
Fifth meeting of the Adaptation Committee Bonn, Germany, 5–7 March 2014

Concept paper on the Adaptation Forum

The Adaptation Committee (AC), at its 5th meeting, may wish to:

- Consider outreach/PR activities related to the AF-1 and beyond;
- Confirm the objective of the Adaptation Forum;
- Consider a sequenced approach with alternating Adaptation Fora and Satellite Fora and the frequency of these events;
- Agree on a theme for the next Adaptation Forum;
- Agree on the objective, relevant events that might host a SAF, financing, the role of the secretariat and role and participation of AC members.

Introduction

This note informs the discussion on agenda item 16, Adaptation Forum (AF). It includes an overarching section describing the concept for the future of the AF and summarizing lessons learned at AF-1, introducing the idea of Satellite Adaptation Forums (SAF) as well as associated questions and recommendations with respect to the future of the AF for further consideration by AC-5.

Concept

AF-1

Thanks to a great effort of the secretariat and the AC, AF-1 took place in the margins of COP 19 in Warsaw. The objective was to raise the profile of adaptation globally. This will be achieved mainly by distribution of a video that is expected to become available later this year. The impact of AF-1 will be assessed once distribution/up-take of the video has happened. The AC, at its 5th meeting, may wish to consider not repeating the AF under the same format as in 2013 as the added value would be rather limited, but to continue with a more focused objective and in a different format (for more detail see suggestions below). The AC, at its 5th meeting, may wish to also consider outreach/PR activities related to the AF-1.

Future AF's

At AC-3 the AC concluded that the objective of the AAF should be to:

- Enhance knowledge and understanding of vulnerabilities and adaptation activities in developing and developed countries;
- Contribute to strengthening dialogue, coherence and synergies among Parties, and institutions and organizations active in adaptation;
- Contribute to enhancing action and support, including finance, technology and capacity building.

The AC, at its 5th meeting, may wish to confirm this above objective of the AF. In doing so, it may wish to agree on focusing on opportunities that directly contribute to the above objectives and that are linked to the COP-approved AC three-year workplan as driving criteria for the Adaptation Forum.

In order to allow for a more focused approach for future AF's, the AC, at its 5th meeting, may wish to consider a sequenced approach focusing on a selected theme consistent with the AC 3-year work plan. In a first step the AC would organize small scale 'Satellite' AFs in conjunction with other conferences, relevant to adaptation to the impacts of climate change but not linked to the UNFCCC process and hence in a distance from the heart of the climate community. These SAFs have the primary goal to gather external information from these conferences/processes with the aim to enrich and broaden the knowledge and discussion under the UNFCCC and to inform the community outside the UNFCCC about the activities on adaptation under the Convention and thus raise the profile of the AC as the UNFCCC focal point on adaptation for the outside world.

The second step should be to invite representatives of this outside world to the AF organized as part of the UNFCCC agenda. This AF need not necessarily be organized every year. A bi-annual cycle in which the AF is organized once every two years in conjunction with the COP might be more feasible and practical. Therefore, the AC, at its 5th meeting may wish to reconsider organizing the AF every year.

For the whole bi-annual cycle one or two themes should be selected as focus for the SAFs and AF and thus ensuring the coherence between SAF and AF. For example, if the theme would be "food security-energy-water nexus" the SAFs could be organized in conjunction with regional/global conferences of FAO, NGOs, private sector organizations, etc. The results and 'harvest' of the SAFs will be presented at the AF, where speakers and high level representatives could be invited with an interest in the theme.

Some advantages of this approach:

- A longer period of preparation of the AF;
- More focused input;
- More time for an invitation of high level important, interesting people;
- Deepening of the theme with input from inside and outside the climate community.

Two themes as examples are further elaborated in the annex:

- Disaster risk management;
- Food security-energy-water nexus.

The AC may also wish to consider other themes for the AF linked to its workplan not suggested in this note.

Relevant aspects in the context of each theme that need further consideration:

- Objective;
- Which events/with whom;
- Financing;
- Role of the UNFCCC secretariat;
- Participation from members of the AC;
- Timing.

Next steps:

The AC, at its 5th meeting, may wish to select one or two themes as well as agree on the specific objectives, the events that might host a SAF, financing, role of the secretariat, timing and participation from members of the AC (volunteers) as well as the timing of the next AF.

Annex 1**Theme 1: “ADAPTATION and Disaster Risk Management”**

According to the IPCC (AR5 WG II) key risks related to extreme weather events are increasing in all regions of the world throughout the 21st century under all scenarios, independent from efforts related to adaptation and mitigation and an iterative risk management approach could ensure that climate-resilient pathways are identified and would allow to significantly reduce climate change and its impacts. There is the big opportunity to develop synergies between the climate change 2015 agreement and the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

Objective of the proposal

By introducing ‘Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management’ as the leading theme for the Adaptation Forum cycle the AC offers a platform to explore possible synergies and opportunities between the climate change 2015 agreement and the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

The elaboration and adoption of the 2015 climate change agreement comes at a critical time, when another major instruments relevant to risk increase and management, namely on the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction are under discussion.

This synchronicity is a major opportunity to define and agree upon an overall cohesive, coherent, and as much as possible harmonised post-2015 paradigm. This should enable the management of the risks inherent to development and that manifest through disasters, climate change and variability, financial and economic crises, and other consequences for the economy, society and the environment. From that perspective, climate change mitigation and adaptation need to be seen as part of broader risk management strategy, which embraces natural and technological hazards and is instrumental to the achievement of sustainable development goals.

The knowledge and experience acquired in disaster risk management to date need to inform the development of the above-mentioned international instruments and frameworks. These need to converge if the world-wide shared aspiration of sustainability in development and resilience is to be achieved. If risk management is addressed in an incoherent and incompatible manner by each the two instruments there will be little possibility of success to achieve sustainable development. While each instrument may need to guide and regulate, as appropriate, specific questions, managing risk and opportunities in a coherent manner needs to remain a common feature.

See below some relevant information on developing the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

<http://www.preventionweb.net/posthfa/about>

Consultations towards a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction

The United Nations General Assembly Resolution 66/199 requests that UNISDR facilitate the development of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. The consultations will culminate at the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015 in Japan where a new instrument will be agreed and put forward to the United Nations General Assembly for endorsement.

What is the current status of the consultations?

- Consultations officially launched in March 2012.
- March 2012 - May 2013: 86 consultative events including international meetings, regional platforms, meetings of intergovernmental organizations, national dialogues, stakeholder forums & social networks.
- Results compiled in a Synthesis Report: Consultations on Post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (March 2012 - May 2013).

- Fourth Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction convened May 2013 included over 40 consultative events on the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction. The report of the discussions is available at <http://www.preventionweb.net/globalplatform/2013>.

How can stakeholders engage in the consultative process?

- Many countries have planned to carry out national multi-stakeholder consultations. Contact national HFA focal points.
- Stakeholders will participate in the upcoming regional platforms for disaster risk reduction. Contact regional offices to learn more about the planning process.
- All are encouraged to submit the outcomes of each consultation on www.preventionweb.net/posthfa. Please notify us of plans to carry out a consultation.

What is the role of the regional platforms?

- Consolidate the views, perspectives and contributions of all.
- Provide a substantive and political contribution to development of the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.
- Engage senior political and executive levels to advance the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction.

Schedule of Regional Platforms and Ministerial Conferences in 2014:

May 5-8: Africa (Abuja, Nigeria)
 May 27-29: Americas (Guayaquil, Ecuador)
 May/June: Arab States (Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt)
 April: Central Asia (Almaty, Kazakhstan: Consultative Meeting)
 June 2-4: Pacific (Suva, Fiji)
 June 23-26: Asia (Bangkok, Thailand)
 June/July: Europe (Brussels, Belgium: Ministerial Session on Disaster Risk Reduction)
 October: Europe (Madrid, Spain: European Forum)

How does the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction relate to the Sustainable Development Goals?

- The main outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference recognized disaster risk reduction and building resilience as essential, as reflected in various ongoing work streams. See: <http://www.unisdr.org/2012/rioplus20/>
- The “Report of the High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda”, includes a proposal for a target to build resilience and reduce deaths from natural disasters.
- Mutually re-inforcing coherence and complementarity between the post-2015 development agenda, a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction and a global agreement on climate change.

What other events in 2014 are relevant to the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction?

5-11 April 2014 – World Urban Forum – Medellin, Colombia
 1-3 June 2014 – Fifth Global Forum on Urban Resilience & Adaptation – ICLEI
 Local Governments for Sustainability – Bonn, Germany
 1-4 September, 2014 – Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States – Apia, Samoa
 24 September, 2014 – 2014 Climate Summit, UNHQ, New York
 12 - 19 November, 2014 – IUCN World Parks Congress – Sydney, Australia
 December 2014 - UNFCCC COP 20/CMP 10 - Lima, Peru

How does the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction relate to existing international strategies for disaster risk reduction?

- Continues the progress in international cooperation in disaster risk reduction.
- Builds on knowledge and practice accumulated through the implementation of: International Framework for the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction of 1989, Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action of 1994, International Strategy for Disaster Reduction of 1999, and Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters.

What is the Third World United Nations Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction?

The 68th Session of the UN General Assembly decided that the 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction will be held in Sendai, Japan, from 14 to 18 March 2015

It will result in a concise, focused, forward-looking, and action-oriented outcome document and will have the following objectives:

- (a) To complete assessment and review the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action;
- (b) To consider the experience gained through the regional and national strategies/institutions and plans for disaster risk reduction and their recommendations as well as relevant regional agreements within the implementation of the Hyogo Framework of Action;
- (c) To adopt a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction;
- (d) To identify modalities of cooperation based on commitments to implement a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction;
- (e) To determine modalities to periodically review the implementation of a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction;

What are the preparatory processes for the WCDRR?

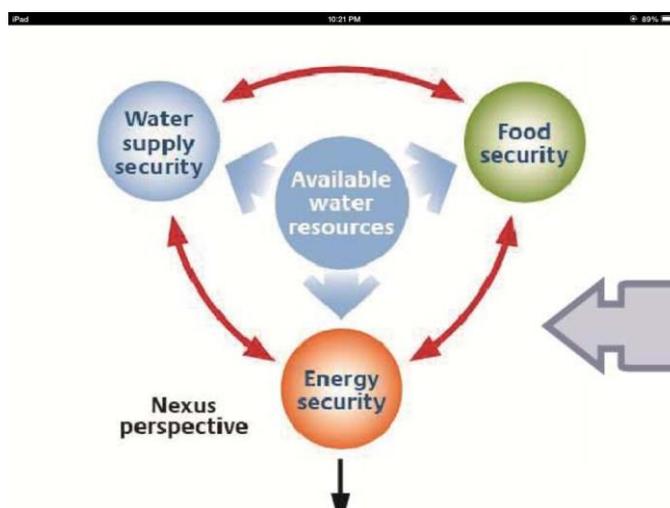
- The 68th session of the UN General Assembly has defined the process for agreeing on the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction including its scope and modalities.
- An open-ended intergovernmental preparatory committee for the Third World Conference will review the organizational and substantive preparations for the Conference, approve the programme of work of the Conference, and propose rules of procedure for adoption by the Conference,
- The preparatory committee will meet in Geneva in July and November 2014, for two days each time, and that it will hold a meeting at Sendai to be decided by the preparatory committee, as necessary;
- The preparatory process will receive as background the outcomes of all regional platforms for disaster risk reduction, ministerial meetings and other consultations.
- The Third World Conference and its preparatory process will be inclusive, building on the contributions and participation of all relevant stakeholders, including major groups, parliaments, civil society, International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, non governmental organizations, national platforms for disaster risk reduction, focal points for the Hyogo Framework for Action, local government representatives, scientific institutions and the private sector, as well as organizations of the United Nations system and intergovernmental organizations.

Annex 2

Theme 2: “ADAPTATION FOR FOOD SECURITY”

Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. Given this existential relation with the bare necessities in life, food security and its influencing factors are everyone’s business and politically highly relevant.

It is expected that growth conditions will be affected by climate change. Higher day and night temperatures, extremes in rainfall -causing floods and drought- and water availability in general are examples of such effects. Furthermore climate change might have an adverse effect on the availability of sufficient and safe food, through consequences for transport and storage life.



Objective of the proposal

By introducing ‘food security’ as the leading theme for the bi-annual Adaptation Forum cycle the AC places the spotlight on the influence of climate change on one of the most essential conditions for healthy living and prosperity. As a consequence it might be expected that the adaptation Forum will attract a lot of attention from Parties, media and other representatives at the COP. Adaptation to climate change on this issue is also a main interest for private parties in their strategy to secure resources and production conditions.

Food security is easily connected to questions in the field of water quality and availability, including salinization, irrigation, etc., and in that way also connect to drinking water resources. In this way adaptation is also linked to initiatives to secure and advance environmental sustainability and chances to build a green economy.

There is no place in an interlinked world for isolated solutions aimed at just one sector. If the world is going to reduce hunger and eradicate poverty, achieving security for water, energy and food is critical. This challenge is becoming even more critical with the impacts of climate change, and water will be the medium by which we will address much of the nexus.

<http://nexusconference.web.unc.edu/>

The objective is therefore to expose this highly important field of adaptation to the climate community, explaining the interactions between different fields of interest –like water, energy, etc.- and show relevant efforts of public and private stakeholders.

Partners & events

The **Food and Agricultural Organization** (FAO) seems a natural ally for the AC when exposing food security. More specifically the Committee **on World Food Security** (CFS, set up in 1974 as an intergovernmental body to serve as a forum for review and follow up of food security policies) is relevant to connect with, as well as **NEXUS** (the Water, Energy & Food Security Resources Platform).

Interesting partners could further be the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the World Food Programme (WFP), the Standing Committee on Nutrition (SCN) and other organizations like US Feed the Future, Scaling up Nutrition (SUN), L'Aguila Food Security Initiative (AFSI), Hunger Free Latin America and the Caribbean (HFLAC), High Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis (HLTF), Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP), Farming First, European Union Food Facility ,etc.

There will be a number of conferences suitable to host a satellite AF. It might be best to approach the leading organizations and define a proposal for specific meetings in dialogue. The FAO Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2, 19-21/11/2014, Rome) might be a concrete option, as well as the NEXUS conferences Preserving the Flow of Life (29-31/10/2014, Lyon) and Solutions for the Nexus (11-13/11/2014, Beijing). If AC-6 will meet in conjunction with the APAN conference in Kuala Lumpur, this would be an excellent opportunity to reach out to the Asian community on the issue.

Should the AC agree on a bi-annual cycle for SAF and AF, it can be expected that the costs for the AF cycle might stay the same, if the SAF are held as small scale side events to the host meetings and the representation of AC members is limited.
