



Submission by Ethiopia on behalf of the Least Developed Countries Group
SBSTA Research and Systematic Observation:
Views on possible topics and considerations for the tenth meeting of the
research dialogue

The Least Developed Countries Group (LDCs Group) welcomes the opportunity to submit their views on possible topics and considerations for the tenth meeting of the research dialogue, to be held in conjunction with SBSTA 48 and beyond. This submission takes into consideration the invitation to Parties to “take into account the report back from the consultations of the Presidencies of COP 22 and 23 on the preparations of the 2018 facilitative dialogue, in particular any aspects relating to scientific information”¹.

The Research Dialogue presents an excellent opportunity for scientific inputs on relevant topics of the (Facilitative) Talanoa Dialogue. Multiple themes are of relevance in this context. In particular, the following themes would add substantial value to the Research Dialogue and as inputs to the Talanoa Dialogue: 1. The (co-)benefits of mitigation; 2. Climate change attribution and 3. Adaptation barriers and limits

1. Co-benefits of mitigation

The transition towards sustainable energy and land systems, including through the implementation of renewable energies, climate proof infrastructure and better land management, will generate countless benefits for societies and allow for sustained wellbeing and survival of our populations. In addition to these direct benefits of mitigation, over recent years, the understanding of co-benefits of mitigation, particularly in the health sector has much improved². This is a highly relevant field of knowledge for least developed countries, where air and other pollution continues to be a health threat in many circumstances. A Research Dialogue dedicated to highlighting and summarizing the available knowledge on the benefits and co-benefits of mitigation would provide important inputs into the assessment and costing of mitigation options and important input for the Talanoa Dialogue.

2. Climate Change attribution

The field of climate change attribution has seen mounting attention from academia. Attribution of disasters to climate change is key in preparing for the future and choosing cost-effective mitigation and adaptation pathways. In addition, attribution to climate change presents important indicators for the key questions of the Talanoa Dialogue: Where are we? Where do we want to be? At the same time, it has been observed that attribution in the developing country context is challenging due to limited data availability. A systematic overview of the science of climate change attribution, and existing gaps, would shed important light on gaps and necessary next steps.

¹ FCCC/SBSTA/2017/L.3, paragraph 8

² See e.g. <http://www.lancetcountdown.org/the-report>

3. Adaptation limits

The theme of adaptation limits received much attention in the Fifth Assessment Report of the IPCC. This has triggered much research and valuable insights into empirical case studies on the challenges of adaptation³. Where adaptation limits are experienced, either physically or technically or due to a lack of means of implementation, high and often irreversible losses occur. Climate change thus has the potential to determine the future of LDCs through imposing the risks of irreversible damage and the creation of perpetual poverty traps. In relation to the Talanoa dialogue, information on adaptation limits would help bring into focus circumstances where adaptation clearly fails and mitigation action is urgently required (Where do we want to go?).

4. Costing adaptation needs in developing countries

Costing adaptation needs in developing countries is a key prerequisite for assessing the consequences of different mitigation levels. Inability to comprehensively assess adaptation costs in developing countries will result in underestimated costs of failed mitigation, the theme is thus highly relevant to the Talanoa Dialogue and specifically the question “Where do we want to go”.

³ See e.g. Leal Filho & Nalau (eds.) Limits to Climate Change Adaptation. Springer. 2018