

Submission by the United States of America

*Subject: Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) & Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) – Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA)
Washington, D.C. 22 October 2018*

The United States welcomes the opportunity to submit its views on topic 2(a) from decision 4/CP.23¹ ‘modalities for implementation of the outcomes of the five in-session workshops on issues related to agriculture and other future topics that may arise from this work.’ We continue to recommend that the process for advancing discussions on issues related to agriculture be focused on technical issues, and draw on the expertise of the constituted bodies under the Convention and other relevant international institutions.

We look forward to sharing our best practices and lessons learned to assist countries and other stakeholders in addressing climate change through policies and practices that foster more efficient, productive, and resilient agricultural systems while also learning from other Parties, Observers, and especially producers. Inclusion of Observers will be important as they may assist in the implementation of any possible voluntary recommendations.

Past Five In-Session Workshops

Regarding the outcomes of past workshops, the United States found the past five in-session workshops on issues related to agriculture useful, especially in assisting in the development of the topics in decision 4/CP.23, and the now established ‘road map’ in FCCC/SB/2018/L.1².

December’s Modalities Workshop

For the December workshop we look forward to presentations, if possible, from the constituted bodies. Learning more from the constituted bodies on their on-going or possible future work related to agriculture and climate change can provide a better understanding for Parties and Observers, specifically, on how the bodies work independently or in concert, and may serve to identify possible gaps or redundancies. These presentations will further assist in our improved understanding and vision for future workshops, negotiations, and decision making purposes. We also look to SBSTA and SBI to give value added, so we are not duplicating efforts of other UNFCCC bodies.

We would suggest outcomes of workshops be captured in simple summary documents prepared by the Secretariat, rather than negotiated by the Parties. Any presentations might also be made available online to ensure others benefit from the information shared by expert speakers. We should also welcome any relevant reports from the constituted bodies.

Looking to 2020

The United States looks forward to a successful series of workshops with continued exchange among Parties and Observers taking into account the best data, science, and risk-management tools available to better support agricultural producers in their decision making.

¹ 4/CP.23, November 2017, Koronivia joint work on agriculture: <https://unfccc.int/documents/65126>

² FCCC/SB/2018/L.1, May 2018, Koronivia joint work on agriculture: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/101_2.pdf