

Comments relating to proposals for a Framework for Action on Adaptation

(as per the text relating to adaptation in Parts I and II of the Focus Document of the AWG-LCA)

The Working Group on WASH¹ and Climate Change is made up of a group of non-profit organisations with interest and expertise in the links between climate change and impacts on water management needs of poor and vulnerable people. The group includes: UNICEF, Tearfund, WSSCC (Water Supply & Sanitation Collaborative Council), IRC (International Water and Sanitation Centre), IWA (International Water Association), WaterAid, and the CPWC (Cooperative on Water & Climate Change).

The following points should be incorporated into the negotiating process in relation to a Framework for Action on Adaptation.

1) Principles

Relating to Part IA, paragraph 21. (a) “Further elaboration of a comprehensive framework for action, defining the scope of the framework and mechanisms for making it operational”

The framework should adhere to the following principles, in relation to water:

- Recognise that as climate change impacts will be felt first and foremost through water, the water sector must be a priority for adaptation action. Adaptation must be integrated within existing WASH and broader water policy frameworks at a national level, to ensure the long-term risks of climate change impacts on water are managed.
- Acknowledge that climate change related impacts on water will affect the poorest and most vulnerable populations to the greatest degree. Ensure that the adaptation needs of these populations are prioritised, by strengthening adaptive capacity at the local level, and supporting existing localised adaptive water management approaches.
- Place an emphasis on considering the impacts of climate change on sanitation and environmental health, within a climate risk based approach to water sectoral policy planning and implementation.

2) Governance

Relating to Part II A, paragraph 16 (a) “Climate-resilient development, and building resilience through economic diversification in response to the impact of climate change”

¹ Acronym for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

- With respect to economic diversification, climate change adaptation within the WASH sector should be approached as part of wider 'linked-up' cross-sectoral approach to water resources management planning (eg: effective integration with land, agricultural, power and mining sectors) .

Relating to Part II A, paragraph 16 (d) "Enhancing institutional arrangements and regional cooperation in order to coordinate and to enable adaptation actions, at the national, regional and international levels, and to facilitate the development of adaptation plans at the national level."

- Ensure institutional strengthening and capacity building within the WASH sector, especially at critical levels of decision making, to enable the sector to adequately respond to the impacts of climate change. Having the institutional framework in place in which to access information and knowledge about expected local impacts of climate change is also crucial for planning local adaptation measures.

Financing

Relating to Part IA. Paragraph (20) "Parties may wish to seek a common understanding of how to maximize the adaptation potential of vulnerable developing countries by combining actions to promote climate resilient development... the latter are considered to merit additional financial and technological support beyond official development assistance, the former may be addressed through increased official development assistance, thus maximizing the financing provided to vulnerable developing countries. "

- The funds required for climate change adaptation will be significant. Climate change adaptation financing for water should be **additional** to existing ODA for water. Financing should be accessible by the poorest and most vulnerable nations and in the form of grants, not loans. Funds for water-related adaptation should ideally be managed by the water sector itself (related to point above on strengthening water institutions).

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