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Agenda item 3

Five-year programme of work on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change

**Five-year programme of work on impacts, vulnerability
and adaptation to climate change**

Draft conclusions proposed by the Chair

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) welcomed the exchange of views during the informal meeting of representatives from Parties, held in Vienna, Austria, from 13 to 15 March 2006, to facilitate the further elaboration of a draft indicative list of activities for the SBSTA five-year programme of work on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change. The SBSTA considered document FCCC/SBSTA/2006/4 containing the report from the above-mentioned meeting.
2. The SBSTA expressed its appreciation to the Government of Austria for hosting the meeting, and to the Governments of Sweden and Switzerland for providing financial support for the organization of the meeting.
3. The SBSTA requested the secretariat to regularly update the list of organizations and institutions active in the areas relevant to the five-year programme of work as contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2006/INF.3.
4. The SBSTA considered additional activities and modalities of the programme of work, as mandated by decision 2/CP.11. The SBSTA agreed to consider the activities to be undertaken for the period up to SBSTA 28 (June 2008) on the basis of the draft text included in the annex to this document, with a view to completing this task at its twenty-fifth session (November 2006). The SBSTA agreed to consider and further elaborate, at SBSTA 28 and subsequent sessions, additional activities and modalities of the programme of work.

Annex

[Draft conclusions proposed by the Chair

General

1. The SBSTA agreed to invite relevant organizations and other stakeholders to implement the activities of the programme of work, as identified in paragraphs 11 to 50 below. The SBSTA also agreed to further implement the programme of work, as described in these paragraphs.
2. The SBSTA requested the secretariat to report, at SBSTA 25 (November 2006), SBSTA 26 (May 2007) and SBSTA 27 (December 2007), on progress made in implementing the SBSTA five-year programme of work.
3. The SBSTA requested the secretariat to prepare a summary report on the results of the implementation of the SBSTA five-year programme of work during the first two years, for consideration by the SBSTA at its twenty-eighth session (June 2008) and to provide guidance, as appropriate, on further action.
4. This summary report, and the deliverables as appropriate, should contain information on, inter alia, the following:
 - (a) Analysis of the issues addressed by each activity, including current status and lessons learned;
 - (b) Identification of gaps, needs (including any capacity needs), opportunities, barriers and constraints;
 - (c) Recommendations.
5. The SBSTA agreed that the deliverables resulting from the implementation of the SBSTA five-year programme of work should be widely disseminated by effective means, including by the secretariat where appropriate, to relevant stakeholders.
6. The SBSTA requested the secretariat to strive to engage a wide range of organizations, institutions, experts and communities in the implementation of the programme of work.
7. The SBSTA requested the secretariat to regularly update the list of organizations and institutions active in areas relevant to the programme of work, as contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2006/INF.3.
8. The SBSTA invited Parties to submit to the secretariat, by 4 August 2006, their views on the possible need for, and role that a group of experts could have in the implementation of the five-year programme of work. The SBSTA requested the secretariat to compile these submissions into a miscellaneous document for consideration by the SBSTA at its twenty-fifth session with a view to making recommendations, as appropriate, to the Conference of the Parties at its twelfth session. It further invited Parties to submit to the secretariat, by the twenty-seventh session of the SBSTA, their views on further activities, based on experience in the implementation of the programme of work, with a view to decide on further activities for inclusion in the five-year programme of work as well as appropriate timing and modalities.
9. The SBSTA noted that the implementation of the five-year programme of work during the first two years cannot be fully covered by the resources available from the core budget for the biennium 2006–2007 and that supplementary funds will need to be raised for this work.

10. The SBSTA expressed its appreciation to the Governments of Sweden and Switzerland for providing financial support towards the implementation of the five-year programme of work, and urged Parties included in Annex II to the Convention, and other Parties in a position to do so, to provide financial support for the implementation of the programme of work.

Methods and tools

11. The SBSTA decided that activities under sub-themes¹ A(i) and B(i) are to be implemented to assist all Parties in their efforts:

- (a) Apply and develop methodologies and tools for impact, vulnerability and adaptation assessments;
- (b) Develop methodologies and tools for adaptation planning, measures and actions, and integration with sustainable development;
- (c) Disseminate existing and emerging methods and tools and facilitate the sharing of experiences and lessons;
- (d) Disseminate methods and tools for the assessment of costs and benefits of adaptation options (including those contained in the UNFCCC Compendium on methods and tools to evaluate impacts of, vulnerability and adaptation to, climate change).²

12. The SBSTA invited Parties and relevant organizations to submit to the secretariat by 1 February 2007, information and views on the development and dissemination of methods and tools with a view to identifying existing and emerging assessment methodologies and tools; lessons learned; opportunities, gaps and needs; possible ways to better disseminate information, and training opportunities. It requested the secretariat to compile these submissions into a miscellaneous document.

13. The SBSTA requested the secretariat to prepare a synthesis report by SBSTA 26 based on the above mentioned submissions, and taking into account relevant outputs from the work of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE) and the Expert Group on Technology Transfer (EGTT).

14. It further requested the secretariat, under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA, to organize an expert meeting before SBSTA 27 with participation of Parties, users of methods and tools, relevant organizations, and representatives from sectoral and other communities to advance consideration of sub-themes A(i) and B(i) taking into account the information contained in the synthesis report referred to in paragraph 13 above. It requested the secretariat to prepare the technical report from this meeting by SBSTA 27.

15. The SBSTA identified the deliverables that should be developed and disseminated in accordance with para 4 and 5 above, as included in the following:

- (a) Miscellaneous document as referred to in para 12 above;
- (b) Synthesis report as referred in para 13 above;
- (c) Report from the workshop as identified in para 14 above.

¹ All sub-themes mentioned in this document refer to those in the annex to decision 2/CP.11.

² <http://unfccc.int/adaptation/methodologies_for/vulnerability_and_adaptation/items/2674.php>.

*Data and observations*³

16. The SBSTA decided that activities under sub-theme A(ii) are to be implemented to assist all Parties in their efforts:

- (a) To promote the implementation of systematic observation (including through Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) Implementation Plan and the regional workshops programme), focusing on issues relating to impacts, vulnerability and adaptation, taking into account stakeholder data needs and needs to enhance capacity to supply and use the data, especially at the regional and national levels;
- (b) To improve capacity for collecting, managing and using observational data, and identify practical ways of enhancing technical capacity;
- (c) To exchange information on observed climate change impacts, including those observed through traditional knowledge.

17. The SBSTA invited the the GCOS secretariat, in its report on the implementation of the GCOS Implementation Plan to be provided at SBSTA 25, to focus specifically on relevant issues under this activity and take into account relevant information in the implementation plan and the regional action plans from the regional workshop programme.

18. The SBSTA further invited the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and its member states, and the GCOS and its partner organizations, to explore how their work could contribute more to the work on impacts and vulnerability, including the identification of gaps and deficiencies and ways to improve technical infrastructure, taking into account stakeholder data needs and needs to enhance capacity to supply and use the data especially at regional and national levels. It requested the secretariat to compile their responses and make them available their response SBSTA 27.

19. The SBSTA requested the secretariat to include consideration of A(ii) in the expert meeting referred to in para 14 above.

20. The SBSTA identified the deliverables that should be developed and disseminated in accordance with paragraphs 4 and 5 above as including:

- (a) The report by the GCOS secretariat referred to in paragraph 17 above;
- (b) Reports by GCOS secretariat and WMO secretariat referred in paragraph 18 above;
- (c) Input to the report from the expert meeting as referred in paragraph 14 above.

Climate modelling, scenarios and downscaling

21. The SBSTA decided that activities under sub-theme A(iii) are to be implemented to assist all Parties in their efforts to:

- (a) Identify gaps in the development of regional and subregional climate scenarios, including the need for, availability and applicability of climate models, and options to fill them;
- (b) Identify practical opportunities to improve access to, and use of different models' outputs, including assessment of their applicability and training opportunities;

³ Under the work of the SBSTA on research and systematic observation.

- (c) Analyse means to improve the availability and applicability of climate change modelling and downscaling data to policy makers at all levels.

22. The SBSTA invited inputs, by 1 March 2007 from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and its task group on scenarios for climate impact assessment (TGICA), other international organizations, modelling centres, and regional and national agencies with relevant experience on matters identified in this activity, including on work undertaken on reducing uncertainties in model projections to provide information on:

- (a) Availability of regional and sub-regional climate scenario data, including data downscaled from General Circulation Models (GCMs);
- (b) Use of different models and their outputs;
- (c) Any available training opportunities.

23. The SBSTA requested the secretariat to organize a side event on this activity at its twenty-seventh session with participation of experts from Parties and representatives from relevant organizations.

24. The SBSTA identified the deliverables that should be developed and disseminated in accordance with para 4 and 5 above, as included in the following:

- (a) Miscellaneous document for SBSTA 26 that compiles the submissions referred to in para 22 above;
- (b) Output of the side event referred to in para 23 above.

Climate related risks and extreme events

25. The SBSTA decided that activities under sub-theme A(iv) are to be implemented to assist all Parties in their efforts to:

- (a) Enhance capacity and ability to predict extreme events and analyse their impacts;
- (b) Enhance capacity to use information on extreme events and their impacts, including use of this information to analyse their impacts, including assessment of climate related risks, impact thresholds, trends, and implications for sustainable development;
- (c) Share and use information on, and analysis of, experiences in climate risk assessment and management;
- (d) Promote the analysis, interpretation and prediction of the occurrence of extreme events, analysis of their impacts and the further development of tools and systems for these purposes.

26. The SBSTA invited Parties and relevant organizations to identify programmes and activities under way, and submit to the secretariat by 15 February 2007 information on impacts of, and vulnerability to, climate change, current and future climate variability and extreme events, and the ability to predict these across regions and hazards and the implications for sustainable development.

27. The SBSTA requested the secretariat, under the guidance of the Chair of the SBSTA, to organize, before its twenty-sixth session, a workshop with participation of Parties, experts and relevant organizations, taking into account the submission referred to in paragraph 26 above, to consider:

- (a) Current and future climate variability and extreme events;

- (b) Ability to predict climate variability and extreme events across regions and hazards;
- (c) Contribution of traditional knowledge;
- (d) Implications for sustainable development.

28. The SBSTA identified the deliverables that should be developed and disseminated in accordance with para 4 and 5 above, as included in the following:

- (a) Miscellaneous document for SBSTA 26 that compiles the submissions referred to in para 26 above;
- (b) Report from the workshop referred to in para 27 above.

Socio-economic information

29. The SBSTA decided that activities under sub-theme A(v) are to be implemented to assist all Parties in their efforts to:

- (a) Undertake stock taking on what socio-economic information and approaches are available (and being used), and what needs to be done to ensure better integration of socio-economic information.

30. The SBSTA invited Parties and relevant organizations to submit to the secretariat, by 1 April 2007, information and views on matters relating to the availability and use of information for developing socio-economic scenarios and assessments of vulnerability, adaptive capacity, and adaptation options with a view to identifying:

- (a) Existing approaches and available data;
- (b) Needs and gaps;
- (c) Ways and means to improve availability and access to relevant information as well as its better integration.

31. It requested the secretariat to compile these submissions into a miscellaneous document.

32. The SBSTA requested the secretariat to organize an expert meeting before SBSTA 27, possibly in conjunction with the expert meeting referred to in para 14 above, on means and ways to improve the integration of socio-economic information into impact and vulnerability assessments and adaptation planning, taking the above miscellaneous document into account.

33. The SBSTA identified the deliverables that should be developed and disseminated in accordance with para 4 and 5 above, as included in the following:

- (a) Miscellaneous document for SBSTA 26 as referred to in para 30 above;
- (b) Report from the expert meeting referred to in para 32 above.

Adaptation planning and practices

34. The SBSTA decided that activities under sub-themes B(ii) and B(iv) are to be implemented to assist all Parties in their efforts to:

- (a) Exchange information on experiences, lessons learned, constraints and barriers of past and current adaptation measures and actions, and the implications for sustainable

development, and derive recommendations for enhancing adaptation measures and actions;

- (b) Promote different ways and means for information sharing and for the enhancement of cooperation among Parties and relevant institutions and communities, including the provision of a forum to exchange information between Parties and relevant communities, in particular sectoral, and disaster risk reduction and management communities;
- (c) Promote understanding of response strategies, including early warning systems, local coping strategies and lessons learned that can be applied elsewhere;
- (d) Assess available resources to support adaptation and address barriers and constraints to its implementation.

35. The SBSTA invited by 1 February 2007 inputs from Parties and relevant organizations through structured submissions on adaptation approaches, practices and technologies at the regional, national and local levels in different sectors, as well as on needs and concerns. It requested the secretariat to develop by 1 October 2007 the structure for these submissions and make it available to the Parties and organisations.

36. The SBSTA requested the secretariat to organize, before its twenty-sixth session a workshop to exchange information on the contribution of existing adaptation practices and traditional knowledge to the work on impacts and vulnerability assessment and adaptation, taking into account the submissions from Parties and relevant outputs from the work of the LEG, CGE and EGTT.

37. The SBSTA requested the secretariat to prepare a report from this workshop and a possible web-based information interface before SBSTA28.

38. The SBSTA identified the deliverables that should be developed and disseminated in accordance with para 4 and 5 above, as included in the following:

- (a) Miscellaneous document compiling the submission referred to in para 35 above by SBSTA 26;
- (b) Report from the workshop referred to in para 37 above before SBSTA 28;
- (c) Possible web based interface before SBSTA 28.

*Research*⁴

39. The SBSTA decided that activities under sub-themes B(iii) are to be implemented to assist all Parties in their efforts to:

- (a) Analyse opportunities and ways to promote research and development of adaptive capacities and adaptation practices that increase resilience.

40. The SBSTA requested the secretariat by SBSTA 27 to prepare a synthesis report based on extracting and synthesizing information on ongoing and planned adaptation research as well as research needs identified in submissions from Parties and relevant organizations under the work of the SBSTA on research needs under the Convention.

41. The SBSTA identified the deliverables that should be developed and disseminated in accordance with para 6 and 7 above, as included in the following:

⁴ Under the work of the SBSTA on research and systematic observation.

42. Synthesis report referred to in para 40 above.

*Technologies for adaptation*⁵

43. The SBSTA decided that activities under sub-theme B(iii) are to be implemented to assist all Parties in their efforts to:

- (a) Enhance work on different aspects of technologies and know-how for adaptation, as well as on opportunities for their transfer and diffusion, taking into account local and indigenous knowledge and experience as well as ongoing activities and projects.

44. The SBSTA requested the secretariat to prepare a synthesis report on adaptation technologies identified in submissions from Parties and relevant organizations by SBSTA 26.

45. The SBSTA considered the recommendations of the EGTT on the technical paper on technology for adaptation and the outcome of the EGTT side event held at SBSTA 25, the synthesis of technology needs assessments for adaptation, and previous work relating to adaptation technologies in national adaptation programme of actions, and to decide upon possible follow-up activities under the five-year programme of work, including a possible workshop at SBSTA 26.

46. The SBSTA identified the deliverables that should be developed and disseminated in accordance with para 4 and 5 above, as included in the following:

- (a) Outcome from the side event and technical paper referred to in para 45;
- (b) Synthesis report as referred to in para 45 by SBSTA 26.

Economic diversification

47. The SBSTA decided that activities under sub-theme B(v) are to be implemented to assist all Parties in their efforts to:

- (a) Exchange experiences and opportunities on the development and dissemination of measures, methodologies and tools aimed at increasing economic resilience.

48. The SBSTA invited Parties and relevant organizations to submit to the secretariat by 1 August 2007, information on examples of measures to increase economic resilience of vulnerable sectors. It requested the secretariat to compile these submissions into a miscellaneous document for its consideration at SBSTA 27.

49. The SBSTA requested the secretariat to prepare a synthesis report by SBSTA 27.

50. The SBSTA identified the deliverables that should be developed and disseminated in accordance with para 4 and 5 above, as included in the following:

- (a) Miscellaneous document compiling submissions referred to in para 49 above;
- (b) Synthesis report as referred to in para 49.]

⁵ Under the work of the SBSTA on technology transfer.