

SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE
Ninth session
Buenos Aires, 3-10 November 1998
Agenda item 3

**MATTERS REFERRED TO THE SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC
AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE BY THE PLENARY
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES**

Research and systematic observation (Articles 4.1(g) and 5 of the Convention)
(Agenda item 4 (h) (i) of the Conference of the Parties)

Draft conclusions by the Chairman

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) took note of the report on the adequacy of the global observing systems for climate, prepared and coordinated by the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) Secretariat in the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) on behalf of organizations participating in the Climate Agenda, contained in FCCC/CP/1998/MISC.2.
2. The SBSTA decided to recommend a draft decision on research and systematic observation for adoption by the Conference of the Parties (COP) at its fourth session.
3. The SBSTA invited the agencies participating in the Climate Agenda, in consultation with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) secretariat, to assess options for synthesizing national plans and programmes for systematic observation of the climate system, for example drawing on the expertise of GCOS and/or using the roster of experts, and to report to SBSTA at its eleventh session.
4. The SBSTA took note of the invitation by the COP to the agencies participating in the Climate Agenda, in consultation with the GCOS secretariat, to initiate an intergovernmental process for addressing the priorities for action to improve the global observing systems for climate in relation to the needs of the Convention and, in consultation with the UNFCCC secretariat and other relevant organizations, for identifying immediate, medium-term and long-term options for financial support, and decided to consider these issues at its tenth session.

[For the text of the draft decision mentioned in paragraph 2 above, see the annex below]

Annex

Research and systematic observation

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling Article 4.1(g) and (h), and Article 5 of the Convention and decision 8/CP.3 of the Conference of the Parties,

Having considered the documents on the development of observational networks of the climate system submitted to the Conference of the Parties by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice¹,

Noting with appreciation the comprehensive report on the adequacy of the global observing systems for climate prepared and coordinated by the Global Climate Observing System Secretariat in the World Meteorological Organization on behalf of organizations participating in the Climate Agenda,

Noting the conclusions of the report that, *inter alia*, in many instances global and regional coverage is inadequate,

Noting the recommendations contained in the report, to improve the global observing systems for climate,

Noting the ongoing work of the agencies participating in the Climate Agenda and others in support of global observing systems for climate, including their contribution to capacity building,

Recognizing the significant national contributions made to the global observing systems for climate,

1. *Urges* Parties to undertake programmes of systematic observation including the preparation of specific national plans, in response to requests from agencies participating in the Climate Agenda, based on the information developed by the Global Climate Observing System and its partner programmes;
2. *Urges* Parties to undertake free and unrestricted exchange of data to meet the needs of the Convention, recognizing the various policies on data exchange of relevant international and intergovernmental organizations;
3. *Urges* Parties to actively support the building of capacity in developing countries, to enable them to collect, exchange and utilize data to meet local, regional and international needs;

¹ FCCC/CP/1998/7, FCCC/CP/1998/MISC.2.

4. *Urges* Parties to strengthen international and intergovernmental programmes assisting countries to acquire and use climate information;

5. *Urges* Parties to actively support national meteorological observing systems, to ensure that the stations identified as elements of the Global Climate Observing System networks, based on the World Weather Watch and Global Atmosphere Watch, and underpinning the needs of the Convention are fully operational and use best practices;

6. *Urges* Parties to actively support national oceanographic observing systems, to ensure that the elements of the Global Climate Observing System and Global Ocean Observing System networks in support of ocean climate observations are implemented and, to the extent possible, support an increase in the number of ocean observations, particularly in remote locations, and to establish and maintain reference stations;

7. *Urges* Parties to actively support national terrestrial networks including observational programmes to collect, exchange and preserve terrestrial data according to the Global Climate Observing System and the Global Terrestrial Observing System climate priorities and particularly hydrosphere, cryosphere and ecosystem observations;

8. *Requests* Parties to submit information on national plans and programmes in relation to their participation in global observing systems for climate, in the context of reporting on research and systematic observation, as an element of national communications for Annex I Parties and as appropriate for non-Annex I Parties;

9. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, in consultation with the agencies participating in the Climate Agenda, to inform the Conference of the Parties at its fifth session of developments regarding observational networks, difficulties encountered, *inter alia*, with respect to the needs of developing countries and options for financial support to reverse the decline in observational networks;

10. *Invites* the agencies participating in the Climate Agenda, in consultation with the Global Climate Observing System Secretariat, to initiate an intergovernmental process for addressing the priorities for action to improve global observing systems for climate in relation to the needs of the Convention and, in consultation with the Convention secretariat and other relevant organizations, for identifying immediate, medium-term and long-term options for financial support; and *requests* the secretariat to report results to the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice at its tenth session.