

Ad-hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA)

Third part of the first session, Bonn, 8-17 May 2017

Agenda item 4 – Further guidance in relation to the adaptation communication, including, inter alia, as a component of nationally determined contributions, referred to in Article 7, paragraphs 10 and 11, of the Paris Agreement

Informal Note by the Co-Facilitators - second iteration

Reflections of the Co-Facilitators on the discussion in the informal consultations

Note: This informal note is our attempt to informally capture the views expressed by Parties on this agenda item to date. The note has been prepared under our own responsibility and thus has no formal status. The content of the note is not intended to prejudge further work that Parties may want to undertake nor does it in any way prevent Parties from expressing other views they may have in future.

Summary of discussion to date

Our work here in Bonn began with a pre-session workshop on Saturday 6 May. At the workshop Parties discussed all themes identified in Marrakech, namely purpose, elements, linkages, vehicle, and flexibilities, and, based on views expressed by Parties in the morning, focused discussions in small groups on purpose and elements in the afternoon. Parties expressed appreciation for the workshop, and suggested that it might be an effective mode of work to consider, if warranted.

The group has so far met four times for a total of five hours for informal consultations at this session, and has discussed all five themes. The first informal consultation, held on Wednesday 10 May at 10-11 am, focused on the general approach to this session, as well as on reflections from the workshop. It was agreed that the group will cover all the themes in the course of the session, and that progress will be reflected in informal co-facilitators notes and APA conclusions, as needed. Parties expressed their appreciation for the workshop, and indicated that this may be a useful mode of work for other issues. We distributed to Parties a table which reflects all the outputs of the small group discussion on purpose and elements at the workshop.¹

At the second meeting, held on 11 May at 10-11 am, Parties focused on purpose. Some Parties came up with a proposal to group similar purposes in clusters. Others outlined which purposes they consider most important, indicating that internal group discussions on other purposes are still ongoing.

At the third meeting on 12 May at 4-6 pm, Parties considered purpose and elements together, and looked at two suggestions for lists of elements on screen, and identified where commonalities and differences might be. The issue of linkages was also discussed.

At the fourth meeting on 13 May at 10-11 am, Parties considered the themes vehicle and flexibilities, and also returned briefly to the issue of elements. We presented a suggestion on ways to consolidate the two proposed lists of elements for consideration of Parties. While originally scheduled for two hours, as the discussion on vehicles and flexibility was finished, the meeting was adjourned at 11 to allow time for coordination. Work will continue on Monday in informal consultations at 11-12 am and 3-4 pm.

Moving towards capturing progress at APA 1.3

This is the second iteration of our informal note. In accordance with the guidance from the APA Co-Chairs, in preparing further iterations of this note over the course of this session, we will seek further input from

¹ The table is available in the annex of the first iteration of our informal note, which is available here: http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/bonn_may_2017/in-session/application/pdf/apa_4_informal_note.pdf

Parties to allow us to capture progress. Content to be added in further iterations could take the form of skeleton outlines or chapter headings, supplemented with textual proposals where possible, in order to meet the Co-Chairs' stated goals for this session.

Reflections on the discussion

In terms of **purpose**, we noted i.a. that:

- One proposal for possible purposes was considered on screen (see below), while other purposes, such as enhancing visibility/profile of adaptation, facilitating learning by sharing good practices, experiences and lessons learned, informing on the progress towards the global goal on adaptation, recognizing adaptation efforts, informing future decisions under UNFCCC, and catalyzing adaptation action, were proposed from the floor.
- Purposes are clearly what guides the choice of elements, but many elements also contribute to achieving multiple purposes.
- There is interest to define a broad political purpose, accompanied by more specific purposes of the further guidance being developed under this item. A suggestion for such a purpose was to facilitate learning, cooperation and support and to assist Parties in communicating their priorities, implementation and support needs, plans and actions.
- We remain convinced that Parties can identify a possible purpose statement here that can be refined further in the future.

In terms of **elements**, we noted i.a. that:

- The two proposals for possible elements (see below), as well as other elements proposed during the discussion, such as good practices, experiences, and lessons learned, impacts and vulnerability, priorities, plans, needs and actions, and monitoring and evaluation, seem fairly similar and could possibly be integrated together to provide a starting point for further work.
- Some Parties expressed their interest to consider whether the elements should be categorized as common elements and additional/opt-in or opt-out elements.
- The discussions on flexibility or optionality referred to the elements many times, indicating that elements are an important area where additional discretion or choice might be expressed.
- Several Parties highlighted that some consistency in contents of adaptation communications will be critical to provide input to the GST.

In terms of **linkages**, we noted i.a. that:

- There is interest to consider linkages with colleagues from other APA groups. We were encouraged to continue our regular discussions with the co-facilitators of APA item 5.
- It would be important to avoid duplication of elements to be communicated or reported – all APA items should be mindful of each other's work.
- It was suggested by some that there is no need to develop new guidelines under this item, but rather make use of existing guidelines, while others suggested that new guidelines may be needed.
- Parties identified various specific linkages in their interventions, including the global stocktake, the transparency framework, financial mechanism, and the constituted bodies.
- Some would prefer to talk about linkages once the substance of the various APA items is clearer.
- It was suggested that constituted bodies could be mandated to help developing countries prepare adaptation communications.

In terms of **vehicles**, we noted i.a. that:

- It was emphasized that, as is outlined in the Paris Agreement, the choice of a vehicle is up to the submitting Party, and that there should be no additional burdens or duplication of communication.
- It was suggested that reporting under Article 13 or BURs could also be considered as a communication vehicle.

- Some suggested that adaptation communication can provide guidance for NDCs, include elements such as national circumstances, description of efforts to build resilience, and the types of contribution (e.g. economic diversification).

In terms of **flexibility**, we noted i.a. that:

- Instead of the term “flexibility”, some would prefer to use a different term (e.g. “discretion”, “choice” or “optionality”) noting that the term flexibility has a specific meaning under the transparency discussion.
- The Paris Agreement provides the basis for flexibilities in two ways: by defining the adaptation communication as a voluntary instrument and by being flexible about the vehicle.
- Given the above, the further guidance to be developed for the adaptation communication could reflect additional flexibility in context of the elements e.g. by defining opt-in/opt-out elements.
- Some Parties cautioned against using consistency for evaluating the information by Parties.

Proposal by a group on purpose and elements of the Adaptation Communication

This is an initial list of themes that the G77 and China has identified in the consideration of the purpose of the adaptation communication, recognizing that some of these themes might be incorporated in the purpose, or in some other aspect of the adaptation communication, including as “common” or “additional” / “opt in – opt out” elements.

- Communicating adaptation actions and plans
- Enhancing support for adaptation actions and plans / catalyze support to implement adaptation communication
- Contribute and inform progress towards GGA
- Raise the profile of adaptation/parity with mitigation
- Recognition of adaptation efforts of developing country Parties

This is an initial list of elements that the G77 and China identified but we are still thinking of further possible elements. The G77 and China has agreed on a general approach to elements that identifies a set of "common" elements and a set of "additional" or "opt-in opt-out" elements. The G77 and China is in the process of developing these two sets of elements.

- National circumstances, including legal framework and institutional arrangements
- Impacts, vulnerabilities and risk assessments (including future scenarios)
- Priorities, policies, plans, actions, strategies and/or programmes, as appropriate
- Adaptation support needs of developing country Parties
- Adaptation efforts of developing countries (for recognition)
- Biennial communication of indicative support by developed countries, including finance, technology and capacity building

Proposal by a group on possible elements of the Adaptation Communication

Possible elements

- National context/circumstances, including assessment of risks, impacts and vulnerabilities
- Information on plans, priorities, actions, programmes, strategies
- Implementation of adaptation efforts and progress made
- Monitoring and Evaluation of adaptation action outcomes and findings
- Implementation and support needs