



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

Subject: Submission on possible topics and considerations for the meetings of the Research Dialogue to be held in June 2021 and beyond

Lisbon, 26 April 2021

1. Context

The EU wishes to thank the SBSTA Chair for encouraging Parties to share their views on possible topics and considerations for the meetings of the Research Dialogue to be held in June 2021 and beyond, taking into account previous themes and presentations, the outcomes of previous research dialogue meetings and the themes suggested for future meetings.

The EU considers that it is important to have a forum for discussing research and science during informal and formal sessions. While keeping up the momentum, it reinforces the fact that the work under the Paris Agreement and the Convention is based on the best available science.

The EU considers that the Research Dialogue is a valuable forum for exchange on recent research findings and to facilitate the dialogue between Parties and regional and international climate research programmes and organizations. These exchanges provide information for the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the Convention and support enhancing climate ambition and actions.

2. Format for the Research Dialogue

During these difficult pandemic times, we are grateful to the Secretariat for successfully organizing the 12th Research Dialogue (RD12) in a virtual setting during the November Climate Dialogues 2020. To further improve the dialogue, we suggest that fewer presentations are scheduled with more time being allocated for Q&A and discussion. If the chat function of an online platform is used for posing questions, these questions should be read out and answered orally. Alternatively, the chat function should be made visible in all rooms so that all participants are able to see the answers. During RD12, the virtual poster rooms, including the pre-recorded presentations, were appreciated. However, exchanges in these rooms were somewhat challenging in this virtual setting and switching between the break-out groups was not very smooth.



3. Possible topics for the Research Dialogue to be held in June 2021 and beyond

The EU suggests that the Research Dialogue considers new and emerging science. The EU made a [submission for the 12th Research Dialogue](#)¹. We reiterate here the same four topics, with no order of preference, and looking forward to further in-depth discussions in these areas:

- **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. 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 Representative Concentration Pathways (RCPs) used in 6th Climate/coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP6) consider the Shared Socioeconomic Pathways (SSPs).

The EU looks forward to contributing to the Research Dialogue and to interacting with science experts and other Parties.

¹ [202001310933---HR-01-30-2020 EU Submission on Research Dialogue.pdf \(unfccc.int\)](#)