

## Eighth meeting of the Adaptation Committee

Bonn, Germany, 9 – 12 September 2015

### Modalities to strategically strengthen and enhance the coherence of the provision of support to developing countries for activities related to adaptation

#### Recommended action by the Adaptation Committee

The Adaptation Committee (AC), at its 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, will be invited to adopt modalities to strategically strengthen and enhance the coherence of the provision of support to developing countries for activities related to adaptation, to be utilized in implementing the next phase of its workplan.

#### 1. Introduction and background

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), by decision 1/CP.16, decided that one of the functions of the Adaptation Committee (AC) is to provide technical support and guidance to the Parties, respecting the country-driven approach, with a view to facilitating the implementation of adaptation activities, including those listed in paragraphs 14 and 15 of the same decision, where appropriate.
2. As part of its workstream on technical support and guidance to the Parties on adaptation action, and in accordance with activity 16 of its three-year workplan, the AC, at its 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, agreed to establish an ad hoc group on technical support. The objective of this group is to propose modalities for providing support to Parties on adaptation, for consideration by the AC, and the duration of the ad-hoc group would be until AC8. The tasks of this group include:
  - a) Analyzing existing support for adaptation action provided by regional institutions and UN agencies, including gaps, needs and opportunities, based on the submissions by regional institutions and UN agencies and other relevant information, including related to issues such as geographic coverage, types and degree of technical assistance, and associated institutional and financial arrangements; and,
  - b) Taking into account the above gaps, needs and opportunities, to propose modalities to strengthen and to enhance coherence of the provision of support to developing countries for activities related to adaptation.
3. At its sixth meeting, the AC endorsed the document prepared for the meeting (AC/2014/22) which proposed initial modalities based on the submission from organizations and the respective analysis report describing the roles of regional institutions and United Nations agencies in supporting enhanced adaptation actions in developing countries<sup>1</sup> prepared for AC5. The AC further agreed on the importance of catalyzing the work of the ad-hoc technical support group and to approach it in a strategic way, recognizing the role of the AC.
4. At its seventh meeting, the AC considered the document prepared for the meeting (AC/2015/6) that presented the need for two types of modalities: i) modalities for obtaining information on technical support provided and identifying existing gaps; and ii) modalities to facilitate the closure of the gaps identified. The AC discussed possible next steps, recognizing that the mandate of the ad hoc group on technical support calls for the development of modalities by AC8.

<sup>1</sup> AC/2014/7.

## 2. Relevant developments since AC7

5. Discussion at, and reports of, various meetings held since AC7 provide additional information on availability of technical support. These meetings include:
- a) The AC workshop on means of implementation for enhanced adaptation action, held in Bonn 2–4 March 2015;
  - b) The second Adaptation Forum, “Institutional arrangements to build partnerships and strengthen regional networks” and the Global Adaptation Network (GAN) Forum, held in Panama City 6–7 March 2015;
  - c) The National Adaptation Plans Expo, held in Bonn 14–15 April 2015;
  - d) The AC/LEG workshop on experiences, good practices, lessons learned, gaps and needs on the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans, held in Bonn 16–17 April 2015.
6. Other sources previously identified in AC/2015/6, including the online list of regional centres and networks working on adaptation, and developments under the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change.

## 3. Proposed types of modalities

7. The ad-hoc group on technical support has been mandated to identify modalities to advance this work by AC8. These modalities will inform future activities of the AC, as will be described in the AC workplan for 2016–2018.
8. In identifying modalities, it may be helpful to recall that at AC7 the AC reiterated that, with respect to provision of technical support and guidance to the Parties on adaptation action, the Committee’s role is one of catalyzing action by others rather than directly carrying out activities itself.
9. In order to strengthen and enhance coherence of the provision of support to developing countries for activities related to adaptation, the AC should focus on regularly surveying technical support provided, identifying gaps and needs, and developing modalities that facilitate the addressing of identified gaps and needs.
10. The two types of modalities proposed in AC/2015/6 address these areas of focus. Specifically:
- a) Type 1. Modalities for obtaining information on technical support provided and identifying existing gaps;
  - b) Type 2. Modalities for facilitating the closure of the gap identified.
11. There are a large number of specific modalities that could be employed under each of the two modality types identified above. Examples were provided previously in AC/2015/6, and are included in the annex to this document.

## 4. Next steps

12. To conclude the discussions at AC 8, and the activities of the ad hoc group on technical support as per the mandate agreed at AC5, the AC may wish to:
- a) Decide if the two types of modalities presented in section 3 are appropriate and sufficient to enable additional activities as part of the 2016–2018 workplan ;
  - b) Employ some of the specific modalities for each of the two types (see annex) as part of the 2016–2018 workplan.
13. In taking these steps the AC may wish to consider the outcomes of and/or take relevant action during its discussion on its 2016–2018 workplan at AC8.

## Annex

Potential modalities under each of the two could include the following:

- a) Modalities for obtaining information on technical support provided and deriving existing gaps:
    - a. Review of information: The AC to periodically review information available to identify trends on support made available to developing countries. This would be a similar exercise to the one that led to the creation of the working group, where information on trends is identified on what is working and what is not, e.g. through:
      - i. Working with focal points/champions;
      - ii. Liaising and drawing on modalities of other UNFCCC constituted bodies for identifying and communicating gaps, needs, lessons learnt and practices:
        1. Nairobi work programme, including the Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative (which provides modalities for filling knowledge gaps associated with vulnerability and adaptation by identifying and prioritizing these gaps at the level of each of the world's subregions as well as at the thematic level e.g. different sectors and areas of vulnerabilities);
        2. TEC and CTCN (drawing on the requests for technical support and linking Parties with relevant organizations);
        3. LEG (including on NAPs);
        4. SCF (in support of knowledge sharing and exchange on NAPs).
  - b) Modalities for facilitating the closure of such gaps:
    - a. Establish an ongoing review of support in the AC agenda and to make recommendations: The AC will take up the item once per [define period] and make strategic decisions, which may be linked to the bullet below;
    - b. Establish a partnership platform with regional centers: The AC in its current form cannot reach out to countries, but through establishing collaboration with regional centers it can channel its energy in a way that can be amplified;
    - c. Participate in advisory boards of relevant institutions or programmes, e.g. NAP GSP, CTCN;
    - d. Support coherence in online UNFCCC resource regarding adaptation, including NAP Central and NWP online resources;
    - e. Collaborate with other constituted bodies on existing (and if necessary new) modalities to facilitate information sharing to address needs identified by Parties through these entities and to guide planning, implementation and institutional set up for adaptation by Parties and organizations.
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