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**Item 8 (a) (i) of the provisional agenda
Implementation of Article 4, paragraphs 8 and 9, of the Convention
Progress on the implementation of decision 1/CP.10
Adverse effects of climate change**

**Synthesis of outcomes of the regional workshops and expert meeting on
adaptation under decision 1/CP.10**

Note by the secretariat*

Summary

This document synthesizes the outcomes of the regional workshops and the expert meeting held in response to decision 1/CP.10, paragraph 8, and summarizes the identified adaptation needs and concerns, particularly those for which there was common interest across the regions. The document includes recommendations by the Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation on possible next steps, including on how the broad range of identified issues at the regional workshops and the expert meeting may be addressed, taking into account ongoing or possible future consideration of other relevant matters under the Convention process.

* This document was submitted after the official deadline due to the timing of the last meeting.

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I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), by its decision 1/CP.10, requested the secretariat to organize three regional workshops and one expert meeting for small island developing States (SIDS), in order to facilitate information exchange and integrated assessments and thus assist in identifying specific adaptation needs and concerns. The COP further requested the secretariat to prepare reports on the outcome of these workshops and meetings in order for the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) to consider what further action may be required by the COP at its thirteenth session (December 2007).

B. Scope of the note

2. This document synthesizes the outcomes of the regional workshops and the expert meeting, and summarizes the identified needs and concerns, particularly those which were of common interest across the regions. The document does not include all the information and proposals presented at these events; more comprehensive and detailed information is available in the report on each regional workshop and expert meeting.¹

C. Background information

3. The three regional workshops were organized from 18 to 20 April 2006 in Lima, Peru, for the Latin America region; from 21 to 23 September 2006 in Accra, Ghana, for the Africa region; and from 11 to 13 April 2007 in Beijing, China, for the Asia region. The expert meeting for SIDS was held in two parts, from 5 to 7 February 2007 in Kingston, Jamaica, and from 26 to 28 February 2007 in Rarotonga, Cook Islands. These events were made possible thanks to the Governments of Peru, Ghana, Jamaica, Cook Islands and China for hosting the events, and to the Governments of Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland for their financial contributions towards their organization.

4. All developing country Parties from the Africa, Asia and Latin America regions as well as from the group of SIDS were invited, each to its respective regional workshop or expert meeting. In addition, the Parties included in Annex II to the Convention (Annex II Parties) that have actively supported activities relating to vulnerability and adaptation in each of the different regions were invited, as well as organizations active in vulnerability and adaptation activities in each of the regions. A large and representative level of participation was achieved. Out of a total number of 263² participants, 138 came from developing country Parties, 38 from Annex II Parties and 87 from relevant organizations. In total, participants who attended the regional workshops and the expert meeting represented 96 developing country Parties, 13 Annex II Parties and 38 international, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. Overall, around 70 per cent of all developing country Parties were represented at the events, which helped achieve outcomes that accurately reflect their needs and concerns.

5. The synthesis includes recommendations by the Chair on possible next steps, including on how the broad range of issues identified at the regional workshops and the expert meeting may be addressed, taking into account ongoing or possible future consideration of other relevant matters under the Convention process. Examples include implementation-related issues, which are within the purview of the SBI, and technical and methodological issues, which are within the purview of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA). The latter may be forwarded for consideration under

¹ Documents FCCC/SBI/2006/19, FCCC/SBI/2007/2, FCCC/SBI/2007/11 and FCCC/SBI/2007/13.

² Although the secretariat provided funding for only one participant from each eligible Party, some countries, including the respective hosts of the meetings, were represented by more than one participant.

the activities of the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change (Nairobi work programme).

6. Elements relating to financial resources their access to these resources may be addressed in the context of discussions on relevant aspects of the financial mechanism of the Convention,³ in the context of the assessment of the status of implementation of Article 4, paragraph 8, of the Convention and decisions 5/CP.7 and 1/CP.10,⁴ and in the context of any discussion on future international cooperation on climate change,⁵ as appropriate. Issues relating to capacity-building, education, training and public awareness may also be further discussed under relevant agenda items of the SBI. Specific elements relating to regional and international cooperation (in particular, South–South and North–South) are cross-cutting, and may merit being addressed as a whole at first, in order to trigger a focused consideration of appropriate further action.

D. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

7. The SBI is invited to consider this paper, together with the reports of the events mentioned in paragraph 3 above, with a view to recommending a draft decision on further action for adoption by the COP at its thirteenth session.

II. Implementation-related issues

A. Financial resources

8. Participants at all the regional workshops and the expert meeting highlighted problems in accessing existing funding for adaptation. They mentioned that current procedures for accessing existing financial resources for adaptation remain complicated and lengthy. There is a need for information and capacity-building to improve and streamline access to funding and to facilitate project preparation, including for urgent and immediate projects identified in national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs).

9. Participants called attention to the gap between the available financial support for adaptation and the funds required for facilitating adaptation in developing countries, including the least developed countries (LDCs) and SIDS. They stressed the need for additional, sufficient, predictable and sustainable financial resources, for diversifying the sources of these resources, for increasing adaptation components in the official development assistance portfolios and for mainstreaming adaptation into development assistance.

10. Some ideas considered at the regional workshops and the expert meeting included possible small grants to enable a prompt start to projects by providing the flexibility to avoid delays between project development and implementation, and to facilitate learning through implementation (operational capacity-building) for community-based adaptation.

11. Some participants mentioned that priority should be given to funding ‘no regrets’ adaptation measures which provide multiple benefits for a country’s sustainable development.

³ For example, under the SBI agenda items on guidance on the operation of the Global Environment Facility Trust Fund, the Special Climate Change Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Adaptation Fund; and on the review of the financial mechanism.

⁴ This review is mandated to take place at COP 14 (decision 1/CP.10, para. 22).

⁵ Especially those aspects relating to the need for additional, sustainable and predicable financial resources for adaptation, including for LDCs and SIDS.

12. The difficulty of identifying appropriate regional adaptation projects for funding was also discussed; participants noted that more efforts are needed to identify and enhance the implementation of such projects.

13. At the SIDS expert meeting, some participants called for the establishment of a funding window under the Adaptation Fund and the expansion of sources of funding through shares of proceeds under joint implementation and emissions trading. At the African regional workshop participants proposed increasing adaptation funding in the national budgets as well as in multilateral funds, possibly through the establishment of an adaptation fund for Africa and a SIDS funding window under the Adaptation Fund.

B. Mainstreaming adaptation concerns into sustainable development planning and practices

14. Participants in all regional workshops and the expert meeting pointed out the importance of coordinated and comprehensive approaches to supporting adaptation in the context of sustainable development, and that adaptation should be considered as a development issue. They urged wide stakeholder involvement through participatory approaches and learning from existing practices. Participants mentioned the United Nations Millennium Development Goals as an important backdrop to development policy and implementation, and emphasized the importance of integrating adaptation policies in efforts to enhance food security, water availability and poverty alleviation in the context of these goals.

15. Climate change considerations need to be integrated into all aspects of policymaking and throughout priority sectors, and the ministries of planning and finance need to be engaged in the adaptation effort. For this to be effective, better quantification of costs and benefits of adaptation would be helpful. In addition, action is needed to improve collaboration between the providers of climate information and the sectoral users of this information.

16. In countries which are particularly vulnerable, and which have limitations in capacity (both in terms of human capacity and financial resources), approaches that address multiple environmental stresses and factors would be especially effective. Efforts aimed at poverty reduction, combating land degradation and reducing loss of biological diversity and ecosystem services as well as enhancing adaptive capacity are more likely to succeed than uncoordinated efforts. In the same context, participants from LDCs noted the usefulness of the NAPA process in integrating climate change into national policy.

17. The Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Mauritius Strategy),⁶ which shares multiple priorities with the UNFCCC process, presents an effective context for mainstreaming environmental concerns in SIDS. Some participants called for considering the establishment of a special work programme on SIDS that will incorporate the Mauritius Strategy, addressing current and future implementation of the Convention and its Kyoto Protocol to facilitate institutional coordination, ensure sustainability and monitor success.

18. As an important complement to mainstreaming, participants emphasized the need for economic diversification, at the local and national levels, for communities and countries that rely on narrow ranges of climate-sensitive economic activities.

19. From the perspective of regional and international organizations, climate change should be mainstreamed into the work of different regional organizations and networks, and in particular through partnerships among relevant sectors in order to share experiences and lessons learned by communities

⁶ <www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/docs_sids.htm>.

facing similar problems. Many participants also underlined the necessity to mainstream adaptation into development assistance in order to ‘climate-proof’ investments.

20. Many participants noted the usefulness of the NAPA process in facilitating adaptation planning and implementation and for integrating climate change into national policy. NAPAs provide a robust country-tailored process and do not require additional data and information which is difficult to obtain in many vulnerable countries. The participatory process of the NAPAs allows for buy-in from stakeholders and local communities and can lead to the implementation of specific and well-defined adaptation actions in communities. NAPAs ensure policy relevance and mainstreaming of adaptation into national planning, since the methodology entails integration of existing priorities, including those articulated in communications to other conventions as well as in national poverty reduction strategy papers and other sustainable development strategies.

21. Although any country may elect to apply the NAPA methodology in the context of the preparation of their national communications, participants at most of the regional workshops and the expert meeting called for formally extending the NAPA methodology, or similar process, to be used by all developing countries for developing national adaptation plans with prioritized actions, and not just by those that are least developed.

C. Capacity-building, education, training and public awareness

1. Capacity-building

22. Participants emphasized the need for building and strengthening local and national capacities. Institutional capacity is vital for promoting action by national and local governments. Institutions, environmental and sectoral, need to be strengthened in order to be able to address the complexities of addressing and coordinating the implementation of adaptation action. As a first step, institutional needs should be analyzed in order to build national capacities in specialized areas, such as modelling and mainstreaming.

23. Support should be enhanced for institutional capacity-building, including establishing regional centres of excellence and strengthening existing regional centres and hydrometeorological networks, as well as training for stakeholders to aid the development of specialized tools for planning and implementing adaptation activities. This should be complemented by supporting the incorporation of climate change into national development plans and the creation of intersectoral committees to be engaged in the formulation of these plans. Internationally coordinated capacity-building through the Convention and appropriate regional agencies was recognized as extremely important for advancing climate change adaptation in the regions.

24. Participants noted that one of the challenges for capacity-building was that external support activities were short-term and project-based, often using a single task approach rather than a long-term programmatic comprehensive approach. Working groups that have been created under projects, and which show significant potential for providing technical and scientific support, often do not fully realize that potential in disseminating information and best practices. It is also often difficult to retain experts within the region once they reach a high level of expertise.

25. Capacity needs to be built in the area of the vulnerability and adaptation assessment process. Capacity-building and training for model development and use are needed in order to help users understand model logic, inherent assumptions, limitations and sources of uncertainty. The PRECIS (Providing REgional Climates for Impacts Studies) initiative was highlighted by participants as one of the useful experiences in this regard.

26. In the same context, there are difficulties in linking adaptation assessment and planning with the implementation of concrete adaptation action, due to a lack of resources and institutional capacities as well as a lack of integration of climate change concerns in national policies.

27. Participants noted the need to promote interregional and intraregional cooperation on modelling, economic valuation and adaptation assessments and quantifying costs of adaptation. They also raised the concern that most of the material available to experts on adaptation planning and implementation continues to be mainly in English. The availability of technical documentation in local languages needs to be enhanced for experts in the regions to fully participate in the adaptation process.

2. Education and training

28. Participants emphasized education and training as important catalysts for the success of the vulnerability and adaptation assessment process; their targets should include policy-level decision makers and other stakeholders affected by climate change. Communication of successes and failures is also in need of enhancement.

29. Additional support is required for training and enhancing capacity for integrated vulnerability and adaptation assessment, including integrated hazard assessments, as well as funding for special regional teams to provide sustainable support to countries in their assessments. Effective training is also needed for models to be effectively applied and used for assessments at the national or regional level.

30. Educational, training and research institutions should try to enhance their collaboration on adaptation-related matters. This is a gap that needs to be filled in order to enable the formal exchange of experience and lessons learned among different institutions of the respective regions. Universities and research centres have a special role to play in educating and building the capacity of stakeholders in key sectors, and climate change and adaptation issues should be integrated into education curricula.

31. In this context there is a need to strengthen the training component in international collaboration, including through disseminating in a structured way the results of training and participation in climate change international and national activities with a view to retaining experts working in the region, and to promote the exchange of information between experts from key sensitive sectors.

32. Efforts are needed to assess, systematize and disseminate knowledge about adaptation measures, including indigenous ones.

33. Participants noted the need for making available appropriate models, tools and methodologies for vulnerability and adaptation assessment, and facilitating training on their use, providing technical support and follow-up through regional centres of excellence and promoting consistency with the work on the Nairobi work programme.

34. At the SIDS meeting, participants recommended that the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention conduct hands-on training workshops specifically for SIDS, in addition to its training workshops that were held for the Africa region, the Asia and the Pacific region, and the Latin America and the Caribbean region.

3. Public awareness

35. Participants noted that awareness on climate change risks and the need for adaptation should be raised among key sectors and mass media, including by using current events, such as economic, weather and health crises, as a basis to promote adaptation measures with co-benefits. Improving public awareness and developing overall communications strategies makes climate change science accessible to the average citizen and can reduce their vulnerability. Besides awareness-raising at local levels, it is also

important to involve high-level policymakers to ensure integration of climate change risks into national development policies.

36. Policymakers and development planners require effective means for developing, disseminating and building capacity for adaptation, for example through building on existing planning frameworks. Lessons learned and the outcomes of the UNFCCC regional workshops should be disseminated widely.

37. Participants identified a need for elaborating a communication strategy on climate change risks and adaptation needs, targeting actors ranging from those at the grassroots level to national and regional policymakers, using appropriate language. This communication strategy could include the preparation of a global awareness campaign on climate change, including video messages in different languages.

D. Insurance-related actions

38. According to the Convention, insurance-related actions constitute one of the three main means of response to the adverse effects of climate change, alongside funding and technology transfer. During the regional workshops, insurance emerged as a particularly high priority for SIDS.

39. It was stressed that many insurance-related actions constitute 'no regrets' strategies because they enhance financial resilience to external shocks. Such actions provide a unique opportunity to spread and transfer risk, and also provide incentives for risk reduction and prevention, which will also foster resilience to external shocks while engaging the private sector in climate change response action. One of the benefits of promoting insurance-related actions is that it will help advance efforts on quantifying risks and potential losses due to climate change.

40. Participants suggested that the Convention process could provide support for the consideration of cost-effective insurance initiatives, including some that could be tailored to the unique circumstances of vulnerable communities and groups of countries such as SIDS. Such initiatives could include innovative risk transfer mechanisms such as multi-state risk pooling mechanisms; regional reinsurance facilities; catastrophe funds linked to international financial markets; national/regional disaster funds supported financially by the international community; micro-insurance; private-public partnerships; generation of carbon credits in exchange for support for insurance; and weather derivatives which provide payouts in response to weather triggers rather than in response to demonstrated losses. The Nairobi work programme may provide a valuable opportunity for furthering methodological efforts relating to the application of insurance in the context of climate change adaptation.

41. A well-coordinated dialogue between the private sector and representatives from Parties would be useful to assess cooperative actions that could be carried out to increase the insurance coverage of the populations affected by climate change. Participants noted that such a dialogue is needed to take advantage of the opportunities of engaging the private sector and to identify actions to overcome the limitations in using insurance as an adaptation tool in developing countries, including the LDCs and SIDS. The banking sector must be involved in the work relating to climate change insurance and mainstreaming adaptation, on the basis that many loans could be at risk because of the absence of climate-proofing in projects. It was noted that for many of the most vulnerable countries, microinsurance represents an effective response at community level.

E. Cooperation and synergies

1. South-South collaboration

42. Participants discussed and underlined the need to improve cooperation and collaboration at the sub-regional, regional and inter-regional levels. Improving coordination of different efforts is critical for enhancing effectiveness and delivery at the national level. It is also important to strengthen linkages

between different institutions, activities and processes, including under different multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) and intergovernmental organizations and United Nations agencies. While the disparity of circumstances among countries in the same region may pose a challenge for collaboration, there is sufficient overlap in vulnerability among different hazards and sectors to warrant additional efforts to enhance regional synergy. Such efforts could include common regional actions on impacts and vulnerability assessment and planning and implementation of adaptation options. This would promote transboundary initiatives, encouraging South–South cooperation and avoiding duplication of efforts.

43. There are many existing mechanisms for regional cooperation, ranging from forums of ministers to economic commissions, as well as bilateral cooperation initiatives and initiatives to share information and data. Participants stressed the usefulness of fully exploiting sectoral partnerships and networks at all levels as they can serve as an important catalyst for regional and inter-regional collaboration. However, there is still a need to enhance coordination of activities between the different organizations, networks and initiatives.

44. Collaboration between Southern institutions is needed, including sharing experiences and lessons learned by communities facing similar problems, and conducting joint project development, research and development on downscaling of climate scenarios as well as workshops and training activities.

45. Participants proposed that the starting point for effective South–South collaboration could be the development of regional adaptation projects, which could help in identifying common problems and solutions. It was also noted that fostering cooperation among researchers and institutions would lay a good foundation for continuous South–South collaboration. Inadequate capacity and resources, rather than a lack of political will, were seen as hindrances to such cooperation. This includes such fundamental problems as poor communication and transport infrastructure.

2. North–South collaboration

46. Participants at the regional workshops and the expert meeting discussed current and potential opportunities for North–South collaboration, including at the bilateral level. While improved coordination of different efforts for enhancing effectiveness and delivery at the national level is important, the partners for development support need to fully exploit existing ‘nodes of excellence’ and enhance coordination among them to provide a forum for collaboration on a sustainable and long-term basis.

47. Collaborative North–South efforts currently under implementation are wide-ranging and include support for assessment of vulnerability and risks associated with climate change, public education and outreach, data and observations, decision support, adaptation planning and implementation, and integration of climate change into development.

48. In the context of external support and North–South cooperation, participants identified a critical need to ensure continuity (a programme-based rather than project-based approach) as well as to adhere to the strategic direction for support identified by the Convention, the COP and other relevant multilateral agreements and organizations for effective adaptation measures.

49. Participants proposed optimizing resources associated with North–South cooperation, promoting synergy with sources of funding external to the process, and integrating climate change considerations in the work of regional and international financial entities. In addition, they identified the need for engaging fully the private sector from the North and South in adaptation planning and implementation on a sectoral basis. Participants further noted that North–South collaboration could be instrumental facilitating South–South collaboration as in the case of the Ibero-American Network of Climate Change Offices.

3. Synergy with other national priorities

50. Synergy among MEAs was highlighted at the regional workshops and the expert meeting. Besides synergies in project implementation, participants advocated shared data collection and information networking, whereby a common system for information collection and dissemination could be used by the three Rio Conventions (UNFCCC, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Biological Diversity) at the national level to use scarce resources efficiently.

51. While planning and implementing adaptation measures are important, other socio-economic factors such as overexploitation of natural resources, population growth and pollution need to be taken into account to ensure overall effectiveness. Some participants argued that given the similarities in solutions, joint action and project implementation under the Rio Conventions may attract more funding.

52. Participants also acknowledged the importance of incorporating risk management and risk reduction into adaptation planning at all levels, and incorporating climate change and disaster management into risk management activities. This could be done through using structured planning frameworks, strengthening the links between institutions at the national and community levels for increased preparedness for climate-related disasters and building on existing mechanisms including early warning systems. In addition, a long-term perspective must be incorporated to inform risk assessment and enable consideration of the frequency and intensity of extreme events and worst-case scenarios. It was also noted that disaster risk reduction efforts offer opportunities for bottom-up strategies for adaptation to current climate variability and climate extremes. Participants also noted the need to coordinate actions to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015⁷ with actions to adapt to climate change at the national level.

III. Technical and methodological issues

53. Throughout the deliberations of the regional workshops and the expert meeting, a number of methodological and technical issues arose. Some of these may be best dealt with under the context of the Nairobi work programme and are included in this chapter with a view to forwarding these concerns to the SBSTA for consideration.

A. Data, systematic observation and monitoring

54. Adequate operational global, regional and national climate observing networks are fundamental for supporting the development of sound adaptation policies. Properly functioning climate observing systems are important to adaptation as they provide a better understanding of the climate system. Improving the range and quality of observations can contribute to responding to a range of needs for climate information. Towards this end, participants acknowledged the usefulness of the Global Climate Observing System regional workshop programme in developing regional action plans, and highlighted the need to further support these plans. There is a need to take stock of available climate information so that it is clear where the systematic observation needs are most pressing.

55. Data are often characterized by both temporal and spatial gaps, and thus existing historical data needs to be rescued. Where data exist, data processing facilities (software and hardware) are, in many cases, not robust enough to handle the data volume. There is a need for improved data rescue and access; data inventories; enhanced use of geographic information systems as a tool to improve data access; and the integration of high-resolution downscaling models. Targeted packaging and dissemination of information would ensure that the information available is used effectively and is tailored to suit the needs of stakeholders.

⁷ <<http://www.unisdr.org/eng/hfa/docs/Hyogo-framework-for-action-english.pdf>>.

56. Current observation networks are generally in need of enhancement. Financial options for enhancing meteorological observation networks should be identified, as a means to enhance availability and accessibility of relevant data. Some participants stated that the major constraint is not necessarily that of establishing an observation network but rather of maintaining it and organizing and sharing the resulting data once external funding is terminated. Participants emphasized the need to raise awareness among governments about the importance of networks in order to receive public funding, and in order to enhance user access, not only to meteorological but also to non-climatic socio-economic data that are relevant to the assessment of a country's vulnerability.

57. The importance of greater collaboration between the providers of climate information, such as meteorological services, and the sectoral users of such information for adaptation to climate change was also stressed in this regard. Participants advocated shared data collection and information networking, whereby a common system for information collection and dissemination could be used by the three Rio Conventions at the national level to use scarce resources efficiently.

58. Participants noted the absence of socio-economic data necessary for effective vulnerability and adaptation assessments, and called for generating data for socio-economic assessments, and developing indicators and relevant tools for enhancing the use of socio-economic assessment in a way that would be relevant to policymakers and other stakeholders, including ministries of finance and economy.

B. Methods and tools

59. Several participants highlighted the difficulties in using high-resolution general circulation models (GCMs) and downscaling techniques due to their high costs in terms of financial and human resources. While GCMs and scenarios provide important insights into possible future climate change and enable a long-term climate risk assessment at a general level, current model outputs cannot be used exclusively in designing concrete adaptation measures. However, high-resolution dynamic modelling or statistical downscaling techniques could be helpful for simulating local climatic variations and for conducting impact assessments.

60. The coarse resolution of most available models, and the disparity of their outputs, makes the use of the results as a basis for adaptation action very difficult. The development of higher resolution models is needed. In addition, the use of multiple models and an analysis of the disparity of their outcomes would help enhance the capacity for reaching informed decisions on vulnerability and adaptation to climate change. There is generally a lack of consistency between the different models and scenarios.

61. Participants reiterated the need for sound scientific information on both long-term climate change and climate variability and societal vulnerability. They also underlined the need for accurate risk assessment based on adaptation needs with a long-term perspective and a systems approach including feedback and linkages.

C. Vulnerability and adaptation assessments

62. Vulnerability and adaptation assessments are vital for evaluating and implementing responses to climate change. However, a major concern is the diminishing availability of international support for the customization of these tools to the specific circumstances of individual countries and regions. Several options are available for improving vulnerability and adaptation assessments and their subsequent successful application. Efforts to enhance assessments and related methodologies should aim to be consistent with the work undertaken within the framework of the Nairobi work programme.

63. Participants underlined the importance of using participatory approaches for effective assessment and implementation of adaptation measures. One important aspect is obtaining buy-in from stakeholders,

especially in instances where adaptation measures face potential difficulties in gaining social acceptance, as, for example, in using recycled water to respond to shortages.

64. There needs to be integration of top-down (scenario-based) and bottom-up (based on analysis of current vulnerability) approaches as well as consideration of community-based participatory approaches for assessing adaptation needs and for developing policy responses. It was noted that, from a country perspective, community-based approaches provide the most effective capacity-building for practical adaptation actions through implementation and a 'learning by doing' process. Therefore, methods that can provide a basis for formulating adaptation projects and are better able to represent local options and constraints must be based on the analysis of current vulnerabilities and existing adaptation practices. Stakeholders should be involved at all stages of the assessment.

65. Participants also noted a lack of socio-economic assessment, which is an important complement to existing assessments, particularly given that poverty has been recognized as a major factor in vulnerability. Climate vulnerability needs to be linked to socio-economic studies, long-term periodic and socio-economic assessments, studies on coping strategies, and gender specific vulnerability assessments. Socio-economic information also needs to be better integrated into all vulnerability and adaptation assessments. In order to avoid maladaptation, mechanisms must be introduced that validate adaptation options.

66. Despite progress in some areas, there is no continuity in preserving capacity for impact and vulnerability assessment. In many countries the impact and vulnerability assessment undertaken in the initial national communication process was disjointed from that of the second national communication. The institutional memory can be relied on only if the process is managed on a continuous basis, which could be done through establishing a national expert panel consisting of representatives from different entities (public organizations, universities, etc.). Participants also discussed the lack of follow-up on the assessment results, in terms of implementation of identified adaptation projects and monitoring of projected changes.

67. There is a need for promoting interregional and intraregional cooperation on modelling, economic valuation and adaptation assessments and quantifying costs and benefits of impacts and adaptation.

68. Participants highlighted the importance of traditional adaptation knowledge and noted that more integration of such knowledge should take place in the assessment, planning and implementation process, particularly through partnerships with grassroots organizations. There are some initiatives in existence to support this area, and the UNFCCC secretariat maintains a database on local coping strategies, available on its website,⁸ and a compendium on relevant methods and tools. A number of other organizations also maintain databases with relevant information.

69. The integration of such knowledge in the adaptation assessment process would capitalize on the advantages that traditional practices and technologies may have over imported techniques, such as cost-effectiveness, adaptability to local conditions and easy dissemination. In this regard, participants underlined the need for effective mechanisms to exchange information among different users of traditional knowledge.

IV. Possible next steps

70. The recommendations listed under paragraph 71 below were identified under the guidance of the Chair of the SBI as constituting appropriate first steps for implementing the outcomes of the regional

⁸ <<http://maindb.unfccc.int/public/adaptation>>.

workshops and the expert meeting. In making these recommendations the following elements were taken into consideration:

- (a) Highlighting issues that received broad support at the regional workshops and the expert meeting;
- (b) Avoiding duplication with ongoing or potential future consideration on adaptation-related matters under the SBSTA and the SBI, and enhancing synergy and complementarity with these matters, including the Nairobi work programme;
- (c) Addressing issues that are not specifically addressed in the ongoing considerations on adaptation under the Convention.

71. The following are possible recommendations for possible adoption by the COP under implementation-related issues (see chapter II above):

Financial resources

- (a) Proposing actions for streamlining access to existing adaptation funding, including enhancing capacity for the development of project proposals;
- (b) Consideration at a future COP session of possible responses towards addressing the need for additional, sufficient, predictable and sustainable resources to facilitate adaptation to the adverse impacts of climate change by developing countries, including LDCs and SIDS, in the context of any discussion on future international cooperation on climate change;

Mainstreaming

- (c) Promoting the integration of climate change related issues and 'no regrets' adaptation measures in national sustainable development plans and poverty reduction strategies at the national level;
- (d) Taking stock and dissemination of good practices and relevant experiences in mainstreaming at the national, sectoral and local levels;
- (e) Identifying action to support implementation strategies for action plans arising from adaptation assessments, and integrating these into local, sectoral and national development policies and plans;
- (f) Initiating a process for extending the positive experiences of the NAPA process for use by developing countries that are not LDCs that wish to develop national adaptation programmes or strategies that give priority to the integration of adaptation measures in national and sectoral plans, taking into consideration lessons learned from the NAPA preparation process, other experiences at mainstreaming, as well as relevant outcomes from the Nairobi work programme;

Insurance

- (g) Mandating the establishment of a structured dialogue between providers of insurance services and Parties, to advise on appropriate and practical insurance-related actions, including exchanging and collecting information on risk transfer mechanisms. Emphasis in this process should be on bringing together actual practitioners and providers of public and private insurance and other financial services with climate change stakeholders to devise appropriate responses to enhance the role of insurance as an adaptation tool;

- (h) Identifying specific insurance-related actions, including microinsurance, as a practical adaptation response to the adverse effects of climate change;
- (i) Identifying action to promote new innovative approaches to risk sharing and transfer that could support adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change;

Capacity-building, education, training and public awareness

- (j) Forwarding for consideration under the relevant agenda items of the SBI the issues identified relating to capacity-building, education, training and public awareness (see chapter II.C above);

Cooperation and synergies

- (k) Organizing further deliberations on matters relating to cooperation and synergies (see chapter II.E above) on the basis of their cross-cutting character and the need to directly engage multiple stakeholders in dealing with the relevant identified issues and to identify focused and well-coordinated further action. These deliberations could initially take place by way of an intersessional event with the participation of Parties and relevant stakeholders involved in South–South as well as North–South collaboration, in addition to actors implementing other MEAs;
- (l) Adopting action to enhance collaborative action with the disaster risk reduction community in areas where this would further the adaptation assessment and implementation process;

Technical and methodological issues

- (m) Forwarding the identified issues relating to technical and methodological issues for consideration under activities of the Nairobi work programme (see chapter III above).

72. Any additional outcomes identified at the workshops and the expert meeting could be considered at a future SBI session under relevant agenda items.
