
Mandates related to the Paris Agreement to the Adaptation Committee (AC) and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG)

Report on the informal meeting between the AC and the LEG held on 27 May 2016

(4 July 2016)

1. Introduction

The Adaptation Committee (AC) and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) held an informal joint meeting in Bonn on 27 May 2016 to discuss an approach for responding to the mandates provided to them by the Conference of the Parties (COP) at its twenty-first session.¹

The meeting confirmed that the two bodies hold a joint ownership in the implementation of the new mandates. The mandates are as follows:

- Request to the AC and the LEG to jointly develop modalities to recognize the adaptation efforts of developing country Parties, as referred to in Article 7, paragraph 3, of the Agreement, and make recommendations for consideration and adoption by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its first session (CMA 1);
- Request to the AC and the LEG, in collaboration with the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) and other relevant institutions, to develop methodologies, and make recommendations for consideration and adoption by CMA 1 on:
 - (a) Taking the necessary steps to facilitate the mobilization of support for adaptation in developing countries in the context of the limit to global average temperature increase referred to in Article 2 of the Agreement;
 - (b) Reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support referred to in Article 7, paragraph 14(c), of the Agreement.

The meeting addressed: initial reflections by the AC and the LEG members on the mandates; collaboration and inputs from Parties and all relevant stakeholders; a workplan to guide the work; and initial ideas on providing updates on progress for COP 22 on the progress in considering the mandates. The meeting also considered a background paper capturing information on addressing the mandates, which the two bodies agreed to update regularly and make publicly available to Parties, as a way to keep Parties and relevant stakeholders informed about their progress. There was broad agreement that the first stage of work will be of a more technical nature, while the second step, which involves producing recommendations to CMA, will be more policy relevant.

The following sections provide a summary of the discussions.

2. Reflections on the mandates

Modalities to recognize the adaptation efforts of developing country Parties, as referred to in Article 7, paragraph 3, of the Agreement

The meeting noted that initial work may involve examining details on the following issues:

- (a) A better understanding of the concept of recognizing efforts (e.g. monitoring and evaluating actions, enhance visibility of actions, lessons, good practices, etc.);
- (b) The scope of the efforts (e.g. actions, support to enable the actions, etc.);
- (c) Linkages with the global goal on adaptation;
- (d) Linkages with adaptation communications, NAPs, NDCs and other relevant instruments;

¹ Decision 1/CP.21, paragraphs 41 and 45.

- (e) Ways to capture and communicate the efforts.

The meeting also recognized that there are multiple opportunities within and outside the Convention that may feed into work under this mandate. Examples referred to at the meeting included:

- (a) The Adaptation Forum;²
- (b) The NAP Expo;³
- (c) NAP Central;⁴
- (d) The work of the LEG on capturing and sharing best practices and lessons learned in addressing adaptation in the LDCs;⁵
- (e) Technical Expert Meetings on Adaptation, organized under the technical examination process on adaptation referred to in paragraph 124 of decision 1/CP.21;
- (f) The public registry referred to in Article 7, paragraph 12 of the Paris Agreement;
- (g) National communications, intended national determined contributions and nationally determined contributions.

Methodologies on taking the necessary steps to facilitate the mobilization of support for adaptation in developing countries in the context of the limit to global average temperature increase referred to in Article 2 of the Agreement

The meeting noted that there would be a need to get a detailed overview of the climate change adaptation finance architecture. The mandated input by the SCF, operating entities of the Financial Mechanism under the Convention, relevant agencies and entities and bilateral and multilateral institutions was deemed important in this respect.

The meeting agreed that the work will need to look at both sides of providing and receiving of support. The meeting also noted that NAPs will play an important role in this work as through them countries will identify their medium- and long-term adaptation needs, consistent with decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 15.

The meeting further noted that both the AC and the LEG will be undertaking respective activities in relation to gaps and needs for adaptation that may serve as important inputs for this work, namely: for the AC – consideration of methodologies for assessing adaptation needs with a view to assisting developing country Parties;⁶ for the LEG – ongoing work on capturing the gaps and needs of the LDCs in addressing adaptation in the LDCs,⁷ and the mandate to provide technical guidance and advice to the LDCs on the needs related to adaptation that may arise from the implementation of the Paris Agreement.⁸

Methodologies on reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support referred to in Article 7, paragraph 14(c), of the Agreement

The meeting agreed that it will be important to initiate work with the following aspects:

- (a) An understanding of adequacy and effectiveness for both adaptation and support;
- (b) The scale (e.g. global versus national) at which both adequacy and effectiveness need to be considered with linkages to the global goal on adaptation;
- (c) Ways to measure the adequacy and effectiveness of both adaptation and support.

² <<http://unfccc.int/6989.php#AC>>.

³ <<http://unfccc.int/6057>>.

⁴ <<http://unfccc.int/NAP>>.

⁵ <<http://unfccc.int/6491>>.

⁶ Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 42(b).

⁷ FCCC/SBI/2016/7, annex I.

⁸ Decision 19/CP.21, paragraph 2(d).

The meeting acknowledged that the scope for support needs to cover all the three dimensions: finance, technology and capacity-building. The meeting also noted that a variety of potentially related initiatives and/or resources exist within and outside the Convention that the work under this mandate could build upon. Initial examples referred to at the meeting included:

- (a) The work on monitoring and evaluation by the AC⁹ and the LEG;¹⁰
- (b) The work of the LEG on capturing and sharing best practices and lessons learned in addressing adaptation in the LDCs;¹¹
- (c) The information document on the submissions of information from developed country Parties on the resources provided to fulfil the commitment referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 95 on fast start finance;¹²
- (d) Biennial reports, biennial update reports and national communications;
- (e) Global and national monitoring and evaluation systems and tools;
- (f) The United Nations Environment Programme's Adaptation Gap Report;¹³
- (g) The report by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development on Communicating Progress in National and Global Adaptation to Climate Change;¹⁴
- (h) Information provided by the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility.

Furthermore, for all the three mandates, the meeting noted that the outcome could include a limited set of options for considerations by the Parties.

3. Collaboration and inputs

Ways of collaborating with the SCF and other relevant institutions

The meeting noted that the SCF has nominated a focal point to work with the AC and the LEG on the mandates. Unfortunately, the invited SCF focal point could not attend but will be informed on the outcomes. The meeting also noted that there will be need for different inputs by the respective bodies under the Convention, including the Technology Executive Committee, the Climate Technology Centre and Network and the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention, as well as from other institutions that already have relevant methodologies in place.

The meeting agreed to launch a call for submissions from Parties and other stakeholders to solicit inputs on the three mandates.

Further ways for soliciting additional inputs

The group agreed that they will deploy various means of soliciting inputs from Parties and relevant stakeholders. Initial options include the following:

- (a) A desk review of available information, to be conducted with the help of the secretariat, to capture relevant mandates, activities and information related to the three mandates, including mapping of existing methodologies;
- (b) Side events during the sessions of the subsidiary bodies and the COP: the first side event could be conducted at COP 22 in Marrakesh to update Parties on the work carried out by that time and to solicit inputs/feedback from Parties and all stakeholders;
- (c) Expert meetings to be convened as and when the need arises

⁹ See "monitoring and evaluation of adaptation" on <unfccc.int/8730.php>.

¹⁰ FCCC/SBI/2016/7, annex I.

¹¹ <<http://unfccc.int/6491>>.

¹² <<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2013/cop19/eng/inf01.pdf>>

¹³ <<http://web.unep.org/adaptationgapreport/content/adaptation-gap-reports>>.

¹⁴ <http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/environment/communicating-progress-in-national-and-global-adaptation-to-climate-change_5j1ww009v1hj-en>.

- (d) Use other events to collect input, such as LEG regional workshops;
- (e) Online surveys;
- (f) Personal interviews;
- (g) Observer input at the next meeting.

4. Workplan

The meeting acknowledged the likelihood of CMA 1 taking place as early as at the margins of COP 23 (November 2017).¹⁵ As such, it developed a workplan that aims at completing the work in time to present their findings in November 2017.

It decided on taking a three-step approach for organizing its work (also see table 2 below):

- (a) Step 1 (Q2-Q3 2016): gathering and synthesizing information relevant to the mandates;
- (b) Step 2 (Q3 2016 to Q1 2017): identification of a suite of possible methodologies and modalities (“options”) and their validation through reaching out to Parties and relevant stakeholders;
- (c) Step 3 (Q2-Q4 2017): selection of options into recommendations for CMA 1.

The meeting agreed to launch work on all three mandates at the same time, recognizing that some mandates may progress faster than others and that additional input may be received throughout the envisaged period.

The meeting also noted that there is likely to be some overlap in the information required to advance these three tasks. It also noted that the third task related to the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support may be interpreted as relating to all Parties, while the first two tasks are focussed on adaptation in developing countries.

The work plan is contained in the annex.

5. Update on progress for COP 22

The AC and the LEG agreed to make information on progress in the consideration of the mandates available to the COP. This will be done through the annual report of the AC and the report of the LEG to the SBI. Progress may also be showcased at a side event at COP 22, which will also serve to receive further input.

6. Next steps

The meeting agreed on the following activities to be carried out as immediate next steps:

- (a) Preparation and dissemination of a report on the meeting;
- (b) The AC and the LEG, with support from the secretariat, will update the background paper prepared for the meeting, including the draft time line. The background paper will be regularly updated to showcase progress made by the AC and the LEG on the mandates;
- (c) The AC and the LEG will launch a call for submissions from Parties and other stakeholders on the Paris mandates with a deadline of 30 September 2016;
- (d) The AC and LEG will agree on guiding questions to accompany this call and to further inform the process;
- (e) Informal discussions between the AC and the LEG will continue on the margins of the NAP Expo in July 2016;

¹⁵ An Information Note on the (early) entry into force of the Paris Agreement highlighting the legal requirements and implications has been prepared by the secretariat and is available at unfccc.int/files/paris_agreement/application/pdf/entry_into_force_of_pa.pdf.

- (f) The AC and the LEG will consider holding a side event at COP 22 in Marrakesh to share progress and interim results;
 - (g) A joint meeting to agree on options and prepare recommendations.
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Annex. Workplan of the Adaptation Committee and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group in addressing mandates from decision 1/CP.21, paragraphs 41 and 45

Who	What	Soliciting, gathering and synthesizing information		Analysis of information, identification and validation of options		Finalization of options and development and finalization of recommendations		
		Q2 2016	Q3 2016	Q4 2016	Q1 2017	Q2 2017	Q3 2017	Q4 2017
AC, LEG	Outreach	Publish workplan		AC-LEG side event at COP 22		AC-LEG side event at SB46		AC-LEG side event at COP 23
Secretariat	Desk review							
AC, LEG	Interviews and surveys		NAP Expo LEG 30 AC 10 Online survey	APAN/GAN Forum				
Secretariat with input from AC and LEG on questions	Submissions from Parties and observers	Identify specific topics for inputs	Issue call for submissions					
AC, LEG	Papers		Synthesis of information for each mandate	Suite of methodologies and modalities for the three mandates ¹⁶ to be considered at various outreach events		Narrow down options following outreach		
AC, LEG	Expert meeting					Review options		
AC, LEG	Joint AC-LEG meeting						Agree on options and prepare recommendations	
AC, LEG	Report to CMA1						Reporting of recommendations to CMA 1	

¹⁶ Decision 1/CP.21, paragraphs 41 and 45. For the full text please refer to page 1 of this report.