

Sixth meeting of the Adaptation Committee Bonn, Germany, 29 September to 1 October 2014

Options for a future Adaptation Forum

Recommended action by the Adaptation Committee

The Adaptation Committee (AC), at its 6th meeting, may wish to consider modalities for a future Adaptation Forum, including possible linkages with other events organized under the Convention.

Background

1. The COP, by decision 1/CP.18, requested the AC to consider the establishment of an annual adaptation forum, to be held in conjunction with the sessions of the Conference of the Parties (COP), to maintain a high profile for adaptation under the Convention, to raise awareness and ambition with regard to adaptation actions and to facilitate enhanced coherence of adaptation actions.
2. Following this request, the AC considered the issue and organized an Adaptation Forum on the margins of COP 19 in Warsaw. The objective was to raise the profile of adaptation globally, and the event contributed towards the main outcome product, which is a video that is currently being finalized. The impact and success of this first Forum will be assessed upon distribution of the video.
3. AC 5 discussed lessons from the first Forum and agreed that a future Adaptation Forum would be organized in a different format, and initiated consideration of possible options (see document AC/2014/12).¹
4. The Co-Chairs requested the secretariat to prepare an options paper on modalities of a future Adaptation Forum, taking into account experience gained at the Forum in Warsaw and other related events organized under the Convention for consideration at AC6.
5. A range of options is presented below to stimulate discussion. They are not mutually exclusive and can be combined as needed.

Options

1. **Sequenced approach.** A sequenced approach, as introduced in document AC/2014/12, would focus on one selected theme, consistent with the AC's 3-year work plan. As a first step, the AC would organize sporadic small-scale "satellite" fora in conjunction with other relevant adaptation conferences not organized under the UNFCCC process. This would serve to gain input from these processes to broaden the discussion under the UNFCCC. They would also serve to inform other processes of UNFCCC activities relating to adaptation. The second step would then be to bring representatives of these processes together to a larger Forum event taking place every two years.
2. **Organizing a forum in conjunction with a larger conference.** As originally planned for the 2014 Adaptation Forum, the AC could consider other large events that attract a specific target audience. The Forum could then be held in conjunction with one specific conference to enhance participation and to reach a broader audience. The topic of the Adaptation Forum could be aligned to the topic of the conference, keeping in mind the AC's mandate and work plan. This would involve identifying a contact point within the host organization who recognizes the merits in hosting the Adaptation Forum and in finding a way for a meaningful synergy between the two events.
3. **Shifting the focus to other output products.** The main means through which the first Adaptation Forum would reach a global audience was not the Forum itself but the resulting video. Thus, future adaptation Fora could also shift away from the idea of in-person meetings and consider more innovative media such as an interactive quiz, a newsletter, or a book for a young audience. An alternative idea could be to organize

¹ Due to unforeseen logistical hosting circumstances, it did not prove possible to proceed with arrangements for the 2014 Forum in October as planned.



information days for specific professional groups not related to environmental issues, such as professionals in the medical or the education sectors.

4. ***Providing space for integrating UNFCCC adaptation events.*** An increasing number of adaptation-related events are requested to be carried out under the UNFCCC. This includes, for example, the AC's Adaptation Forum, the NAP Expo, the Nairobi work programme Focal Point Forum, a thematic dialogue on adaptation technologies organized by the TEC, the Durban Forum on Capacity building and the SCF's 2015 Forum focusing on financing for forests. This requires a partially shared audience to travel several times throughout the year to attend these events. An alternative solution to organizing all these events individually would be to consider ways to collaborate with the bodies and processes under which the various events are mandated and join several of these events, where possible. Organizing such a joint "Adaptation Fair" or "Mega Forum" event, possibly under the umbrella of the AC, could considerably enhance participation and the overall impact and coherence of the event.

Considerations

5. In its consideration of the above options, the AC might wish to take into account the following factors in terms of a cost-benefit assessment:

- Required resources (financial/technical/human/time);
- Expected impact (in terms of participation/outreach/target audience and substantive outcomes);
- Promoting exchange of information, synergy and collaboration;
- Enhancing coherence;
- Availability of a point of contact or an entry point if other processes or events are involved.

Next steps

6. The AC might wish to consider the proposed options for a future Adaptation Forum, including possible linkages with other events organized under the Convention, and decide on the preferred option, taking into account the criteria mentioned above.
