



Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

Thirty-seventh session

Doha, 26 November to 1 December 2012

Agenda item 5

Methodological guidance for activities relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries

Methodological guidance for activities relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries

Draft conclusions proposed by the Chair

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) continued its consideration of methodological guidance relating to modalities for a national forest monitoring system as referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 71(c), and for measuring, reporting and verifying as referred to in decision 1/CP.16, appendix II, paragraph (c).
2. The SBSTA agreed to continue its work on methodological guidance relating to modalities for a national forest monitoring system as referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 71(c), and for measuring, reporting and verifying, as referred to in decision 1/CP.16, appendix II, paragraph (c), on the basis of the annex containing elements for a possible draft decision on these matters, with the aim of completing this work at its thirty-ninth session and preparing any recommendations for a draft decision on these matters for consideration and adoption by the Conference of the Parties (COP) at its nineteenth session.
3. The SBSTA agreed to resume, at its thirty-eighth session, its consideration of the request by the COP in decision 12/CP.17, paragraphs 5 and 6, on the timing and the frequency of the presentations of the summary of information on how all the safeguards referred to in decision 1/CP.16, appendix I, are being addressed and respected and on the need for further guidance to ensure transparency, consistency, comprehensiveness and effectiveness in the presentation of the summary of information, with a view to concluding its consideration of this matter at its thirty-ninth session.
4. The SBSTA decided to continue its consideration of issues relating to drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, taking into account decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 72

and appendix II, paragraph (a), and the views of Parties contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2012/MISC.1 and Add.1 and those of admitted observer organizations.¹

5. The SBSTA encouraged Parties, relevant international organizations and stakeholders to share information, via the web platform on the UNFCCC website,² on how developing countries are addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and on the experiences gained in addressing such drivers in the implementation of the activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70.

¹ Submissions from intergovernmental organizations are available at <<http://unfccc.int/3714>>; Submissions from non-governmental organizations are available at <<http://unfccc.int/3689>>.

² <<http://unfccc.int/4531>>.

Annex

[English only]

Elements for a possible draft decision on modalities for national forest monitoring systems and measuring, reporting and verifying

Recalling decisions 2/CP.13, 4/CP.15, 1/CP.16, 2/CP.17 and 12/CP.17,

[Modalities for national forest monitoring systems

[*Affirming* that, in the context of the provision of adequate and predictable support to developing country Parties, robust and transparent national forest monitoring systems can contribute to strengthening forest governance and to promoting effective implementation of the activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70;]

[*Recalling* the importance and necessity of adequate and predictable financial and technology support for developing all of the elements referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 71;]

[*Affirming* that, in the context of the provision of adequate and predictable support to developing country Parties, developing country Parties aiming to undertake the activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 71, and including those referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3 above, are undertaken in the context of the provision of adequate and predictable support including financial resources and technical and technological support;]

1. [*Affirms* that, consistent with decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 71, the activities referred to in this decision are undertaken in the context of the provision of adequate and predictable support, including financial resources and technical and technological support to developing country Parties;]

2. *Decides* that the development of Parties' national forest monitoring systems for the monitoring and reporting of the activities¹, as referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70, with, if appropriate, subnational monitoring and reporting as an interim measure, should take into account the guidance provided in decision 4/CP.15 and be guided by the most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change guidance and guidelines, as adopted or encouraged by the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate, as a basis for estimating anthropogenic forest-related greenhouse gas emissions by sources, and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks, and forest carbon stock and forest-area changes;

3. *Also decides* that robust national forest monitoring systems should provide data and information that are transparent, consistent over time, and are suitable for measuring, reporting and verifying anthropogenic forest-related emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks, and forest carbon stock and forest-area changes resulting from the implementation of the activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70, taking into account paragraph 71(b) and (c) consistent with guidance on measuring, reporting and verifying nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing country Parties agreed by the Conference of the Parties, taking into account methodological guidance in accordance with decision 4/CP.15;

4. *Also decides*[, that in the context of the provision of adequate and predictable support, including financial resources and technical and technological support to

¹ As per decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70, Parties undertake activities as deemed appropriate by each Party with their respective capabilities and national circumstances, noting that significant pools and/or activities should not be excluded.

developing country Parties, in accordance with national circumstances and respective capabilities] national forest monitoring systems, with, if appropriate, subnational monitoring and reporting as an interim measure as referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 71 (c), and in decision 4/CP.15, paragraph 1(d) should:

- (a) Build upon existing systems, as appropriate;
- (b) Enable the assessment of different types of forest in the country, including natural forest, as defined by the Party;
- (c) Be flexible and allow for improvement;
- (d) Reflect, as appropriate, the phased-approach as referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraphs 73 and 74;

5. *Also acknowledges* that Parties' national forest monitoring systems may provide, as appropriate, relevant information for national systems for the provision of information on how safeguards in decision 1/CP.16, appendix I, are addressed and respected;]

[Modalities for measuring, reporting and verifying

6. *Decides* that measuring, reporting and verifying anthropogenic forest-related emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks, and forest carbon stock and forest-area changes resulting from the implementation of the activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70, taking into account paragraph 71(b) and (c), is to be consistent with the methodological guidance provided in decision 4/CP.15, and any guidance on measuring, reporting and verification of nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing country Parties as agreed by the Conference of the Parties, and in accordance with any future relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties;

7. *Recalls* the relevant provisions in decisions 17/CP.8 and 2/CP.17 related to the provision of support for reporting;

8. *[Reaffirms [that] [the need for] adequate and predictable support, including financial resources and technical and technological support to developing country Parties, [in accordance with national circumstances and respective capabilities], [is useful] to develop capacities for measuring, reporting and verifying anthropogenic forest-related emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks, and forest carbon stock and forest-area changes resulting from the implementation of the activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70;]*

9. *Decides* that the data and information used by Parties in the estimation of anthropogenic forest-related emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks, and forest carbon stock and forest-area changes, as appropriate to the activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70, undertaken by Parties, should be transparent, consistent over time and with the established forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels in accordance with decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 71(b) and (c) and section II of decision 12/CP.17;

10. *Agrees* that, consistent with decision 12/CP.17, paragraph 7, results from the implementation by Parties of the activities² included in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70, measured against the forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels should be expressed in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per year;

² As per decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70, Parties undertake activities as deemed appropriate by each Party and in accordance with their respective capabilities and national circumstances, noting that significant pools and/or activities should not be excluded.

11. *Encourages* Parties to improve data and methodologies over time, while maintaining consistency with the established or, as appropriate, updated, forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels in accordance with decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 71(b) and (c);
12. *Further decides* that, consistent with decision 1/CP.16 and with Annex III to decision 2/CP.17, the data and information referred to in paragraph 9 above should be provided through the biennial update reports by Parties, taking into consideration additional flexibility given to least developed countries and small island developing countries;
13. *Invites* Parties and admitted observer organizations pursuant to decision 12/CP.17, paragraph 15, to submit to the secretariat, by 25 March 2013, their views on the technical assessment of the proposed forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels when voluntarily submitted or updated by Parties in accordance with decision 12/CP.17, paragraph 12;
14. *Requests* the secretariat to compile the submissions referred to in paragraph 13 above into a miscellaneous document for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technical Advice at its thirty-eighth session;
15. *Invites* Parties and admitted observer organizations to submit to the secretariat, by 25 March 2013, their views on the process of the technical assessment, referred to in paragraph 15 and the annex to decision 12/CP.17, of the proposed forest reference emission levels and/or the forest reference levels when voluntarily submitted or updated by Parties;
16. *Requests* the secretariat to compile the submissions referred to in paragraph 15 above into a miscellaneous document for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technical Advice at its thirty-eighth session;
17. *Requests* the secretariat, subject to the availability of supplementary resources, to organize an in-session workshop based on submissions referred to in paragraph 15 above at its thirty-eighth session, and to prepare a report on the workshop for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice at its thirty-ninth session;
18. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice to consider the issues referred to in paragraphs 15 to 17 at its thirty-ninth session, with a view to recommending a draft decision [on the modalities and procedures] for adoption by the Conference of the Parties at its nineteenth session;
19. *[Also decides* that the information reported in accordance with paragraph 12 above will be subject to international consultation and analysis as agreed by the Conference of the Parties;
20. *Also decides* that if the Conference of the Parties adopts a decision on specific arrangements for financing results-based actions [as referred to in decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 64], additional guidance for the verification of those results would be developed if necessary, [as to be decided by the Conference of the Parties];]
21. *[Decides* that the results from results-based actions referred to in decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 64, will be verified through an independent, international verification process, undertaken by experts drawn from the roster of experts;
22. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technical Advice to develop modalities and procedures for the verification process referred to in the paragraph above for consideration by the Conference of the Parties at its nineteenth session;]
23. *Invites* Parties and admitted observer organizations to submit to the secretariat, by 25 March 2013, their views on issues related to co-benefits resulting from the implementation of the activities referred to in 1/CP.16, paragraph 70;

24. *Requests* the secretariat to compile the submissions referred to in paragraph 23 above into a miscellaneous document for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technical Advice at its thirty-eighth session;
25. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technical Advice to consider the submissions referred to in paragraph 23 above with the aim of reporting progress made and any recommendations to the Conference of the Parties at its nineteenth session;
26. *Invites* Parties and admitted observer organizations to submit to the secretariat, by 25 March 2013, their views on issues related to methodological guidance on forest monitoring system and measuring, reporting and verifying that also consider, for developing countries that may wish to do so, the multiple functions of forest as appropriate when implementing activities as referred to decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70, based on non-market approaches;
27. *Requests* the secretariat to compile the submissions referred to in paragraph 26 above into a miscellaneous document for consideration by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technical Advice at its thirty-eighth session;
28. *Takes note* of the estimated budgetary implications of the activities to be undertaken by the secretariat pursuant to the provisions contained in paragraph 17 above;
29. *Requests* that the actions of the secretariat called for in this decision be undertaken subject to the availability of financial resources. In the absence of adequate additional funding, as indicated in the budgetary estimates referred to in paragraph 28, the secretariat may not be in a position to undertake the requested activities.
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