

SOUTH AFRICAN SUBMISSION ON ADAPTATION

UNDER THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON THE DURBAN PLATFORM FOR ENHANCED ACTION

The Government of South Africa welcomes the opportunity to submit views regarding the issue of adaptation in the context of Workstream I and II of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (decision 1CP/17).

ENHANCED ACTION ON ADAPTATION

- The 2015 agreement should address adaptation with the same priority as mitigation. It is a crucial element of the new agreement. Adaptation is a context-specific intervention with the adaptation needs of countries and regions differing and a solution for adaptation will involve a complex mix of elements consisting of common and individual commitments and actions.
- Enhanced action on adaptation should be undertaken in accordance with the Convention building on existing agreements, processes and mechanisms and should follow a country-driven, gender-sensitive, participatory and fully transparent approach, taking into consideration vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems. Enhanced adaptation action should be based on and be guided by the best available science and, as appropriate, traditional and indigenous knowledge, with a view to integrating adaptation into relevant social, economic and environmental policies and actions.
- Common as well as specific commitments to address adaptation must be reflected in the new agreement in line with the principles and provisions of the Convention, in particular Article 4.

Common commitments

- A provision is needed that reinforces the understanding that adaptation is a global responsibility and therefore requires a common commitment by all Parties to act collectively through international cooperation to enhance adaptation action. This common commitment can be expressed in a commitment to enhance international cooperation that accords adaptation the same level of priority as that given to mitigation. The collective commitment should assist Parties to fulfill their responsibilities to their citizens, in particular assisting those Parties.
- All Parties must commit to a common global goal for adaptation. In this regard Parties should agree on a process to arrive at a common adaptation goal that makes

provision for context specific implementation, which will encompass the needs and costs of adaptation in a quantified way, taking into account the various methodologies for calculating the cost of adaptation and acknowledging the importance of adaptation needs that are of a non-economic nature and are difficult to quantify in traditional terms. Parties should call on SBSTA to launch by COP19 a process to understand the various approaches to ascertaining and measuring adaptation needs and recognizing actions.

- Common commitments to provide and facilitate access to the means of implementation (adequate finance, technology and capacity building) for adaptation at the local, regional and national level, including scaled up and dedicated funding. Developed country Parties shall provide developing country Parties, taking into account the needs of those that are particularly vulnerable, with long-term, scaled-up predictable, new and additional finance, technology and capacity-building, consistent with the relevant provisions, to implement urgent, short- medium- and long-term adaptation actions, plans, programmes and projects at the local, national, sub-regional and regional levels, in and across different economic and social sectors and ecosystems. In order to enhance international cooperation, Parties should agree to develop a Strategic Framework for a coherent and consolidated international response and work programme on adaptation for the period 2020 to 2030, the purpose of which is to ensure that urgent and effective action is taken globally to address the adaptation challenge by creating opportunities and providing resources to support the development of climate-resilient development pathways. It should not result in the duplication of efforts undertaken, but should facilitate country-owned and country-driven action supported by international cooperative actions and adequate means of implementation.
- The Strategic Framework must be a flexible mechanism under the Cancún Adaptation Framework that will stipulate the common elements/measures to enhance understanding, coordination and cooperation with regard to adaptation to climate change at the local, national, regional, and international levels in order to ensure an effective response to adaptation. The Strategic Framework should *inter alia* –
 - (a) be based on the effective use of projection scenarios, early warning systems, vulnerability mapping and risk assessment to identify priorities and assess the costs of implementation of adaptation programs;
 - (b) identify adaptation needs and provide guidance on developing and implementing programmes in a coherent manner to address those needs;
 - (c) place emphasis on reducing vulnerability and building the resilience of developing countries to short-term climate shocks and facilitate and enable adaptation to long-term background shifts in climatic conditions - the pathways

toward resilience would include the need for both incremental and transformational approaches.

- (d) advise on effective climate change related disaster risk strategies, early warning systems, risk assessment and management at the local, national, sub-regional and regional levels, as appropriate;
- (e) identify areas for research and development, demonstration, diffusion, deployment and transfer of technologies, practices and processes, and capacity-building for adaptation, with a view to promoting access to technologies, in particular in developing country Parties;
- (f) improve climate-related research and systematic observation for climate data collection, archiving, analysis and modelling in order to provide decision makers at the national and regional levels with improved climate-related data and information;
- (g) Set a collective target for the scale of finance to be made available for adaptation actions in developing countries, in the near term, at USD 5-7 billion per year by 2015, scaling up in the longer term to an agreed figure in the range of estimated needs between US\$ 28 – 67 billion per year by 2030 (Dialogue working paper 8, 2007; and FCCC/TP/2008/7), as well as the support mechanisms, the existing institutions and capacity-building and timely, adequate, predictable and sustained financial and technical resources and technology transfer.
- (h) Agree on a process to record and monitor the actual costs of adaptation actions, including establishing a database as a mechanism for assessing the cost efficiency of adaptation actions over time.
- (i) Endow the adaptation element of the Green Climate Fund with the legal capacity and the financial resources necessary to carry out its mandate.
- (j) Strengthen, or where necessary establish, regional centres to coordinate capacity building efforts and disseminate information on best practices.

Individual commitments

- All Parties agree to individually formulate and implement national adaptation plans and implement adaptation actions taking into account common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, and specific national and regional development priorities, objectives and circumstances in line with agreed modalities and guidelines. Agrees that the formulation of national adaptation plans should build on and complement existing adaptation planning. Parties should take nationally appropriate adaptation activities to plan for, prepare for, and inform its public about

the unavoidable impacts of climate change, and to build the resilience of its society to these impacts.

- The NAPs shall be prepared in accordance with the existing guidelines for the formulation of national adaptation plans and any additional guidelines that may be agreed upon.
- Agree that LDCs should have access to the full cost funding for the preparation and implementation of NAPs and other developing countries to funding for incremental costs.
- Agree to set up a registry to record national adaptation actions/programmes in seeking to enhance international cooperation for finance, technology and capacity-building support for such adaptation actions and programmes. In the NAPs developing countries may identify and put forward particular adaptation projects and programmes to be registered in a dedicated platform for support by developed countries.
- Review of the adequacy of adaptation action and support through the provision of the means of implementation should be a combined effort, coinciding with the duration of the Strategic Framework in 2030.
- This can be done with reference to effort in terms of an equity reference framework (ERF), whereby Parties' efforts are recognised. Such an assessment must take into account the extent to which developing country Parties are supported to implement adaptation actions.
- Individual efforts by Parties should in respect of adaptation be taken as a contribution to the collective global efforts to address climate change.

WORKSTREAM II

Launch projects/programmes demonstrating enhanced cooperation on adaptation as an integral part of the implementation of the global responsibility to address climate change.

Parties should put forward such projects/programmes for support in an pilot phase.