

Ad hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action, Workstream 1.

Submission from Norway on how adaptation to the effects of climate change may be framed in a new agreement in response to 1/CP.17, §5

Norway would like to refer to the joint submission from Canada, Japan, New Zealand, the United States and Norway made under the ADP on the September 6th, 2013, regarding the technical paper on costs, benefits and opportunities for adaptation under different drivers of climate change, including the relationship between adaptation and mitigation.

Norway would like to share its views on how adaptation to the impacts may be framed in a new agreement, in order to contribute to a more concrete and focused discussion under the ADP on which aspects of adaptation that may add value to a new agreement in order to further enhance adaptation under the Convention.

1. Mitigation and adaptation are means to the same end; protecting people from the risks associated with a changing climate in line with the objectives of the Convention.
2. Norway consider that a new agreement in 2015 must anchor ambitious cuts in greenhouse gas emissions in line with the 2 degree target, and hence prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.
3. While reduction in greenhouse gas emissions remains the most important measure for reducing the risks associated with climate change, Norway recognizes that a changing climate currently and throughout this century requires considerable efforts from all countries to adapt.
4. The commitment for all Parties to adapt was already established in 1992 by the adoption of the Convention. Since then, most countries have increasingly been engaged in adaptation processes. Under the Convention, Parties have steadily made progress in developing the role of the UNFCCC in assisting Parties to address needs related to adaptation to a changing climate.
5. The Cancun Adaptation Framework is a reflection of the collective efforts to enhance adaptation under the UNFCCC and represents a major step forward. In the period up to 2020, implementing the Cancun Adaptation Framework, including the National Adaptation Plans and efforts to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, must be given high priority. It is important that adaptation provisions in the new agreement build on the experiences that countries have gained, and on the institutional arrangements that already exist under the Convention.
6. Norway is mindful that adaptation policies and measures are highly contextual and will be shaped differently from country to country. Any further commitment to adapt must therefore be based on generic principles. Norway considers that the “National Adaptation Plans” process established under the Cancun Adaptation Framework, and

the technical guidelines formulated to support the NAP process, may serve as an example and demonstrates how it is possible to give guidance on national adaptation planning without imposing “one size fits all” or “blue-prints”.

7. The content of the basic commitment undertaken by all Parties to the Convention to take measures to adapt to climate change, has been further clarified and operationalised since its adoption, as reflected in the Cancun Adaptation Framework and other work under the Convention as mentioned above. A new climate agreement under the Convention should reflect this development and further enhance it, by the adoption of key guiding elements for adaptation, including that countries should document their efforts to:
 - a. Base their adaptation policies and planning on science and vulnerability assessments that is inclusive, gender sensitive and take into account particularly vulnerable people, communities and systems (cultural, economic, ecosystems)
 - b. Build enabling environments through institutional capacity building and appropriate legal frameworks
 - c. Integrate adaptation into sectors and national development policies and action
 - d. Monitor and evaluate adaptation processes
8. Further, The IPCC Special Report “Managing the risks of extreme events and disasters to advance climate change adaptation” confirms that the poorest and most marginalized people are the most vulnerable to the impacts of a changing climate. Norway considers that all countries have an obligation to protect and give priority to these people in their respective adaptation policies and planning processes, including in national budgeting. A new agreement should seek to underpin this responsibility.
9. Although adaptation based on approaches to disaster risk reduction may not be sufficient to capture gradual changes such as glacial retreat and ocean acidification, adaptation and disaster risk reduction are closely interlinked when addressing climate related events. Under a new agreement, Norway considers that all countries should be encouraged to integrate warning systems and disaster risk reducing measures in planning, as well as to develop strategies and tools to manage risks at the appropriate levels.
10. A new agreement must safeguard that Parties build their adaptation policies and practice on best practices and lessons learnt. The commitments to adapt under the Convention should be reflected in a strengthened monitoring and evaluation framework. The monitoring and evaluation framework should capture collective best practices and lessons learnt. This will enable the Convention to provide relevant advice, guidance and support to countries. There is also a need to ensure that the efforts made under the Convention to strengthen adaptation, contribute to adaptive processes in an efficient and effective manner at country level. Existing tools, such as the National Communication, should be utilized as a point of departure for strengthened reporting on adaptation. We might also consider how existing review processes may be strengthened.
11. National responsibility for adaptation for all countries must be backed by capacity building, technological and financial support for developing countries. While the

finance mechanisms under the Convention; the GEF, the Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund, remain crucial to financing adaptation, we need to ensure that resources channeled for development processes and risk reduction in general are sustainable in a changing climate. Hence, we should be mindful when discussing financial support for adaptation that we include the broader platform for support that exists beyond the financial mechanisms under the Convention.

12. Adaptation in a new agreement must build on existing efforts under the Convention. Norway considers that the institutional arrangements established under the Cancun Adaptation Framework are sufficiently flexible to accommodate emerging institutional needs under a new agreement.
13. The process of shaping an appropriate response on adaptation in a new agreement should benefit from work done under the relevant bodies and workstreams under the Convention, in particular the National Adaptation Plan process (NAP), the work of the LEG and the Adaptation Committee. This could be done through workshops similar to the one held in the Bonn session in June 2013, where for example the Adaptation Committee and the Least Developed Country group share experience and knowledge. It could also be done by making use of reports and outcomes from workshops, expert meetings etc that these bodies convene, such as the meeting on monitoring and evaluation hosted by the Adaptation Committee in Fiji in September 2013.