



SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE
Fifteenth session
Marrakesh, 29 October - 6 November 2001
Agenda item 7

COOPERATION WITH RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Draft conclusions proposed by the Chairman

Cooperation with scientific organizations

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) welcomed the statement by the Director of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) secretariat, on behalf of the agencies participating in the Climate Agenda, on its activities relating to decision 14/CP.4 and 5/CP.5. It further noted the information provided by the GCOS contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2001/MISC.9.
2. The SBSTA noted with concern the ongoing deterioration of global observation systems for climate, as was also emphasized in the IPCC Third Assessment Report. It encouraged the GCOS to continue to address this problem, working with its sponsors and its partners in global observation systems as well as through capacity-building programmes such as the System for Analysis, Research and Training (START).
3. The SBSTA endorsed the preparation by the GCOS secretariat of a second report on the adequacy of the Global Climate Observing Systems. It noted the necessity for the report to address the needs of the Convention for climate-relevant observations, including those associated with the development of adaptation strategies. The SBSTA invited the GCOS secretariat, in its preparation of the adequacy report, to take into account relevant decisions of the Conference of the Parties on capacity building, technology transfer and adaptation. It also invited the GCOS secretariat to consider in its report an integrated approach to global climate observation systems, including the exploitation of new and emerging methods of observation.
4. The SBSTA noted the need to complete the adequacy report in the shortest possible time in order to provide a framework for further work to improve global monitoring systems. It invited the GCOS secretariat to prepare, in time for consideration by the SBSTA at its sixteenth session, an interim report on the synthesis and analysis of national reports from Parties provided

in accordance with decision 5/CP.5. It encouraged the GCOS secretariat to complete the final adequacy report by the eighteenth session of the SBSTA in order to enable substantive consideration of the report at the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties.

5. The SBSTA also noted the completion of two regional workshops in the South Pacific and Africa to identify priority capacity-building needs of developing countries in relation to their participation in systematic observation. It invited the GCOS secretariat to make the follow-up regional action plans available to the SBSTA for consideration at its sixteenth session, with a view to recommending a draft decision on this matter for consideration by the COP at its eighth session. It encouraged the GCOS secretariat, through continued collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), to expedite the remaining programme of regional workshops.

6. The SBSTA urged Parties to work in collaboration with the GCOS secretariat in formulating project proposals to correct deficiencies in global observing systems for climate, including related data management.

Cooperation with other conventions

7. The SBSTA reaffirmed the need for enhanced cooperation between the UNFCCC, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD), with the aim of ensuring the environmental integrity of the Conventions and promoting synergies under the common objective of sustainable development, in order to avoid duplication of effort and to use available resources more efficiently.

8. The SBSTA took note of the information provided in documents FCCC/SBSTA/2001/MISC.7 and FCCC/SBSTA/2001/MISC.8 . It welcomed an oral report provided by the secretariat relating to the work of a joint liaison group between the secretariats of the UNFCCC, the CBD and the CCD, and the information provided by the representatives of the CBD and CCD secretariats. The SBSTA also welcomed information on the pilot assessment of the interlinkages between climate change and biological diversity which was launched by the CBD last March, and expressed its interest in learning about how this work is proceeding.

9. The SBSTA noted with appreciation the report provided by the IPCC on the preparations under way to develop a technical paper, at the request of the CBD, on the interlinkages between climate change, biodiversity and desertification. It encouraged the IPCC to make the findings of this report available to the SBSTA at its next session.

10. The SBSTA welcomed the information provided by the representative of the RAMSAR Convention on Wetlands on its activities on issues relating to wetlands and climate change. It welcomed the offer by the Ramsar Convention to make the findings of the report *Climate change and wetlands: Impact, adaptation and management*, developed in collaboration with the IPCC, available to the SBSTA at a future session.

11. The SBSTA noted that enhancing cooperation between the UNFCCC, the CBD, the CCD and other global environmental conventions involves actions at the national level, the level of convention bodies and potentially at other levels. The SBSTA invited Parties to submit further views including suggestions for specific actions towards achieving such cooperation with other

relevant intergovernmental bodies, in particular the UNFCCC, the CBD and the CCD, by 15 March 2002, to be compiled into a miscellaneous document.

12. The SBSTA emphasized the role of Parties at a national level in improving coordination and cooperation and in minimizing, whenever possible, counter actions in their activities towards the implementation of the three conventions. It also noted a range of views by Parties on the role of convention bodies and, in particular, of the joint liaison group in improving cooperation and coordination.

13. The SBSTA took note of suggestions by some Parties regarding possible areas for improved cooperation and coordination at a national level, for example through implementation of national action plans, and pilot activities at a local level. The SBSTA also noted views by some Parties regarding possible areas for enhanced cooperation at the level of the conventions, for example in capacity building, exchange of information, technology transfer and reporting.

14. The SBSTA requested the joint liaison group to collect and share information on the work programmes and operations of each convention, including:

- (a) The roles and responsibilities of the secretariats, and any relevant scientific and technical bodies or expert groups;
- (b) The types of activities under each convention;
- (c) Potential areas of cooperation, possible joint activities, and any potential conflicts associated with different mandates.

15. The SBSTA also requested the liaison group to examine the possibility of holding a joint workshop before the eighteenth session of the SBSTA to explore the issues relating to interlinkages between the three conventions and/or to integrate such considerations into the terms of reference for other proposed workshops relating to cooperation between United Nations environmental conventions, taking into consideration the need to avoid duplication and overlap between workshops.

16. The SBSTA agreed to consider these issues further and requested the secretariat to report, at its sixteenth session, on the matters identified in paragraphs 14 and 15 above.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies

17. The SBSTA noted with appreciation the information provided by the World Health Organization (WHO) on its activities relating to climate change, particularly those relating to the development of methods, including a toolkit for assessing the impact of climate change on human health and evaluating adaptation strategies. The SBSTA invited WHO to make additional information on this document, as well as any other relevant information, available at its sixteenth session.
