Canada, China and Japan noted that the SBSTA might also invite further assessments by the IPCC on some of the issues identified above.

C. Other topics**1. Integrated approach to mitigation and adaptation***Summary of issues*

46. Several Parties referred to the conclusions of the SBSTA at its sixteenth session on the importance of an integrated approach to mitigation and adaptation. Canada and the European Community suggested that this topic should cover scientific, technical and socio-economic aspects of stabilization options. Canada also noted the importance of an integrated approach to the assessment of costs and benefits of climate policy. Japan noted that integrated approaches are needed for the consideration of future commitments.

Possible actions

47. The European Community proposed that a new agenda item be set up, and that a work programme be developed for this agenda item. It proposed that a special side event could be held at SBSTA 19 to initiate discussions. Canada suggested that the SBSTA should promote further research on this topic. All submitting Parties highlighted the need to promote an interdisciplinary approach, and to consider possible synergies with the work of other United Nations programmes and organizations.

2. The ultimate objective of the Convention*Summary of issues*

48. A few Parties referred to the ultimate objective of the Convention. The European Community noted that developing a shared understanding of this topic will be complex and will take time. New Zealand recalled that the TAR contains sufficient information on climate change impacts of various stabilization levels of greenhouse gases, including possibly dangerous impacts in the context of Article 2 and irreversible impacts occurring over very long time scales.

49. Japan highlighted the importance of exploring practical approaches towards the ultimate objective of the Convention. It referred to the TAR findings, and noted that early action would help in moving towards stabilization of concentrations of atmospheric greenhouse gases even under the existing level of scientific uncertainties.

Possible actions

50. New Zealand proposed that the SBSTA initiate a regular discussion on the implications of the climate change impacts of various stabilization levels on different regions and the world as a whole. It considered that such discussions would enable the COP to move forward in assessing what impacts of

climate change might be called “dangerous” in the context of Article 2, and to facilitate agreement on desirable maximum concentrations of greenhouse gases.

51. The European Community suggested that discussions on issues relating to the ultimate objective of the Convention should have an exploratory nature and be undertaken in conjunction with other work of the SBSTA emerging from the consideration of the TAR.

52. Japan suggested that the COP and its subsidiary bodies promote scientific and technical work to secure more efficient and effective worldwide reductions in greenhouse gases to meet the ultimate objective of the Convention.

3. The Kyoto Protocol and a second commitment period

Summary of issues

53. China indicated that new conditions, such as non-participation in the Kyoto Protocol by the United States and substantial increases in use of carbon sinks under the Marrakesh Accords,⁴ might cause the greenhouse gas reduction target stipulated in the Kyoto Protocol to be reconsidered. China posed a number of questions regarding effects on the Kyoto Protocol which warrant future research and assessment by the IPCC.

54. On the matter of future commitments, China noted the need for sufficient resources under the Kyoto Protocol to meet the needs for climate change adaptation in developing countries. It suggested that it would be necessary to expand the amount and sources of capital and resources for the climate change adaptation fund under the Kyoto protocol.

55. Japan referred to the information in the TAR on different mitigation scenarios and information on possible different mitigation strategies that support the objectives of efficiency and equity. It suggested that this information, along with the Delhi Ministerial Declarations,⁵ confirms that reduction of greenhouse gases should be a high priority for Annex I and non-Annex I Parties, and that actions should be taken at a political level to consider new reduction targets. Japan further argued that in the framework of work on future commitments more action would be required on adaptation to complement mitigation measures. This action should be based on new knowledge of climate change at the regional and national level, and on projected costs of damages.

Possible actions

56. Japan proposed that the COP and its subsidiary bodies should initiate a process for considering mitigation actions beyond 2012, suggesting that the subsidiary bodies carefully examine information in the TAR when considering the future international regime. It further suggested that the COP and its subsidiary bodies should promote scientific and technical work that contributes to the development of such future mitigation actions.

57. China indicated that further research and assessment on the effects of the Kyoto Protocol should be encouraged. It suggested that the adaptation fund should be a matter for future consideration relating to the Protocol.

⁴ FCCC/CP/2001/13/Add.1-3.

⁵ FCCC/CP/2002/7/Add.1.

4. Mainstreaming climate change and development policy

Summary of issues

58. Canada, China, the European Community, Japan, New Zealand and the United States recalled findings in the TAR that climate change policies may influence sustainable development, and that development choices may influence greenhouse gas emissions from countries, and their ability to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change. China and Japan noted that the current level of knowledge did not allow the TAR to explore synergies between climate policies and sustainable development in full, and that more assessment and research are needed.

Possible actions

59. All Parties agreed that the consideration of mainstreaming climate policy with development policy should be given higher priority in the SBSTA. This work should incorporate consideration of adaptive and mitigative capacities, and policies and measures to enhance those capacities.

60. The United States believed this should be undertaken in the context of facilitating the exchange of information on existing agenda items. New Zealand considered that the issue of the relationship between climate change and sustainable development should be a new item for consideration by the SBSTA. Canada suggested that consideration of sustainable development issues should focus on synergies between climate and non-climate policies. More cooperation with intergovernmental organizations such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the International Energy Agency, UNDP, the World Trade Organization, and the World Bank was also deemed important.

5. International agreement on adaptation

Summary of issues

61. China recalled the findings in the TAR that adaptation is a necessary strategy at all scales to complement climate change mitigation efforts. It noted that the international community has undertaken a substantial amount of work on mitigation and has negotiated the Kyoto Protocol. China stated that in a similar fashion to mitigation, adaptation requires not only national efforts, but also a global consensus.

Possible actions

62. China proposed that the need for an international agreement on climate change adaptation be considered at future sessions of the COP and its subsidiary bodies.

6. Risk management and risk assessment

Summary of issues

63. Canada and New Zealand recalled that the TAR outlines a range of cost-benefit estimation techniques applicable to adaptation and/or mitigation, including those that account for non-market goods and environmental services. These techniques form ingredients for developing relevant risk assessment and risk management tools to enable rational decision-making under condition of scientific uncertainty.

Possible actions

64. The two Parties suggested that the SBSTA should initiate work to make use of existing, and promote the development of new, risk assessment and risk management methods and tools that would assist Parties in adaptation and mitigation at a national or project level.

7. Aerosols

Summary of issues

65. The United States indicated that it is increasingly clear that addressing aerosols can and should be an important component of an overall climate change mitigation strategy, with considerable co-benefits for human health and the environment.

Possible actions

66. The United States proposed that the SBSTA begin to look at effective actions for addressing aerosols in the context of its work on policies and measures.
