



INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION  
(of UNESCO)

RELEVANT EXCERPTS OF THE FOURTH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (CP.4)  
TO THE FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (FCCC)

The attached document contains the following three excerpts of CP.4:

from the *Report of the ninth session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA)* [table of contents included for information]:

1. the "Proceedings" and "Conclusions" regarding "**C. Research and systematic observation (Articles 4.1(g) and 5 of the Convention)**";

from the *Action taken by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth session* [table of contents included for information]:

2. Decision 2/CP.4: "**Additional guidance to the operating entity of the financial mechanism**"; and
3. Decision 14/CP.4: "**Research and systematic observation**".



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**SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE**

**REPORT OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY FOR SCIENTIFIC AND  
TECHNOLOGICAL ADVICE ON ITS NINTH SESSION  
BUENOS AIRES, 3-10 NOVEMBER 1998**

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**C. Research and systematic observation (Articles 4.1(g) and 5 of the Convention)**  
(Agenda item 4 (h) (i) of the Conference of the Parties)

1. Proceedings

22. The SBSTA considered this matter at its 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> meetings, on and FCCC/CP/1998/MISC.2.

23. Statements were made by representatives of 30 Parties, including one speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community and another speaking on behalf of the European Community and its member States.

24. At the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 4 November, the comprehensive report on the adequacy of the by a representative of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS). Statements were also made by representatives of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

25. At the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 4 November, the Chairman invited Ms. Susan Barrell (Australia) and Mr. Mohamed Mhita (United Republic of Tanzania) to assist him in conducting informal consultations on this matter.

2. Conclusions

26. At its 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, on 9 November, the SBSTA adopted the following conclusions:

(a) The SBSTA took note of the report on the adequacy of the global observing systems for climate, prepared and coordinated by the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS) Secretariat in the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) on behalf of organizations participating in the Climate Agenda, contained in document FCCC/CP/1998/MISC.2;

(b) The SBSTA decided to recommend a draft decision on research and systematic observation for adoption by the COP at its fourth session;<sup>3</sup>

(c) The SBSTA invited the agencies participating in the Climate Agenda, in consultation with the Convention secretariat, to assess options for synthesizing national plans and programmes for systematic observation of the climate system, for example by drawing on the expertise of GCOS and/or using the roster of experts, and to report to the SBSTA at its eleventh session;

(d) The SBSTA, pursuant to its recommendation to the COP that it should invite the agencies participating in the Climate Agenda, through the GCOS secretariat, to initiate an intergovernmental process for addressing the priorities for action to improve the global observing systems for climate in relation to the needs of the Convention and, in consultation with the Convention secretariat and other relevant organizations, to identify immediate, medium-term and long-term options for financial support, decided to consider these issues at its tenth session.

<sup>3</sup> Document FCCC/CP/1998/L.4. For the full text of the decision by the COP, see decision 14/CP.4.



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**REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES ON ITS  
FOURTH SESSION, HELD AT BUENOS AIRES FROM  
2 TO 14 NOVEMBER 1998**

**Addendum**

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**Decision 2/CP.4**

**Additional guidance to the operating entity of the financial mechanism**

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* its decisions 11/CP.1, 10/CP.2, 11/CP.2 and 12/CP.2,

*Recalling further* that the Global Environment Facility (GEF), as stated in its operational principles for the development and implementation of its work programme,<sup>1</sup> will maintain

Conference of the Parties and experience gained from monitoring and evaluation activities,

*Welcoming* the New Delhi Statement of the First GEF Assembly<sup>2</sup> and the Report on the Second Replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund, completed in March 1998,<sup>3</sup>

*Noting* the continued concerns and difficulties encountered by developing country Parties with the availability and disbursement of financial resources, including for the transfer of technology, the problems arising from the GEF project cycle, the application of the concept of incremental costs, and the availability of resources through the GEF implementing/executing agencies,

*Noting also* the current and ongoing efforts of the GEF to address these concerns, *inter alia*, by streamlining its project cycle, increasing support for country-level coordination, strengthening its monitoring and evaluation programme, ensuring that its activities are country-driven and consistent with national priorities and objectives, further developing its

making the process of determining incremental costs more transparent and pragmatic,

*Noting further* the need to examine and address climate change impacts and minimize the adverse impacts, in particular for the Parties identified in Article 4.8 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

1. Decides that, in accordance with Articles 4.3, 4.5 and 11.1 of the Convention, the GEF should provide funding to developing country Parties to:

<sup>1</sup> Global Environment Facility, *Operational Strategy* (Washington, D.C., February 1996), p. 2.

<sup>2</sup> See document FCCC/CP/1998/12, annex B.

<sup>3</sup> Document GEF/C.11/6 of 24 March 1998.

(a) Implement adaptation response measures under Article 4.1 of the Convention for adaptation activities envisaged in decision 11/CP.1, paragraph 1(d)(ii) (Stage II activities) in

countries vulnerable to climate-related natural disasters, taking into account their preparatory adaptation planning frameworks in priority sectors, the completion of Stage I activities, and in the context of their national communications;

(b) Enable them, in light of their social and economic conditions and taking into account state-of-the-art environmentally sound technologies, to identify and submit to the Conference of the Parties their prioritized technology needs, especially as concerns key technologies needed in particular sectors of their national economies conducive to addressing climate change and minimizing its adverse effects;

(c) Build capacity for participation in systematic observational networks to reduce scientific uncertainties relating to the causes, effects, magnitude and timing of climate change, in accordance with Article 5 of the Convention;

(d) Meet the agreed full costs of preparing initial and subsequent national communications, in accordance with Articles 4.3 and 12.5 of the Convention and decision 11/CP.2, paragraph 1(d), by maintaining and enhancing relevant national capacity, so as to prepare the initial and second national communications which will take into account experiences, including gaps and problems identified in previous national communications, and guidelines established by the Conference of the Parties. Guidance on subsequent national communications will be provided by the Conference of the Parties;

(e) Assist them with studies leading to the preparation of national programmes to address climate change, compatible with national plans for sustainable development, in accordance with Article 4.1(b) of the Convention and paragraph 13 of the annex to decision 10/CP.2;

(f) Assist in developing, strengthening and/or improving national activities for public awareness and education on climate change and response measures, in full accordance with Article 6 of the Convention and decision 11/CP.1, paragraph 1(b)(iii), and taking into account, where appropriate, relevant GEF operational programmes;

(g) Support capacity-building for:

(i) The assessment of technology needs to fulfil the commitments of developing countries under the Convention, the identification of sources and suppliers of these technologies, and the determination of modalities for the acquisition and absorption thereof;

- (ii) Country-driven activities and projects to enable Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties) to design, evaluate and manage these projects;
  - (iii) Strengthening the capacity of non-Annex I Parties to host projects, including from project formulation and development to their implementation;
  - (iv) Facilitating national/regional access to the information provided by international centres and networks, and for working with those centres for the dissemination of information, information services, and transfer of environmentally sound technologies and know-how in support of the Convention;
2. *Requests* the GEF to continue to provide, and developing country Parties to avail themselves of, funding to translate, reproduce, disseminate and make available their initial national communications electronically;
3. *Encourages* the GEF to:
- (a) Further streamline its project cycle with a view to making project preparation simpler, less prescriptive, more transparent and country-driven;
  - (b) Further simplify and expedite its procedures for the approval and implementation of GEF-funded projects, including disbursements for such projects;
  - (c) Make the process for the determination of incremental costs more transparent, and its application more pragmatic;
4. *Requests* the GEF to ensure that its implementing/executing agencies are made aware of Convention provisions and decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties in the performance of their GEF obligations and are encouraged, as a first priority, whenever possible, to use national experts/consultants in all aspects of project development and implementation;
5. *Further requests* the GEF to include in its report to the Conference of the Parties the specific steps it has undertaken to implement the provisions of this decision.

*8th plenary meeting  
14 November 1998*

## Decision 14/CP.4

### Research and systematic observation

*The Conference of the Parties,*

*Recalling* Article 4.1(g)-(h) and Article 5 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and its decision 8/CP.3,

*Noting with appreciation* the comprehensive report on the adequacy of the global observing systems for climate,<sup>1</sup> prepared and coordinated by the Global Climate Observing System secretariat in the World Meteorological Organization on behalf of organizations participating in the Climate Agenda,

*Noting* the conclusions of the report that, *inter alia*, in many instances global and regional coverage is inadequate,

*Noting* the recommendations contained in the report to improve the global observing systems for climate,

*Noting* the ongoing work of the agencies participating in the Climate Agenda and others in support of global observing systems for climate, including their contributions to capacity-building,

*Recognizing* the significant national contributions made to the global observing systems for climate,

1. *Urges* Parties to undertake programmes of systematic observation, including the preparation of specific national plans, in response to requests from agencies participating in the Climate Agenda, based on the information developed by the Global Climate Observing System and its partner programmes;

2. *Urges* Parties to undertake free and unrestricted exchange of data to meet the needs of the Convention, recognizing the various policies on data exchange of relevant international and intergovernmental organizations;

3. *Urges* Parties to actively support capacity-building in developing countries to enable them to collect, exchange and utilize data to meet local, regional and international needs;

<sup>1</sup> Contained in document FCCC/CP/1998/MISC.2 and summarized in document FCCC/CP/1998/7.

4. *Urges* Parties to strengthen international and intergovernmental programmes assisting countries to acquire and use climate information;

5. *Urges* Parties to actively support national meteorological and atmospheric observing systems, including measurement of greenhouse gases, in order to ensure that the stations identified as elements of the Global Climate Observing System networks, based on the World Weather Watch and Global Atmosphere Watch and underpinning the needs of the Convention, are fully operational and use best practices;

6. *Urges* Parties to actively support national oceanographic observing systems, in order to ensure that the elements of the Global Climate Observing System and Global Ocean Observing System networks in support of ocean climate observations are implemented, to support, to the extent possible, an increase in the number of ocean observations, particularly in remote locations, and to establish and maintain reference stations;

7. *Urges* Parties to actively support national terrestrial networks including observational programmes to collect, exchange and preserve terrestrial data according to the Global Climate Observing System and the Global Terrestrial Observing System climate priorities, particularly hydrosphere, cryosphere and ecosystem observations;

8. *Requests* Parties to submit information on national plans and programmes in relation to their participation in global observing systems for climate, in the context of reporting on research and systematic observation, as an element of national communications from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention (Annex I Parties) and, as appropriate, from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties);

9. *Requests* the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, in consultation with the agencies participating in the Climate Agenda, drawing *inter alia* on the information provided in the second national communications from Annex I Parties and, as appropriate, in the initial national communications from non-Annex I Parties, to inform the Conference of the Parties at its fifth session of developments regarding observational networks, difficulties encountered, *inter alia*, with respect to the needs of developing countries and options for financial support to reverse the decline in observational networks;

10. *Invites* the agencies participating in the Climate Agenda, through the Global Climate Observing System secretariat, to initiate an intergovernmental process for addressing the priorities for action to improve global observing systems for climate in relation to the needs of the Convention and, in consultation with the Convention secretariat and other relevant organizations, for identifying immediate, medium-term and long-term options for financial

support; and *requests* the secretariat to report results to the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice at its tenth session.

*5th plenary meeting  
11 November 1998*