

SBSTA 34 Dialogue on developments in research activities relevant to the needs of the Convention

Report by the Chair of the SBSTA

I am pleased to report back to you on this year's research dialogue which took place on Wednesday, 8 June. The dialogue followed a successful workshop on research, which was held prior to this session of the SBSTA. Short reports of the main outcomes of the workshop were provided during the dialogue by Mr. Sergio Castellari of Italy and Mr. Carlos Fuller of Belize who facilitated two of the sessions, respectively, during the workshop.

The dialogue was organized around the following two sessions:

- (1) Understanding the science: recent climate change research findings and uncertainty management; and
- (2) Communicating climate science and building capacity for research in developing countries.

We had excellent contributions and representation from the climate change research community, including the Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP) on behalf of its member programmes (i.e. the WCRP, IGBP, IHDP and DIVERSITAS), the IPCC, the WMO, UNEP, the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Arctic Council (AMAP), the International START secretariat, the Asia Pacific Network for Global Change Research (APN), the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI), and PROVIA (Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation).

I was happy to see that the dialogue meeting was also well attended by Parties who participated very actively and presented their views on climate change research needs and priorities relevant to the Convention. Contributions from Parties addressed matters relating to temperature stabilization scenarios and the review of the long-term global goal; research needs to support policies and strategies on adaptation and mitigation; existing gaps in data and systematic observation; research capacity building needs, in particular in the LDC's; and sector-specific needs and priorities, including agriculture, coastal ecosystems and blue carbon, as well as possible ways to enhance communication of research outcomes and how to enhance the science-policy dialogue under the Convention.

Information provided by the research community on their on-going research activities included emerging results from global climate change research by the ESSP and its partner programmes, findings from the UNEP/WMO's Integrated Assessment of Black Carbon and Tropospheric Ozone, and key results of the Arctic Council's Assessment of regional and global climate change impacts on Snow, Water, Ice and Permafrost in the Arctic (SWIPA), including resulting consequences for sea level rise. The IPCC reported on a number of recent activities and developments for its upcoming Fifth Assessment Report, including matters related to Article 2 of the Convention.

The deliberations during the dialogue showed that there is an interest in furthering the understanding on a number of issues emerging from climate science, including the possible

multiple impacts of carbon dioxide on oceans, ocean acidification and related consequences for fishery and other sectors and ecosystems; consequences of observed and projected changes in the Arctic, including sea level rise; and the need to better understand the socio-economic dimensions of climate change through multidisciplinary research. Also, strengthening of systematic observation networks is *key* for understanding changes in the climate and supporting research.

The session on communicating climate change science and building capacity for research in developing countries highlighted good practices and challenges, including success stories from the regions in communicating research results, opportunities for research capacity building in developing countries, and developments under the WMO's Global Framework for Climate Services.

Before concluding, I wish to note that this year's research activities have contributed to making significant progress in the implementation of decision 9/CP.11, and provided a good basis for continuing our fruitful collaboration and dialogue with the research programmes and organizations in the future. It is important that SBSTA and also other bodies under the UNFCCC make use of this possibility of receiving updated information emerging from climate change science, while at the same time providing views to the scientific community on what we see as emerging research priorities under the Convention.

Finally, I would like to thank all Parties that participated in and contributed to this successful dialogue meeting and express our appreciation to the representatives of the research programmes and organizations and the IPCC for their active participation and excellent contributions. I also wish to express our thanks to the secretariat for having organized these two very important events under the research dialogue.

This concludes my report on the research dialogue to the closing of the 34th session of the SBSTA.