



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

KENYA'S SUBMISSION ON THE POSSIBLE THEMES FOR THE FOURTEENTH (14TH) MEETING OF THE RESEARCH DIALOGUE WITH RESPECT TO FCCC/SBSTA/2021/L.5/PARAGRAPH 15.

1. BACKGROUND

Kenya takes this opportunity to present views in reference to (FCCC/SBSTA/2021/L.5/Paragraph 15) that "*Invited Parties and the relevant organizations to submit views on the possible themes for the 14th meeting of the research dialogue to be held in conjunction with SBSTA 56 (June 2022) via the submission portal by 28th February 2022*".

Article 4.1(g) and 5 of the Convention calls on Parties to promote and cooperate in scientific, technological, technical, socio-economic and other research, systematic observation and development of data archives related to the climate system and intended to further the understanding and to reduce or eliminate the remaining uncertainties regarding the causes, effects, magnitude and timing of climate change and the economic and social consequences of various response strategies.

Kenya notes the need to further enhance areas of discussion in climate science discourse and supports the underlying work in the research dialogue. Building on the themes that Parties deliberated on during the June 2021 Subsidiary Body meetings, Kenya notes the importance of these discussions and deliberations by Parties informed by the best available science.

Climate monitoring, prediction, vulnerability mapping and timely early warning are some of the best strategies for addressing the negative impacts of climate change on people, livelihoods and the environment. Provision of climate information to various users for purposes of enhancing public safety, security and general socio-economic benefits is a crucial input in planning and sustainable development. Kenya runs a network of observing stations and is a member of the WMO Integrated Global Observing System.

Kenya engages in collaborative research activities to improve the provision of services as well as products utilization in delivering weather, climate, water and related environmental services. Realization of sustainable development hinges upon the incorporation of climate information in national policies and strategic planning that cover crucial sectors of the economy. However, there are existing gaps in research, systematic observations, development programs and capacity.

2. THEMES FOR THE FOURTEENTH (14TH) MEETING OF THE RESEARCH DIALOGUE

Kenya therefore proposes the following themes for the Fourteenth (14th) Meeting of the Research Dialogue;

2.1: Downscaling of global climate re-analysis and models products for the regional understanding of the climate

Kenya alongside other global south countries relies on Global circulation model data for application to the local context. These GCMs produce data at a very coarse resolution that may not be representative of the local situation, as such downscaling techniques are crucial in determining local projections for the development of appropriate response measures. Having this as a theme ensures that the latest science is presented and countries can, based on their capacities, identify the best downscaling techniques for local context applications.

2.2: Building greater resilience to extreme events

With particular emphasis on tropical cyclones, their role in modifying the weather of East Africa and specifically Kenya, is not well documented, especially as the globe continues to warm. This theme would enhance the understanding of the modified occurrence of Tropical cyclones and their impacts to support the development of strategies to reduce vulnerability and increase the resilience of communities against these extreme events.

2.3: Advancing climate change attribution, especially in developing countries

The science of climate change attribution is relatively new globally, particularly in Africa and Kenya. The ability to scientifically attribute extremes to climate change will support the dialogue on loss and damage from our country's perspective.

2.4: How to further support climate services institutions, especially in developing countries.

National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) have the mandate of providing climate services for early warning for early action, vulnerability assessments, modeling for adaptation planning among others. In most developing countries, the capacity of the NMHS is quite low to adequately undertake this mandate. As such, additional support is required in terms of capacity building as well as financial and infrastructural support through;

- Equipment and skills for accurate early warning systems to manage climate risks and avert disasters.
- Climate Change science communication to increase public awareness and public responsibility in combating climate change.
- Improvement of observational network

2.5: The ocean-climate nexus

Kenya notes that it is highly appropriate that research in the ocean climate nexus needs to be strengthened especially in developing countries. This is especially in view of the UNESCO-Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission ocean decade (2021-2030) and the oceans dialogue starting with COP27 within the UNFCCC. Kenya notes that systematic ocean observations and research into the ocean-climate nexus are crucial in determining opportunities, risks, challenges and benefits for adaptation and mitigation in the oceans, ecosystem, societal, and economic impacts; the marine carbon flux, ocean geoengineering among others.

2.6: Tipping points and uncertainties in the biological and physical systems of the ocean

Kenya notes that according to the IPCC WGI report, there's a high probability that many tipping points will be reached particularly in ice sheet melt and tropical coral reef die-off. This has potentially huge impacts on marine species distribution and community composition. Kenya has an extensive coastline with a delicate ocean ecosystem whose composition includes but is not limited to, coral reefs, marine biodiversity, large human population, all dependent on the ocean for life and livelihoods. Sea level rise exacerbated by reaching the tipping points on ice sheet melt will adversely impact the ecosystem including the many people living in these areas. Additionally, as coral reefs die off due to increased ocean temperature, acidity and salinity the impacts in the country are expected to be far-reaching.

2.7: Optimization of adaptation/mitigation technologies for local application

Kenya takes note of the need to improve the adaptation and resilience of communities at the local scale. One of the ways to achieve this could be to identify and develop of best adaptation technologies for deployment in developing countries at the local scale in main sectors especially mobility, household energy, water & agriculture

2.8: Monitoring & Evaluation of adaptation

Kenya recognizes the need to systematically and periodically measure and analyse the processes, outcomes and impacts of adaptation measures by different sectors. In this regard, defining metrics for adaptation tracking through the development performance indicators for adaptation actions could help to avoid the possibility of maladaptation.

3. CONCLUSION

The themes discussed above fit well in the Kenyan perspective as they help address local issues. Kenya recognizes the role of research in tackling with impacts of climate action through understanding the science of climate, building community resilience, adopting the appropriate mitigation and adaptation measures. For example, an understanding of the ocean-climate nexus helps us appreciate the important role oceans play by acting as a key regulator of weather and climate and how climate change is affecting marine life and composition. Kenya will also benefit from making the best out of various mitigation and adaptation technologies. This can be further improved through proper monitoring and evaluation done by an analysis of various performance indicators.