

VI. Research and systematic observation

(Agenda item 6)

52. The SBSTA noted with appreciation the oral statement delivered by the Director of the GTOS secretariat and the statement delivered on behalf of the CEOS. The SBSTA also noted with appreciation a statement delivered by the Chair of the GCOS Steering Committee.

53. The SBSTA welcomed the report prepared by the GTOS secretariat on progress made in assessing the status of the development of standards for each of the essential climate variables in the terrestrial domain, which includes information on the framework for the preparation of guidance materials, standards and reporting guidelines for terrestrial observing systems for climate.³⁵ The SBSTA also welcomed the updated report submitted by CEOS on progress made by space agencies involved in global observations in implementing actions in response to the GCOS implementation plan.³⁶

54. The SBSTA agreed to defer consideration of these reports to its thirtieth session, when it will also consider the comprehensive report on progress with the GCOS implementation plan that the GCOS secretariat is expected to provide to the SBSTA at that session. The SBSTA recalled its invitation to Parties to provide additional information on their national activities with respect to implementing the GCOS implementation plan.³⁷ It noted that 21 Parties have provided such information³⁸ and encouraged those that have not yet done so to submit this information by 30 January 2009.

³⁵ FCCC/SBSTA/2008/MISC.12.

³⁶ FCCC/SBSTA/2008/MISC.11.

³⁷ See FCCC/SBSTA/2005/10, paragraphs 94 and 95, and FCCC/SBSTA/2007/16, paragraph 36.

³⁸ Information received by Parties has been posted on the UNFCCC website at <http://unfccc.int/methods_and_science/research_and_systematic_observation/items/4499.php>.