

G77 and China draft intervention for SBSTA “Issues relating to agriculture”

May 2016

The G77 and China reaffirms its previous statements and presentations made under the SBSTA agenda item related to agriculture, recalling that the Group has contributed positively in paving the way for conducting the four in-session workshops under this agenda item, including the ones that were held in SBSTA-42. The Group will continue to engage constructively on the SBSTA-44 technical and scientific discussions, taking into account the conclusions of SBSTA 38, and towards the consideration at SBSTA 44 and 45 of the reports of the workshops.

The G77 and china underlines that the report of the workshop need to be comprehensive and to capture the views of developing country parties, taking into consideration that agriculture is the backbone of developing countries and their economic systems. In this context, there is an urgent need to increase the adaptive capacity of agriculture to deal with the adverse effects of climate change. This continues to be the key priority for developing countries for SBSTA work, in light of the particular vulnerabilities of the agricultural sector and its relationship with the livelihood of millions, food security and poverty eradication.

This is in line with the Paris Agreement, which recognizes the fundamental priority of safeguarding food security and ending hunger, and the particular vulnerabilities of food production systems to the adverse effects of climate change. As well, it is important to recall that the Agreement states in its objective that food production is not to be threatened.

On the issue of “identification of adaptation measures” to be addressed by this workshop, the Group believes it merits specific attention, as there is enough evidence to support that climate change is increasing the frequency and intensity of adverse climatic events, such as torrential rains, long droughts, frost, and hail, among others, threatening seriously the future development of the agricultural production systems, according to conditions of each country or local area. Moreover, the increase of temperatures is generating favorable conditions for the proliferation and outbreak of pests and diseases that will make agriculture productive systems even more vulnerable.

Extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and more severe, putting at risk the reliability and productivity of agriculture, exacerbating already extreme levels of poverty, and reinforcing persistent inequity and chronic under-nutrition. The scientific knowledge of climate change impacts on agriculture have not yet been assessed, developed, and/or modelled either due to data limitations or shortcomings in conceptualizing.

The identification of adaptation measures and support to capacity building are urgently needed in developing countries, particularly for small holder farmers. Also, huge investments and large scale implementation strategies are requested, taking them to the ground level, considering the diversity of agricultural systems, indigenous knowledge systems and the differences in scale, as well as possible co-benefits.

The G77 and China considers that the SBSTA needs to address the following issues in order to assist developing countries on the areas covered by this workshop:

- access to scientific and technical information and means of implementation related to adaptation measures;

- access to Information, experience, tools and technology of real-time monitoring, data visualization, data sharing and management related, inter alia, to early warning systems and contingency plans;

- Support research in addressing climate change impacts on agriculture, including in terms of potential economic impacts, for example predictions of resulting impacts on agriculture production; promote better understanding of the trends as well as promote use of appropriate control and management methods for climate-related pest and diseases;

- Develop tools to analyze climate data and assess the risks and vulnerabilities of agricultural systems at regional, national, and local levels; according to different national and/or regional characteristics;

- Strengthen national systems for collecting, analyzing, and disseminating risk and vulnerability data and information;

- Develop more timely and accurate forecasting system for rainfall and inflow seasonally and annually.

- Assist governments and communities with expertise in adaptation measures in relation to extreme weather events and their effects including models and technologies of early-warning of extreme climatic events and vulnerability assessments;

- Encourage the collaborative participation by farmers in adaptation measures in relation to extreme weather events and climate change that will affect them;

- Provide means of implementation, including finance, technology transfer and capacity building, to developing countries in the assessment of risk and vulnerability of agricultural systems to different climate change scenarios at regional, national and local level, taking into consideration the commitments by developed countries to provide finance, technology transfer and capacity building for developing countries on adaptation;

- Building capacity of the coordinating institutions, including technical, financial and human;

- Promoting and strengthening Public Private People Partnerships (PPPP) in the design and implementation of adaptation measures.

- support and establish accessible regional climate data bases;

G77 and China countries believes there is a wide space for collaboration among parties in order to develop adaptation measures, in view of the local, national and regional circumstances. There are also big opportunities to draw and share lessons from the experience of the different Parties.

Developed countries can play a very positive role in providing means of implementation to developing countries in addressing adaptation. Article 4.1.e. of the convention stated clearly that parties should “Cooperate in preparing for adaptation to the impacts of climate change” among various issues including agriculture.

Finally, the G77 and China reaffirms its position to undertake scientific and technical work on impacts of climate change impacts on agriculture consistent with SBSTA mandate in Art.9 taking into account the commitments in articles 4.3, 4.4, 4.5 of the Convention. The Group is willing to continue engaging constructively in this session to continue the consideration of the reports of the first two workshops at SBSTA 44 and, together with the reports on the two in-session workshops to be held at these sessions at SBSTA 45, in accordance with what was agreed in Paris.