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**Sixth meeting of the Adaptation Committee  
Bonn, Germany, 29 September to 1 October 2014**

**Technical support for adaptation by regional institutions and UN agencies**

**Recommended action by the Adaptation Committee**

The Adaptation Committee (AC), at its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, will be invited to consider the information provided in sections III and IV above and prioritize the modalities in which it wishes to engage.

**Background and introduction**

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), by decision 1/CP.16, decided that one of the functions of the Adaptation Committee (AC) is to provide technical support and guidance to the Parties, respecting the country-driven approach, with a view to facilitating the implementation of adaptation activities, including those listed in paragraphs 14 and 15 of the same decision, where appropriate. Paragraph 14 invites all Parties to enhance action on adaptation under the Cancun Adaptation Framework by undertaking, inter alia, planning, prioritizing and implementing adaptation actions, including projects and programmes, and actions identified in national and subnational adaptation plans and strategies, national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs) of the least developed countries (LDCs), national communications, technology needs assessments and other relevant national planning documents.

2. As part of its workstream on technical support and guidance to the Parties on adaptation action, and in accordance with activity 16 of its three-year work plan, the AC, at its 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, agreed to establish an ad hoc group on technical support. The objective of this group is to propose modalities for providing support to Parties on adaptation, for consideration by the AC. The tasks of this group include:

- Analyzing existing support for adaptation action provided by regional institutions and UN agencies, including gaps, needs and opportunities, based on the submissions by regional institutions and UN agencies and other relevant information, including related to issues such as geographic coverage, types and degree of technical assistance, and associated institutional and financial arrangements; and
- Taking into account the above gaps, needs and opportunities, to propose modalities to strengthen and to enhance coherence of the provision of support to developing countries for activities related to adaptation.

3. The AC further agreed that it should take into account, inter alia, the outcomes of the call to regional institutions and United Nations agencies (activity 5, document AC/2013/7) and the list of regional centres and networks working on adaptation (activity 6, document Ac/2013/8).

**Scope of the paper**

4. This paper provides background for developing a coherent strategy by providing:

- An analysis of existing support for adaptation action provided by regional institutions and UN agencies, including gaps, needs and opportunities, based on the submissions by regional institutions and UN agencies and building on the analysis of these submissions (AC/2014/7),<sup>1</sup> and other relevant information;

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<sup>1</sup> AC/2014/7 *Strengthening the understanding of the roles of regional institutions and UN agencies in supporting enhanced adaptation actions in developing countries.*

- Taking into account the above gaps, needs and opportunities, propose modalities to strengthen and to enhance coherence of the provision of support to developing countries for activities related to adaptation.

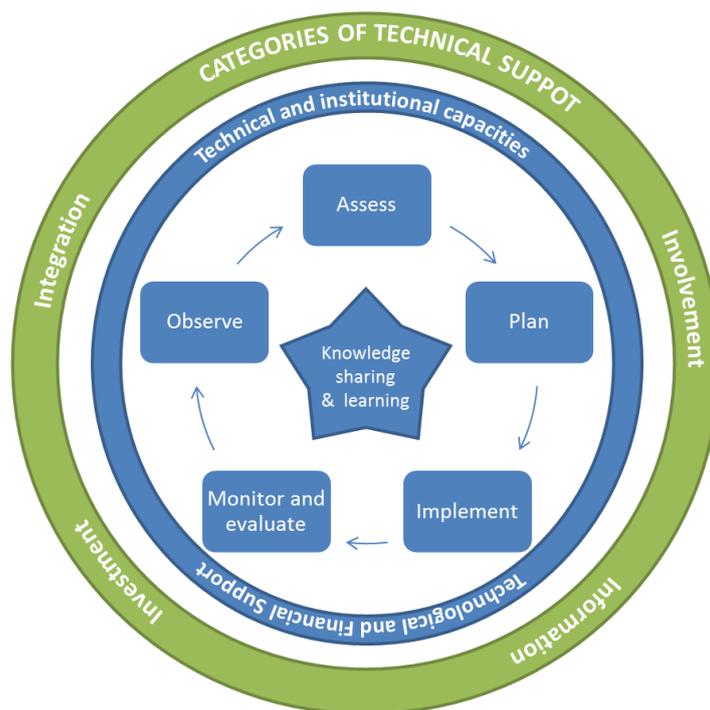
## I. Overview

5. Document AC/2014/7 provided an analysis, based on submissions from 53 regional institutions and UN agencies, of all support for adaptation by these institutions, including current technical support. In the report, four categories are used to identify where progress has been made, lessons learned, gaps and needs and opportunities for adaptation action. These categories are integration, involvement, investment and implementation.

6. For this paper, on further analysis of the information, there was a need to revise these categories slightly, based on two main points. Firstly, although it is clear from the submissions to the AC, and other sources including the IPCC Fifth Assessment report,<sup>2</sup> that there is currently a greater emphasis on planning and a need for more implementation of adaptation, it may be concluded that the original category of integration should not be considered a category itself as it is part of the adaptation cycle (observe, assess, plan, implement, monitor and evaluate) but should be supported through work on the other categories, i.e. integrating adaptation into other process, involving stakeholders, and investment of time and money. Secondly, it seemed that, although in document AC/2014/7 information (including data, knowledge and awareness raising) was covered in all categories, it warranted a category of its own to help identify current status and requirements.

7. Therefore, in this paper, the categories used to help understand the existing progress and opportunities for technical support to adaptation action are: integration, involvement, information, and, to a lesser extent, investment (Figure 1). The latter is touched on in this report only briefly, as it must be dealt with in greater detail when examining means of implementation for adaptation.

**Figure 1 Overview of the adaptation cycle and the categories of technical support required**



<[http://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/cancun\\_adaptation\\_framework/adaptation\\_committee/application/pdf/ac5\\_un\\_and\\_regional\\_support\\_for\\_adaptation\\_27feb.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/cancun_adaptation_framework/adaptation_committee/application/pdf/ac5_un_and_regional_support_for_adaptation_27feb.pdf)>

<sup>2</sup> IPCC, 2014: Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability. Part A: Global and Sectoral Aspects. Contribution of Working Group II to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Field, C.B., V.R. Barros, D.J. Dokken, K.J. Mach, M.D. Mastrandrea, T.E. Bilir, M. Chatterjee, K.L. Ebi, Y.O. Estrada, R.C. Genova, B. Girma, E.S. Kissel, A.N. Levy, S. MacCracken, P.R. Mastrandrea, and L.L. White (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA, XXX pp.

## II. Analysis of support

8. The Cancun Adaptation Framework (CAF), in paragraph 14,<sup>3</sup> identifies nine categories of support for adaptation. Technical support is being provided by organizations, as identified in submissions, across all of these categories alongside their other activities. A summary of the main focus of technical support and the number of organizations providing this support is provided in table 1. This table is not intended as a definitive list, and indeed the organizations may well be carrying out technical support in the other categories, but it does show the main focus of technical support work as identified by the organizations in their submissions.

9. In terms of geographical location and sectors covered, this information is provided in figures 2 and 3 of document AC/2014/7 respectively. Information on beneficiaries and participants is provided in figures 5 and 6 of document AC/2014/7. In regards to investment, 18.9% of submissions mentioned that they provided financial support solely in the form of technical assistance.

10. Good practices and lessons learned are provided in document AC/2014/7 for all the support types identified in Table 1.

11. Further information on technical support provided by regional institutions and UN agencies is available under the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change. The Nairobi work programme has over 290 partner organizations (as of 10 September 2014), 73 of which are described in the online database of partner organizations and Action Pledges<sup>4</sup> as intergovernmental organizations, UN and affiliated organizations and regional/ national programmes/ initiatives. These organizations are providing technical support to developing country Parties, although with widely varying modalities and focuses. The geographical location, sectors covered and type of support of the partner organizations are provided in Annex I of their 2014 update report.<sup>5</sup> The support work is detailed in the online database with the scope of activities covered in the database being: capacity building, climate resilient development planning, communication and awareness raising, disaster risk reduction, early warning systems, education, financial support, humanitarian assistance, knowledge management, monitoring and evaluation of adaptation, pilot adaptation programmes/projects, risk/vulnerability mapping, and training.

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<sup>3</sup> <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2010/cop16/eng/07a01.pdf#page=4>.

<sup>4</sup> <http://unfccc.int/nwp>.

<sup>5</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2014/INF.7 Progress made in implementing activities under the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change. Note by the secretariat. <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2014/sbsta/eng/inf07.pdf>.

**Table 1 Types of technical support and number of UN agencies and regional institutions focussing on this work as identified in submissions to the AC**

Type of technical support	CAF Support Category:	(a) Planning, prioritizing and implementing adaptation actions	(b) Impact, vulnerability and adaptation assessments	(c) Strengthening institutional capacities and enabling environments for adaptation	(d) Building resilience of socio-economic and ecological systems	(e) Enhancing climate change related disaster risk reduction strategies	(f) Understanding, coordinating and cooperating on climate induced displacement	(g) Research, development and technology transfer	(h) Education and public awareness	(i) Improving climate-related research and systematic observation
Integration	Supporting decision makers to prioritise (across levels and sectors), target activities and support policy	27	13	6		2	6			
	Supporting mainstreaming	3	2	5		11				
	Supporting new/improved institutional infrastructure and strategies			9	3	9				2
Involvement	Supporting dialogues and building pro-active partnerships at all levels to support action	2								
	Supporting community participation		1			2				
	Implementing demonstration projects that provide the opportunity for lessons learned and replication					2				
Information	Developing tools and methodologies	6	8		5	8				12
	Developing guidance resources	5	4							
	Knowledge and skills transfer including through Training & Workshops	4	7	12		5		18	2	
	Sharing knowledge (including public awareness, documenting and evaluating experiences, involving traditional knowledge)	1	2			5		5	29	
	Carrying out research						8			
	Improving access to / supply of research data/information			5					1	17
	Hiring experts to work with organizations and project stakeholder to increase technical capacity			3					2	

### III. Opportunities for enhancement of the coherence of provision of support

12. Opportunities for enhancement of technical support for adaptation action were identified by organizations in their submissions as well as during the special event “Promoting synergy and strengthening engagement with national, regional and international organizations, centres and networks”.<sup>6</sup> The opportunities identified are summarized here; the source of the information is included in brackets after each bullet point.

#### *Integration*

- Improve mainstreaming of adaptation into development policies and strategies, and link adaptation and mitigation to jointly develop low carbon solutions to address local priorities (submissions: CILLS, GEF, ICRAF, OES, PERGSA, SAARC, UNDP, UNESCWA);
- Develop a strategy and implementation plan(s) for regional support for adaptation that are country-driven and include country ownership, capacity building and country driven implementation of the regional adaptation strategy (Submissions: CCCCC, ICIMOD, SPREP, special event);
- Provide support for prioritizing important issues in adaptation action and considering integrated cross-sector solutions e.g. water security, climate resilience, disaster prevention measures, ecosystem-based adaptation, community-based adaptation, modern energy solutions and others currently not included at all such as role of genetic resources and urban dimensions (submissions: FAO, GWP, OECS, UNEP, UN-Habitat);
- Support development and integration of monitoring and evaluation frameworks in project design and implementation, and enable continuous learning from ongoing and completed actions, this includes the consideration of process-orientated M&E that enables the measurement of impact on policy change (an important consideration as time-scales for adaptation are relatively long) (submissions: ASARECA, CABI, CCCCC Commonwealth Sec, FAO, ILRI, NDF, OSS, PERGSA, UNDP, UNEP, UNITAR, WB, WFP, WHO, WTO).

#### *Involvement*

- Build appropriate mechanisms to facilitate collective multi-stakeholder engagement, with appropriate institutional arrangements to engage numerous and diverse stakeholders at all scales, based on a proper assessment of options and tradeoffs, taking into account the overall policy environment (special event);
- Develop capacity and understanding to deal with regional cooperation issues and prioritise areas of regional cooperation (submissions: AUC, CCCCC, GWP, HELVETAS, SAARC, SPREP, UNECE-Water, special event);
- Improve the access of some Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to UN agencies, as direct access is currently lacking (special event);
- Support building and sharing partnerships by programmes and initiatives, including research initiatives, as a key adaptation strategy, as it leads to more sharing of information and knowledge in the long term (submissions: FAO, ICRISAT, ILRI, UNITAR, SPREP, WASCAL, WMO);
- Encourage engagement with all stakeholders including women’s groups, indigenous communities, etc., in planning and implementing adaptation, and encourage communities to make informed choices about implementation options to provide ownership (submissions: AfDB, UNDP).

#### *Information*

- Ensure that tools and approaches are fit for purpose at national / sub-national level and/or re-adjusted or tailored to the local socio-economic and cultural context, and build up national capacity to use these tools (submissions: CABI, ICRISAT, UNITAR);
- Reduce the knowledge gap on adaptation, and scale up and improve awareness and engage stakeholders at all levels, e.g. improve/ develop learning strategies to support policy makers, use and develop innovative extension systems to support community learning, increase understanding of the linkages between resilience and adaptive capacity (submissions: IDB, REC, UNITAR, ICRISAT);
- Provide opportunities for countries to access information and tools so as to identify priority actions as well as support developing capacity to implement tools effectively (submissions: GWP, OECS);

<sup>6</sup> See AC/2014/23. Further details available from <http://unfccc.int/8246>.

- Support and strengthen North-South and especially South-South cooperation to provide useful platforms for exchange, facilitated by UN and regional organizations and networks (special event);
- Improve collection, access to, aggregation and availability of data, as this is still a challenge and hampers appropriate interventions at regional, national and local level (FAO, ICRAF, ICRISAT, IDB, ILRI, OECS, UNESCWA, UNFPA);
- Support education, as there is a scarcity of qualified personnel at country level to serve as national consultants (UNDP).

#### *Investment*

- Support streamlining and optimizing funding to support the above needs, although it is currently limited and unpredictable (GEF, UNFPA);
- Demonstrate to funders that technical support when coordinated can improve capacity restraint, e.g. as with NAP-GSP (special event);

13. Opportunities for strengthening technical support are possible in the full development and implementation of NAPs. This will support coherence of efforts of individual countries to plan and implement adaptation and gain international funding support (FAO, SPREP, UNEP, special event).

14. Opportunities for supporting enhancement of information support, as identified above, include highlighting the role that the Nairobi work programme could play in knowledge support for adaptation and alignment with the information opportunities above (submissions: GWP, UNECE-Water, WHO, special event). One of the recent initiatives, an adaptation knowledge initiative, an action pledge made by UNEP under the Nairobi work programme, intends to remove knowledge barriers that impede the scaling up of adaptation action, through a reiterative process of knowledge gap prioritization and subsequent implementation of response actions. A pilot phase of the initiative was initiated in the Andean sub-region.<sup>7</sup>

#### **IV. Modalities for engagement**

15. A number of modalities could be used by the AC to strengthen and to enhance coherence of the provision of support to developing countries for activities related to adaptation, in regards to integration, involvement, information and investment in collaboration with Convention bodies, UN agencies & regional centres. The modalities for engagement are summarized here.

16. The main priorities are guidance, advice and recommendations:

- To encourage Parties, UN agencies and regional organizations to fully engage with and support the NAP process to help plan and implement adaptation at the national level;
- To strengthen the provision, and its coherence, of technical support on adaptation through stakeholder engagement and knowledge sharing under the Nairobi work programme.

17. The AC could support integration through:

- Coordinating with all constituted bodies and processes under the Convention CGE, LEG, CTCN, NWP, TEC and the NAP process so as to demonstrate potential synergies between the efforts of developing TNAs, NAMAs and NAPs;
- Providing support to the CTCN so as to identify institutions that can offer technical support to respond to requests from developing countries for adaptation support;
- Improving collaboration between regional organizations and the AC, including on guidance on international mandates and processes, bearing in mind that these must be adapted to regional use;
- Encouraging the building in of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) frameworks into project design and implementation, as well as encouraging continuous learning from ongoing and completed adaptation actions.

18. The AC could support involvement through:

- Recognising the role of regional and national institutions in national adaptation action, and coordinating with them so as to reflect the needs on the ground with advice given to the COP, e.g. in regards to promoting, disseminating and replicating good practices globally;
- Encouraging organizations to work in consortium with national and international partners with common goals to address natural resource management (e.g. water resources), climate

<sup>7</sup> [https://www3.unfccc.int/pls/apex/f?p=333:31:3398643959867755::NO::P31\\_ID:461](https://www3.unfccc.int/pls/apex/f?p=333:31:3398643959867755::NO::P31_ID:461)

change research and technology transfer, deliver as one and provide coherent in-country support;

- Supporting the NAP-GSP, alongside the LEG, to provide advice on the design of the next steps of this programme, for engagement with non-LDC developing countries;
- Promoting the engagement of all stakeholders, including vulnerable groups such as indigenous communities, to ensure participatory approaches to adaptation.

19. The AC could support information through:

- Building on their convening power to organize focussed events, including in collaboration with the Nairobi work programme, NAP-GSP and others to promote exchange and strengthen interaction with regional bodies, regional sectoral organizations and Parties,
- Promoting knowledge sharing and awareness raising, e.g. through information platforms to share case studies, experiences and lessons learned, including indigenous and local knowledge, technical and synthesis papers and publications, training, in-house experts, expert exchange, expert groups, extension services, expert panels,
- Facilitating the visibility of adaptation efforts at the regional level, and global synthesis and dissemination of good practices and monitoring and evaluation efforts, e.g. through the Nairobi work programme, NAP Central, CTCN, capacity building platform, Consultative Group of Experts;
- Engaging with regional organizations to strengthen institutions and provide technical support for South-South cooperation;
- Supporting promotion of adaptation champions, e.g. through regional/national organizations and recognition of these champions by the AC;
- Encouraging regional centres to consolidate knowledge bases and exchange lessons learned and good practices so as to improve the identification, application and monitoring of adaptation measures at the national and subnational levels;
- Aligning the knowledge resources on adaptation under the Convention to bring coherence and ease of use.

20. The AC could support investment through:

- Encouraging regional centres to share lessons learned and best practices on available financing for adaptation from their own and other regions;
- Supporting regional centres to develop clear implementation strategies to enable funders to identify where they can optimise interaction.

## **V. Next steps**

21. The Adaptation Committee may wish to consider the information provided in sections III and IV above and prioritize the modalities in which it wishes to engage.

**List of abbreviations of regional organizations and UN agencies referred to in this report**

AfDB	African Development Bank
ASARECA	Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa
AUC	African Union Commission
CABI	Centre for Agricultural Bioscience International
CCCCC	Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre
CILSS	Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
Commonwealth Sec	Commonwealth Secretariat
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GWP	Global Water Partnership
HELVETAS	HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
ICRAF	World Agroforestry Centre
ICRISAT	International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
OSS	Sahara and Sahel Observatory
PERSGA	Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden
REC	Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE Water	UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCWA	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
WASCAL	West African Science Service Center on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use
WFP	United Nations World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization