

**Views from Southern Voices on Adaptation –
submitted through Centro Alexander von Humboldt:**

The Adaptation Communications under Article 7 of the Paris Agreement

Input for Item 4 under APA, 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 PA

Introduction

Under the Paris Agreement Article 7, Parties agreed to establish the global goal on adaptation of enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change, with a view to contributing to sustainable development and ensuring an adequate adaptation response in the context of the temperature goal.

The Paris Agreement and decision 1/CP.21 stipulate that adaptation communications should serve as one of the inputs to the global stocktake. It defines their overall scope while not being specific as to the content and modalities, stating that each Party “may include its priorities, implementation and support needs, plans and actions, without creating any additional burden for developing country Parties.”

The UNFCCC is calling for parties and observers to send submissions to provide input for a workshop during the SBSTA intersessional in May. . The Southern Voices on Adaptation is an international coalition of civil society organizations that has together developed the Joint Principles for Adaptation (JPA), which capture what they consider essential elements of a policy framework for adaptation to climate change based on their experience on the ground. With this submission, Southern Voices on Adaptation draws on the JPA to present its proposal for what the adaptation communication should include, in order that the needs of people most vulnerable to climate change are taken into account in the global stocktake to take place on 2018 during the UNFCCC COP23.

Role and Purpose of Adaptation Communications

The Southern Voices on Adaptation coalition believes that Adaptation Communications from each Party are key to joint actions in the Paris agreement, and should contribute to the global stocktake, by providing Parties and the UNFCCC Secretariat a sufficient national overview in the following areas:

- The challenges country by country in responding to the impacts of climate change and to develop a climate resilient development - possibly differentiated according to temperature scenarios and timeframes.
- The efforts and initiatives already planned or implemented at national level and sub-national as well as regional (cross-country) levels, including the finance, technical and human resources mobilised locally and from external sources.

- Lessons learnt relevant for sharing with other countries and actors of challenges, including success-stories of adaptation as well as failures in addressing climate change.
- The gaps identified between the needs and challenges identified and the human, technical and financial resources available.

It is important that the adaptation communications have a uniform structure that will allow the UNFCCC secretariat to provide an overview of the many national communications and, to the extent possible, to arrive at aggregate analyses of both the progress achieved as well as the gaps remaining.

Elements to be Included in Adaptation Communications:

The Southern Voices on Adaptation recommends that the adaptation communications should include elements such as (but not limited to):

- a) Highlight the needs of poor and the vulnerable people;** adaptation communication need to identify the most vulnerable groups and to reflect how they are affected by climate change, including different groups of women, men, boys and girls, indigenous peoples and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, both in urban and rural settings.
- b) Highlight how adaptation plans and initiatives target the vulnerable groups and local communities;** identify the processes in place aimed at helping vulnerable groups and local communities to develop adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change, including through possible social protection or insurance initiatives.
- c) Include information on multi-stakeholder engagement;** the adaptation communication should account on how multiple stakeholders are included in planning and implementation, emphasizing on how engagement of local communities and indigenous peoples follow the emerging principles on climate change adaptation good practice, including those agreed by all Parties in paragraph 7.5 of the Paris Agreement.
- d) Provide transparent information on resource flow for adaptation actions;** it is necessary that countries provide information on which adaptation actions have been initiated at country level, the manner in which these funding allocations have been invested, and how they have reached and benefited the communities and groups affected by climate change.
- e) Funding allocation and needs for adaptation activities at the country and local levels;** governments should provide information on public funding and private investments provided from national / international sources; the share of finance for adaptation spent at local level actions and local communities; the share allocated to physical infrastructure as well as to building skills and capacities, including institutional development and awareness raising.

- f) **Relevant national and local policies that promote adaptation and resilience;** Information on policy amendments, and introduction of new policies and laws for the implementation of adaptation actions could be included. In particular, it is important to show how NAPs, NDCs and other related initiatives are coordinated in order that adaptation actions are efficient, effective, and coherent; how local adaptation plans are funded and guided by mechanisms to ensure coherence with national policies; and availability of environmental and social safeguards against negative impacts and maladaptation.
- g) **Outline the adaptation gaps;** an assessment of the challenges from a country perspective in building adaptive capacity of the society to protect its citizens, ecosystems and infrastructure should be included. This may contain an analysis of the gaps in terms of human, technical, and financial resources in addressing the challenge of climate change, as well as reference to evidence and reporting for the Warsaw Mechanism on Loss and Damage, in order to capture the interlinkage between the national adaptation efforts and the situations where the impacts of climate change go beyond what can be managed and reduced through adaptation.
- h) **Both backward and forward looking:** Adaptation communications need to reflect the country's cycle of reviewing climate actions and putting forward new or revised proposals and contributions. In principle, this could be the 5-year cycle of NDCs. It is also important, however, to include information that allow for an assessment of the progress achieved as an input for the Global Stocktakes, so the adaptation communications must include both forward and backward looking elements.

From our combined experience on the ground over many years across 12 countries, the Southern Voices on Adaptation believes that adaptation communications should fully address the above issues, which are in line with the recommendations of the [Joint Principles for Adaptation](#). This will enable Parties to ensure that future policies, resources and actions adequately meet the adaptation needs of communities across the world made more vulnerable and marginalized by the impacts of climate change.