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UNFCCC secretariat

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Dear Ms. Tsering,

We would like to express our appreciation for your letter of 1 March 2016 and for the invitation to the Adaptation Committee (AC) to actively participate in the in-session long-term climate finance workshops in May 2016. We are happy to participate in a panel to share relevant insights from the work of the AC. We will further encourage the active participation of AC members in the workshop.

We would like to take this opportunity to provide you with an update of the outcomes of 9th meeting of the AC (1-3 March 2016), in particular regarding the Paris outcomes.

In this context we would particularly like to highlight the close links between the questions in your letter and the mandates from COP 21 to the AC. Your question a) “How can adaptation needs of developing countries be better understood and assessed” is closely related to the AC mandate to “consider methodologies for assessing adaptation needs with a view to assisting developing countries, without placing an undue burden on them”.¹ Similarly, your question b) “What enabling environments, institutional and governance arrangements and planning instruments are needed to support national implementing entities in the mobilization and delivery of adaptation finance” could be seen as related to the mandate to the AC and the LEG, together with the SCF and others to “develop methodologies on taking the necessary steps to facilitate the mobilization of support for adaptation in developing countries in the context of the limit to global average temperature increase referred to in Article 2 of the Paris Agreement”.²

Overall, the AC initiated discussions on the five tasks that were mandated to it by decision 1/CP.21, and agreed to address the new tasks in a comprehensive, technical and strategic manner, reaching out to Parties, other bodies under the Convention, organizations and other stakeholders, to achieve a shared understanding of the Paris Agreement. The AC believes that the implementation of the Paris Agreement will contribute significantly to providing well informed answers to the questions raised in your letter.

We would further like to inform you that the AC agreed on a revised workplan for 2016-2018 that takes into account all relevant aspects of the Paris outcomes. Those inter-related activities will help us to achieve our ultimate objectives of facilitating the implementation of concrete adaptation actions. Among them, several areas of work could address the two issues raised in your letter directly: O1 “To promote the implementation under the Convention in a coherent manner, in line with the Cancun

¹ Decision 1/CP.21, para. 42(b).

² Decision 1/CP.21, para. 45(a).



Adaptation Framework and the Paris Agreement”; A1 “To provide guidance to the Parties on adaptation planning and implementation at the national level”; and B1 “To provide guidance on ways to enhance support, including finance, technology and capacity-building, in particular related to access, institutional arrangements and enabling environments, including for the process to formulate and implement NAPs”.

We would like to flag a few additional points in this context. Available information from relevant bodies, including IPCC and UNEP, indicates that there is a gap between adaptation activities and the already existing risks from climate change (adaptation gap). The adaptation effort required is expected to increase in the coming decades under all mitigation scenarios and there are significant differences with respect to climate change risks among countries. In particular LDCs strongly depend on public support as they offer business opportunities for the private sector only to a very limited extent. The Adaptation Committee will continue relevant discussions so as to facilitate work in these areas.

Lastly, we would also like to refer to the technical examination process on adaptation. The AC has proposed an overarching theme of “reducing vulnerability and mainstreaming climate change adaptation, including through the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans” for the two technical expert meetings (TEMs) to be held in May 2016. We believe the TEMs will be of relevance to the questions foreseen for the in-session LTF workshop, and we encourage a close coordination within the secretariat in this context.

We hope that the information above is helpful and we look forward to participating actively in the workshop, which could also be an entry point to defining next steps.

Sincerely,

(signed by)

Minpeng Chen and Don Lemmen
Co-Chairs, Adaptation Committee

Enclosure: Workplan of the Adaptation Committee for the years 2016-2018