



Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

Sixty-fourth session

Bonn, 8–18 June 2026

Agenda item 3

Research and systematic observation

Research and systematic observation

Draft conclusions proposed by the Chair

1. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) noted the importance of discussions under this agenda item on scientific advances, research gaps and needs, relevant to supporting work under the Convention and the Paris Agreement. It also noted the role of robust Earth observations in supporting scientific research and noted with concern the emerging threats to the continuity of climate observations, as well as the persistent gaps in global climate observations.
2. The SBSTA noted the statements made at the joint opening plenary of the sixty-fourth sessions of the subsidiary bodies by representatives of the Global Climate Observing System, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the World Climate Research Programme and the World Meteorological Organization,¹ as well as the updates they provided. It noted with concern that the natural phenomenon El Niño, predicted for 2026, against the backdrop of the observed warming trend worsens weather and climate extremes, including heatwaves and heavy rainfall, as warmer ocean waters add heat and moisture to the climate system, with disproportionate impacts on vulnerable regions and ecosystem.
3. The SBSTA noted the need to enhance efforts to promote and support the integrity of information on climate change.
4. The SBSTA expressed appreciation to its Chair and the secretariat for organizing the eighteenth meeting of the research dialogue.² It thanked the experts who contributed towards the dialogue, noted the efforts made to broaden the geographical representation of experts participating in the dialogue, and encouraged enhancing these efforts. It welcomed the scope of thematic areas, which reflects the views expressed in submissions³ from Parties and organizations, and noted that the meeting provided relevant research updates and scientific information. It requested its Chair, with the assistance of the secretariat, to prepare an informal summary report on the meeting, to be made available before SBSTA 66 (June 2027).
5. The SBSTA expressed appreciation to its Chair and the secretariat for the mapping of research gaps, and welcomed the information note on how research gaps identified by the SBSTA since SBSTA 22 are being addressed by the scientific community.⁴ It noted the

¹ See <https://unfccc.int/documents/658673>, <https://unfccc.int/documents/658716>, <https://unfccc.int/documents/658674> and <https://unfccc.int/documents/658676>.

² See <https://unfccc.int/event/eighteenth-meeting-of-the-research-dialogue-mandated-event>.

³ Available at <https://submissions.unfccc.int/> (in the search field, type “research dialogue”).

⁴ As per document FCCC/SBSTA/2025/4, para. 32. The information note is available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/657735>.



progress made by the scientific community in addressing these research gaps and also noted that research needs and capacity-building gaps remain.

6. The SBSTA took note with appreciation of the statement made by the Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change⁵ at the eighteenth meeting of the research dialogue and welcomed the update on progress during the seventh assessment cycle. It looked forward to an agreement on the timeline for the Seventh Assessment Report.

7. The SBSTA noted with appreciation the discussions at the eighteenth meeting of the research dialogue on climate scenarios and modelling, pathways for sectoral transformation, and understanding climate risks, impacts and tipping points. It noted the scientific information and advancements, as well as knowledge and research gaps and research needs presented at the dialogue and encouraged the scientific community to continue advancing research to address these knowledge and research gaps and needs.

8. The SBSTA invited Parties and relevant organizations to submit via the submission portal⁶ by 1 March 2027 views on possible themes for and ways to organize the nineteenth meeting of the research dialogue, to be held in conjunction with SBSTA 66.

9. The SBSTA took note of the estimated budgetary implications of the activities to be undertaken by the secretariat referred to in paragraph 4 above.

10. The SBSTA requested that the actions of the secretariat called for in these conclusions be undertaken subject to the availability of financial resources.

⁵ Available at <https://www.ipcc.ch/2026/06/09/ipcc-chair-jim-skea-18th-research-dialogue/>.

⁶ <https://submissions.unfccc.int/>.