

Fourth meeting of the Adaptation Committee Nadi, Fiji, 5–7 September 2013

Possible support from the Nairobi work programme to the work of the Adaptation Committee

1. Background and scope of the note

The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), at its 38th session, expressed its readiness to support, through the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change (NWP),¹ the Adaptation Committee (AC) in the implementation of relevant activities within its workplan. The SBSTA invited the AC to provide recommendations in its next report on how the work programme could provide such support.²

At the same time, the SBSTA is reconsidering the work areas of the NWP with a view to making recommendations to the Conference of the Parties at its nineteenth session (COP 19) on how to best support the objectives of the NWP. 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 SBSTA 38 initiated its reconsideration of the NWP work areas and agreed to continue its consideration of this matter at SBSTA 39 based on, inter alia, the draft text contained in the annex to its conclusions.⁴

This background note intends to serve as a basis for the AC to discuss and provide recommendations in its fourth meeting on how the NWP could provide support to the work of the AC. The note could also inform discussions under agenda item 7: Information for national adaptation planning, in collaboration with the LEG and the NWP.

The note first highlights relevant features and functions of the NWP and then discusses the potential types of support and relevant activities of the AC workplan that could be supported by the NWP.

2. Relevant features and functions of the NWP

As a multilateral initiative focusing on the knowledge management and learning on adaptation under the UNFCCC, the NWP has been effective in engaging Parties and a wide range of organizations in the development, dissemination and use of information and knowledge on adaptation to climate change. Since its inception in 2005, the work programme has developed a set of well recognized features and functions, including:

- ***An extensive network of adaptation stakeholders***

Being an interface between the formal multilateral UNFCCC process and policies, practices and actions on the ground, the NWP, through a variety of engagement modalities and activities, has established an extensive network of adaptation stakeholders. They range from policy makers at all levels, to experts, public and private sector institutions, as well as civil society organizations. The extent and width of the NWP engagement of adaptation stakeholders is well illustrated by the full spectrum of stakeholder groups represented by its over 270 partner organizations. This extensive network of stakeholders is a valuable asset that the NWP has developed over the past years and would constitute a significant enabling force for accelerated learning required to scale up adaptation actions.

¹ <<http://unfccc.int/nwp>>.

² FCCC/SBSTA/2013/L.9.

³ Decision 6/CP.17, para.1.

⁴ FCCC/SBSTA/2013/L.9, annex.

- **Ready access to a wide range of adaptation expertise and technical resources underpinned by the wide network of NWP partner organizations**

With the commitment to support the objective of the NWP, partner organizations of the NWP represent a significant source of technical expertise and resources that could be mobilised and accessed. Such technical expertise and resources have been called on, for example, in developing knowledge products, and in delivery technical workshops and expert meetings mandated by Parties under the NWP and other adaptation related workstreams (such as the work programme on loss and damage).

- **A wealth of information and knowledge products**

A large number of information and knowledge products have been developed under the NWP on a wide range of topics under the NWP work areas. They include, among others, mandated technical and synthesis papers, reports on expert meetings and technical workshops, publications on and compilations of adaptation practices and lessons learned.⁵ All of these knowledge products are made available online and could support ongoing work on climate risk assessments and adaptation planning.

- **A diverse range of modalities for knowledge sharing and learning**

The NWP has provided a valuable interface for direct interactions between Parties and a large number of organizations and experts, through which knowledge needs on adaptation identified by Parties and expertise and activities supplied by organizations are identified, shared and communicated widely. The work programme has been effective in catalysing targeted adaptation actions, knowledge sharing and learning on adaptation. In particular, the NWP distinguishes from other Convention-related programmes by its wide variety of unique modalities which effectively facilitate knowledge sharing and learning on adaptation. These include:

- *Calls for action and action pledges:* Calls for actions are issued to highlight knowledge needs as identified by Parties and other adaptation practitioners; and partner organizations respond to calls with relevant action pledges to address specific calls for action;
- *Focal point forum:* taking place in conjunction with COP, the annual forum provides an opportunity for Parties to interact with organizations on knowledge needs, ongoing adaptation practices and lessons learned, and possibilities for collaboration among Parties and organizations;
- *eUpdate series:* the 4-monthly newsletter series⁶ provides update on relevant adaptation activities at the UNFCCC level, as well as to highlight actions undertaken by NWP partner organizations;
- *Online databases:* a range of databases have been developed and maintained to enable the interactive engagement of partner organizations through direct access to their online profiles where updates can be provided, and more importantly, to enable the access of adaptation practitioners and decision makers alike to a considerable amount of information and knowledge products.

3. Types of support and activities of the AC workplan that could be supported by the NWP, including modalities⁷

Based on the key features, functions and agreed activities of the NWP, the following three broad types of support from the NWP could be identified to support the work of the AC:

1. Undertaking joint activities to enhance synergy and coherence;

⁵ More information on the NWP is available in the documents AC/2013/2 (Possible cooperation in order to reduce duplication of actions, address gaps and strengthen synergies) and AC/2013/3 (Mandates, work plans and decisions with adaptation relevance).

⁶ eUpdate is now reaching all UNFCCC National Focal Points, in addition to NWP focal points (for organizations only). Meanwhile, this newsletter series is expanding in coverage to include updates on other adaptation workstreams in addition to the NWP.

⁷ The AC has started its work and made decisions on some of the elements of its work programme. Therefore, this note does not consider relevant elements (e.g. establishing a list of adaptation experts, inviting regional organizations and UN agencies to communicate their current support for adaptation in developing countries) that have been concluded and/or set aside pending its further consideration.

2. Catalysing further actions with relation to the provision of information and knowledge products from the existing and expanding network of partner organizations;
3. Supporting engagement of adaptation stakeholders through existing modalities under the NWP.⁸

These types of support could be provided to a number of activities as indicated below:

3.1 Joint activities

The AC and the NWP are either already mandated by the COP to undertake similar or related activities or could be expected to do so. Such activities, which can be currently identified in the areas of indigenous practices and knowledge and national adaptation planning, could be undertaken jointly or back-to-back in order to enhance synergy and coherence.

For example, the AC in *activity 3(v)* agreed to convene a workshop on best practices and needs of local and indigenous communities with input from and the participation of [...] relevant bodies and programmes in order to share technical adaptation-related expertise. The AC further agreed to prepare a scoping paper in the first quarter of 2014 and to organize the workshop in the third quarter of 2014 with a view to identifying recommendations and guidance for consideration by the COP, as appropriate and as needed. Similarly, the SBSTA mandated, under the NWP, a technical paper to be prepared, before SBSTA 39, on best practices and available tools for the use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation, and a technical expert meeting to be organized, before SBSTA 40 (June 2014), on the use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation with a view to developing recommendations for practitioners on the use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation.

Likewise, the AC in *activity 13* agreed to collect and compile relevant information for national adaptation planning, and identify good practices for integrating adaptation into national development policies, processes and actions in collaboration with the LEG and the NWP. The AC further agreed to prepare an information paper on lessons learned and good practices in the first quarter of 2014. The NWP has already compiled case studies on national adaptation planning processes in 2012 and is expected to consider additional activities at SBSTA 39 in the area of national adaptation planning.

3.2 Provision of information and knowledge products

The NWP could catalyse further actions with relation to the provision of information and knowledge products from the existing and expanding network of partner organizations in support of the following activities in AC's workplan:

- *Activity 6*: Compile a list of regional centres and networks working on adaptation, with a view to strengthening their role in supporting country-driven adaptation actions
- *Activity 15*: Convene a meeting to gather up-to-date information on adaptation, including the limits of adaptation, in collaboration with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Working Group II (IPCC-WGII)
- *Activity 18*: Convene an expert meeting, led by members of the Adaptation Committee, on promoting livelihood and economic diversification to build resilience in the context of planning, prioritizing and implementing adaptation actions
- *Activity 21*: Prepare periodic thematic reports and 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 COP, drawing on information from Parties and from other relevant reports and documents, including those of other bodies under the Convention.

⁸ This includes, among others, the NWP Focal Point Forum, eUpdate series, partner mailing list, online databases and resources that facilitate partner engagements.

3.3 Engagement of stakeholders

The NWP could support the engagement of adaptation stakeholders in support of *activity 22*: Establish an ad hoc group, in collaboration with relevant organizations and experts, to develop and implement a communication, information and outreach strategy, building on existing channels, in order to provide decision makers and the media, including social media, with the latest information on adaptation

In addition, expertise from NWP partner organizations could be mobilised to support adaptation in developing countries.⁹

Based on discussions above, the table below summarises possible support from the NWP to the work of the AC.

⁹ Although technical support services provided by partner organizations would not always be on a pro bono basis, the certainty of access to expertise has proven important to many developing countries as they carry out domestic adaptation activities.

Relevant items within AC workplan			Possible support activities		
Activity	Deliverables	Timeframe	COP/AC/SBSTA	NWP Partner organizations	Secretariat
Undertaking of joint activities					
3. Organize workshop on best practices and needs of local and indigenous communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scoping paper; Workshop and report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Q1 of 2014 Q3 of 2014 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AC to develop scoping paper taking into account technical paper prepared under NWP; AC to consider organizing the workshop earlier (Q1 or Q2) either jointly or back-to-back with NWP workshop 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure coherence and synergy in facilitating related activities under the AC and NWP. The extent to which this is possible will be determined by the decisions of the AC and the SBSTA
13. Collect and compile information for national adaptation planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exchange of information with Parties, relevant bodies, programmes and institutions; Information paper on lessons learned and good practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing Q1 of 2014 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COP decision/SBSTA conclusions to mandate submissions by Parties and organizations on relevant information and follow-up activities by the NWP in the area of national adaptation planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide relevant information, including lessons learned and good practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate and compile inputs by Parties and partner organizations, and ensure coherence and synergy in facilitating related activities under the AC and NWP. The extent to which this is possible will be determined by the decisions of the AC and the SBSTA
Provision of information and knowledge					
6. Compile a list of regional centres and networks working on adaptation, with a view to strengthening their role in supporting country-driven adaptation actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> List of regional centres and networks working on adaptation, including information on their activities and capacities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Q1 of 2014 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information on institutional wide capabilities and relevant activities, good practices and lessons learned from carrying out adaptation activities including provision of technical support to developing countries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinate and compile inputs by partner organizations

15. Convene a meeting to gather up-to-date information on adaptation, including the limits of adaptation, in collaboration with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Working Group II (IPCC-WGII)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scoping paper for the meeting, to be informed by the outcomes of the L&D WP; • Meeting and report on the meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q4 of 2013 or Q1 of 2014¹⁰ • Q3 of 2014 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COP decision/SBSTA conclusions to mandate submissions by Parties and organizations on relevant information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide up-to-date information on adaptation, including the limits of adaptation; • Provide technical inputs to the preparation and delivery of the meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate and compile inputs from NWP partner organizations of up-to-date information on adaptation, including the limits of adaptation; • Coordinate technical inputs from NWP partner organizations for the meeting
18. Convene an expert meeting, led by members of the Adaptation Committee, on promoting livelihood and economic diversification to build resilience in the context of planning, prioritizing and implementing adaptation actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scoping paper for the expert meeting; • Expert meeting and report on the expert meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q1 of 2015 • Q2 of 2015 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide relevant information for the scoping paper; • Provide technical inputs to the preparation and delivery of the expert meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate and compile inputs from NWP partner organizations of information on their current practices and lessons learned on promoting livelihood and economic diversification to build resilience; • Coordinate technical inputs from NWP partner organizations for the expert meeting
21. Prepare periodic overview reports synthesizing information and knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A thematic report; • An overview report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q3 of 2014 • 2015 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide relevant information as requested 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate and compile inputs from NWP partner organizations of information relevant to the topic chosen for the thematic and overview reports
Engagement of stakeholders					
22. Establish an ad hoc group, in collaboration with relevant organizations and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and implementation of a 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using existing communications channels (e.g. the eUpdate series, focal point forum etc) under

¹⁰ Following its 3rd meeting, the AC decided to postpone the discussion on this activity to AC4 or AC5.

experts, to develop and implement a communication, information and outreach strategy, building on existing channels, in order to provide decision makers and the media, including social media, with the latest information on adaptation	communication strategy				the NWP to communicate latest information on adaptation
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4. Conclusions and next steps

Ample opportunities exist for the NWP to support the AC in its work. In addition, SBSTA 38 conclusions provided further direction in enhancing the relevance of the NWP to adaptation-related workstreams and bodies under the Convention, and the NWP could gradually evolve into a central adaptation knowledge hub. As envisioned by the SBSTA, activities under the NWP and the AC could be sequenced so that they build on each other to enhance coherence and synergy. Pending further reconsideration by the SBSTA, the NWP could function as a technical wing of the Adaptation Committee in facilitating the generation, dissemination and application of data, information and knowledge on adaptation.

Based on the information in this note, the AC may:

- Consider and revise the possible support from the NWP to the work of the AC as summarised in the table above, particularly with relation to modalities and timing proposed;
 - Prioritise and define a set of activities, including joint activities, as appropriate, that the NWP could carry out to support the work of the AC, for the period up to COP 20.
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