



INFORMATION NOTE

In-session workshop on the development of early warning systems and contingency plans in relation to extreme weather events and its effects such as desertification, drought, floods, landslides, storm surge, soil erosion, and saline water intrusion

**2 June 2015, 15:00-18:00 (tbc)
Bonn, Germany**

This note provides information on the approach to work at the above-mentioned in-session workshop.

Mandate

SBSTA 40 requested the secretariat to organize, at SBSTA 42, an in-session workshop on the development of early warning systems and contingency plans in relation to extreme weather events and its effects such as desertification, drought, floods, landslides, storm surge, soil erosion, and saline water intrusion.¹

It further requested the secretariat to prepare a report on the workshop for consideration at SBSTA 43 (November–December 2015).²

Background

COP 17 (December 2011) requested the SBSTA to consider issues relating to agriculture.³

SBSTA 40 invited Parties and admitted observer organizations to submit their views on issues relating to the development of early warning systems and contingency plans in relation to extreme weather events and its effects such as desertification, drought, floods, landslides, storm surge, soil erosion, and saline water intrusion. Views of Parties are contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2015/MISC.1.⁴

It further requested the secretariat to organize an in-session workshop on the issues mentioned above in conjunction with SBSTA 42 and agreed that it will consider, at SBSTA 43, the report of the workshop referred to above.⁵

Objectives of the in-session workshop

The workshop aims to provide Parties with an opportunity:

- To further elaborate on their views on the development of early warning systems and contingency plans in relation to extreme weather events and its effects such as

¹ FCCC/SBSTA/2014/2, paragraph 88.

² FCCC/SBSTA/2014/2, paragraph 89.

³ Decision 2/CP.17, paragraphs 75–77.

⁴ Submissions from admitted observer organizations are available on the UNFCCC website <<http://unfccc.int/7482>>.

⁵ FCCC/SBSTA/2014/2, paragraph 89.

desertification, drought, floods, landslides, storm surge, soil erosion, and saline water intrusion;

- To enhance understanding of each other's views through open discussions in a less formalized workshop setting;
- To identify, explore and discuss more in-depth issues of common interest.

Approach and format: Panel discussion and general exchange of views (3 hours)

The workshop will consist of two parts:

- The **first part** will be a panel discussion structured around three questions presented below. These questions will provide a framework to allow Parties and relevant IGOs invited to the panel to share their experiences relating the development of early warning systems and contingency plans in relation to extreme weather events and its effects such as desertification, drought, floods, landslides, storm surge, soil erosion, and saline water intrusion. The panel discussion will be followed by a question and answer session with the panel.
- The **second part** will give Parties the opportunity for a general exchange of views, building on the panel discussion and all three questions with particular focus on question 3.

The workshop will conclude with a brief oral summary by the co-chairs.

The workshop is open to all Parties and admitted observer organizations attending the SBSTA 42 session. Due to expected time constraints Parties and admitted observer organizations are encouraged to share their relevant views prior to the workshop in order to make them available on the workshop website.

The working language of the workshop will be **English**.

Questions

Questions to facilitate the exchange of views during the workshop:

1. What experience does your country have with the development of early warning systems and contingency plans in relation to extreme weather events and its various effects in the context of agriculture?
2. How do various processes under the Convention facilitate the development of early warning systems and contingency plans in relation to the extreme weather events and its effects observed in your country in the context of agriculture?
3. What are the potential areas for synergies among various processes under the Convention to facilitate the development of early warning systems and contingency plans in relation to the current and/or predicted extreme weather events and its effects in your country in the context of agriculture?
