

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

Second part of the first session, Marrakech, 7-14 November 2016

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

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 prejudice 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.

Overview of the informal consultations on this item

Parties have had six informal consultations on this item in Marrakech.

At the first meeting on Wednesday, 9 November, Parties exchanged views on the scope of work under this item, began to identify key issues and questions that negotiators need to resolve, as well as broad options for addressing those questions. They also highlighted possibilities for future work on this item.

At the second meeting on Wednesday after Parties had completed the first round of general discussions, we presented a table summarizing the key issues and questions we heard at the first meeting. While noting that the table was missing some content, Parties indicated that the table provides orientation and structure for their discussions. We shared the summary table with Parties on Wednesday evening for their feedback.

Based on the feedback, we presented a revised summary table at our third meeting on Thursday, 10 November, and heard initial comments from Parties on it. While agreeing to work on the revision, Parties raised some concerns. We then shared this version of the summary table with Parties and provided time to groups to coordinate their positions.

At our fourth meeting on Friday, 11 November, we heard more specific views from Parties on the summary table. Parties completed the collection of issues into the table, and the secretariat shared the revised table with delegates on Friday evening.

At our fifth meeting on Saturday, 12 November, we collected initial views for future work on this item, and outlined the next steps in the work. On Saturday evening, we issued the first iteration of this informal summary note.

At our sixth and final meeting on Monday, 14 November, we heard feedback from Parties on the informal summary note, and undertook a focused discussion on the possible elements of the way forward. The outcomes of that discussion were communicated to the APA Co-Chairs for inclusion in the APA draft conclusions.

Reflections on the discussions

Parties engaged constructively throughout the week, and the discussions indicated clear convergence on the framing and overall themes relevant to this item. These themes are:

- The **purpose** of adaptation communications;
- The **elements** adaptation communications could include;
- Possible **linkages** to other issues, agenda items, or arrangements under the Convention;
- The **vehicle** and timing for communicating them;
- **Flexibilities** required of the adaptation communications.

In terms of **purpose**, most referred to the importance of enhancing the profile and visibility of adaptation, the need to understand progress on adaptation, and the need to provide input to the global stocktake. The adaptation communications are also seen by some as a tool for recognition of efforts, and for realizing/achieving the global goal on adaptation. Parties presented a range of other views on the purpose of the adaptation communication, which are reflected in the annex to this note. It was noted that purposes are not necessarily mutually exclusive.

Relating to **elements**, Parties expressed converging views on the possible features or elements of the adaptation communications, in particular on those identified in Article 7.10 of the Paris Agreement, which refer to priorities, implementation and support needs, and plans and actions. Impacts, vulnerabilities, and risks were also highlighted. Parties identified a range of elements they would consider useful, and we also heard that any list of elements should be non-exhaustive.

On **linkages**, the Paris Agreement links this item with its other elements, such as the global stocktake, and with other arrangements under the Convention, such as national adaptation plans, nationally determined contributions, and national communications. The discussions indicate that there is interest to clarify the relationship between the adaptation communications and: 1. The vehicle through which it is submitted; 2. Existing guidance for communicating information on adaptation; 3. The transparency framework; 4. The global stocktake.

Regarding the **vehicle** of communication, Parties emphasized that they can choose any of the vehicles identified in Article 7.11 of the Paris Agreement, and many highlighted the equal importance of these vehicles.

In terms of **flexibility**, Parties saw flexibility expressed in the choice of vehicle and frequency of communication and updating, and highlighted the importance of avoiding reporting burdens. It was also emphasized that the decision to not submit a communication should not involve ramifications. The questions on this issue relate to designing communications that do not create an additional burden, and the challenge of ensuring balance between flexibility and the need for consistency.

In terms of future work, the steps outlined by Parties at our last meeting comprise: 1. An information note by the secretariat, 2. Submissions from Parties, 3. A synthesis of submissions, 4. A workshop. The elements of future work outlined by Parties were communicated. These elements are reflected in more detail in the APA draft conclusions.

The views expressed by Parties on these themes are presented in more detail in the annex to this informal note.

My co-facilitator and I are pleased with the constructive and substantive nature of the discussions, and note that we have achieved good progress towards identifying important areas of convergence and divergence that will enable us to progress this work.

We would like to express our thanks to the Parties for coming prepared for substantive and technical discussions.

Annex – Possible themes that may be considered for the 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

This annex maps possible elements identified by Parties in the context of developing further guidance in relation to the adaptation communication, in light of the discussions held during APA 1.2. The table is included here with a view to providing a basis for future discussions on this item. It is not meant to be an exhaustive list, does not exclude the identification of additional elements, nor does it prescribe or prejudice in any way the scope, structure or content of the further guidance to be developed.

Theme	Views and questions
Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhance profile and visibility of adaptation, balance with mitigation - Help understand progress, including towards realizing/operationalizing the global goal on adaptation - Realize/achieve the global goal on adaptation - Recognize actions and efforts, and acknowledge continuous process, past, present and future adaptation actions in the form of efforts and needs - Communicate adaptation efforts for their recognition - Help understand adaptation as a long-term process, including past, present and future actions - Enhance and catalyse adaptation actions and support/means of implementation - Catalyze adaptation actions - Communicate needs and gaps such that the provision of means of implementation for developing countries is enhanced - Enable meaningful global stocktake - Enable domestic buy-in of adaptation planning and action - Identify and communicate national adaptation priorities and needs (including implementation and support needs), planning processes and actions, at different levels - Identify and communicate priorities, implementation and support needs, plans and actions without creating additional burden for developing countries (PA Art. 7.10) - Share knowledge, information, experience, and lessons learned, successes and good practices - High level communication vehicle to describe a national adaptation planning process - Facilitate cooperation, inform Parties how to prioritize, focus, and continuously strengthen their collective efforts and cooperation, including support - Be considered and taken up by relevant UNFCCC processes and bodies - Be country-driven and consider national priorities, conditions, and capabilities

Theme	Views and questions
Elements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Elements as defined in Article 7.10 of the Paris Agreement - Priorities, implementation and support needs, plans and actions (PA Art. 7.10) - National circumstances, legal and policy frameworks and institutional arrangements - Impacts, vulnerabilities, risks (short- and long term) - Priorities, plans, programs, strategies, and actions, including description of decision-making processes and how and why adaptation options are prioritized - Implementation/progress on adaptation efforts/clear reflection of inputs and outputs progression - Adaptation efforts for their recognition - Adaptation needs, support needs, costs, levels and adequacy of support provided - Indicative level of support provided (PA Art. 9.5)/adequacy of support provided - Capacity, development priorities, relationship with sustainable development - Non-exhaustive and comprehensive list of elements - Not limited to NAPs - Efforts already achieved (referred to past actions) - Key economic sectors in which adaptation action takes place in a given country - Monitoring and evaluation of adaptation/process used and findings of process <p><u>Question: what information would serve the purpose of the adaptation communications?</u></p>
Linkages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Linkages suggested include mitigation, support, global goal on adaptation, transparency framework, global stocktake, national adaptation plans, nationally determined contributions, and/or national communications - Avoid duplicating other processes and communications - Enhance linkages to other processes <p><u>Question: What is the relationship between the communication and the vehicle through which it is submitted?</u></p> <p><u>Question: what is the relationship with existing guidance for communications and vehicles?</u></p> <p><u>Question: relationship between adaptation communications and the transparency framework?</u></p>
Vehicle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Parties can choose 'vehicle', identified in Art. 7.11 of the Paris Agreement, all of which are of equal importance - Build on existing national efforts (e.g. NAP output document and other plans, policies and/or contributions) - Stand-alone communications - Adaptation component of NDCs <p><u>Question: how and when should adaptation communications be communicated?</u></p> <p><u>Question: what are the advantages and disadvantages of each of the possible vehicles?</u></p>

Theme	Views and questions
Flexibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Flexibility of ‘vehicle’, periodicity, and guidance is key - Should not create reporting burdens/should be burden-free - Need to be country-driven and compatible with national circumstances - Option to not submit a communication – should not involve ramifications <p><u>Question: how to design adaptation communications that do not create an additional burden?</u></p> <p><u>Question: How do we balance between flexibility and the need for uniformity of vehicle to facilitate comparison?</u></p>
Suggestions for inputs to work on this item	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prepare a non-exhaustive list or a table of possible features - Technical report on the features identified in our discussion - Technical report compiling existing guidelines for reporting on adaptation actions and needs under the Convention - Invite submission on relevant information on each element, timing, and linkages with other provisions - Organize an in-session workshop at the June session in 2017 - Need quick analysis of SWOT (i.e. strength, weakness, opportunity, and threats)