



SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE
Seventeenth session
New Delhi, 23–29 October 2002
Agenda item 8

RESEARCH AND SYSTEMATIC OBSERVATION

Draft conclusions proposed by the Chair

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) took note of the information provided in document FCCC/SBSTA/2002/INF.17 and of submissions from Parties contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2002/MISC.15 and Add.1.
2. The SBSTA noted the statement made by the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) secretariat and the progress being made on activities relating to decision 5/CP.5.
3. The SBSTA welcomed the statements made by the representatives of the World Climate Research Programme, the International Geosphere–Biosphere Programme and the International Human Dimensions Programme, and by the Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), on the current activities of their organizations. The SBSTA also took note with appreciation of the presentations made by the representatives of these organizations, the International Group of Funding Agencies and the International Energy Agency, and by IPCC experts, at the special side event.
4. The SBSTA welcomed the exchange of views that occurred during the special side event. The following main issues were recognized as being important in the context of a dialogue among the IPCC, the international research programmes represented at the meeting, and the SBSTA:
 - (a) The independence of the IPCC and those international research programmes, and their willingness to respond to the scientific challenges posed by the Convention and the Third Assessment Report (TAR);
 - (b) The role of the IPCC in conducting regular assessments of climate change knowledge, and in providing these to the SBSTA;
 - (c) The increased collaboration among international research programmes;
 - (d) The needs for stronger linkages between international and regional research programmes, and to enhance the contribution of developing country scientists to research efforts;
 - (e) The timeline for new research in the context of the Fourth Assessment Report of the IPCC, notably the aim to make the report available in 2007.
5. The SBSTA noted that the special side event demonstrated that considerable research was being undertaken by the international research community to address the research recommendations of the

IPCC TAR. However, the special side event highlighted that a more coordinated and multidisciplinary approach was needed to address research on cross-cutting issues such as the relationship between climate change, sustainable development and equity, stabilization of atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations, and uncertainty, noting that Parties have raised other important research issues as reported in document FCCC/SBSTA/2002/MISC.15 and Add.1, and synthesised in document FCCC/SBSTA/2002/INF.17.

6. The SBSTA noted the importance of an integrated international effort on research and systematic observation and of assessments by the IPCC to provide information for the ongoing work of the Convention. The SBSTA agreed on the need to engage developing country scientists more actively in climate change research efforts. The SBSTA noted, and decided to consider at future sessions, the need to support endogenous capacity-building for research and systematic observation in developing countries. It invited the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) to take note of, and consider at future sessions, such needs, particularly in the context of decision 2/CP.7.

7. The SBSTA decided to regularly consider issues related to research on climate change at its future sessions in order:

(a) To inform Parties about on-going and planned activities of the international and intergovernmental research programmes through periodic briefings;

(b) To provide a forum for consideration of research needs and priorities and ways and means for addressing them;

(c) To communicate these research needs and priorities to the scientific community. As a first step, the SBSTA requested the secretariat to forward documents FCCC/SBSTA/2002/INF.17, and FCCC/SBSTA/MISC.15 and Add.1 to the international, intergovernmental and regional research programmes and the IPCC for their information and consideration, and to invite their views.

8. The SBSTA welcomed the first compilation and synthesis of the national reports on global observing systems for climate from Annex I Parties, provided in document FCCC/SBSTA/2002/INF.15. It encouraged Parties which have not done so to submit their national reports as soon as possible.

9. The SBSTA requested the secretariat to organize intersessional consultations, immediately before SBSTA 18, on the second report on the adequacy of the global climate observing systems under preparation by the GCOS secretariat. These consultations should facilitate the exchange of views on the use of this report, together with the national reports, for identifying gaps and priorities for actions to improve global observing systems for climate. It also requested the secretariat to report on the results of the consultations at its eighteenth session. The SBSTA recalled its conclusions at its fifteenth session to have substantive consideration of the adequacy report at the ninth session of the Conference of the Parties.

10. The SBSTA noted that regional workshops organized by the GCOS secretariat on the implementation of decision 5/CP.5 are leading to specific proposals to address the deficiencies in global observing systems for climate in developing countries. It invited the SBI to take note of the need to fund those aspects of the proposals relating to the global system and to consider at future sessions possible financial implications of such needs, including in its guidance to the financial mechanism of the Convention.

11. The SBSTA took note of a proposal from Australia for a voluntary GCOS fund to support high priority needs relating to global observing systems for climate. It noted that many of these needs are in developing countries. The SBSTA encouraged the GCOS steering committee to explore this proposal at its future sessions.