

SUBMISSION BY DENMARK AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES

This submission is supported by Croatia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey

Copenhagen, 5 March 2012

Subject: Submission on views on specific themes to be addressed at the research dialogue meeting, to be held in conjunction with the thirty-sixth session of the SBSTA

1 Introduction and General Comments

The European Union and its 27 Member States (EU), welcome the conclusions of SBSTA at its thirty-fifth session (FCCC/SBSTA/2011/L.27) and the invitation to submit views on specific themes to be addressed at the research dialogue meeting, to be held in conjunction with the thirty-sixth session of the SBSTA as well as the COP decision FCCC/SBSTA/2011/L.27/Add.1 (update COP Decision 9/CP.11) on the continuation of the Research Dialogue and its use as a forum for

- (a) Discussing needs for climate change research and research-related capacity building, particularly those of developing countries, to support the work of the Convention;
- (b) Conveying research findings and lessons learned from activities undertaken by regional and international research programmes and organisations of relevance to the Convention.

Both reflect the crucial importance of research and its communication for the work of the Convention.

On a practical level, the EU is of the opinion that the Research Dialogue meetings should take place annually and would benefit from having an update on progress within international and regional research programmes whilst tackling a balanced selection of themes. The EU also suggest that sufficient space is given for discussion and that time is not taken up wholly by presentations.

The EU suggests that Research Dialogue meetings cover some or all of the following generic items:

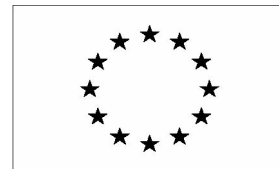


- Information on outcome of IPCC workshops and expert meetings;
- Information on emerging findings and recent information from international/regional research programmes of relevance to the work of the UNFCCC (e.g. EU's Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP), World Climate Research Programme (WCRP), International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP), and International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change (IHDP) and the developing Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation (PROVIA, sponsored by UNEP, WMO, and UNESCO).
- Other relevant research and observation activities and programmes such as the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS), the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases (GRA) and European initiatives such as Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) and the European Climate Research Alliance (ECRA);
- An update on observed changes in the climate system (e.g. the evolution of the sea ice extent and volume, glacier and permafrost melt, temperature, sea level rise etc.) and their socio-economic and climatic implications;
- Examples of new research outcomes from national research programmes and particularly those from developing countries.

2 Priority themes for the Research Dialogue meeting at SBSTA 36

In addition to the matters raised in paragraph 8 of the SBSTA 35 conclusions, the EU suggests that the Research Dialogue meeting at SBSTA 36 covers the following themes:

- Consideration of practical mitigation options for achieving the emission pathways consistent with the 2°C goal, with a focus on 2050, the scale of contribution different options might make, and including analysis of co-benefits and adaptation/mitigation win-win solutions. In this context consideration could be given to the technical and scientific aspects of emissions and removals of greenhouse gases from land use and land cover changes;
- Socio-economic, emission and land use scenarios: new climate forcing and socio-economic scenarios (Representative Concentration Pathways (RCPs) and their underlying storylines), as well as the related new global and regional climate scenarios resulting from inter-comparison projects (CMIP5 and CORDEX);



The EU considers that these issues could be explored in more detail at a workshop focussing on the practical options to achieve global reductions of 50% by 2050 and setting mitigation options in a wider socio- economic context, taking both a global and a national or regional perspective.

The EU suggests also that representatives of PROVIA provide a report on progress on this important new programme at the dialogue at SBSTA 36.

3 Optional themes to be addressed at future Research Dialogue meetings

The EU suggests the following optional themes, with the understanding that, according to Conclusion FCCC/SBSTA/2011/L.27, Parties would prior to a SBSTA session during which a research dialogue would be held, submit their views on specific themes to be addressed at the next research dialogue meeting:

- Progress made in the development of electricity and energy storage technologies;
- Socio-economic aspects of responding to climate change: topics in support of the NWP;
- Impact and costs of adaptation to climate change, including considering possible high-end scenarios (i.e. >2°C) and limits to the resilience of natural and human systems (including research needs);
- Tipping points and abrupt and irreversible changes;
- Attribution of extreme events;
- Cities and Climate Change (socio-economic focus);
- Short-lived climate forces and mitigation potential in the agricultural sector (soil carbon, methane, etc.)
- Economic modelling of mitigation policies at the global and regional level.

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