

WORK OF THE AWG-LCA CONTACT GROUP

Agenda item 3.3

Enhanced action on adaptation: Adaptation Committee

version of 7 October 2011 @ 10.00

Draft decision text

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling Article 4, paragraphs 3, 4 and 5, and Article 7, paragraph 2(i) of the Convention,

Recalling decision 1/CP.16,

Reaffirming that adaptation is a challenge faced by all Parties, and that enhanced action and international cooperation on adaptation is urgently required to enable and support the implementation of adaptation actions aimed at reducing vulnerability and building resilience in developing country Parties, taking into account the urgent and immediate needs of those developing countries that are particularly vulnerable,

Reaffirming also that enhanced action on adaptation should be undertaken in accordance with the Convention, should follow a country-driven, gender-sensitive, participatory and fully transparent approach, taking into consideration vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems, and should be based on and 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, where appropriate,

Acknowledging the need to strengthen, enhance and better utilize existing institutional arrangements and expertise under the Convention,

Having established the Adaptation Framework in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 13,

Having established the Adaptation Committee in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 20,

Emphasizing that the work of the Adaptation Committee should be guided by the principles of the Convention and all its relevant provisions on adaptation, and the need for effectiveness, efficiency, transparency, good governance and avoiding duplication of work, and should take into account gender perspectives,

Reaffirming that adaptation in the context of the Convention and as per Article 4, paragraph 8, of the Convention, covers adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change and the adverse impacts of response measures in a comprehensive manner,

Mandate and reporting

1. *Affirms* that the Adaptation Framework will be elaborated by the Adaptation Committee to provide strategic guidance to adaptation action, projects and programmes;
2. *Affirms* that the Adaptation Committee shall be the overall advisory body to the Conference of the Parties on adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change and the adverse impacts of response measures, and shall promote the implementation of enhanced action on adaptation in a coherent manner under the Convention, inter alia, through the following functions:
 - (a) Providing technical support and guidance to the Parties, respecting the country-driven approach, with a view to facilitating the implementation of adaptation activities, including those listed in decision 1/CP.16, paragraphs 13, 14 and 15, where appropriate;

(b) Strengthening, consolidating and enhancing the sharing of relevant information, knowledge, experience and good practices, at the local, national, regional and international levels, taking into account, as appropriate, traditional knowledge and practices;

(c) Promoting synergy and strengthening engagement with national, regional and international organizations, centres and networks, in order to enhance the implementation of adaptation actions, in particular in developing country Parties;

(d) Providing information and recommendations, drawing on adaptation good practices, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties when providing guidance on means to incentivize the implementation of adaptation actions, including finance, technology and capacity-building and other ways to enable climate-resilient development and reduce vulnerability, including to the operating entities of the financial mechanism of the Convention, as appropriate;

(e) Considering information communicated by Parties on their monitoring and review of adaptation actions, support provided and received, possible needs and gaps and other relevant information, including information communicated under the Convention, with a view to recommending what further actions may be required, as appropriate;

3. Modalities

(a) Workshops and meetings;

(b) Expert groups and networks;

(c) Compilation, review, synthesis, analysis and reports of information, knowledge, experience and good practice;

(d) Channels for sharing information, knowledge and expertise;

(e) Coordination and linkages with all relevant bodies, programs and institutions, within and outside the convention;

4. *Decides* that the Adaptation Committee shall operate under the authority and guidance of, and be fully accountable to, the Conference of the Parties, which should decide on its policies in line with relevant decisions;

5. *Requests* the Adaptation Committee to report annually to the Conference of the Parties/to the Conference of the Parties through the subsidiary bodies, including on its activities, performance of its functions, guidance, recommendations and other relevant information arising from its work, and, as appropriate, on further action and guidance to other bodies under the Convention, including those relating to the financial mechanism, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties/the subsidiary bodies;

6. *Requests* the Adaptation Committee, in performing its functions, to undertake the following, inter alia, activities:

(a) Preparing an annual or biennial report on the status of adaptation, drawing on information from Parties, and other relevant reports and documents, that includes, inter alia, identified experiences, observed trends, lessons learned, gaps and needs and areas requiring further attention, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties;

(b) Conduct periodic reviews of information, tools and policies that enable effective and enhanced action on adaptation, which could be undertaken through a sectoral lens, including, inter alia, agricultural, health, water and coastal zones, as well as a cross-sectoral lens, including, inter alia, accessing climate information, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting, gender, and stakeholder engagement;

(c) Reviewing the adequacy of the support provided by developed countries, and reporting to the Conference of the Parties for further guidance, including ensuring that funds which are made available are new and additional and provided on a grant basis directly to the recipient countries;

(d) Rationalize adaptation workstreams under the Convention, and strengthen the coherence among the various Convention bodies and agenda items;

(e) Synthesize information and knowledge regarding good adaptation practices from existing resources, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties when providing initial input to the operating entities of the financial mechanism;

(f) Developing and preparing targeted reports, including analysis and synthesis documents, technical papers, guidance materials, methodologies, compendiums, web-based resources and other knowledge products;

(g) Serving as the technical panel to the operating entities of the financial mechanism of the Convention, and to other existing and newly established adaptation-related work programmes, bodies and institutions under the Convention including, upon request, by reviewing and assessing information submitted by Parties;

(h) Receiving proposals for projects and programmes on adaptation from developing countries, evaluating them based on criteria approved by the Conference of the Parties and recommending the selected projects and programmes to a financial window (the Green Climate Fund or other existing windows as appropriate). The Adaptation Committee will only examine the technical aspects of adaptation projects, while financial issues (fiduciary management) will be dealt with by the Green Climate Fund or other fund management mechanisms, as applicable. If support is required for the implementation of the proposed adaptation activities by a country or a group of countries, the Adaptation Committee will seek support from the Climate Technology Centre and Network, and the pertinent financial window will provide the financial resources required to access that suggested technology. To encourage capacity-building in a certain country or a group of countries, the Adaptation Committee may recommend the provision of financial support from the relevant financial window;

(i) Providing recommendations to the Standing Committee on matters related to adaptation in relation to the needs for and gaps in the support provided and received for adaptation in developing countries and in the development of guidance to the financial mechanism to the Convention;

Composition

7. *Decides* that the Adaptation Committee shall have a majority from developing country Parties and comprise 20/xx members, who shall serve in their personal capacity, and will be nominated by their respective groups or constituencies and elected by the Conference of the Parties, with the aim of achieving a fair, equitable and balanced representation, as follows:

Option 1

- (a) *(x) members from Africa;*
- (b) *(x) members from Asia;*
- (c) *(x) members from Latin America and the Caribbean;*
- (d) *(x) members from Eastern Europe;*
- (e) *(x) members from Western Europe and Others;*

Option 2

- (a) *4/x members from Africa;*
- (b) *4/x members from Asia;*
- (c) *4/x members from Latin America and the Caribbean;*
- (d)

Option a

6/x members from Annex I;

Option b

- (x) members from Eastern Europe;*
- (x) members from Western Europe and Others;*
- (e) *1/x member from small island developing States;*
- (f) *1/x member from least developed country Parties;*

Option 3

(a) 7/x members from Parties included in Annex I to the Convention (Annex I Parties);

(b) 7/x members from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties);

and possibly

(c) 2 advisory members each from southern and northern civil society. These advisory members will not participate in consensus under paragraph 15 below;

8.

Option 1

Urges Parties to ensure that the membership achieves an appropriate balance of local, indigenous, practical, sectoral, technical, policy, legal, social and financial experience, knowledge and expertise in the areas of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, while taking into account the need to achieve gender balance in accordance with decision 36/CP.7;

Option 2

Encourages Parties to nominate senior experts to the Adaptation Committee, with a view to achieving, within the membership, an appropriate balance of technical, legal, policy and social development expertise relevant to adaptation and vulnerability, taking into account gender balance in accordance with decision 36/CP.7;

9. *Decides* that the Chairs of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, the Technology Executive Committee and the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention should serve as ex-officio members;

The 'how' (procedures, including terms of office, chairmanship, decision-making, meetings, linkages, secretariat and budget)

10. *Decides* that members and advisory members shall serve for a term of two/three years, and shall be eligible to serve a maximum of two consecutive terms of office, and that the following rules shall apply:

(a) Half of the members shall be elected initially for a term of three years, and half of the members shall be elected for a term of two years;

(b) Thereafter, the Conference of the Parties shall elect members for a term of two/three years;

(c) The members shall remain in office until their successors are elected;

11. *Decides* that if a member of the Adaptation Committee resigns or is otherwise unable to complete the assigned term of office or to perform the functions of that office, the Adaptation Committee may decide, bearing in mind the proximity of the next session of the Conference of the Parties, to appoint another member from the same group or constituency to replace said member for the remainder of that member's mandate, in which case the appointment shall count as one term;

12. *Decides* that the Adaptation Committee shall elect annually/biannually a chair and a vice-chair from among its members to serve for a term of one/two year/s each, with one being a member from an Annex I Party and the other being a member from a non-Annex I Party, and that the positions of chair and vice-chair shall alternate annually/biannually between a member from an Annex I Party and a member from a non-Annex I Party;

13. *Decides* that if the chair is temporarily unable to fulfil the obligations of the office, the vice-chair shall serve as chair. In the absence of the chair and vice-chair at a particular meeting, any other member designated by the Adaptation Committee shall temporarily serve as the chair of that meeting;

14. *Decides* that if the chair or vice-chair is unable to complete the term of office, the Adaptation Committee shall elect a replacement to complete the term of office;

15. *Decides* that decisions of the Adaptation Committee shall be taken by consensus;

16. *Decides* that the Adaptation Committee shall convene its first meeting soon after the seventeenth session of the Conference of the Parties at which members of the Adaptation Committee shall be elected;

17.

Option 1

Decides that, thereafter, the Adaptation Committee shall meet at least twice a year, while retaining its flexibility to adjust the number of meetings to suit its needs;

Option 2

Decides that the Committee will meet twice every year in conjunction with UNFCCC meetings to enable it to discharge its responsibilities;

18.

Option 1

Encourages the Adaptation Committee to establish subcommittees, panels, thematic advisory groups or task-focused ad-hoc working groups, if required, to provide, inter alia, expert advice in different sectors and areas, in order to assist the Adaptation Committee in performing its functions and achieving its objectives;

Option 2

Decides that the Adaptation Committee, in performing its functions, should be able to draw upon expertise, including from the UNFCCC roster of experts, the Nairobi work programme, the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention and the Technology Executive Committee, to provide advice, including as expert advisers at its meetings as needed;

Decides that the Adaptation Committee should seek input from advisors drawn from relevant intergovernmental and international organizations, the private sector and civil society in undertaking its work;

Decides that the Committee will be able to invite experts who bring in relevant expertise as needed, to participate in its meetings, and to establish task-focused ad hoc working groups;

19. *Invites* relevant intergovernmental agencies to actively participate in sessions of the Adaptation Committee;

20. *Requests* the Adaptation Committee to invite advisers from relevant intergovernmental, international, regional and national organizations as well as the private sector and civil society to participate in its meetings as expert advisers on specific issues, as needed;

21. *Decides* that meetings of the Adaptation Committee shall be open to attendance by accredited observer organizations, except where otherwise decided by the Adaptation Committee, with a view to maintaining a balanced representation of observers from Annex I Parties and non-Annex I Parties;

22. *Affirms*, in implementing paragraphs 20 and 21 above, and given the need to ensure inclusive processes and feedback from the various stakeholders, that the Adaptation Committee should include as observers representatives from civil society, particularly local communities, indigenous peoples, women, and youth and children;

23. *Decides* that English shall be the working language of the Adaptation Committee and that the full text of all outputs of the Adaptation Committee shall be made publicly available via the UNFCCC secretariat's website;

24. *Decides* that the UNFCCC secretariat shall support and facilitate the work of the Adaptation Committee, including supporting its meetings, providing secretarial assistance to the Chair and Vice-Chair, preparing reports and technical papers, and performing any other function assigned by the Adaptation Committee, subject to the availability of resources;

25. *Decides* that the Adaptation Committee shall be funded through the core budget of the UNFCCC, and that the secretariat of the UNFCCC shall serve as the Secretariat of the Committee;

26. *Decides* that the plans, programmes, projects, or activities related to adaptation in developing country Parties, guided by the Adaptation Framework, and as identified through their respective planning processes, national adaptation plans or through national communications consistent with Article 4, paragraphs 4 and 5, of the Convention, including the preparation of national adaptation plans and national adaptation programmes of action, shall be funded by developed country Parties in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 3, including through the operating entities of the financial mechanism and other funds under the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol;

Linkages

27. *Requests* the Adaptation Committee to engage and work closely and in a coordinated manner with and to provide guidance to all existing and newly established adaptation-related work programmes, bodies and institutions under the Convention, including,

Option 1

As appropriate, through providing guidance, formulating joint programmes of work, undertaking joint activities and convening timely consultations and joint meetings;

Option 2

But not limited to:

(a) UNFCCC bodies such as the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change; the Least Developed Countries Expert Group; and the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention;

(b) Thematic bodies such as the work programme on loss and damage and the Technology Executive Committee;

(c) The financial mechanism, and its related institutions and funds such as the Green Climate Fund, the Adaptation Fund and its Board, the Standing Committee, the Least Developed Countries Fund, and the Special Climate Change Fund;

(d) Strengthen linkages with and among institutional arrangements outside of the Convention, including those at the intergovernmental, regional, national and sub-national levels;

(e) Developing guidelines for the preparation of national adaptation plans and other adaptation activities/programmes, as required; in this process, special needs of least developed countries may be given due attention;

(f) Periodically reviewing the modalities made available for support to the formulation and implementation of national adaptation plans, on the basis of feedback provided by the developing country Parties for such purposes;

(g) Periodically reviewing, in cooperation with the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, the modalities made available for the support provided in the formulation and implementation of national adaptation programmes of action, on the basis of feedback provided by the developing country Parties for such purpose;

28. *Requests* the Adaptation Committee to develop linkages with relevant institutions and bodies outside of the Convention, where appropriate, and to guide and draw upon the expertise, as appropriate, of regional adaptation centres and networks and national-level institutions;

Review

29.

Option 1

Decides that the objective, functions and performance of the Adaptation Committee shall be reviewed by the Conference of the Parties at its twentieth session, and thereafter every three years, with a view to ensuring effectiveness and efficiency.

Option 2

Decides that the Adaptation Committee shall operate for a term of four years, and that the Conference of the Parties will review the progress and performance of the Adaptation Committee and consider whether to extend this term at the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties.

Annex. Activities for year one

A. Procedural activities

- Develop rules of procedure;
- Develop operational policies and guidelines, based on functions set out in decision 1/CP.16, and indicative modalities set out in this decision;
- Prepare a multi-year work plan for the work of the Committee.

B. Substantive activities

1. Technical support and guidance

- Preparation of an overview report on the status of adaptation, drawing on information from Parties, and on other relevant reports and documents, including those of other bodies under the Convention;
- Review, in collaboration with the Standing Committee, existing guidance on adaptation finance, and provide recommendations with a view to, inter alia, enhancing direct access by developing country Parties;
- Compile a roster of experts for adaptation issues, building on existing UNFCCC rosters;
- Conduct a review of existing adaptation bodies, programmes and activities under the Convention, with a view to assessing where gaps and/or overlaps exist, and recommend actions that can be considered by the Conference of the Parties which will enhance the implementation of adaptation under the Convention, including the development of national adaptation plans and the work programme on loss and damage;
- Prepare an overview of the capacities of regional centres and networks working on aspects related to adaptation to the impacts of climate change, and make recommendations on ways to enhance the role of regional centres and networks to support adaptation at the regional and national levels;
- Conduct a review to assess and propose ways to rationalize adaptation workstreams under the Convention and strengthen coherence among the various Convention bodies and agenda items. The Committee may invite other groups under the Convention to submit reports on their adaptation actions and provide input on actions that could be taken to strengthen coherence and integration, including through the identification of joint programs;
- Conduct a review to assess and provide input on how the UNFCCC may strengthen linkages with and among other institutional arrangements, including those at the regional, national and sub-national levels. The first step in this process will be to understand what other institutional arrangements are doing on adaptation, and where there might be gaps and priority areas where improved communication and coordination would help catalyze enhanced action, leverage resources, and strengthen the synthesis and sharing of information, knowledge, and best practices;
- Conduct a review of information, tools, and policies that enable effective and enhanced action on integrating adaptation into medium and long term development planning, and associated lessons learned, good practices, gaps and constraints;
- Develop a strategic mid-term work programme, with annual work plans that specify its milestones, activities and deliverables in performing its agreed functions, linkages with other institutional arrangements under and outside of the Convention, resources needed to support its work, and procedures for measuring its performance and impact, for approval by the Conference of the Parties at its eighteenth session/the subsidiary bodies at their thirty-seventh/ thirty-ninth session;

2. National adaptation plans

- Prepare guidelines for the formulation and implementation of national adaptation plans, in cooperation with the Least Developed Countries Expert Group and the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention;

3. Work programme on loss and damage

- With support from the secretariat, facilitate the work programme on loss and damage;

4. Dissemination of information

- Develop a communication plan for dissemination of adaptation-related information to Parties, UNFCCC institutions and external organizations;

5. Linkages

- Map institutions involved in adaptation-related activities inside the Convention and prepare recommendations for ways of working going forward;
- Map adaptation-related institutions and networks outside the Convention and prepare recommendations for collaboration going forward;
- Investigate appropriate and effective linkages with other relevant bodies and the work done by programmes under the Convention, including, inter alia, the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communication for Parties not included in Annex 1 of the Convention, and the Adaptation Fund, in consultation with these bodies.

C. Proposed outcomes for consideration and approval at the eighteenth session of the Conference of the Parties

- Rules of procedure;
- Operational policies and guidelines;
- Report on the status of adaptation;
- Roster of experts;
- Guidelines for the formulation and implementation of national adaptation plans;
- Report on the progress of the work programme on loss and damage;
- Communication plan for dissemination of information and provision of advice;
- Map of Convention and Kyoto Protocol institutions with recommendations for ways of working going forward
- Map of adaptation-related institutions and networks outside the Convention with recommendations for collaboration going forward.