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Twenty-fourth session

Bonn, 18–26 May 2006

Agenda item 5

Research and systematic observation

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Draft conclusions proposed by the Chair

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) took note of document FCCC/SBSTA/2006/MISC.3 and Add.1 containing views from Parties on identified research needs and priorities relating to the Convention, including information relating to the enhancement of the capacity of developing countries to contribute to and participate in climate change research. It also took note of document FCCC/SBSTA/2006/INF.2 containing a synthesis on research needs and priorities relating to the Convention identified in the above-mentioned document, in documents FCCC/SBSTA/2002/INF.17 and FCCC/SBSTA/2005/3, in national communications, and in the Third Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).
2. The SBSTA expressed its appreciation to the regional and international climate change research programmes for the information provided during the special side event on research needs relating to the Convention held during its twenty-fourth session.
3. The SBSTA noted the information provided¹ by these programmes on their current activities to address the research needs of the Convention, including ongoing efforts to enhance the capacity and participation of developing countries in climate change research.
4. In this regard, and as reflected in decision 9/CP.11, the SBSTA invited these programmes to provide, together or separately, to the SBSTA, before its twenty-fifth session (November 2006), a short summary report or reports drawing on the above-mentioned special side event, including identification of any gaps in their research programmes with respect to the research needs of the Convention, as viewed by Parties, for example in document FCCC/SBSTA/2006/INF.2, and considering options for addressing these needs.

¹ The presentations provided by the regional and international research programmes can be found on the UNFCCC website at: <http://unfccc.int/methods_and_science/research_and_systematic_observation/items/3461.php>.

5. Recognizing the important role that regional networks can play, and are playing, in the Americas and the Asia-Pacific in strengthening engagement of developing countries in climate change research, the SBSTA noted with appreciation the ongoing efforts to establish a regional climate change research network for Africa, and encouraged Parties to support and further develop these regional networks.
6. The SBSTA recognized the importance of improving the quality, availability and exchange of data from systematic observation and their integration into data sets appropriate for research activities. The SBSTA recalled the need for all Parties to continue supporting and strengthening systematic observation.
7. The SBSTA noted the continued need to improve communication of scientific information on climate change to policymakers and the general public.
8. The SBSTA also noted the need for enhancing two-way communication and cooperation between the Parties and regional and international research programmes to meet the research needs of the Convention.
9. The SBSTA agreed to explore how it might facilitate a more effective dialogue between Parties and the regional and international climate change research programmes, in the context of decision 9/CP.11. The SBSTA invited Parties and these programmes to submit to the secretariat, by 23 February 2007, their views on this subject, for consideration by the SBSTA at its twenty-sixth session (May 2007). To further facilitate the development of the dialogue, the SBSTA asked the secretariat to organize a meeting for an informal discussion among Parties at the twenty-sixth session of the SBSTA and to invite the representatives of these programmes and the IPCC to participate. The SBSTA noted that consideration should be given, inter alia, to holding a workshop by or during the twenty-eighth session of the SBSTA (June 2008) to facilitate an in-depth exchange of views on the research needs of the Convention.

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