

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland's submission to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the eighteenth meeting of the research dialogue under SBSTA 64 – Research and Systematic Observation

provided in line with the mandate given in June 2025¹



¹ Para 14, FCCC/SBSTA/2025/L.5 https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sbsta2025_L05E.pdf

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is pleased to provide its views on themes for the eighteenth meeting of the Research Dialogue, to be held in conjunction with SBSTA 64 (June 2026).

1. Context

The UK believes that the Research Dialogue is an invaluable forum to provide accessible and relevant information on emerging climate science, and to ensure that the best available science is provided to Parties' negotiators and policymakers to inform decision-making under the UNFCCC. The science that is discussed in this forum can provide information to help guide decisions on solutions and actions in this critical decade, as well as highlight policy evidence requirements to be addressed to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement and the Convention.

For a full understanding of scientific research and evidence needs from all regions globally, it is important to ensure that the presenters and contributors to the Research Dialogue are representative in terms of gender balance and geographical distribution.

2. Possible topics for the eighteenth Research Dialogue to be held in June 2026

The UK would like to propose the following topics for the eighteenth meeting of the Research Dialogue:

- **Science-based pathways for the global energy transition**
This topic should examine net-zero pathways for power, heat and industry, focusing on the policy and system considerations needed to implement them - including the sequencing of renewables, managing variability, and ensuring effective grid integration. It should also present the latest scientific evidence on fossil fuel phase-out trajectories consistent with limiting warming to 1.5 °C.
- **Realising multiple benefits from climate action**
This topic should present the latest evidence on the health, economic and ecosystem benefits of mitigation and adaptation actions, showing how they can advance development priorities while reducing emissions and strengthening resilience. It should examine approaches for maximising these benefits and reducing trade-offs through effective policy design. The topic should also consider how to prioritise, sustain and scale up the most effective mitigation and adaptation measures, and could draw on improved evaluation tools, planning methods, economic analysis, decision-making frameworks and behavioural science.

For these topics, the dialogue could feature speakers from UK-funded research programmes including the Climate Adaptation and Resilience (CLARE) programme (see separate submission to the UNFCCC).

3. Format for the Research Dialogue

The UK recommends a format with a half-day plenary session including presentations from experts and sufficient time for Q&A, as this is a valuable opportunity for Parties and experts

to engage. In addition to this half day session, to encourage further interaction and dialogue, breakout group sessions could be added to discuss the topics presented in the plenary session in more depth.

To ensure that these sessions are engaging, inclusive and deliver impactful messages on emerging climate science to the UNFCCC, the UK would like to make the following suggestions on how the dialogue is conducted:

- The dialogue should focus on a small number (2-3) of well-defined topics selected from proposals, to allow for in depth discussion on each one. The breakout groups should not introduce new topics, and instead should use the plenary topics as the basis for more detailed discussions.
- The organisers should ensure that presenters are focused, concise and keep to their allotted time, with a maximum number of slides, as it is essential to leave sufficient time for the valuable Q&A between Parties and experts.
- Presentations should be provided in advance of the sessions for Parties to review and therefore enable more focused questions for experts and meaningful participation.
- The breakout groups should be run by well-trained, experienced facilitators to ensure all voices have time to speak, and discussions should be followed by a concluding plenary session where rapporteurs summarise discussion outcomes.
- In-person and virtual participation should be available to expand the opportunity for participation to those that cannot travel but would benefit from the discussion.