

First meeting of the Adaptation Committee

Bangkok, Thailand, 7 to 10 September 2012

Background paper

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I. Background

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), by its decision 1/CP.13, decided to launch a comprehensive process to enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention through long-term cooperative action, up to and beyond 2012, in order to reach an agreed outcome and adopt a decision at its fifteenth session, by addressing, inter alia, enhanced action on adaptation.

2. As a result, the COP, by its decision 1/CP.16, established the Cancun Adaptation Framework, with the objective of enhancing action on adaptation, including through international cooperation and coherent consideration of matters relating to adaptation under the Convention. Within this context, and by the same decision, the COP established the following components of the Cancun Adaptation Framework:

(a) A process to enable least developed country Parties to formulate and implement national adaptation plans, building upon their experience in preparing and implementing national adaptation programmes of action, as a means of identifying medium- and long-term adaptation needs and developing and implementing strategies and programmes to address those needs;

(b) An Adaptation Committee to promote the implementation of enhanced action on adaptation in a coherent manner under the Convention;

(c) A work programme in order to consider, including through workshops and expert meetings, as appropriate, approaches to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

3. A brief overview of progress made on adaptation-related issues under the UNFCCC since COP 13 is contained in annex I to this document.

4. By decision 2/CP.17, the COP affirmed that the Adaptation Committee shall be the overall advisory body to the Conference of the Parties on adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change.

5. By the same decision the COP affirmed the five functions of the Adaptation Committee (see chapter III below) and decided on the composition and the modalities and procedures of the Adaptation Committee. It also requested the Adaptation Committee to engage with adaptation-related work programmes, bodies, institutions, organizations, frameworks, networks and centres under and outside the Convention.¹

6. In parallel with the establishment of the Adaptation Committee, and also by decision 1/CP.16, several other institutional arrangements were established, namely:

(a) A Standing Committee to assist the COP in exercising its functions with respect to the financial mechanism of the Convention in terms of improving coherence and coordination in the delivery of climate change financing, rationalization of the financial mechanism, mobilization of financial resources and measurement, reporting and verification of support provided to developing country Parties (para. 112);

¹ A document entitled "Synthesis report on the composition of, and modalities and procedures for, the Adaptation Committee, including linkages with other relevant institutional arrangements" was prepared as input to the AWG-LCA deliberations on the Adaptation Committee. See document FCCC/AWGLCA/2011/3.

(b) A Green Climate Fund, to be designated as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention under Article 11 (para. 102);

(c) A Technology Mechanism (para. 117), consisting of the following components:

- A Technology Executive Committee;
- A Climate Technology Centre and Network;

7. The linkages of the Adaptation Committee to these, and other institutional arrangements established under the Convention, are also referred to in chapter IV.B below.

II. Scope of the note

8. This paper is intended to provide initial background information in order to support the Adaptation Committee, at its first meeting, in its deliberations.

III. Functions of the AC

9. The COP, by decision 2/CP.17 affirmed that the Adaptation Committee was established to promote the implementation of enhanced action on adaptation in a coherent manner under the Convention, as provided for by the Cancun Adaptation Framework, inter alia through the following functions:

(a) Providing 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 decision 1/CP.16, paragraphs 14 and 15, where appropriate;

(b) Strengthening, consolidating and enhancing the sharing of relevant information, knowledge, experience and good practices, at the local, national, regional and international levels, taking into account, as appropriate, traditional knowledge and practices;

(c) Promoting synergy and strengthening engagement with national, regional and international organizations, centres and networks, in order to enhance the implementation of adaptation actions, in particular in developing country Parties;

(d) Providing information and recommendations, drawing on adaptation good practices, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties when providing guidance on means to incentivize the implementation of adaptation actions, including finance, technology and capacity-building, and other ways to enable climate-resilient development and reduce vulnerability, including to the operating entities of the financial mechanism of the Convention, as appropriate;

(e) Considering information communicated by Parties on their monitoring and review of adaptation actions, support provided and received, possible needs and gaps and other relevant information, including information communicated under the Convention, with a view to recommending what further actions may be required, as appropriate.

IV. Work of the Adaptation Committee at its first meeting

A. Initial activities for 2012 and elaboration of a three-year work plan

10. By decision 2/CP.17, the COP requested the Adaptation Committee during its first year to develop a three-year plan for its work, which should include milestones, activities, deliverables and resource requirements, in accordance with its agreed functions, employing the modalities listed in paragraph 12 below, and considering the indicative list of activities included in annex V to that decision, for approval by the COP at its eighteenth session.

11. The COP further requested the Adaptation Committee, in addition to developing its workplan, to initiate some of the activities contained in annex V during its first year.

12. In determining its initial activities to be carried out in 2012, as well as in the elaboration of its work plan, the Adaptation Committee may wish to keep in mind the modalities of the Adaptation committee as contained in decision 2/CP.17:

- (a) Workshops and meetings;
- (b) Expert groups;
- (c) Compilation, review, synthesis, analysis reports of information, knowledge, experience and good practice;
- (d) Channels for sharing information, knowledge and expertise;
- (e) Coordination and linkages with all relevant bodies, programmes, institutions and networks, within and outside the Convention.

13. The COP encouraged the Adaptation Committee to establish subcommittees, panels, thematic advisory groups or task-focused ad hoc working groups, if required, to provide, inter alia, expert advice in different sectors and areas, in order to assist the Adaptation Committee in performing its functions and achieving its objectives.

14. It also agreed that the Adaptation Committee should seek input from intergovernmental, international, regional, national and subnational organizations, centres and networks, the private sector and civil society, in undertaking its work, and for it to invite advisers drawn from them to participate in its meetings as expert advisers on specific issues as they arise.

15. To facilitate discussion of the Adaptation Committee on its three-year work plan, the secretariat has prepared a draft template, which is contained in annex II to this document. The indicative list of activities included in annex V to decision 2/CP.17, is contained in annex III.

16. In the discussion on its work plan the Committee might also wish to keep in mind decision 5/CP.17, paragraph 30, in which the COP requested the Adaptation Committee, in accordance with its agreed functions, to consider, in its workplan, the relevant modalities for supporting interested developing country Parties that are not least developed country Parties, to plan, prioritize and implement their national adaptation planning measures, including through the use of the modalities contained in this decision, and to report to the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth session.

17. The Committee may also wish to take into account relevant future milestones for other adaptation-related work areas, such as National Adaptation Plans, the work programme on loss and damage, and the Nairobi work programme. To visualize these mandated milestones, a concise timeline is contained in annex IV.

B. Engagement and development of linkages with other adaptation-related work programmes, bodies and institutions, under the Convention

18. The COP, by decision 2/CP.7, requested the Adaptation Committee to engage and develop linkages through the Conference of the Parties with all adaptation-related work programmes, bodies and institutions under the Convention, including the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention, the Technology Executive Committee, the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, the work programme on loss and damage and the operating entities of the financial mechanism of the Convention, as appropriate.²

19. The COP also agreed that the chairs of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, the Technology Executive Committee and the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention could be invited to attend meetings of the Adaptation Committee, as appropriate.³

20. Requests for collaboration are also contained in decisions relating to national adaptation plans (the COP requested the LEG to invite the Adaptation Committee and other relevant bodies under the Convention to contribute to its work in support of the national adaptation plan process; and to report, as appropriate)⁴ and the Green Climate Fund (the COP requested the Board to initiate a process to collaborate with the Adaptation Committee and the TEC, as well as other relevant thematic bodies under the Convention, to define linkages between the Fund and these bodies, as appropriate).⁵

21. In order to facilitate the Committee's discussion on these linkages, the secretariat has compiled an overview of linkages with the Adaptation Committee that have been mandated by other adaptation-related work programmes, bodies and institutions under the Convention. This overview is contained in annex IV to this paper.

² Decision 2/17, paragraph 99.

³ Decision 2/17, paragraph 104.

⁴ Decision 5/CP.17.

⁵ Decision 3/CP.17.

Annex I: Overview of progress made on adaptation-related issues under the UNFCCC since COP 13*

Bali 1/CP.13, para. 3 (c)	COP 16 (Cancun) 1/CP.16	COP 17 (Durban)	Work under the SBs	Further action
1(c)(i) International cooperation to support urgent implementation of adaptation actions	1/CP.16 - CAF: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Work areas on para 14; ○ NAPs (para 15+16, LDC focus, other developing countries invited to employ modalities thereof); ○ Invitation to Parties to provide Finance, Tech., and CB (para 18); ○ Adaptation Committee (para. 20); ○ Work programme to consider approaches to address loss and damage (para. 26) 	2/CP.17 - AC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adaptation Committee functions; ○ Modalities; ○ Composition; 5/CP.17 - NAPs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Guidelines; ○ Modalities, tech support (LEG, AC, others); ○ Reporting, monitoring and evaluation; ○ Provisions for considering financial support; 	NAPs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ LEG developing technical guidelines, and identifying support needs; ○ LEG workshops to address medium- and longterm adaptation; ○ AC to consider modalities for other developing countries; ○ NWP case studies on national adaptation planning processes, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Financial support for the NAP process, to be addressed at COP 18 (<i>draft decision developed at SBI 36</i>); ○ AC to consider modalities for supporting non-LDC developing countries to plan, prioritize and implement national adaptation planning measures
1(c)(ii) Risk management and risk reduction strategies	CAF: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ L&D W/P (para 26); 	7/CP.17 - L&D W/P: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Para 1, cont. of implementation of the L&D W/P; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SBI implementing the W/P, plus recommendations to COP18 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ COP 18 to consider recommendations from the SBI

* This table had been formulated as part of preparatory work of the informal additional session of the AWG-LCA in Bangkok, Thailand, from 30 August–5 September 2012. It follows the structure of the Bali Action Plan in identifying follow-up action that was built thereon.

Bali 1/CP.13, para. 3 (c)	COP 16 (Cancun) 1/CP.16	COP 17 (Durban)	Work under the SBs	Further action
1(c)(iii) Disaster reduction strategies and means to address loss and damage	CAF: ○ L&D W/P (para 26);	7/CP.17 - L&D W/P: ○ Para 1, cont. of implementation of the L&D W/P;	○ SBI implementing the W/P, plus recommendations to COP18	○ COP 18 to consider recommendations from the SBI
1(c)(iv) Economic diversification to build resilience	CAF: ○ Identified as area to be addressed under adaptation (para 14(d); ○ And, under the L&D W/P (para 28(b))		-	-
1(c)(v) Ways to strengthen the catalytic role of the Convention	CAF: ○ Adaptation Committee (paras 20-21); ○ Paras: 30 (Invitation to Parties to strengthen and/or establish regional centres and networks); 31 (an international centre could also be established in a developed country); 32 (national-level institutional arrangements); 34 (invitation to the global community to support enhanced action on adaptation)	2/CP.17 - AC: ○ Paras 99, 100 mandate linkages within and outside of the Convention; 7/CP.17 - L&D W/P: ○ Paras 3, 5 - engagement of a wide range of actors	○ SBI implementing the L&D W/P, plus recommendations to COP18	○ Workplan of the AC at COP 18; ○ COP 18 to consider recommendations from the SBI on L&D W/P

Annex II: Draft template for a 3-year work programme, including activities, milestones, deliverables and resource requirements

Modalities:

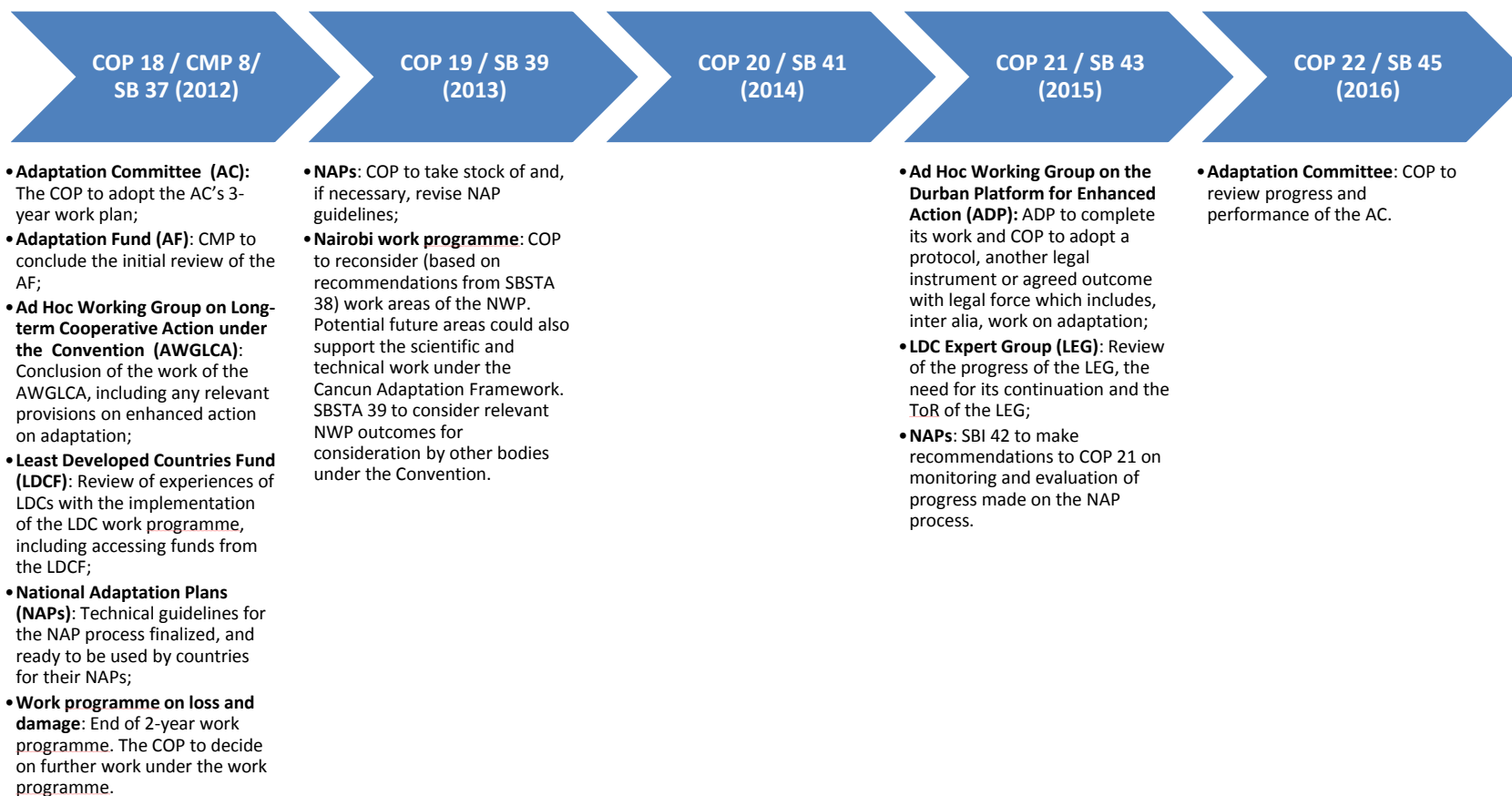
- Workshops and expert meetings
- Expert groups
- Compilation, review, synthesis, analysis reports of information, knowledge, experience and good practice
- Channels for sharing information, knowledge and expertise
- Coordination and linkages with all relevant bodies, programmes, institutions and networks, within and outside the Convention

Activity	Milestones and deliverables	Time frame	Responsibility	Indicative resource requirement

Annex III: Indicative list of activities for the Adaptation Committee*

1. Considering relevant information and providing recommendations to the Conference of the Parties on ways to rationalize and strengthen coherence among adaptation bodies, programmes and activities under the Convention.
2. Preparing an overview of the capacities of regional centres and networks working on aspects related to adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change, drawing on relevant information, and making recommendations to the Parties on ways to enhance the role of regional centres and networks in supporting adaptation at the regional and national levels.
3. Identifying the process for and scope of overview and other periodic reports on adaptation issues relevant to the work of the Adaptation Committee.
4. Preparing periodic overview reports synthesizing information and knowledge relating to, inter alia, the implementation of adaptation actions and good adaptation practices, observed trends, lessons learned, gaps and needs, including in the provision of support, and areas requiring further attention, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties, drawing on information from Parties and on other relevant reports and documents, including those of other bodies under the Convention.
5. Upon request, considering technical support and guidance to the Parties as they develop national adaptation plans.
6. Also upon request, considering work in support of the work programme on loss and damage.
7. Exchanging information with relevant Convention bodies and others, including the Standing Committee and the Technology Executive Committee, on means to incentivize the implementation of adaptation actions, including finance, technology, and capacity-building, with a view to identifying opportunities and further actions for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.
8. Upon the request of the Parties, providing advice on adaptation-related matters to relevant Convention bodies, including to the operating entities of the financial mechanism, as appropriate.
9. Compiling a roster of experts on adaptation issues, building on the existing UNFCCC rosters

* As contained in annex V to decision 2/CP.17.

Annex VI: Timeline of relevant milestones for other adaptation-related work areas


Annex V: Overview of mandated linkages with adaptation-related work programmes, bodies and institutions under the Convention with the work of the Adaptation Committee*

Decision	Section	Paragraph	Text
1/CP.17	Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action	5	Also decides that the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action shall plan its work in the first half of 2012, including, inter alia, on mitigation, adaptation , finance, technology development and transfer, transparency of action and support, and capacity-building, drawing upon submissions from Parties and relevant technical, social and economic information and expertise
5/CP.17	National adaptation plans	17	<i>Also requests</i> the Least Developed Countries Expert Group to invite the Adaptation Committee and other relevant bodies under the Convention to contribute to its work in support of the national adaptation plan process; and to report, as appropriate
		30	Requests the Adaptation Committee , in accordance with its agreed functions, to consider, in its workplan, the relevant modalities for supporting interested developing country Parties that are not least developed country Parties, to plan, prioritize and implement their national adaptation planning measures , including through the use of the modalities contained in this decision, and to report to the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth session
		34	Requests the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, the Adaptation Committee and other relevant bodies under the Convention to include information in their reports on how they have responded to the requests made in this decision and on their activities relevant to the national adaptation plan process, as per their respective mandates
Document FCCC/SBI/2012/7, annex I	Least Developed Countries Expert Group: Two-year rolling work programme for 2012–2013		Objective: Support coherence and synergy of adaptation related efforts under the Convention. Expected result: Work of the LEG is enhanced through cooperation with other bodies under the Convention, and feeds into the work of the Adaptation Committee and others

* This table includes mandates which specifically refer to the Cancun Adaptation Framework or the Adaptation Committee. More generic references to collaboration with other bodies under the Convention exist in decisions agreed at COP 17 for the TEC, the GCF, the Standing Committee and in the area of capacity building.

AC/2012/1/2

6/CP.17	Nairobi work programme	1	<i>Requested</i> the SBSTA to reconsider, at its thirty-eighth session, the work areas of the Nairobi work programme with a view to making recommendations to the COP at its nineteenth session on how best to support the objectives of the Nairobi work programme. This process would further inform the organization of potential future areas of work that could also support the scientific and technical work under the Cancun Adaptation Framework , as appropriate
3/CP.17	Green Climate Fund	17	<i>Requests</i> the Board to initiate a process to collaborate with the Adaptation Committee and the Technology Executive Committee, as well as other relevant thematic bodies under the Convention, to define linkages between the Fund and these bodies , as appropriate