



Submission by Iceland, 13.03.2026

on possible themes for the Eighteenth Meeting of the Research Dialogue (to be held in conjunction with SBSTA 64)

The Government of Iceland welcomes the opportunity to provide views on possible themes for the eighteenth meeting of the Research Dialogue, to be held in conjunction with SBSTA 64. Iceland values the Research Dialogue as an important forum for strengthening the interface between the scientific community and Parties, enabling policymakers to engage directly with the latest climate science.

Iceland recommends maintaining a format similar to that used in recent sessions of the Research Dialogue, which has proven effective in facilitating meaningful exchange between scientists and Parties. In particular, Iceland encourages allocating **at least half a day to a plenary session** in which leading scientists present the latest findings from climate research. Such a format allows for clear communication of emerging scientific developments and supports informed discussions among Parties.

For the eighteenth meeting, Iceland proposes that the dialogue include a **dedicated focus on changes in ocean circulation systems and their relationship to climate change**, with particular attention to recent developments in the study of the **Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC)**.

Recent scientific literature has highlighted growing concern about potential changes in large-scale ocean circulation and the associated implications for regional and global climate systems. Iceland therefore encourages the inclusion of presentations addressing recent advances in understanding AMOC dynamics, potential tipping points, and implications for climate projections.

Relevant research that could inform the dialogue includes recent work such as:

- Drijfhout et al. (2025) on early-warning signals and stability of the AMOC system.
- Research by Prof. Stefan Rahmstorf (2023) and colleagues on tipping points of ocean circulations and climate implications of AMOC variability.



- The most recent modelling and theoretical research from Westen and Dijkstra (2026) examining circulation stability and potential transitions in the North Atlantic system.

Iceland considers this topic to be of high scientific and policy relevance. Improved understanding of ocean circulation dynamics is essential for assessing future climate risks, including impacts on regional weather patterns, marine ecosystems, sea level, and cryosphere–ocean interactions.

Iceland proposes to dedicate time within the Research Dialogue to this theme with a view to:

- Strengthen engagement between Parties and the scientific community on emerging climate system risks.
- Provide Parties with access to the latest peer-reviewed scientific findings.
- Support evidence-based decision-making within the UNFCCC process.

Iceland looks forward to continued collaboration with Parties, observer organizations, and the scientific community in advancing the Research Dialogue as a platform for integrating the latest climate science into the work of the SBSTA.

References

Drijfhout, S., Angevaere, J. R., Mecking, J. V., van Westen, R. M., & Rahmstorf, S. (2025). *Shutdown of northern Atlantic overturning after 2100 following deep mixing collapse in CMIP6 projections*.

Environmental Research Letters. <https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/adfa3b>

Rahmstorf, S. 2024. *Is the Atlantic overturning circulation approaching a tipping point?* **Oceanography**, <https://doi.org/10.5670/oceanog.2024.501>.

van Westen, R. M., & Dijkstra, H. A. (2026). *Abrupt Gulf Stream path changes are a precursor to a collapse of the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation*. **Communications Earth & Environment**, 7(1), Article 197. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s43247-026-03309-1>