

Draft elements for APA agenda item 4

“Further guidance in relation to the adaptation communication, including, inter alia, as a component of NDCs, referred to in Article 7, paragraphs 10 and 11, of the Paris Agreement”

Informal note by the co-facilitators, second iteration

13 November 2017

These draft elements have been prepared by the co-facilitators of the negotiations on this agenda item under their own responsibility, on the basis of the deliberations by Parties at this session and the views they have submitted. These elements are preliminary and should not be considered as final in any way; they are offered as a basis for work and do not prejudice further work or prevent Parties from expressing their views at any time. It is recognized that the outcome of deliberations on this item will form part of the overall outcome under the Paris Agreement Work Programme.

I. Relevant context

- The content of the informal note is not exhaustive, does not represent agreed views, ideas or text. Different views on the various sections and proposals have been expressed. Options have been indicated where they have been articulated by Parties to date. Some in-depth discussion has taken place to date on the content of the headings, and a number of Parties have highlighted the need to further streamline proposals and cluster the content into different options.
- There are two proposals for this guidance: (1) single/common guidance applicable to any vehicle chosen by a Party to convey their adaptation communication; and (2) vehicle-specific guidance, in particular for an adaptation component of an NDC. These proposals are presented as not mutually exclusive. This co-facilitator’s note in no way prejudices Parties’ views on this issue.
- In the section on elements, the text in italics provides descriptions, drawn from the submissions, of the types of information that have been suggested in relation to some of the elements. This does not preclude the addition of similar types of information in the other sections.

II. Draft elements

Option 1: NDC-specific guidance for an adaptation communication¹

Option 2: No NDC-specific guidance for an adaptation communication

General guidance for an adaptation communication²

1. Preamble/introduction

- References to relevant UNFCCC provisions
- References to relevant Paris Agreement provisions, including its Articles 2, 3, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, and 14

¹ NDC-specific guidance would include section on: preamble/introduction, guiding principles, purpose, adaptation elements identified for NDCs, timing/frequency, linkages, support, and other matters.

² Parties are still considering the structure of the outcome on this item.

- Importance of the adaptation communication for achieving the global goal on adaptation
- Role of the adaptation communication for achieving mitigation and adaptation goals under the Paris Agreement
- Define linkages, in particular the role of adaptation communication in the global stocktake, as well as the relationship with the transparency framework
- Importance of flexibility
- An adaptation communication is not mandatory
- An adaptation communication should not pose an additional burden
- An adaptation communication should not be a basis for comparisons between Parties
- ...

2. Option 1: Guiding principles

- Common but different responsibilities and respective capabilities in light of different national circumstances
- Equity
- National context, country-drivenness and respect for national sovereignty
- Context of sustainable development and poverty eradication
- No creating additional burden on developing country Parties
- No comparison between developing country Parties nor review
- Flexibility in terms of the reporting vehicle
- Recognizing the specific needs and special circumstances of developing country Parties, especially those that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, as provided for in the Convention
- Links between adaptation, as well as global temperature goals and levels of mitigation
- Importance of support and international cooperation
- Language of Paris Agreement Article 7.5
- Applicability to all
- ...

Option 2: No heading

3. Option 1: Operational paragraphs

- Adopting the guidance
- Modalities for submitting and updating an adaptation communication
- Timing to start applying the guidance, e.g. immediately upon its adoption
- Revision of the guidance
- An invitation to Parties to submit experiences on the use of the guidance to assist the revision
- Relevant cross-cutting issues
- Support for preparation of adaptation communications
- ...

Option 2: No heading

4. Option 1: Purpose / Objective

- Communicate national adaptation priorities, implementation and support needs, and plans and actions

- Contribute and inform progress towards the global goal for adaptation, and inform the review of overall progress towards that goal
- Provide input to the global stocktake
- Recognition of adaptation efforts
- Strengthen visibility and profile of adaptation / parity with mitigation
- Enhance and catalyse actions and support for developing countries
- Facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding of adaptation actions and support provided
- Enhance understanding of adaptation needs
- Help countries build and retain capacity
- Enhance learning and understanding of adaptation by sharing lessons, experiences, evidence and good practices
- Inform future decisions under the UNFCCC on adaptation
- ...

Option 2: Purpose / Objective

A. Purpose of this guidance

- Assist Parties in submitting and updating an adaptation communication
- Assist Parties in communicating information referred to in Article 7.10 (priorities, implementation and support needs, plans and actions)
- Facilitate learning, cooperation, and support
- ...

B. Purpose of an adaptation communication

- Communicate national adaptation priorities, implementation and support needs, and plans and actions
- Contribute and inform progress towards the global goal for adaptation
- Provide input to the global stocktake
- Recognition of adaptation efforts
- Strengthen visibility and profile of adaptation / parity with mitigation
- Enhance actions and support for developing countries
- Enhance learning and understanding of adaptation, sharing experiences and good practices
- ...

5. Option 1: Approach

- Explanation on how to apply the guidance
- Encouragement to use the structure for an adaptation communication, considering the discretion relevant to existing vehicles
- Encouragement to use and identify relevant methodologies and guidance
- ...

Option 2: No heading³

6. Option 1: Elements / content

A. Common set of elements

³ Provisions related to approach could be reflected in section 2 or 4

- National circumstances (*for example, context information, national long-term adaptation objectives, components of low-emission resilient development strategies, sub-national context, geography, climate, economy, and population, information on how adaptation planning is informing national and/or sectoral development plans and implementation, and extreme weather events that have affected a country's adaptive capacity, and the role of adaptation planning in informing national and sectoral development,...*)
- Impacts, vulnerabilities and risk assessments (*for example, future scenarios and risks, key climate hazards; modelling, projections, and scenarios; impacts experiences and projected; assessments of key economic, social and/or environmental vulnerabilities and risks; assessments of adaptive capacity, taking into account vulnerable people, places and ecosystems; populations and sectors most at risk; information on limits of adaptation; information on approaches, methodologies and tools used for the assessments, and relevant uncertainties; information on the limits of adaptation, and national assessments as well as global reports ...*)
- Adaptation priorities, policies, plans, actions, strategies and/or programmes, as appropriate (*for example, domestic adaptation planning processes; implemented and planned actions, strategies and approaches; efforts to build resilience of socioeconomic and ecological systems; priority sectors and/or geographic areas; information on the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans; efforts to integrate adaptation into policies, programs and activities, in particular development planning; information on how a Party will follow a country-driven, gender-responsive, participatory and transparent approach for their adaptation actions, taking into consideration vulnerable groups, and integrating traditional knowledge and the knowledge of Indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems into relevant actions; institutional capacities to address climate change considerations at sub-national and sectoral level and to address cross-cutting issues and interdependencies related to climate change impacts across sectors; information on plans and actions to build resilience of socioeconomic and ecological systems, including through economic diversification and sustainable management of natural resources, ...*)
- Adaptation support needs of developing country Parties (*for example, the costs of meeting those adaptation needs (financial, technology, and capacity-building); domestic and international, public and private, resources invested in adaptation (international/national/sub-national, sectoral as available); financial instruments and/or budget provisions enabling implementation of adaptation; domestic, international and private finance mobilization; technology development and transfer measures and activities, support provided, needed and received; and capacity-building provided, received and needed, ...*)
- Adaptation efforts of developing countries (for recognition) (*for example, adaptation plans and actions undertaken domestically within a specific timeframe; projects and programmes funded by domestic resources; and efforts undertaken to address extreme events, ...*)
- Communication of indicative projected levels of public financial resources to be provided by developed country Parties to developing country Parties, including finance, technology and capacity building (*for example, sectors and geographic areas targeted for support, types of support, types of information outlined when communicating on indicative adaptation support, and total amounts to be provided by multilateral channels or by region, ...*)
- ...

B. Additional / opt in opt out

- Mitigation co-benefits resulting from adaptation actions (*for example, expected quantified emission reductions*)
- Cooperative dimension at the national, regional and international level
- Progress on implementing adaptation actions and plans
- Economic diversification
- Adaptation efforts of developing countries (for recognition)
- Traditional knowledge or community based adaptation climate change and local communities' involvement
- Legal framework and institutional arrangements as appropriate
- Monitoring and evaluation (*for example, mechanisms to track adaptation action and outcomes; systems to measure and track national, international and private finance for adaptation; possible indicators of how adaptation actions have increased resilience and reduced adverse impacts in key areas; information on effectiveness of adaptation actions; information on approaches to monitoring and evaluation of implemented strategies and plans; assessments of how adaptation actions influence other developments goals; information on how participation, gender considerations, indigenous-, traditional and local knowledge have been integrated into adaptation policies and actions; assessments on transparency of planning and implementation process, ...*)
- ...

Option 2: Elements / Content

- National circumstances, including population, levels of development, legal frameworks and institutions (*for example, context information, national long-term adaptation objectives, components of low-emission resilient development strategies, sub-national context, geography, climate, economy, and population, information on how adaptation planning is informing national and/or sectoral development plans and implementation, and extreme weather events that have affected a country's adaptive capacity, and the role of adaptation planning in informing national and sectoral development,...*)
- Expected impacts, risks and vulnerability and adaptive capacity (*for example, future scenarios and risks, key climate hazards; modelling, projections, and scenarios; impacts experiences and projected; assessments of key economic, social and/or environmental vulnerabilities and risks; assessments of adaptive capacity, taking into account vulnerable people, places and ecosystems; populations and sectors most at risk; information on limits of adaptation; information on approaches, methodologies and tools used for the assessments, and relevant uncertainties; information on the limits of adaptation, and national assessments as well as global reports ...*)
- National goals related to adaptation, resilience, and reducing vulnerability
- Adaptation priorities, plans, strategies, planned actions, resilience-building activities and expected results (*for example, domestic adaptation planning processes; implemented and planned actions, strategies and approaches; efforts to build resilience of socioeconomic and ecological systems; priority sectors and/or geographic areas; information on the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans; efforts to integrate adaptation into policies, programs and activities, in particular development planning; information on how a Party will follow a country-driven, gender-responsive, participatory and transparent approach for their adaptation actions, taking into consideration vulnerable groups, and integrating traditional knowledge and the knowledge of Indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems into relevant actions; institutional capacities to address climate change considerations at sub-national and sectoral level and to address cross-cutting issues and interdependencies related to climate change impacts across sectors; information on*

plans and actions to build resilience of socioeconomic and ecological systems, including through economic diversification and sustainable management of natural resources, ...)

- Economic diversification plans
- Co-benefits of adaptation
- Cooperation to enhance adaptation at national, regional and international levels (*for example, information related to sharing information, good practices, experiences and lessons learned; strengthening institutional arrangements; strengthening scientific knowledge on climate; assisting developing countries in identifying effective adaptation practices, adaptation needs, priorities, support provided and received, and challenges and gaps; improving the effectiveness and durability of adaptation actions, ...*)
- Information on synergies with other international conventions
- Implementation and support needs, including the costs of meeting those adaptation needs (*for example, the costs of meeting those adaptation needs (financial, technology, and capacity-building); domestic and international, public and private, resources invested in adaptation (international/national/sub-national, sectoral as available); financial instruments and/or budget provisions enabling implementation of adaptation; domestic, international and private finance mobilization; technology development and transfer measures and activities, support provided, needed and received; and capacity-building provided, received and needed, ...*)
- Adaptation actions currently under implementation (*for example, implementation of adaptation actions, undertakings and/or efforts; description of actions undertaken, assessments of effectiveness of plans, changes in regulation, policies and planning, progress in adaptation actions and programmes, and in integrating adaptation into development strategies and sectoral plans; progress and outcomes of adaptation actions; national, subregional and/or regional capacity-building for integrating adaptation into development planning; information on assistance provided to assist Parties particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change and having significant capacity constraints, ...*)
- Implementation and results achieved (*for example, progress and outcomes of adaptation action, resources invested, sources of data, relevant financial instruments, and mobilization of finance from various sources, description of co-ordination action, activities carried out under adaptation plans, with assessment of effectiveness and /or plans for evaluation; progress in changes in regulation, policies and planning; progress on adaptation action and programmes; progress on mainstreaming/integrating adaptation into development strategies and sectoral plans and programmes, ...*).
- Monitoring and evaluation, and approaches used (*for example, mechanisms to track adaptation action and outcomes; systems to measure and track national, international and private finance for adaptation; possible indicators of how adaptation actions have increased resilience and reduced adverse impacts in key areas; information on effectiveness of adaptation actions; information on approaches to monitoring and evaluation of implemented strategies and plans; assessments of how adaptation actions influence other developments goals; information on how participation, gender considerations, indigenous-, traditional and local knowledge have been integrated into adaptation policies and actions; assessments on transparency of planning and implementation process, ...*)
- Good practices, lessons learned and information sharing (*for example, information on policy and regulatory changes, practical action and coordination, as well as remaining challenges and plans to address them*)
- Barriers for implementation of adaptations, challenges, and gaps
- ...

7. Option 1: Adaptation Elements Identified for NDCs

- National circumstances
- Impacts, vulnerabilities and risk assessments (including future scenarios)
- Adaptation priorities, politics, plans, actions, strategies and/or programmes, if applicable
- Adaptation support needs of developing country Parties
- Communication of indicative projected levels of public financial resources to be provided developed country Parties to developing country Parties, including finance, technology, and capacity-building
- Contributions to adaptation
- Information on adaptation actions that result in mitigation co-benefits, if applicable
- Information on economic diversification efforts, if applicable
- Information on sustainable development efforts, if applicable
- Timeframe
- Means of implementation
- Traditional knowledge or community-based adaptation climate change and local communities' involvement, if applicable
- ...

Option 2: No heading

8. Option 1: Vehicles / Communicating

- According to the flexibility in Article 7.10 and 7.11 of the Paris Agreement: language of Article 7.11
- Provisions related to building on, and taking into account, current guidelines for existing vehicles
- Flexibility to use different vehicles at different times, or multiple vehicles
- Decision of supplementary information according to the vehicle, as appropriate
- Timing/frequency in relation to the vehicle
- Adaptation communication should be clearly identified, from beginning to end, within the vehicle, including by numbering the first and subsequent adaptation communication
- ...

Option 2: No heading⁴

9. Option 1: Linkages

- Global stocktake, including:
 - The purpose of the adaptation communication in the global stocktake, including to enable recognition of efforts, enhance implementation, review adequacy and effectiveness of actions and support, and review overall progress towards the global goal on adaptation
 - Modalities for operationalizing the link between the adaptation communications with the global stocktake (including, i.a. a synthesis report by the secretariat, and synchronizing the timing of adaptation communications)

⁴ Provisions related to the flexibility of vehicles could be reflected in the preamble, and provisions for the use of different vehicles could be reflected under "approach".

with the global stocktake cycle), and providing a space for discussion this operationalization

- Transparency framework, including:
 - Importance of ensuring consistency of information, avoiding additional burdens on developing countries, and avoiding duplications
 - Reporting under Article 13.8 as a possible vehicle
 - Adaptation information reported by Parties should not be subject to review
- Finance, including:
 - Availability of support to prepare an adaptation communication
 - The relationship of the adaptation communication with arrangements for support
- Technology
- Capacity-building
- Registry, including:
 - Placeholder for the modalities being developed by the SBI
 - Processing the adaptation communication after it has been recorded
- Work of the constituted bodies
- Other international processes, such as SDGs and the Sendai Framework
- ...

Option 2: No heading⁵

10. Option 1: Support

- For preparation and submission of the adaptation communication for developing countries
- For the implementation of the needs, priorities, plans and strategies for developing countries included in the adaptation communication according to Article 7, paragraph 13, of the Paris Agreement
- Finance, technology and capacity-building provided by developed country Parties to developing country Parties according to the modalities of provision of support to be developed
- Placeholder on the mandate of the AC/LEG/SCF on the mobilization of support
- ...

Option 2: No heading⁶

11. Option 1: Other matters

- Cross-cutting issues to be considered when developing an adaptation communication
- Definition and guidance note
- Any information that could be useful in clarifying adaptation communications
- ...

Option 2: No heading

⁵ Provisions related to linkages could be reflected in the preamble.

⁶ Provisions related to support could be reflected in the preamble.