

Norwegian Submission on Climate Change Adaptation

1. Norway welcomes the outcome of the Work Programme for the Ad hoc Working Group on Long-Term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWGLCA) on adaptation and the invitation to make further inputs. We are of the view that the Adaptation Framework will enhance adaptation by all Parties. Norway would like to take this opportunity to raise some issues for consideration on the composition of, and modalities and procedures for the Adaptation Committee, and the work programme on loss and damage.
2. Climate change impacts and vulnerabilities are specific to each country and adaptation must therefore be a country-driven process. Any arrangements to strengthen Parties' adaptation actions must be carefully designed with this in mind.
3. Climate change impacts will affect all sectors and involve stakeholders from all parts and levels of society. The Adaptation Framework should therefore actively involve and include the participation of stakeholders, including indigenous and local communities, women, children and youth.
4. Valuable experiences have been gained by adaptation-related efforts already undertaken within and outside the Convention by Parties, UN agencies, international organizations and non-governmental organizations. It is therefore incumbent on Parties to ensure that the Adaptation Framework draws on these experiences. Hence, the inclusive and open approach which characterises the Nairobi Work Programme should guide the initiatives taken under the Adaptation Framework.
5. Adaptation is in its early stages and institutional arrangements should reflect that adaptation is very much a multi-sectoral "learning-by-doing" process. Consequently, we need to keep the Adaptation Framework lean and flexible in order to adjust to lessons learnt and experiences gained.
6. With regard to financial support to enhance adaptation in poor and vulnerable developing countries, the link to financial mechanisms both within and outside of the Convention must be adequately addressed.

The Adaptation Committee

7. In Norway's view the Adaptation Committee should ensure that the Adaptation Framework efficiently supports Parties' efforts to adapt to a changing climate. The advice provided by the Adaptation Committee should inform adaptation processes taking place outside the Convention, At the same time, the work of the Adaptation Committee should also be informed by relevant processes taking place outside the Convention.
8. Norway notes that financial support for the implementation of adaptation actions will be dealt with within the appropriate fora. The Adaptation Committee has been given a clear mandate to fulfil the functions contained in paragraph 20 of the Cancun Agreement under the AWGLCA.

9. In order to strengthen synergies and efficiency, as well as to avoid duplicating functions within the overall institutional architecture, it is crucial to ensure coherence and linkages between the various institutional arrangements under the Convention. Thus uniform reporting lines from the institutional arrangements to the Conference of the Parties are essential. The Adaptation Committee should report to the Conference of the Parties through the subsidiary bodies. As the subsidiary bodies meet biannually, this reporting structure will provide the necessary flexibility and ensure a continuous flow of information. In addition, there should be joint meetings with other relevant mechanisms and bodies whose activities also include adaptation-related actions, for example the newly-created Technology Executive Committee.
10. The Adaptation Committee should build upon the experiences gained through work that has been and will continue to be undertaken on adaptation both within, and outside of the Convention, thereby galvanising further action. Within the Convention, the Adaptation Committee should be carefully organised to draw on experiences and information already being obtained, particularly under the Nairobi Work Programme and by the funding mechanisms for adaptation under the Convention. This should also encompass other activities implemented by the Parties and other actors (civil society and private sector), with a view to facilitating an effective learning-by-doing approach to adaptation. Modalities and procedures that facilitate the exchange of information between frameworks, organisation and institutions at international and regional level outside the Convention need to be a part of the design of the Adaptation Committee. This includes systems for promoting synergies and coherence in the implementation of multilateral agreements, in particular the other Rio Conventions: the Convention on Bio-Diversity and the Convention to Combat Desertification. In addition, linkages to the Hyogo Framework and the Global Framework for Climate Services that will be established under the World Meteorological Organization will be of particular relevance to the functions that the Adaptation Committee undertakes.
11. Further recognising the multi-sectoral, context specific and local nature of adaptation, the Adaptation Committee should develop procedures for involving different stakeholders, including indigenous groups, local communities, children and youth. Gender expertise should be ensured.
12. The composition of the Adaptation Committee should reflect the multi-sectoral nature of adaptation, and include technical, development, policy and financial expertise. In Norway's view the composition must be gender balanced in accordance with decision 36/CP.7. Norway would suggest that the language in Annex IV, paragraph 3 of the outcome under the AWGLCA regarding the composition of the Technology Executive Committee be taken as the point of departure.

Work Programme for Loss and Damage

13. Norway welcomes the establishment of a two-year work programme for loss and damage. This is a first step in determining the role of the Convention in assisting Parties that face particular challenges related to loss and damage due to climate change.

14. Although this is an issue which has been discussed within the context of the negotiations on the Adaptation Framework, we remain of the view that much more understanding needs to be built on this. We believe that the outcomes of the work programme would be useful in informing relevant initiatives that Parties may take.
15. Norway would therefore like to raise some questions which we would consider useful for the work programme to address in its first phase:
 - a. What are the experiences of existing mechanisms, for example the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF) with respect to assisting their members address loss and damage?
 - b. What is the experience of those mechanisms aimed at assisting the poorest that often have no “insurable assets” in the normal sense of the term?
 - c. In what ways can insurance be utilised as an incentive for adaptation and disaster risk reduction?
 - d. What could be considered “unavoidable damage”?
 - e. How can risk management be optimised in the context of extreme weather events to minimize loss and damage?
 - f. How can conservation and restoration of functional ecosystems be included to contribute as cost-efficient measures to reduce the risk of disaster (c.f. CBD COP 10 Decision X/33)?
 - g. What are the best practises in enhancing capacity to minimize risk related to extreme weather events?
 - h. How could one approach risk management in the context of slow-onset events?
 - i. What information and data on weather and climate change would be needed, especially for the most vulnerable areas – taking into account the link to the Global Framework for Climate Services?
 - j. How can multi-sectorial aspects, such as health, food security, water and sanitation, be included in the context of loss and damage?
 - k. What are the main gaps in knowledge in relation to the ways and means of addressing loss and damage?
16. Norway proposes that stakeholder participation and influence is addressed through targeted activities and broad participatory and consultative processes. Given the challenges that women and children face and the enormous resource they represent in developing countries, it would be fundamental to engage them in the design and implementation of risk management strategies. Norway proposes that a workshop is convened on this issue.
17. We would furthermore note that there is a workshop mandated under the Subsidiary Body for Implementation in respect of the Buenos Aires Work Programme (1.CP/10), which will address the issue of identifying challenges and gaps in the implementation of risk management approaches to the adverse effects of climate change. We believe that this workshop could also provide useful input to the work programme.
18. Likewise, the Special Report which will be adopted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change later this year on the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation will be a very useful resource for the work programme.

