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Submission regarding SBSTA / UNFCCC Research Dialogue June 2021

In response to the request from the Chair of SBSTA for submission of views regarding possible topics and considerations for the meetings of the research dialogue to be held in June 2021, we would like to submit the following views and suggestions for consideration.

- 1) Responding effectively to the challenges of a changing climate requires transformational adaptation that is driven by local needs. This must be enabled and supported by actionable knowledge – both of the risks of climate change, and of tangible solutions.
- 2) This actionable knowledge requires a process of transdisciplinary research that is solutions-focused, user-centered and demand-driven – essential for building capacity and enhancing the resilience of those vulnerable to current and future climate risks. However, the current scope and scale of such action-orientated research is insufficient to address the magnitude and urgency of actions needed across sectors.
- 3) In keeping with the mandate of the Research Dialogue and SBSTA, we recommend that **the Research Dialogue explore the importance of action research, the modalities and mechanisms that could support such action research and the role of partnerships and multistakeholder coalitions in advancing that agenda.**
- 4) In particular, we would recommend that initiatives such as the World Adaptation Science Program (WASP) and the Adaptation Research Alliance (ARA) could be invited to share their experiences and engage with Parties and other stakeholders for exploring the role they could play in strengthening the linkages between knowledge and action; and ensuring that actions are evidence-based.
- 5) The ARA (https://southsouthnorth.org/portfolio_page/adaptation-research-alliance/) is a new multistakeholder coalition that hopes to strengthen coordination and cooperation and scale-up investments in action-orientated research to enable achievement of our societal goals under a changing climate, with a particular focus on developing countries.

As an accredited observer organization to the UNFCCC, the University of Maryland is pleased to be engaged with the ARA, and with WASP. I serve as the co-chair of the ARA Steering Board and of the Science Committee of WASP, and I am joined in this submission by Dr Rosalind West of the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), co-chair of the ARA Steering Board.

Thanking you,

Yours truly,

(Anand Patwardhan)