**Second Meeting of the Adaptation Committee
Bonn, Germany, 5–8 March 2013**

Background note

Preparation of a list of adaptation experts

Introduction
The Conference of the Parties, at its 18th session, adopted the draft three year work plan of the Adaptation Committee (AC).[1] Within this work plan, the AC has been mandated to prepare a list of adaptation experts, drawing on existing rosters.[2] It is intended that the Committee would be able to draw on the in-depth technical expertise and resources from experts included in the list in order to provide the most authoritative and up to date advice and guidance on adaptation.

Purpose and scope of this note
This brief background note aims to provide a basis for discussions at the upcoming second meeting of the AC. It outlines a preliminary list of criteria for the selection of experts covering both the areas of expertise as well as the availability/accessibility of experts. Existing rosters of experts under the Convention process are also listed here for quick reference, and possible follow up steps discussed to take this particular task forward.

Criteria for the selection of experts
Given the mandate of the AC to provide overall guidance and advice on adaptation activities under the Convention, a wide range of experts are required to represent the ***full spectrum of thematic areas*** relating to climate change adaptation, and to cover the ***geographic regions*** as well as ***language diversity***. And of course, some experts may not be able to commit the time required to work with the AC and therefore would not be suitable for inclusion in the list. AC members may wish to consider the following four main criteria:

Thematic expertise: reflecting the multi-disciplinary nature of adaptation, a wide variety of thematic expertise is required to support effective adaptation planning and implementation. The following could be considered as the broad thematic areas where expertise is required to support the work of the AC:

- *Climate science*, including climate data management and analysis, modelling, climate information and services;
- *Climate change impacts and vulnerability (assessments)*, including both biophysical (e.g. water resources, agriculture, human health, infrastructure etc.) and socio-economic (e.g. social vulnerability, economics of climate change impacts) sciences;
- *Adaptation planning and practices*, including risk management, disaster risk reduction, climate-resilient development, adaptation policy and programme formulation and implementation, sector-specific adaptation practices in food, fibre and forests, ecosystems, freshwater resources, oceans and coastal areas, disaster risk management, health and urban development, etc.;
- *Adaptation finance;*
- *Monitoring and evaluation;*
- *Cross-cutting themes*: communications (including climate risk communications), gender, knowledge management, capacity building

Geographic coverage: given the varying geophysical and socio-economic contexts across different regions, it is important to ensure that geographic region-specific knowledge/expertise is well covered by the experts on the list.

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[1] FCCC/SB/2012/3, Annex II.
[2] Item 9 in the work plan.

Language diversity: to fully capitalize on the existing knowledge and expertise, proficiency in languages rather than English could be very helpful. Efforts should be made to ensure that the list includes good representation of at least UN languages.

Availability/accessibility: experts included in the list are expected to be able to dedicate certain amount of time to work with the AC (dependent on the modalities for engaging experts). If due to existing commitment to other tasks (e.g. leading major research projects, heavy lecturing duties etc), experts who meet the other three criteria but cannot guarantee the required availability would not be suitable for inclusion in the list.

Reflecting on their relative importance, these four criteria could be considered in the following sequence:

Figure: Sequential consideration of the selection criteria
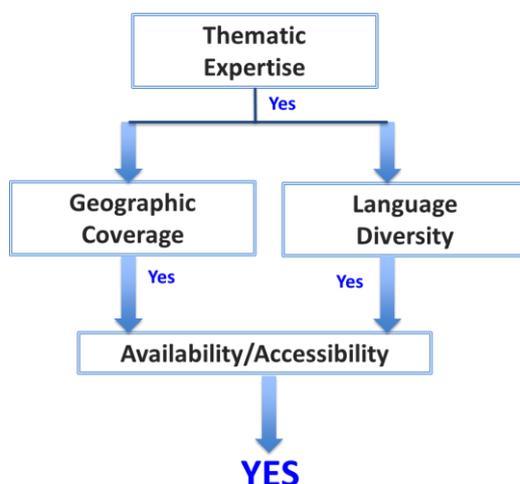
Existing relevant rosters of experts
Various rosters of experts on adaptation have been established both under and outside the Convention. Typically, they are associated with a particular process (e.g., the national communications, NAPA preparation and implementation etc). The following rosters of experts could be considered as the AC sets out to prepare the list of experts to facilitate its work:

1. Roster of experts on climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation (developed by the National Communications Support Programme) (http://ncsp.undp.org/roster?keys=&tid=163&country=All);
2. The list of experts for NAPA preparation and implementation (http://unfccc.int/cooperation_and_support/ldc/items/3541.php)
3. The Nairobi work programme, through its partner organizations, also maintains a list of experts (https://unfccc.int/adaptation/nairobi_work_programme/partners_and_action_pledges/items/5005.php?nwp=exp)[3]
4. *[UNFCCC roster of experts does not seem to include any IAV experts - http://unfccc.int/parties_and_observers/roster_of_experts/items/534.php]*
5. *[others – are being identified and will be added before the meeting]*

Next steps
1. The AC to discuss, revise and finalize the selection criteria *(Q1/2013)*;
2. The AC to elaborate the modalities for engaging the experts *(Q2/2013)*;
3. Supported by the secretariat, the AC to identify and consult potential experts for inclusion in the list *(Q3/2013);*
4. Guided by the AC, secretariat to maintain and update the list *(ongoing after Q3/2013)*.

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[3] This list will soon be deactivated from the webpage but the secretariat will continue to maintain the list offline.