



Submission by Croatia and the European Commission on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

Zagreb, 30 January 2020

Subject: Research and systematic observation/Research Dialogue - Views from Parties on possible topics for consideration at the research dialogue to be held at SBSTA 52 and beyond

This submission is supported by Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia and Serbia.

The European Union and its Member States (EU) welcome the conclusions of SBSTA at its fiftieth session (FCCC/SBSTA/2019/2) and note the invitation to Parties to submit their views on possible topics and considerations for the meetings of the research dialogue to be held in conjunction with SBSTA 52 (June 2020) and beyond.

The Research Dialogue is a valuable forum that allows for an exchange and discussion on research findings and their communication, on related capacity building, and to facilitate the dialogue between Parties and regional and international climate change research programmes and organizations.

The Paris Agreement provides a key context for the future work of SBSTA including the Research Dialogue. The important exchange of information with the scientific community on topics and issues through the Research Dialogue can inform implementation of the Paris Agreement by informing climate ambition and actions. It is important to continue this forum, build upon its experience and enhance its relevance as key interface between the science, innovation communities and Parties to the UNFCCC.

Format of the Research Dialogue

The EU finds that the format of the Research Dialogues 8, 9 and 10, with a half-day session including presentations, a Q&A session and a poster session, worked well. The Q&A session allows for a valuable exchange between Parties and experts and should be given adequate time. Considering the limited time available for the Research Dialogue, we suggest a small number of well-defined thematic areas should be selected from the proposals received so as to ensure sufficient time is provided for in-depth exchanges. The EU found that while the Breakout Groups during RD 11 provided an opportunity for engagement with individual researchers it did not provide collective understanding, which could be achieved through the session itself. The Research Dialogue should avoid duplication of issues, which are being considered under other agenda items and processes, including the dialogues on ocean and climate change and on the relationship between land and climate change adaptation related matters, which were decided during COP 25¹.

Possible topics for the Research Dialogue at SBSTA 52 and beyond

The EU suggests that the Research Dialogue considers new and emerging science. The following topics are relevant in this respect, with no order of preference:

¹ Decision 1/CP.25: https://unfccc.int/resource/cop25/1cop25_auv.pdf

- **Biodiversity and climate change.** Climate change has direct impacts on biodiversity and biodiversity influences most of the natural carbon sinks, which highlights the importance to understand both current and projected relationships between climate change and biodiversity.
- **Cities and climate change.** Future cities and city planning, and other relevant urban issues, including sustainable mobility, air quality and human health. Today, more than half of the world's population lives in rapidly expanding cities, which generate about 80% of global GDP² and contribute more than 70% of global greenhouse gas emissions³. Therefore, cities are important in both driving global emissions and as vulnerable hotspots of climate change impacts, but also arenas of spearheading progressive climate action.
- **The human dimension of low emissions climate-resilient development pathways.** Understanding the role of behavioural change IPCC SR1.5 highlighted the importance of personal choices in limiting global warming to 1.5°C. There is a need for greater understanding about how and by how much behavioural change can contribute to emissions reductions and building resilience to climate change. There is also a need to better understand the gender aspect in the low emissions climate-resilient development pathways.
- **Insight into scenarios.** Understanding the background of scenarios and pathways and the underlying assumptions and choices; in particular how the RCPs used in CMIP6 consider the SSPs.

The EU looks forward to contributing to the Research Dialogues during SBSTA 52 and beyond, as well as to the presentations from research programmes and organizations on regional climate research and data needs with regional and international organizations, and to interacting with science experts and other Parties.

² United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2018). The World's Cities in 2018—Data Booklet (ST/ESA/SER.A/417).

http://www.un.org/en/events/citiesday/assets/pdf/the_worlds_cities_in_2018_data_booklet.pdf

³ https://www.c40.org/why_cities and <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/urbandevelopment/overview>