

Third meeting of the Adaptation Committee Bonn, Germany, 18–20 June 2013

Updated summary note

Coherence and collaboration on adaptation-related issues under the Convention

This paper includes: (A) a summary of views expressed at AC2 on how to promote greater coherence on adaptation under the Convention, (B) a proposal for what the Committee should consider at AC3 to further advance the ongoing discussion on coherence, and (C) a brief report on actions taken immediately following AC2.

A. Views expressed at AC2 on how to promote greater coherence on adaptation under the Convention.

The basis of discussions at AC2 on coherence was the paper prepared by the secretariat for AC2 outlining the areas for potential duplication, gaps and synergies across the four "bucket" issues (Coherence under the Convention, Coherence outside the Convention, Technical guidance and advice on NAPs including for non-LDCs, and Technical guidance and advice on other issues). The Coherence breakout group at AC2 focused its discussion on issues related to coherence under the Convention. It was accepted that the discussion on issues relating to coherence is an ongoing one and will not be finalised in one meeting or a particular year.

Points raised at AC2 included:

- It is important that the AC first arranges its own "adaptation house" in order with respect to coherence before reaching out to build coherence with other bodies that deal with adaptation. Equally important for the AC is the responsibility of leading, not trailing behind, other adaptation issues and of strengthening coherence as it relates to the means of implementation.
- More interaction with other Convention bodies: the AC could attend meetings of other constituted bodies and work programs, like TEC, CTCN, CGE, GCF Board, and LTF work program, circulate among the Committee agendas and meeting notes from those other meetings, provide those other meetings with written views, leverage both formal and informal opportunities to meet with other bodies (like lunch with the SC or the TEC if meetings overlap), organize joint meetings and/or side events to cross fertilize ideas, etc. The AC could also invite the Standing Committee and GCF Board to an AC meeting, asking them to inform us of where they are in their processes, and to discuss how the AC can contribute to their work. The goal of such interaction is to raise awareness and education about adaptation among those, like finance and technology, who lack but could benefit from our adaptation expertise.
- Identify the AC member to sit on the Advisory Body on CTCN to ensure that the adaptation element of the CTCN is robust, particularly since the CTCN will be providing direct technical assistance and capacity building support to developing country Parties upon request, and since the CTCN is focused on both "hard" and "soft" technologies.
- Also with respect to technology, explore whether there is duplication or potential for synergies between the work of the NWP in developing and diffusing knowledge, know how, etc. on adaptation technology and the role of the CTCN Center in facilitating knowledge exchange, learning, and good practices on adaptation technology, e.g., the Center could use information from NWP and its partners.

- In addition, explore ways to contribute to the TEC's roadmap exercise, its literature review on adaptation technology and its expert meeting on barriers to adaptation technology - how can the AC feed into these products/processes?
- Submission of the AC on the LTF work program for 2013 to underscore issues related to adaptation finance that the work program should undertake.
- Explore whether adaptation agenda items under the Convention could be better streamlined and coherent - there are many adaptation agenda items now, and the AC needs to take a step back to see the bigger picture, how the pieces relate, and how it might stagger/sequence work, or even recommend terminating agenda items, if appropriate.
- Explore greater linkages between discussions happening on TNAs, CTCN, NAPs, NAPAs, and L&D recognizing that countries are at different stages on each of these.
- Explore how the AC can leverage the NWP and its partner more effectively to support Parties in undertaking the Cancun Adaptation Framework.
- Explore with the research community, including through RSO, how it can advance key adaptation-related research questions (the AC could look to previous COP decisions, technical reports, workshop background and summary papers to see if such questions have come up).
- In designing and implementing the Annual Adaptation Forum, the AC should avoid duplication with other forums, like the Durban CB Forum, NWP focal point forum, research dialogue, Standing Committee Forum, etc. - and also seek ways to create synergies (incorporate the NWP focal point forum into the annual adaptation forum, encourage an adaptation focus for the Durban CB Forum?).

After the breakout group presented its work at AC2, additional ideas and proposals were identified by Committee members during the plenary discussion. The AC should, for example:

- Invite the Chairs of LEG, etc, to the next AC meeting for an interaction.
- Be creative. Simply arranging and having meetings is not enough but the AC should build linkages beforehand that eventually provide a conducive environment for fruitful meetings. For example, invite a member of the LEG to be part of a small AC group dealing with NAPs. Also have a joint coffee break as an ice breaker with SC members since AC meetings overlap. The AC's reliance on the secretariat to communicate with other Convention bodies does not facilitate its 'leadership' role and the AC should make direct communicate as necessary.
- A proactive approach is necessary. Thus, the AC can empower designated members of the Committee to communicate directly with other relevant Convention bodies to set up interaction. Moreover, recommendation for a small AC group to identify issues to discuss with other bodies is necessary so the interaction with is meaningful and valuable.
- Share the AC's 3-year workplan with other Convention bodies so they are aware of the AC's work and how coherence can be improved.
- Selecting relevant 'adaptation experts' from existing lists of climate change experts serves to foster coherence.
- The AC Chair to invite heads of regional institutions and UN organisations regarding adaptation support to developing countries in:
 - Best practices and lessons learnt
 - Nature and type of work undertaken

- Costs breakdown
- Level of support provided (see para.14 of CAF, incl. Para.12)
- Communication within and amongst Convention bodies is vital - who are those relevant bodies and what relevant activities do we need to engage with? In addition, we must have clear communication to parties outside the Convention.
- Coordination with ad hoc group to assist AC in developing modalities and guidelines for NAPs for non-LDCs.

B. After AC2, a small group of seven AC members gave further thought during the intersessional period to the points raised at AC2. As a result of these deliberations, the small group recommends that the AC, at its third meeting, develop a clearer, shared understanding of what it seeks to achieve by making linkages with other constituted bodies under the Convention. From there, the AC can identify appropriate modalities to achieve those objectives.

To advance this discussion at AC3, the small group proposes the following ideas for consideration by the AC:

1. The AC's functions as agreed to in Cancun are the overarching objectives for establishing linkages with other bodies. The Committee "promotes adaptation in a coherent manner under the Convention, inter alia, through the following functions:
 - Providing 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 above, where appropriate;
 - Strengthening, consolidating and enhancing the sharing of relevant information, knowledge, experience and good practices, at the local, national, regional and international levels, taking into account, as appropriate, traditional knowledge and practices;
 - Promoting synergy and strengthening engagement with national, regional and international organizations, centres and networks, in order to enhance the implementation of adaptation actions, in particular in developing country Parties;
 - Providing information and recommendations, drawing on adaptation good practices, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties when providing guidance on means to incentivize the implementation of adaptation actions, including finance, technology and capacity-building and other ways to enable climate-resilient development and reduce vulnerability, including to the operating entities of the financial mechanism of the Convention, as appropriate;
 - Considering information communicated by Parties on their monitoring and review of adaptation actions, support provided and received, possible needs and gaps and other relevant information, including information communicated under the Convention, with a view to recommending what further actions may be required, as appropriate."
2. Through its seat on the advisory body of the CTCN, the AC could help the CTCN figure out how it should consider adaptation, which issues need to be addressed, etc. The AC could help to ensure that adaptation has a voice in the regional consultations UNEP is conducting in summer 2013 (they want to be demand driven, which means UNEP needs to hear from countries that adaptation is a clear priority), and in delivering further clarity on how the network can serve as a delivery vehicle for technical assistance and capacity building support for adaptation.
3. Engagement with the TEC could be with the specific purpose of working together to revise existing work related to technology to ensure it is compatible with addressing technology transfer related to adaptation. Similarly, the goal for such linkages could be to develop a common understanding between the TEC and AC in how adaptation can be better reflected in

the work on technology in accordance with the mandate of the TEC and the AC's own mandate.

4. With the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF), the AC could seek to first have a better understanding of its objectives and how adaptation fits in, or does not fit in, to their agenda. The AC could identify what outcomes it seeks to achieve, specifically with respect to the linkage with the SC. Some of the issues raised in the AC's submission on Long Term Finance, could be applicable to the SCF. The AC and SCF could also, for example, jointly to review financial guidance under convention to ensure that is coherent with the CAF, the support for LDC process for NAPs process, the support for non-LDCs in undertaking activities related to NAPs, etc.
5. With the TEC, as with the CTCN and the SCF, the AC needs to be realistic and first build a common understanding among the non-adaptation bodies about what adaptation is and how those bodies can better address adaptation needs. For example, the TEC has decided to do technical briefs and other work on adaptation. They need the AC's help in determining what might be useful, otherwise, what they produce may not necessarily be useful or be duplicative.
6. To ensure transparency and enable the AC to follow up on collaborative activities, the AC needs to provide its members attending those meetings with concrete ideas and proposal to take to those meetings. As such, it is expected that a report back based on those ideas, as well as other ideas and proposals that may come across at these meetings. Otherwise these reports will simply be a general exchange of views.

C. The following actions were taken immediately after AC2:

1. The secretariat has organized a meeting on 16 June between the AC and the SCF as once again the two meetings overlap.
2. Klaus Radunsky attended the TEC 5 workshop on technology roadmaps from 25–27 March.
3. On the Vice Chair's behalf, Soumaya Zakied represented the Adaptation Committee at the first meeting of the CTCN Advisory Board in May.
4. Juan Hoffmaister represented the Adaptation Committee at the Standing Committee Forum in May.