

Ad-hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA)

Third part of the first session, Bonn, 8-17 May 2017

Agenda item 4 – Further guidance in relation to the adaptation communication, including, inter alia, as a component of nationally determined contributions, referred to in Article 7, paragraphs 10 and 11, of the Paris Agreement

Informal Note by the Co-Facilitators – final iteration

Reflections of the Co-Facilitators on the discussion in the informal consultations

Note: This informal note is our attempt to informally capture the views expressed by Parties on this agenda item to date. The note has been prepared under our own responsibility and thus has no formal status. The content of the note is not intended to prejudge further work that Parties may want to undertake nor does it in any way prevent Parties from expressing other views they may have in future.

I. Summary of discussion to date

Our work in Bonn began with a pre-session workshop on Saturday 6 May. At the workshop Parties discussed all themes identified in Marrakech, namely purpose, elements, linkages, vehicle, and flexibilities, and worked in small groups, with focus on purpose and elements, which were identified as issues that would most benefit from more detailed discussions.

The group met six times for a total of seven hours for informal consultations at this session, and discussed all five themes, following a schedule as agreed in the first session.

- The first informal consultation, held on Wednesday 10 May at 10-11 am, focused on the general approach to this session and on reflections from the workshop. We distributed a table which reflects all the outputs on purpose and elements at the workshop.¹
- At the second meeting, held on 11 May at 10-11 am, Parties focused on purpose. We issued the first iteration of our informal note after this meeting.
- At the third meeting on 12 May at 4-6 pm, Parties considered purpose and elements together, including suggestions for lists of elements. The issue of linkages was also discussed.
- At the fourth meeting on 13 May at 10-11 am, Parties considered vehicle and flexibilities, and also returned briefly to elements. We issued a second iteration of our informal note on the following day after this meeting.²
- At the fifth meeting on 15 May at 11-12, Parties discussed two proposals for possible structure of the outcome on this item (referred to as “skeleton”).
- At the sixth and final meeting on 15 May at 3-4 pm, Parties provided feedback on the second iteration of our informal note, and made proposals for possible follow-up work on this item.

In the course of the work, groups of Parties provided specific inputs on purpose, elements, and the “skeleton” of a possible outcome. These proposals are captured in the annexes to this note.

¹ The table is available in the annex of the first iteration of our informal note, which is available here: http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/bonn_may_2017/in-session/application/pdf/apa_4_informal_note.pdf

² The second iteration is available here: http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/bonn_may_2017/in-session/application/pdf/apa1.3_i4_informalnote.pdf

Reflections on the discussion

Discussions of this group were constructive and productive. Progress from Marrakech is evident in the content of the annexes to this note. While Parties have not agreed on a final approach to these themes, there was significant progress made during this session on the themes of purpose and elements, as well as the “skeleton”, in particular. This section contains some of our personal reflections on the discussions. It is not an exhaustive summary of the discussion, but rather an attempt to identify the “big picture” issues that were raised during our informal consultations at this session.

In terms of **purpose**, Parties presented a range of views, which are captured in annex I to this note. We noted that purpose and elements are clearly interconnected, indicating that on the one hand, purposes guide the choice of elements, but, on the other, many elements contribute to multiple purposes.

In terms of **elements**, Parties presented various suggestions for possible elements. Those suggestions are captured in annex II to this note. It was noted that flexibility (discretion/choice/optionality) could be expressed in the context of identifying possible elements. Parties also discussed the degrees of consistency that might be needed for e.g. providing inputs to the global stocktake, while it was mentioned that there should be no assessment of consistency of information communicated by Parties.

In terms of **linkages**, Parties highlighted various specific linkages, including the global stocktake and the transparency framework. Linkages to the financial mechanism and the constituted bodies (i.e. to provide support for preparing adaptation communications) were also noted. Some ways to address these linkages were suggested, including regular consultations with colleagues working on interlinked items, discussions between co-facilitators, as well as considering linkages at a later stage when the various APA items have progressed further. There is also interest to explore ways in which existing guidelines can be used in order to avoid duplications and achieve coherence.

In terms of **vehicles**, the importance of flexibility in terms of the choice of vehicles was emphasized, while Parties highlighted possible vehicles that could be used (NDCs, NAPs, national communications, reporting under Article 13.8, and biennial update reports). The need to avoid burdens and duplication, and achieve coherence of communication was also emphasized. It was mentioned that there is a gap in terms of guidelines for some vehicles, and new guidelines would be needed.

In terms of **flexibility**, it was suggested that it would be useful to use another term, such as “discretion”, “choice”, or “optionality”. Parties discussed the implications of the discretion/choice/optionality outlined in the Paris Agreement. Parties also mentioned that further guidance for the adaptation communication could reflect discretion/choice/optionality in the context of elements and/or by developing high-level guidance.

In addition to the five themes, Parties also discussed a possible “**skeleton**” of a possible outcome on this item. Two proposals for such a skeleton were presented. They are contained in annex III to this note along with the additional suggestions from Parties on those skeletons.

Discussion of follow-up activities

Parties also made suggestions for follow-up activities on this item, suggesting targeted/focused submissions (options suggested included focusing on adding detail to the purposes and elements, focusing on the themes of flexibility, vehicles and , linkages, or focusing on fleshing out the “skeleton”), possible inter- and presessional workshops, an intersessional meeting covering all the Paris Agreement agenda items, joint meetings or workshops with experts working on other APA agenda items, such as transparency and global stocktake, as well as technical work by the secretariat based on the submissions, or to identify gaps in existing guidelines.

Annex I: proposals for possible purposes of an adaptation communication

This annex contains proposals for possible purposes of an adaptation communication identified by Parties in the context of developing further guidance in relation to the adaptation communication, in light of the discussions held during APA 1.3. The table is included here with a view to providing Parties with an overview of the proposals made at this session on this theme. It is not meant to be an exhaustive list, does not exclude the identification of additional purposes, nor does it prescribe or prejudge in any way the scope, structure or content of the further guidance to be developed.

<p>Proposal by the G77 and China</p> <p>This is an initial list of themes that the G77 and China has identified in the consideration of the purpose of the adaptation communication, recognizing that some of these themes might be incorporated in the purpose, or in some other aspect of the adaptation communication, including as “common” or “additional” / “opt in – opt out” elements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicating adaptation actions and plans • Enhancing support for adaptation actions and plans / catalyze support to implement adaptation communication • Contribute and inform progress towards GGA • Raise the profile of adaptation/parity with mitigation • Recognition of adaptation efforts of developing country Parties 	<p>Proposal by the European Union</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing visibility / profile of adaptation • Facilitating learning by sharing good practices, experiences and lessons learned • Informing on the progress towards the GGA • Recognizing adaptation efforts • Informing future decisions under UNFCCC • Catalyzing adaptation action
<p>Additional purposes suggested by Parties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To inform future decisions under the UNFCCC. - To provide input to the global stocktake. - Purpose could be a broad political purpose, accompanied by more specific purposes of the further guidance being developed under this item (to facilitate learning, cooperation and support and to assist Parties in communicating their priorities, implementation and support needs, plans and actions). 	

Annex II: proposals for the elements of an adaptation communication

This annex contains proposals for possible elements of an adaptation communication identified by Parties in the context of developing further guidance in relation to the adaptation communication, in light of the discussions held during APA 1.3. The table is included here with a view to providing Parties with an overview of the proposals made at this session on this theme. It is not meant to be an exhaustive list, does not exclude the identification of additional elements, nor does it prescribe or prejudice in any way the scope, structure or content of the further guidance to be developed.

Proposal by the G77 and China	Proposal by the European Union
<p>This is an initial list of elements that the G77 and China identified but is still thinking of further possible elements. The G77 and China has agreed on a general approach to elements that identifies a set of "common" elements and a set of "additional" or "opt-in opt-out" elements. The G77 and China is in the process of developing these two sets of elements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National circumstances, including legal framework and institutional arrangements • Impacts, vulnerabilities and risk assessments (including future scenarios) • Priorities, policies, plans, actions, strategies and/or programmes, as appropriate • Adaptation support needs of developing country Parties • Adaptation efforts of developing countries (for recognition) • Biennial communication of indicative support by developed countries, including finance, technology and capacity building 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National context/circumstances, including assessment of risks, impacts and vulnerabilities • Information on plans, priorities, actions, programmes, strategies • Implementation of adaptation efforts and progress made • Monitoring and Evaluation of adaptation action, its outcomes and findings • Implementation and support needs
<p>Additional suggestions by Parties related to elements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aspects of some of the elements may be beyond the scope of the mandate of this item. - Elements should include best practices, experiences, and lessons learned. - Elements should include a set of common elements. - Guidance in relation to an adaptation communication as component of NDCs would include: 1. National circumstances; 2. Description of efforts to build resilience; 3. Types of contribution (e.g. economic diversification, and sustainable management of natural resources). 	

Annex III: proposed “skeletons”

This annex contains proposals for possible “skeleton” outline of further guidance in relation to an adaptation communication identified by Parties in the context of developing further guidance in relation to the adaptation communication, in light of the discussions held during APA 1.3. The table is included here with a view to providing Parties with an overview of the proposals made at this session on this issue. It is not meant to be an exhaustive list, does not exclude the identification of additional “skeleton” outlines, nor does it prescribe or prejudge in any way the scope, structure or content of the further guidance to be developed.

<p>Proposal by the G77 and China</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Preamble/Introductory remarks</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1. <i>Guiding Principles/Guidance</i> 2. <i>Purpose</i> 3. <i>Elements</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3.1. <i>Common elements</i> 3.2. <i>Additional/Opt in Opt out/Optional</i> 4. <i>Vehicles</i> 5. <i>Linkages</i> 6. <i>Support for developing country Parties (including in the preparation, submission and implementation of adaptation communications)</i> 7. <i>Other matters</i> 	<p>Proposal by the European Union</p> <p>Preambular Recalling relevant Articles referred to flexibility, vehicles, and linkages</p> <p>Purposes The purpose/s of the adaptation communication is/are to: - [...]</p> <p>Elements Elements and sub-elements for the adaptation communication - [...]</p> <p>Reference to existing guidance on the sub-elements mentioned above</p>
<p>Additional suggestions by Parties related to the skeleton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aspects of some of the proposals may be beyond the scope of the mandate of this item. - Headings should be accompanied by definitions to ensure clarity. - Preambular sections would be included in a decision adopting the guidance, whereas operational content related to the guidance would be contained in an annex to the decision. 	