

Fifth meeting of the Adaptation Committee Bonn, Germany, 5-7 March 2014

Scoping paper

Special event organized by the Adaptation Committee during the fortieth sessions of the subsidiary bodies

Recommended action by the Adaptation Committee

The AC, at its fifth meeting, may wish to:

- Endorse the scoping paper and provide further guidance to the secretariat on the topics and format of the meeting;
- Request the secretariat, in collaboration with the AC's communications group, to prepare an agenda and a list of suggested speakers for consideration and agreement by the AC via email;
- Request the secretariat to initiate the organization of the special event.

Introduction

The COP, by decision 16/CP.19, requested the Adaptation Committee (AC) to organize a special event during the fortieth sessions of the subsidiary bodies to showcase its activities and to engage in a dialogue with Parties and other relevant stakeholders.

The AC might wish to consider this special event as part of its workstream on awareness-raising, outreach and sharing of information.

This scoping paper first recalls relevant activities undertaken by the AC. It then reflects on the objective and expected outcome of the meeting, as well as potential topics, format and organization of the meeting, and concludes with suggested next steps.

Relevant activities undertaken by the AC

Since one of the two focal areas of the meeting will be for the AC to showcase its activities, the AC may wish to recall the wealth of activities it has undertaken so far within the mandate of its three-year work plan. These activities are carried out under the three work streams to which the AC agreed at its 4th meeting in order to enhance coherence and synergy:

1. A workstream on technical support and guidance to the Parties on adaptation action;
2. A workstream on technical support and guidance to the Parties on means of implementation;
3. A workstream on awareness-raising, outreach and sharing of information.¹

Objective and expected outcomes of the meeting

The objective of the meeting is to showcase its activities and to engage in a dialogue with Parties and other relevant stakeholders. As an in-session event the meeting will be able to profit from the broad range of stakeholders attending the conference.

Expected outcomes would be, apart from an increased awareness among Parties and other relevant stakeholders on the AC's work, a strengthened engagement with organizations and UN

¹ For more information see the AC's report to COP 19 (FCCC/SB/2013/2) and its three-year work plan (<unfccc.int/7517).

agencies, their increased input into the implementation of future activities of the AC, and possible initiations of collaboration.

This would respond to the AC's aim to of further enhancing synergy with organizations, centres and networks outside of the Convention in 2014; and the COP's encouragement to utilize, where appropriate, resources, capacities and expertise from relevant organizations, centres and networks outside of the Convention in support of its work.²

Outcomes of the meeting will be summarized in a short report for the AC's consideration at its 6th meeting.

Topics

AC may wish to:

- a) Provide a broad overview of all ongoing and planned activities; and
- b) Showcase more in-depth a topic that encompasses a range of different activities responding to the mandate of the AC.

Keeping in mind the mandate of the meeting (engage in a dialogue with Parties and other relevant stakeholders) and the opportunity to reach representatives of a wide range of UN agencies, organizations, and regional centres participating in the SBs, the AC might wish to consider topic a) below as the main theme for the event.

- a) *Promoting synergy and strengthening engagement with national, regional and international organizations, centres and networks.* A presentation on this topic could include:
 - Information gathered from the recent call for submissions from regional institutions and United Nations agencies supporting work on adaptation to communicate their current support for adaptation in developing countries, including in relation to capacity building, including of national institutions. Examples from one or more UN organization(s) and regional organization(s) could be highlighted;
 - Gaps and needs identified in the synthesis of these submissions;
 - Recommendations on how to strengthen the roles of organizations under the Convention, so they can:
 - i. More efficiently support Parties in implementing adaptation actions; and
 - ii. Help strengthen institutional arrangements at the national level.
 - The AC's list of regional centres and networks working on adaptation.

This proposal is based on an analysis of how the event could best contribute towards the implementation of the AC's work plan, and how the AC could benefit most from the fact that the event will be held during a conference.

The AC might wish to recall that its collaboration efforts have so far focused on ensuring coherence among bodies and workstreams under the Convention. The suggested topic might be a useful opportunity to initiate a dialogue between the AC and external stakeholders and so to gather input and explore opportunities of synergy and collaboration.

Alternative topics could be those listed under b) and c) below, as these areas can already showcase some concrete outputs. The AC may wish to note, however, that some of the below activities either overlap to a certain extent with the work of the LEG and/or are still in their inaugural stage:

- b) *National adaptation plans.* A presentation on this topic could include:
 - Work of the AC task force on NAPs, including collaboration with the LEG;

²² Decision 16/CP.19, para. 10.

- Work carried out by the AC to review existing guidelines for national adaptation planning;
 - Work carried out by the AC on financial support for NAPs;
 - Progress made on the *NAP Central*.
- c) Work on monitoring and evaluation of adaptation (i.e. the AC workshop held in Fiji in September 2013)

Format and organization:*Format:*

The format of a “special event” is relatively flexible and could follow various models, or combine elements thereof, such as:

- The Nairobi work programme focal point forum (3 hrs after 6:00 p.m., a combination of presentations and interactive sessions);
- UNFCCC side events (1.5 hrs. during lunch break or after 6:00 p.m, generally presentations followed by questions and answers).

Attendance:

The meeting will be open to all conference participants. Notifications can be sent out to UN agencies and regional organizations, NWP partners and National Focal Points.

Agenda:

Given the mandate of the meeting (to showcase activities and engage in a dialogue with Parties and other relevant stakeholders), the AC may consider organizing an interactive session. This could be the core of the meeting and could catalyze valuable ideas on the AC’s future collaboration with organizations, centres and networks outside of the Convention.

Part one could open with a presentation by the AC’s Co-Chairs or any other member of the committee to provide a short overview of the mandate and work of the AC, before introducing the topic agreed by the AC. This could then be followed by an in-depth presentation on the agreed topic, including short interventions by Parties, UN organization(s) and regional organization(s).

Part two could be used to generate ideas and suggestions to address gaps and needs, and come up with recommendations on the selected topic. An interactive session with several smaller working groups might be an appropriate format for this part. Each of the groups would be given a particular question to discuss with the help of a facilitator, and a rapporteur would be asked to report back to plenary.

Part three would allow all participants to reconvene in a plenary session. The dedicated rapporteurs of the interactive groups would present their findings and participants would have the opportunity to exchange further ideas and suggestions.

Duration:

The overall duration of the meeting could be 2–2.5 hours, with approx. 30 minutes for the introductory presentations (part I), 1 hour for the interactive discussion (part II) and 30 to 45 minutes for all groups to report back and the meeting to close (part III).

Presenters:

To demonstrate synergies between the AC and relevant groups and organizations within and outside the Convention, the AC might wish to invite speakers from groups and organizations to the event who have contributed to the work of the AC and with whom collaboration is already ongoing. The selection of presenters will ensure a regional balance.

Timing:

In order to be able to reach out to the biggest audience possible, the AC may wish to hold the event after 6:00 pm to clearly distinguish it from the negotiation sessions, to underline its informal character and its aim to engage with stakeholders at all levels.

As the AC does not feature as an item on the SBS' agendas during the June session, the date of the event will be relatively flexible. However, as the general pressure on delegates usually rises towards the end of the conference, the AC might wish to consider holding the event during the first half of the sessional period.

Scheduling will need to be coordinated with the dates of the AC's meeting with the IPCC Working Group II and, pending on the topic, any event that might be organized by the LEG.

Next steps

The AC may wish to agree on the topics and format of the meeting.

The AC may further wish to request the secretariat, in collaboration with the AC's communications group, to prepare an agenda and a list of suggested speakers for consideration and agreement by the AC via email and to subsequently initiate organization of the event.
