

Submission by Cyprus and the European Commission on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

Nicosia, 02/03/2026

Subject: Views on possible themes for the 18th meeting of the Research Dialogue, to be held in conjunction with SBSTA 64

Context

The European Union (EU) and its Member States welcome the conclusions of SBSTA 62 on Research and Systematic Observation (FCCC/SBSTA/2025/X) and note the invitation to Parties to submit, by 14 March 2026, views on possible themes for the eighteenth meeting of the research dialogue, to be held in conjunction with SBSTA 64. The EU considers that the Research Dialogue is a valuable forum for exchanges on recent research findings and on needs for climate change research to inform climate action facilitating the dialogue between Parties and regional and international climate research programmes and organizations. These exchanges inform and support the implementation of the Paris Agreement and support enhancing the ambition and implementation of climate actions in national policies and NDCs. It is important to enhance this Dialogue, build upon its experience, and enhance its relevance as a key interface between the science, innovation communities and Parties to the UNFCCC, and as a forum to support the integrity of information on climate change.

Format for the Research Dialogue

The EU recommends building on the format of previous Research Dialogues, with at least a half-day plenary session including presentations, with Q&A and dialogue. The Q&A session allows for a valuable exchange between Parties and experts and should be given adequate time. We also encourage interaction and dialogue between Parties and experts by means of smaller fora and with additional time allocated to follow up and elaborate further on the topics addressed in the plenary session. The EU recommends break-out sessions with brief introductory presentations and further discussion time for allowing a broad contribution and participation. Sufficient time and room should be provided, and

the number of topics should be limited to 3-5. Making information and presentations available to participants well ahead allows for meaningful preparation and participation. Break-out sessions should be followed by a concluding plenary session that includes rapporteurs to summarize the discussion outcomes.

Possible themes for the Research Dialogue to be held in June 2026

To enable focused discussion and in-depth exchanges, a limited number of well-defined thematic areas should be addressed during the Research Dialogue. These should avoid duplication of issues that are being considered under other agenda items and processes. The EU suggests that the Research Dialogue considers new and emerging science, alongside well-established scientific knowledge. We recommend that the Dialogue including the contributors address how the integrity of climate change information is ensured and supported, as appropriate.

Updates from key international research programmes and organizations are of interest and useful for all Parties. We recommend that the opening plenary includes contributions from

- IPCC on progress, including the SR Cities, the Seventh Assessment Report, and the Methodology Reports;
- the WMO and the Copernicus Climate Change Service on understanding of the state of the climate system and advances in the development of climate services and information;
- WCRP on recent advances in understanding of climate change and an update on progress in international climate modelling efforts,
- IEA on developments in the drivers of the GHG emissions.

The EU suggests three themes to be addressed, in no particular order, that address the topic of informing the urgent need for scaling up action and accelerating implementation:

- The latest information on emissions of methane and nitrous oxide and their "budgets" as recently provided by the Global Carbon Project. This should explore trends, drivers, and mitigation options of the two most important GHGs after carbon dioxide. This includes methane emissions from oil/gas/waste/agriculture, including new approaches to identify and address emission hotspots using remote

sensing and communication systems to assist in addressing these emissions. It also includes addressing emissions from the food and agriculture sector, as recently provided by the Global Research Alliance on agricultural GHGs regarding nitrous oxide emissions.

- Research on advances in renewable energy development including storage and distribution, new scenarios and tracking progress in the energy transition, addressing renewable energy as a sustainable, cost-effective energy source for sustainable development, including as provided by the International Renewable Energy Agency and the African Institute for Sustainable Energy and Systems Analysis.
- Research on advances in decarbonization, sustainable transitions to net-zero and beyond, including levers and enablers to achieve net zero emissions pathways and a just energy transition. This includes policy instruments, social drivers, technology and digital innovation, demand side measures, and finance that can catalyse action in the near term. It also includes the assessment of policy instruments in reducing GHG emissions and/or enhancing climate resilience alongside relevant outcomes such as economic costs and benefits, distributional implications, impact on labour markets, economic competitiveness, health, and well-being in the near and long-term.