

## **VI. Research and systematic observation**

(Agenda item 6)

95. The SBSTA expressed its appreciation to the GCOS secretariat for preparing a proposal for the possible revision of the “UNFCCC reporting guidelines on global climate change observing systems” (FCCC/SBSTA/2006/MISC.12) to reflect priorities of the GCOS implementation plan.<sup>25</sup> The SBSTA noted the usefulness of this proposal and its extensive review by scientific and government experts, and agreed to consider the revised guidelines<sup>26</sup> at its twenty-seventh session, for adoption by the COP at its thirteenth session.

96. The SBSTA noted with appreciation the report on the results of the regional workshop programme submitted by the GCOS secretariat (FCCC/SBSTA/2006/MISC.13). It welcomed the considerable achievement that finalization of the regional action plans produced under this programme constitutes, and the excellent basis they provide for further action at the regional level. The SBSTA encouraged Parties and relevant organizations to make use of the results of the regional workshop programme, and to continue to advance the implementation of the actions outlined in the regional action plans. It urged Parties and relevant organizations in a position to do so to continue to mobilize resources to address priorities identified in those plans.

97. The SBSTA re-emphasized the importance of in-situ observation networks and activities that deliver sustained observation infrastructure and encouraged collaboration with, inter alia, national meteorological and hydrological services, including for the implementation of the regional action plans referred to in paragraph 96 above.

98. The SBSTA took note of the information provided by the GCOS secretariat on the follow-up African implementation strategy meeting organized by the GCOS secretariat in April 2006 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It recognized that this meeting has resulted in the creation of an integrated, multipartner programme (Climate for Development in Africa) addressing climate observation, climate risk management and climate policy needs in Africa.<sup>27</sup> It encouraged Parties in a position to do so to contribute to the implementation of this programme and urged that similar activities and research, as appropriate, be extended in a timely manner to other regions where activity has been slow to begin.

99. The SBSTA welcomed the report submitted by the United States of America on behalf of CEOS (FCCC/SBSTA/2006/MISC.14), which describes the coordinated response by space agencies involved in global observations to the needs expressed in the GCOS implementation plan. The SBSTA invited the Parties that support space agencies to enable these agencies to implement, to the extent possible, the actions identified in the CEOS report and to continue responding in a coordinated manner through CEOS to the efforts to meet these needs. The SBSTA encouraged the GCOS and CEOS to continue their partnership for linking space-based capabilities with global

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<sup>25</sup> <[http://www.wmo.ch/web/gcos/Implementation\\_Plan\\_\(GCOS\).pdf](http://www.wmo.ch/web/gcos/Implementation_Plan_(GCOS).pdf)>.

<sup>26</sup> As contained in FCCC/SBSTA/2006/MISC.12 or in any updated version of this document, as appropriate, based on further comments provided to the GCOS secretariat by scientific and government experts.

<sup>27</sup> <[http://www.wmo.ch/web/gcos/scXIV/26\\_Addis\\_Ababa\\_Report.pdf](http://www.wmo.ch/web/gcos/scXIV/26_Addis_Ababa_Report.pdf)>.

climate observing requirements and encouraged Parties to improve access to space-based climate observations to all interested Parties.

100. The SBSTA reiterated the increasing importance of further integration and coordination of earth observations in order, inter alia, to allow for integrated global analysis products for monitoring climate change, and to provide the input to, and validation of, climate models that would enable improved climate change projections. These elements will advance the scientific basis for Parties to respond to climate change, including through adaptation.

101. The SBSTA encouraged Parties to further promote their national activities related to GCOS and the Global Earth Observation System of Systems, and to note the close relationship among those activities.