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## **Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice**

**Forty-first session**

**Lima, 1–6 December 2014**

Item 4 of the provisional agenda

**Report of the Adaptation Committee**

## **Subsidiary Body for Implementation**

**Forty-first session**

**Lima, 1–8 December 2014**

Items 8 and 9 of the provisional agenda

**Report of the Adaptation Committee**

**National adaptation plans**

## **Report of the Adaptation Committee\***

### *Summary*

This report covers the work of the Adaptation Committee (AC) between October 2013 and October 2014. It contains organizational and procedural information, including information on meetings held, changes in membership, chairmanship and rules of procedure. The report highlights progress made in the implementation of the workplan of the AC in the areas of: promoting coherence in adaptation under the Convention and synergies with organizations, centres and networks; providing technical support and guidance to Parties on adaptation actions and on means of implementation; and outreach and sharing of information. The report also responds to the invitation made by the Conference of the Parties for the AC to provide, in accordance with its mandate and functions, further recommendations for activities to be undertaken under the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change. It concludes with recommendations for relevant entities working on adaptation.

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\* This document was submitted after the due date owing to the timing of the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Adaptation Committee.

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## **I. Introduction**

### **A. Mandate**

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), by decision 2/CP.17, decided that the Adaptation Committee (AC) shall operate under the authority of, and be accountable to, the COP, which should decide on its policies in line with relevant decisions.<sup>1</sup>

2. By the same decision, the COP requested the AC to report annually to the COP, through the subsidiary bodies, including on its activities, the performance of its functions, guidance, recommendations and other relevant information arising from its work and, as appropriate, on further action that may be required under the Convention, for consideration by the COP.<sup>2</sup>

3. By decision 11/CP.18, the COP approved the draft three-year workplan of the AC,<sup>3</sup> which contains activities for the years 2013 to 2015.<sup>4</sup>

### **B. Scope of the report**

4. This report contains information on the work of the AC between October 2013 and October 2014. It also contains recommendations for consideration by the subsidiary bodies and the COP.

### **C. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation**

5. The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) are invited to consider the information contained in this report. In particular, the SBSTA and the SBI may wish to consider the recommendations contained in chapters IV and V below and forward them to the COP for further action, as appropriate.

### **D. Background**

6. The COP, by decision 1/CP.16, established the Cancun Adaptation Framework, with the objective of enhancing action on adaptation, including through international cooperation and coherent consideration of matters relating to adaptation under the Convention. In that context, and by the same decision, the COP established the AC to promote the implementation of enhanced action on adaptation in a coherent manner under the Convention.

7. In decision 2/CP.17, the COP affirmed that the AC shall be the overall advisory body to the COP on adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change, and specified the five functions of the AC and its composition, modalities and procedures.

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<sup>1</sup> Decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 95.

<sup>2</sup> Decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 96.

<sup>3</sup> See <unfccc.int/7517>.

<sup>4</sup> Decision 11/CP.18, paragraph 1.

8. The AC held its inaugural meeting in September 2012, during which it agreed on a three-year workplan. The workplan was approved at COP 18 and the Committee has since reported to COP 19 on its activities, the performance of its functions, guidance, recommendations and other relevant information arising from its work and, as appropriate, on further action that may be required under the Convention, as requested.

## II. Organizational and procedural matters

9. During 2014, the AC held two meetings: its 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, held in Bonn, Germany, from 5 to 7 March; and its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, also held in Bonn, from 29 September to 1 October.

10. Upon the request of the AC, webcasting was made available to enable live and on-demand coverage of the plenary discussions at its meetings.<sup>5</sup> All meetings of the Committee were open to observers.

11. Furthermore, the AC organized a workshop on available tools for the use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation, needs of local and indigenous communities, and the application of gender-sensitive approaches and tools for adaptation, in collaboration with the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change (NWP). It also organized two events during the fortieth sessions of the subsidiary bodies: one special event on promoting synergy and strengthening engagement with national, regional and international organizations, centres and networks; and one meeting in collaboration with Working Group II of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).<sup>6</sup>

12. The Committee also organized two meetings of its task force on national adaptation plans (NAPs): an initial meeting on the margins of the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the AC and a subsequent meeting with representatives of United Nations agencies, relevant multilateral and bilateral organizations and non-governmental organizations supporting the NAP process.

13. COP 19 decided to replace the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair of the AC by the positions of Co-Chairs of the AC and requested the Committee to make the necessary changes in its rules of procedure.<sup>7</sup> The amended rules of procedure are available on the UNFCCC website.<sup>8</sup> At its 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, the AC elected Mr. Juan Hoffmaister and Ms. Christina Chan as its Co-Chairs.

14. Since its last report to the COP, the membership of the AC has changed as follows: on 29 September 2014 the constituency of Parties included in Annex I to the Convention (Annex I Parties) nominated Mr. Akio Takemoto (Japan) to replace Mr. Eisaku Toda (Japan).

15. At its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, the AC recalled decision 2/CP.17, stipulating that half of its members should be elected initially for a term of three years and the other half should be elected for a term of two years. Noting that the first two years of its operation are coming to an end, the AC agreed on the importance for new members to be elected in accordance with that decision, which encourages Parties to nominate experts to the Committee with a diversity of experience and knowledge relevant to adaptation to climate change, while also

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<sup>5</sup> Available at <[http://unfccc4.meta-fusion.com/kongresse/ac05/templ/ovw\\_small.php?id\\_kongressmain=265](http://unfccc4.meta-fusion.com/kongresse/ac05/templ/ovw_small.php?id_kongressmain=265)> and at <[http://unfccc4.meta-fusion.com/kongresse/ac06/templ/ovw\\_small.php?id\\_kongressmain=278](http://unfccc4.meta-fusion.com/kongresse/ac06/templ/ovw_small.php?id_kongressmain=278)>, respectively.

<sup>6</sup> See chapter III below for details.

<sup>7</sup> Decision 16/CP.19, paragraphs 6 and 7.

<sup>8</sup> <[unfccc.int/7495](http://unfccc.int/7495)>.

taking into account the need to achieve gender balance in accordance with decision 36/CP.7.

16. As in the case of other constituted bodies under the Convention, only three out of the four mandated meetings of the AC during the biennium 2014–2015 have been included in the core budget. All other activities are being held subject to the availability of supplementary funding. The AC, at its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, therefore welcomed with appreciation the intention of the Government of Japan to provide funding for the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee and the next Adaptation Forum.

17. The AC welcomed with appreciation the financial support provided by the Governments of Japan and Norway, which contributed to the implementation of activities not included in the core budget.

### III. Progress made in the implementation of the workplan of the Adaptation Committee

18. The AC has made significant progress in implementing its workplan during 2014. The table below shows the activities undertaken and references the paragraphs of this document in which they are addressed.

#### Activities of the workplan of the Adaptation Committee undertaken in 2014

<i>Activity no.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Paragraph cross references</i>
1	Map mandates, workplans and/or decisions with adaptation relevance	21 and 22
2	Compare and analyse maps in order to identify areas of duplication and gaps and synergies	21 and 22
3(i–iv)	Implement activities to reduce duplication, address gaps and strengthen synergies	20–35
3(v)	Conduct a workshop on best practices and needs of local and indigenous communities, and prepare recommendations and guidance for the Conference of the Parties (COP) on the basis of the workshop	44–48, 82 and 87
4	Prepare a scoping paper and synthesis paper for a workshop on means of implementation	58–60
6	Compile a list of regional centres and networks working on adaptation	49
7 and 8	Initiate the consideration of developing a strategy to address the gaps and opportunities identified through a synthesis paper prepared by the Adaptation Committee on support provided for adaptation in developing countries, and establish an expert group to follow up on the above	55 and 56
12	Make progress in collaborating with the Least Developed Countries Expert Group on NAP Central	42 and 66
13	Prepare an information paper on national adaptation planning	67
14	Identify recommendations and guidance for consideration by the COP on the basis of the outcomes of the workshop on the monitoring and evaluation of adaptation	43, 44, 85 and 86
15	Conduct an in-session meeting to gather up-to-date information on adaptation, including the limits of adaptation, in collaboration with Working Group II of the	72–75

<i>Activity no.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Paragraph cross references</i>
	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, and prepare a report on the meeting	
16	Establish an ad hoc group to propose modalities to facilitate technical backstopping	55 and 56
20 and 21	Prepare the 2014 thematic report	70
	Invite submissions on means to incentivize the implementation of adaptation actions <sup>a</sup>	58 and 59
	Convene a 2014 Adaptation Forum <sup>a</sup>	66

<sup>a</sup> This activity was added to the workplan during the elaboration of activities performed by the Adaptation Committee at its 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

19. Pursuant to decision 2/CP.17, the AC agreed on its three-year workplan, which contains activities for the period 2013–2015. The COP, also by decision 2/CP.17, decided to review the progress and performance of the Committee at COP 22, with a view to adopting an appropriate decision on the outcome of that review. At its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, the AC initiated a discussion on its future workplan and agreed that a gap in workplans between the end of 2015 and the review in 2016 is to be avoided. It recognized the need for time and space to develop its workplan during 2015 in order to allow for its adoption at COP 21.

## **A. Promoting coherence in adaptation under the Convention and synergies with organizations, centres and networks**

### **1. Promoting coherence in adaptation under the Convention**

20. The overarching objective of the AC is to promote the implementation of enhanced action on adaptation in a coherent manner under the Convention. As such, the AC, throughout 2013 and 2014, has sought to identify ways in which it can achieve that objective. It is an ongoing process that continues to progress as the AC evolves.

21. After COP 19, and again after the fortieth sessions of the subsidiary bodies, the AC considered mandates, workplans and/or decisions with relevance to adaptation under the Convention in order to identify areas of duplication as well as synergies and to consider what further actions may need to be undertaken to reduce duplication, address gaps and promote synergies. To facilitate such consideration, the AC requested the secretariat to prepare information papers containing a compilation of relevant mandates as well as proposed next steps for collaboration in order to enhance coherence and reduce duplication.<sup>9</sup> The resulting recommendations are described throughout this document.

22. In this regard, the AC noted the need to prioritize and enhance coherence among its broad range of mandates, rather than adding more activities to its workload.

23. During the course of 2014, the AC has carried out collaborative activities, in particular with the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) and the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) and in the context of the NWP.

24. Participation in each other's meetings has been an important means of exchanging information on the work undertaken by other constituted bodies under the Convention and

<sup>9</sup> Available in Adaptation Committee documents AC/2014/3 and AC/2014/18.

of engaging other bodies in the work of the AC. Furthermore, the TEC, the LEG, the SCF and the Board of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) were invited to nominate members to support the work of the Committee's NAP task force (see paras. 37–39 below).

25. The actions listed in paragraphs 26–29 below were carried out by the AC upon invitation by other constituted bodies under the Convention.

26. Following an invitation made by the LEG, members of the AC served in the LEG advisory group for the development of NAP Central and in a team for reviewing the methodology and selection of best practices and lessons learned in addressing adaptation.<sup>10</sup>

27. The AC was also represented on the interim Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts.<sup>11</sup>

28. The AC noted the efforts of the TEC to establish a dedicated task force on adaptation and to provide a space for collaboration. Responding to an invitation made by the TEC, the Committee nominated two of its members to support the work of that task force. In March 2014, the TEC held a workshop on technologies for adaptation and invited the Committee to collaborate on the event.<sup>12</sup> The Committee also noted the efforts of the TEC to draft TEC briefs on technologies for adaptation in the areas of agriculture and water and welcomed the collaboration between the two bodies on that work. It also welcomed the proposal by the TEC of two areas for further collaboration, which it intends to discuss after its first meeting in 2015. In addition, the Committee nominated one member, supported by another, to serve on the Advisory Board of the Climate Technology Centre and Network.

29. The AC noted the second SCF Forum, which focused on mobilizing adaptation finance. The SCF collaborated with the Committee in the run-up to and during the meeting, in particular in the preparation of an information paper.<sup>13</sup> The Committee welcomed the invitation made by the SCF for it to provide suggestions for elements of draft guidance for the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the GCF for consideration at COP 20.

30. The AC, by means of a letter from its Co-Chairs, extended an invitation to the GCF for more collaboration. It also sent a letter to the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) reiterating the Committee's willingness to support the work of the ADP.<sup>14</sup>

31. Given the intention of the AC to organize a workshop on means of implementation in early 2015, as well as the workplan of its NAP task force, the Committee's collaboration on those matters with the directly related bodies, namely the LEG, the TEC, the SCF and the GCF, is likely to intensify throughout 2015.

32. Further details on the collaborative activities contained in the three-year workplan of the AC are presented in chapters III.B and C below.

## 2. Promoting synergies with organizations, centres and networks

33. By decision 2/CP.17, the COP requested the AC to engage with, and draw on the expertise of, relevant institutions, organizations, frameworks, networks and centres outside of the Convention, including those at the intergovernmental, regional, national and, through

<sup>10</sup> A summary of the advisory group's findings is available in the report on the 26<sup>th</sup> meeting of the LEG, which is contained in document FCCC/SBI/2014/13, paragraphs 42–44.

<sup>11</sup> The results of the work of the interim Executive Committee are available at <unfccc.int/8464>.

<sup>12</sup> Further details on the workshop as well as the report thereon are available at <[http://unfccc.int/ttclear/pages/ttclear/templates/render cms\\_page?s=events\\_workshops\\_adaptationtechs](http://unfccc.int/ttclear/pages/ttclear/templates/render cms_page?s=events_workshops_adaptationtechs)>.

<sup>13</sup> Further information on the forum, including the information paper, is available at <unfccc.int/8138>.

<sup>14</sup> Both letters are available at <<http://unfccc.int/8012.php>>.

them, subnational levels, where appropriate. The COP agreed that the Committee should seek input from intergovernmental, international, regional, national and subnational organizations, centres and networks, the private sector and civil society in undertaking its work and should invite advisers drawn from them to participate in its meetings as expert advisers on specific issues as they arise.<sup>15</sup>

34. In that context, the AC has promoted active observer participation in its meetings. Observers have been invited to provide general statements at the opening and closing of the meetings, to provide concrete suggestions during the discussions on specific agenda items and to actively participate in the work of breakout groups. Such active engagement of observers and the possibility of feeding additional experience and expertise into the discussions were deemed to be beneficial for furthering the work of the Committee and its quest for synergy.

35. Representatives of relevant organizations, centres and networks have also been invited to participate in workshops and other events organized by the AC, both during the fortieth sessions of the subsidiary bodies and in the intersessional period. Upon invitation, they also submitted valuable information that has been considered by the Committee when discussing modalities to provide technical support to Parties (further details are contained in chapters III.B and C below).

## **B. Providing technical support and guidance to Parties**

36. The AC has initiated and partly concluded a number of the activities in its workplan aimed at providing technical support and guidance to Parties in two main areas, namely on adaptation actions and on means of implementation, which include finance, technology and capacity-building.

### **1. Technical support and guidance on adaptation actions**

#### *National adaptation plans*

37. In 2013, the NAP task force defined its terms of reference, contained in the report of the AC to COP 19.<sup>16</sup> The task force then developed a draft workplan that was presented to the AC at its 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Committee agreed on the final workplan intersessionally in May 2014.<sup>17</sup>

38. The NAP task force organized a two-day meeting with representatives of United Nations agencies, relevant multilateral and bilateral organizations and non-governmental organizations supporting the NAP process in accordance with activity A.2 of its workplan. The meeting took place on 26 and 27 September 2014 in Bonn.<sup>18</sup>

39. The discussion at the meeting focused on how organizations can best support the NAP process. It was suggested that further meetings of this kind be held in the future, possibly co-hosted by a bilateral or multilateral organization and focusing on specific aspects of the NAP process. The findings of the meeting fed into the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the AC,<sup>19</sup> during which it agreed on recommendations for consideration by the COP (see para. 84 below).

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<sup>15</sup> Decision 2/CP.17, paragraphs 100 and 105.

<sup>16</sup> FCCC/SB/2013/2, annex I.

<sup>17</sup> The workplan of the NAP task force is available at <unfccc.int/6053>.

<sup>18</sup> A report on the meeting of the NAP task force will be made available on the AC web pages.

<sup>19</sup> Information on the meeting is available at <unfccc.int/8467>.



40. In 2013, the AC started to consider issues relating to financing for NAPs, and decided to conduct further work on the matter in 2014 with a view to better understanding the technical issues that may challenge developing countries in accessing resources for the NAP process. For that purpose, a background paper was prepared by the secretariat for the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the AC: focusing on the operationalization by the GEF of guidance from the COP on the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) and on financing for the NAP process; providing an analysis of issues that may challenge developing countries in accessing resources from the GEF for the NAP process; and providing examples of financing modalities for adaptation in the context of programmes and funds under and outside of the Convention.<sup>20</sup> In addition, the AC, at the same meeting, started a dialogue on that matter with GEF representatives of the LDCF and the SCCF and representatives of other bodies and funds, such as the LEG and the Adaptation Fund (the Board of the GCF was also invited but was unable to nominate a representative to attend the meeting).

41. The dialogue facilitated an initial exchange on some of the issues identified in the background paper. Following the dialogue, the AC agreed that its Co-Chairs should ensure a continued dialogue with the GEF and the Adaptation Fund Board. It also agreed that members of the NAP task force would follow up on any specific activities resulting from the discussion at the Committee's 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. Finally, it agreed to offer technical support to the Board of the GCF and a letter to that effect was prepared.<sup>21</sup> The secretariat was asked to liaise with the GCF secretariat to facilitate contact between the Co-Chairs of the AC and the Board of the GCF. Following the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the AC and in order to continue its dialogue with the financial institutions supporting the NAP process, the Co-Chairs of the AC prepared a concept note for a policy discussion paper for its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, suggesting various areas of NAP finance on which this paper could focus.<sup>22</sup> The Committee agreed on two areas that should be further elaborated on in that paper, namely access to finance and programmatic approaches.

42. The AC continued its collaboration with the LEG on the development of NAP Central. A member of the AC continued participating in the advisory group established by the LEG and reported on progress made on NAP Central at the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> meetings of the AC.

#### *Monitoring and evaluation*

43. The AC began working on the monitoring and evaluation of adaptation in 2013 with the organization of a workshop. The workshop report was considered by the Committee at its 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, revised intersessionally and published.<sup>23</sup> A concept note was prepared for the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the AC, suggesting next steps in the monitoring and evaluation of adaptation for consideration by the Committee. The concept note also included recommendations for consideration by the COP derived from the findings of the 2013 workshop. Those recommendations are further elaborated on in paragraph 85 below.

44. As a follow-up to that work, the AC has on several occasions communicated the possibility of collaborating with the LEG on the work relating to monitoring and evaluation in the context of NAPs. Additionally, the Committee will identify opportunities to continue advancing knowledge on monitoring and evaluation in the context of adaptation in a manner that is useful to Parties.

#### *Indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices*

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<sup>20</sup> Available in Adaptation Committee document AC/2014/10.

<sup>21</sup> Available at <unfccc.int/8012>.

<sup>22</sup> Available in Adaptation Committee document AC/2014/20.

<sup>23</sup> Available at <unfccc.int/7744>.

45. In line with activity 3(v) of the workplan of the AC, a scoping paper for a joint workshop with the NWP on best practices and needs of local and indigenous communities was prepared at the end of 2013 for consideration by the Committee at its 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.<sup>24</sup> The NWP had received a similar mandate at SBSTA 38,<sup>25</sup> namely to convene a technical expert meeting before SBSTA 40 on the use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation, and the application of gender-sensitive approaches and tools for understanding and assessing impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change; therefore, SBSTA 39 requested the secretariat to organize both events in conjunction.<sup>26</sup> The technical expert meeting took place from 1 to 4 April 2014 in Bonn.<sup>27</sup>

46. Participants discussed, in line with the summary for policymakers in the contribution of Working Group II to the Fifth Assessment Report of the IPCC (AR5),<sup>28</sup> that “indigenous, local, and traditional knowledge systems and practices, including indigenous peoples’ holistic view of community and environment, are a major resource for adapting to climate change, but these have not been used consistently in existing adaptation efforts. Integrating such forms of knowledge with existing practices increases the effectiveness of adaptation”.

47. Participants sought to identify ways of better integrating such forms of knowledge into adaptation efforts. They focused their discussions on the following questions:

(a) What are the best practices, trends, needs and limitations in relation to the use of indigenous, traditional and local knowledge and practices?

(b) How can local, indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices be collected, evaluated and disseminated for use by local, national and international adaptation practitioners?

(c) How can local, indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices inform adaptation and how can practitioners integrate local, indigenous and traditional knowledge with scientific knowledge in adaptation planning and implementation? When is it appropriate to do so?

(d) How can holders of local, indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices be effectively engaged in the adaptation process?

48. The report on the meeting<sup>29</sup> and a background note<sup>30</sup> containing possible next steps were considered by the AC at its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. It agreed on recommendations contained in the background note, which were based on the main messages arising from the workshop, to be forwarded for consideration at COP 20, as contained in paragraph 82 below. It also agreed on further recommendations for activities to be undertaken by the NWP, as contained in paragraph 81 below.

*Roles of regional institutions, centres and networks and United Nations agencies in supporting enhanced adaptation actions in developing countries*

49. In its three-year workplan, the AC included an activity to compile a list of regional centres and networks working on adaptation, with a view to strengthening their role in supporting country-driven adaptation actions. The initial list, including information on the activities and capacities of those regional centres and networks, was to be made available online and updated regularly. Accordingly, such a list was compiled by the secretariat and

<sup>24</sup> Available in Adaptation Committee document AC/2014/5.

<sup>25</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2013/3, paragraph 17.

<sup>26</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2013/5, paragraph 13(a).

<sup>27</sup> More information on the workshop is available at <unfccc.int/8020>.

<sup>28</sup> Available at <[https://ipcc-wg2.gov/AR5/images/uploads/WG2AR5\\_SPM\\_FINAL.pdf](https://ipcc-wg2.gov/AR5/images/uploads/WG2AR5_SPM_FINAL.pdf)>.

<sup>29</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2014/INF.11.

<sup>30</sup> Available in Adaptation Committee document AC/2014/26.

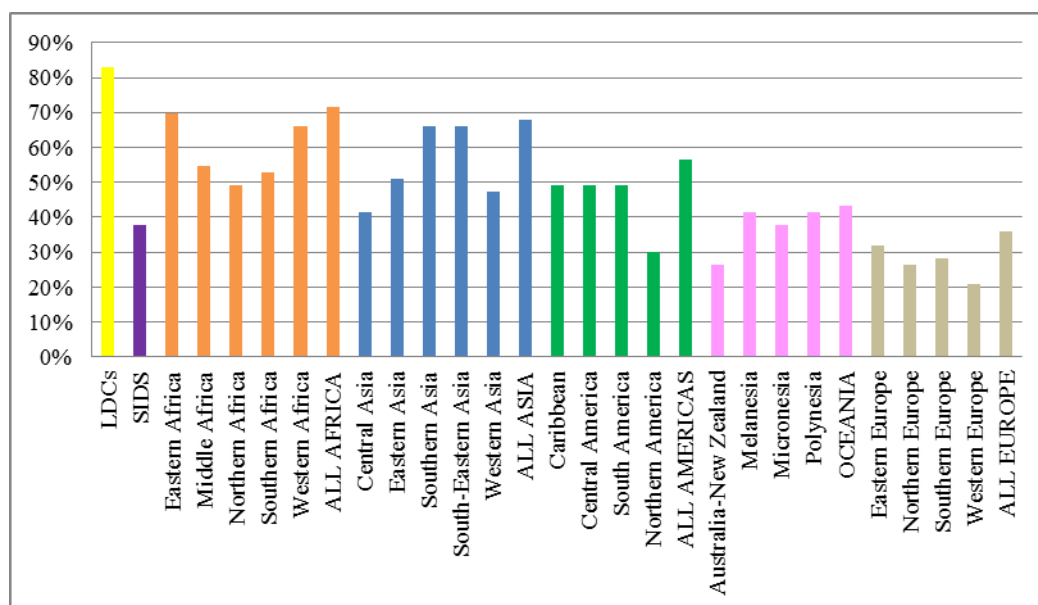
endorsed by the Committee at its 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, with the understanding that the list will further evolve.<sup>31</sup> Subsequently, the list was made available online, and the AC requested the secretariat to update it every six months. A standing invitation to interested regional organizations to be included in the list can also be found on this web page.<sup>32</sup>

50. In 2013, the AC invited regional institutions and United Nations agencies to communicate their current support for adaptation in developing countries, including in relation to capacity-building, including of national institutions. The responses were compiled into an information paper, which was considered at the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Committee.<sup>33</sup> The information paper described opportunities for strengthening engagement between the AC and regional institutions and United Nations agencies and derived conclusions and issues for possible further action by the AC, particularly regarding the engagement of organizations in its upcoming activities.

51. The secretariat contacted 153 organizations, of which 37 per cent responded. Their regional and sectoral focuses, as well their provision of support under the various categories under the Cancun Adaptation Framework, are illustrated in figures 1, 2 and 3, respectively.

Figure 1

**Organizations providing support for adaptation in developing countries working in each region/subregion (non-Annex I subregions only)**



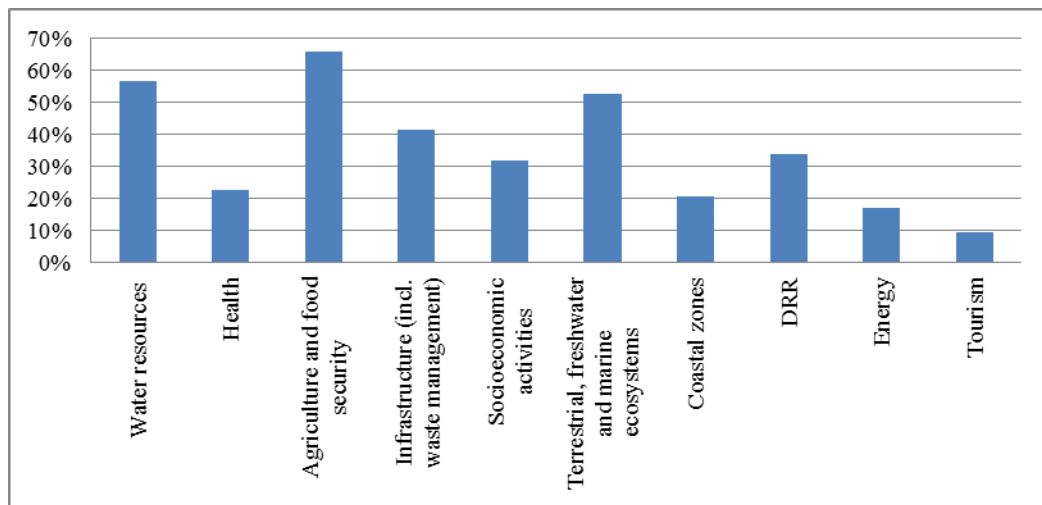
Abbreviations: LDCs = least developed countries, SIDS = small island developing States.

<sup>31</sup> Available in Adaptation Committee document AC/2014/8.

<sup>32</sup> Available at <unfccc.int/8199>.

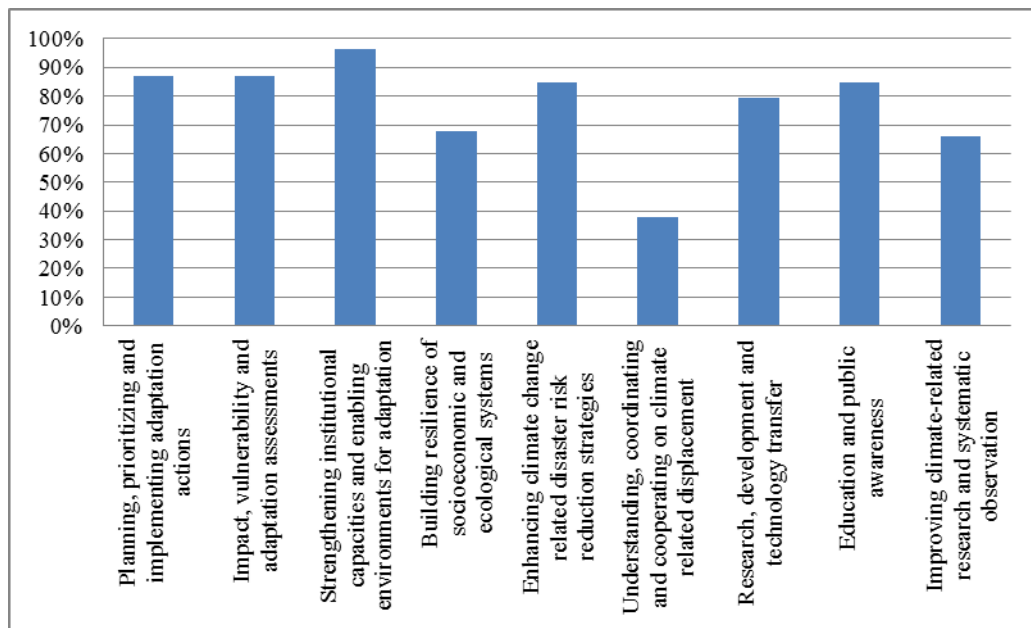
<sup>33</sup> Available in Adaptation Committee document AC/2014/7.

Figure 2  
**Organizations providing support for adaptation in developing countries working in different sectors**



Abbreviation: DRR = disaster risk reduction.

Figure 3  
**Organizations providing each category of support under the Cancun Adaptation Framework**



52. The main findings from the submissions received include the following:
- (a) The main beneficiaries of organizations’ activities are national governments and communities;
  - (b) Participants are mainly national governments;
  - (c) The vast majority of the organizations that responded are promoting capacity-building for adaptation;

(d) Seventeen per cent of the organizations mentioned that they are involved in some capacity with the NAP process and 42 per cent of the organizations are supporting technology transfer;

(e) Twenty-six per cent mentioned the use of monitoring and evaluation systems for assessing progress and 42 per cent of the organizations specifically mentioned integrating awareness of gender sensitivity into their adaptation activities.

53. Relevant suggestions regarding adaptation gaps include the following:

(a) Organizations could benefit from the AC so as to better engage with policymakers under the Convention in order to address gaps;

(b) Organizations have been establishing and continue to establish subregional networks of champions of adaptation and climate-induced risk reduction;

(c) Regional centres can draw on their regional networks to enhance local capacity for implementation.

54. All of the organizations that responded to the call for submissions wish to continue working with the AC.

55. Taking into account the outcomes of the call to regional institutions and United Nations agencies and the list of regional centres and networks working on adaptation (as described in para. 49 above), the AC, at its 5<sup>th</sup> meeting and according to its workplan, considered developing a strategy to address any identified gaps and opportunities and establishing an expert group to that effect. It decided to combine this with the consideration of establishing an ad hoc group that would propose modalities to facilitate technical backstopping for projects on request by Parties, as also identified in the workplan. Hence, it decided to establish an ad hoc group on technical support and agreed on the group's terms of reference.<sup>34</sup> The group's tasks include:

(a) Analysing existing support for adaptation action provided by regional institutions and United Nations agencies, including gaps, needs and opportunities, on the basis of the submissions from such bodies and other relevant information, including that related to issues such as geographical coverage, types and degree of technical assistance, and associated institutional and financial arrangements;

(b) Taking into account the above-mentioned gaps, needs and opportunities, proposing modalities to strengthen and enhance the coherence of the provision of support to developing countries for activities related to adaptation.

56. The ad hoc group undertook an analysis of existing support for adaptation action provided by regional institutions and United Nations agencies as noted in their above-mentioned submissions, including gaps, needs and opportunities and other relevant information. Taking into account those gaps, needs and opportunities, the group proposed modalities to strengthen and enhance the coherence of the provision of support to developing countries for activities related to adaptation.<sup>35</sup> The AC, at its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, endorsed the document prepared for the meeting and agreed to refer back to it during future discussions. It requested the ad hoc group to prepare an options paper for consideration at the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the AC containing next steps in proposing modalities to strategically strengthen and enhance the coherence of the provision of support to developing countries for activities related to adaptation. The paper should also take into account the relationship of that work with other workstreams of the Committee.

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<sup>34</sup> Available at <unfccc.int/8012>.

<sup>35</sup> Available in Adaptation Committee document AC/2014/22.

57. The AC also considered an overview of current engagement with, and proposals for future collaboration made by, organizations outside of the Convention.<sup>36</sup> In that context it also considered a proposal presented by a representative of the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) on common reporting indicators on climate change adaptation, namely using UNCCD indicators. It welcomed the proposals for collaboration made by other organizations as listed in the table annexed to AC document AC/2014/21 and agreed to refer to the table when carrying out its future work. Regarding the proposal put forward by the UNCCD secretariat, members of the AC recognized the value of engagement with the UNCCD in the spirit of coherence. It decided to continue its deliberations with the UNCCD secretariat under its agenda item on coherence and strengthening synergies using a broad approach without focusing on a specific indicator.

## **2. Technical support and guidance on means of implementation**

58. The three-year workplan of the AC includes the organization of a workshop on means of implementation in the first quarter of 2015 with relevant bilateral, regional and multilateral institutions, as well as with development agencies at the country level, to discuss how to further promote the implementation of enhanced action in a coherent manner under the Convention. This includes the development of a scoping paper and a synthesis paper for that workshop. Both papers are to take into account the information paper mentioned in paragraph 50 above. In addition, the workplan foresees the issuance of another call for submissions from developed country Parties and bilateral, regional and other multilateral channels on current experience in this context.

59. At the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the AC, the secretariat was requested to prepare a template for that call for submissions as well as a concept note for consideration by the Committee at its 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. The concept note summarized a large number of existing reporting channels and other sources through which information on means of implementation is already being provided on a continuing basis, including national communications and biennial reports from Annex I Parties.<sup>37</sup> The AC therefore decided that existing and forthcoming information is to be used for the preparation of the scoping and synthesis papers for the workshop, rather than issuing another call for submissions. It also decided that both papers should identify gaps and needs to be addressed at the workshop on means of implementation in 2015.

60. Following that guidance, a scoping paper for the workshop was prepared for consideration by the AC at its 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.<sup>38</sup> The Committee decided to focus the forthcoming workshop on understanding adaptation finance: how has adaptation finance resulted or not resulted in effective and concrete action? Within that framework, the following issues could be explored: national-level institutional arrangements and mobilization of finance in developing countries, such as national trust funds; the role of the private sector; the importance of mainstreaming adaptation into development; and issues related to access to finance, as referred to in paragraph 41 above.

61. The AC agreed to create an open working group with volunteers from the Committee and other constituted bodies under the Convention for the preparation of the workshop. The Co-Chairs will liaise with the SCF in that regard. The working group is requested to consider how the multiple issues mentioned in the scoping paper and the synthesis paper, which will be prepared by the end of 2014, will feed into the organization of the workshop.

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<sup>36</sup> Available in Adaptation Committee document AC/2014/21.

<sup>37</sup> Available in Adaptation Committee document AC/2014/9.

<sup>38</sup> Available in Adaptation Committee document AC/2014/27.

### C. Awareness-raising, outreach and sharing of information

62. The workplan of the AC contains a range of activities to facilitate awareness-raising, outreach and sharing of information. Paragraphs 63–79 below contain details of the relevant work carried out by the AC during 2014.

63. At its 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, the AC adopted its communication, information and outreach strategy as a living document and made it available on its web pages.<sup>39</sup> The strategy identifies the target audiences for the Committee's communication and information activities, as well as concrete information on activities to be carried out in order to raise awareness and initiate and stimulate a dialogue on adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change.

64. The AC is in the process of producing a video documentary as an outcome of the 2013 Adaptation Forum, which was organized on the margins of COP 19. The documentary has the objective of raising the profile of adaptation globally and will be distributed through available dissemination channels in a strategically planned effort to ensure that it has the greatest possible impact.

65. At its 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, the AC had agreed to hold its next Adaptation Forum in conjunction with the Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum<sup>40</sup> in early October 2014. However, it proved impossible to proceed with the logistical hosting arrangements and, as a result, the Adaptation Forum was postponed. The Committee is now envisaging that the next Adaptation Forum will take place in conjunction with a conference of the Global Adaptation Network of the United Nations Environment Programme in the first quarter of 2015. As the Global Adaptation Network will bring together its regional networks from Latin America, Africa, Western and Eastern Asia and the Pacific, the focus of the Adaptation Forum is likely to be on building partnerships and strengthening regional adaptation networks.

66. Another means to share information is NAP Central, which is being developed by the LEG. NAP Central is designed to provide a universally accessible, web-based central repository and hub for information pertinent to the NAP process. The AC has collaborated with the LEG throughout the year on the operationalization of NAP Central and progress made in its development is considered at each meeting of the Committee.

67. The workplan of the AC further provides for the collection and compilation of relevant information for national adaptation planning, as appropriate, in an information paper, and the identification of good practices for integrating adaptation into national development policies, processes and actions, taking into account relevant work of the NWP and the LEG. That mandate has been supplemented by a mandate provided at SBI 40, which invited the LEG and the AC to prepare an information paper<sup>41</sup> on experiences, good practices, lessons learned, gaps and needs in the process to formulate and implement NAPs on the basis of the NAP Expo and relevant documents, including submissions from Parties and relevant organizations, for consideration at SBI 41 and as input to a workshop on the matter mandated to take place prior to SBI 42.<sup>42</sup>

68. In line with its workplan, the AC agreed to prepare periodic thematic and overview reports, synthesizing information and knowledge relating to, for example, the implementation of adaptation actions and good adaptation practices, observed trends,

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<sup>39</sup> <[http://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/cancun\\_adaptation\\_framework/adaptation\\_committee/application/pdf/communication\\_strategy\\_version\\_9july14.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/cancun_adaptation_framework/adaptation_committee/application/pdf/communication_strategy_version_9july14.pdf)>.

<sup>40</sup> Co-organized by the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network.

<sup>41</sup> FCCC/SBI/2014/INF.14.

<sup>42</sup> FCCC/SBI/2014/8, paragraph 107.

lessons learned, gaps and needs, including in the provision of support, and areas requiring further attention, for consideration by the COP. The AC further agreed to produce thematic reports in 2013 and 2014 and a comprehensive overview report in 2015.

69. The first thematic report was published at COP 19. It contains an overview of the state of adaptation under the Convention,<sup>43</sup> and will be complemented by the 2014 thematic report. At its 4<sup>th</sup> meeting, the AC agreed that the 2014 thematic report would focus on available tools and knowledge, lessons learned and challenges faced in the application of different approaches guiding national adaptation. At the request of COP 19,<sup>44</sup> the AC modified the theme of the report and agreed on the title “Institutional arrangements for national adaptation planning and implementation”. With the publication the AC aims to raise awareness of current institutional arrangements that have been set up to support adaptation. The report is scheduled to be launched at COP 20.

70. The report specifies a number of concrete measures to enhance adaptation action through institutions in the areas of integration, involvement, information, and investment. The AC identified the following recommendations to improve institutional arrangements:

(a) Integration of adaptation across all relevant institutions and departments is critical and can be effectively supported by a strong coordination mechanism so as to ensure flexibility to tailor adaptation to various sectors and various stakeholders;

(b) Institutional arrangements should identify clear roles and responsibilities for the involvement of stakeholders at all policy levels;

(c) Institutional arrangements need to provide an environment that encourages and supports the exchange and sharing of information at all stages of the adaptation process;

(d) More effective and coherent support of adaptation planning and implementation is possible if institutional arrangements ensure a focused investment environment that enables stakeholders to optimize strategies.

71. The AC also agreed to publish a comprehensive overview report at the end of 2015, which coincides with the finalization of its first three-year workplan. The overview report will contain a summary of the Committee’s work over its first three years and showcase the way in which it has fulfilled its mandate of promoting the implementation of enhanced action on adaptation in a coherent manner under the Convention.

72. Also in line with its workplan, the AC agreed to organize a meeting to gather up-to-date information on adaptation, including the limits of adaptation, in collaboration with Working Group II of the IPCC. The meeting was held during the fortieth sessions of the subsidiary bodies as by that time the contribution of Working Group II to the AR5<sup>45</sup> had been made available.

73. Presentations made at the meeting centred on the following topics, catalysing a fruitful discussion between IPCC authors and members of the AC: what new developments have there been in relation to climate risk management, climate-resilient pathways and limits of adaptation? What are the key findings with regard to adaptation assessments, planning and implementation? What data gaps did the IPCC encounter in producing the AR5?

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<sup>43</sup> Available at <unfccc.int/6997.php#AC>.

<sup>44</sup> Decision 16/CP.19, paragraph 4.

<sup>45</sup> *Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability*. Available at <<http://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg2>>.



74. Members of the AC and IPCC authors also initiated a discussion on: how the IPCC and the Committee could cooperate in raising awareness, outreach and sharing the latest scientific information on adaptation and reduction of vulnerability; what lessons can be learned from the experience of the IPCC and exchanged to address knowledge gaps; and how the Committee can use information provided by the IPCC and integrate it into the development of its workplan.

75. The AC noted with appreciation the constructive and informative exchange between the IPCC authors and members of the AC and made the report on the meeting available on its web pages.<sup>46</sup>

76. In addition, the COP, by decision 16/CP.19, requested the AC to organize a special event during the fortieth sessions of the subsidiary bodies to showcase its activities and to engage in a dialogue with Parties and other relevant stakeholders. The Committee agreed that the meeting should focus on promoting synergy and strengthening engagement with national, regional and international organizations, centres and networks, with the objective of, inter alia, helping it to further sharpen the focus of its work.

77. The discussion was framed by two questions:

(a) How are international and regional organizations, centres and networks engaging with, and supporting adaptation action undertaken by, national governments and organizations?

(b) How can the AC promote synergy and strengthen engagement with regional and international organizations, centres and networks so as to improve the ability of countries to gain assistance from United Nations and regional agencies in support of national adaptation action?

78. Specific suggestions for actions to be undertaken by the AC put forward at the event include the following:

(a) Leading the engagement with other constituted bodies under the Convention on adaptation and enhancing its convening power to organize focused events;

(b) Facilitating the visibility of adaptation efforts at the regional level and the global distribution of good practices;

(c) Improving its collaboration with regional organizations and supporting the NAP Global Support Programme, along with the LEG, to aid the design of the next steps for engagement with non-LDC developing countries;

(d) Further engaging with regional centres for guidance on its own efforts, and providing a platform under the Convention for regional and national organizations to exchange experiences and build capacity.

79. The AC agreed that the event provided for a useful and valuable exchange of information. More information, including the report on the meeting, is available on the Committee's web pages.<sup>47</sup>

#### **IV. Recommendations for the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice**

80. The AC welcomed the request of the SBSTA for the secretariat to undertake activities listed in annex III to the report of the AC to COP 19 upon the request of the

<sup>46</sup> Available in Adaptation Committee document AC/2014/24.

<sup>47</sup> <unfccc.int/8246>.

Committee.<sup>48</sup> It took note of the invitation made at COP 19 for the AC, in accordance with its mandate and functions, to provide further recommendations for activities to be undertaken under the NWP.<sup>49</sup>

81. In response, the AC recommends that the SBSTA:

(a) Request the secretariat to collaborate with NWP partner organizations in the organization of the expert meeting on promoting livelihoods and economic diversification, scheduled for the third quarter of 2015;

(b) Invite the NWP to continue using its broad network of partners to disseminate relevant knowledge products produced by the AC in order to inform adaptation planning and actions at all levels.

82. The AC welcomed the invitation made by the SBSTA for it to consider providing further recommendations for activities to be undertaken under the NWP in relation to the workshop on best practices and needs of local and indigenous communities referred to in paragraph 45 above.<sup>50</sup> The Committee recommends that the SBSTA invite the NWP, in collaboration with the NAP task force and the LEG and with contributions from NWP partner organizations, to support the relevant work of the AC by:

(a) Developing an inventory of good practices and tools and available data collection initiatives for the use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation, possibly building on existing knowledge-sharing platforms, including the database on best practices and available tools for the use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation compiled by the secretariat;<sup>51</sup>

(b) Engaging intermediaries, regional organizations and regional donors in creating communities of practice and networks at different levels and in sharing good practices and tools at key meetings and events;

(c) Considering in the development of any relevant knowledge products the importance of integrating indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices into the NAP process, involving holders of local, indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices in the creation of the national vision for adaptation and relevant decision-making processes.

## V. Recommendations for the Conference of the Parties

83. The AC agreed to include the following recommendations in its report for consideration at COP 20.

84. The AC recommends that the COP invite Parties, operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and relevant entities working on adaptation to take into account the following recommendations, which are based on the outcomes of the meeting of the NAP task force referred to in paragraphs 38 and 39 above:

(a) Recognizing the importance of raising awareness and buy-in for the NAP process by all stakeholders, in order to:

(i) Generate interest in, demand for and leadership of the NAP process at the national level;

(ii) Make available support for the NAP process better known;

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<sup>48</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2013/5, paragraph 13(d).

<sup>49</sup> Decision 17/CP.19, paragraph 10.

<sup>50</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2014/2, paragraph 15.

<sup>51</sup> <unfccc.int/7769>.

- (b) Improving coordination, collaboration and coherence among:
  - (i) Bilateral and multilateral agencies and institutions, including the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism;
  - (ii) Various national ministries;
  - (iii) Parties and regions, with a view to:
    - a. Enhancing the accessibility of NAP support;
    - b. Further understanding effective pathways to achieving the objectives of the NAP process, on the basis of experience;
    - c. Fostering coherence in the provision of support, including by better matching needs with support, involving more financial institutions in the NAP process and helping countries to prepare for accessing funding, including from the GCF;
- (c) Enhancing learning as stakeholders increasingly engage in the NAP process, particularly around aspects such as the role of institutional arrangements and monitoring and evaluation.

85. In supporting the monitoring and evaluation of adaptation, the AC recommends that the COP invite Parties, operating entities of the Financial Mechanism and relevant entities working on adaptation to take into account the following recommendations:

- (a) Monitoring and evaluation frameworks need to be appropriate, relevant to needs and tailored to country circumstances. A common set of global indicators is not useful, owing to the context-specific nature of adaptation;
- (b) National-level assessments can play a different role in measuring adaptive capacity from subnational or project-based assessments. National-level assessments could, for example, measure the degree of coordination and integration of adaptation in national priorities;
- (c) A positive learning environment, which encourages formal and informal learning, including peer-to-peer learning, and which encourages learning from negative as well as positive experiences, is important;
- (d) Planning and allocation of resources, both technical and financial, are key for effective monitoring and evaluation systems.

86. In the context of the monitoring and evaluation of adaptation, the AC also recommends that the COP invite the Board of the GCF, with respect to its Results Management Framework, to consider:

- (a) Keeping indicators simple;
- (b) Designing indicators that are qualitative as well as quantitative;
- (c) Designing indicators in such a way as to capture the progress that countries are able to make in integrating adaptation into their development and sectoral planning, policies and actions;
- (d) Giving countries sufficient flexibility to define their indicators in line with their national and local planning, strategies and priorities.

87. Furthermore, the AC agreed to forward the following recommendations resulting from the workshop on best practices and needs of local and indigenous communities referred to in paragraph 45 above for consideration by the COP. The COP may wish to:

(a) Invite Parties to underline the importance of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices, in a manner commensurate with modern science, for the effective planning and implementation of adaptation, including by encouraging integration of indigenous, traditional and local knowledge into the NAP process;

(b) Encourage the Adaptation Fund, the GEF and the GCF to enhance their consideration of local, indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices and their integration into adaptation planning and practices, as well as procedures for monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

88. Regarding the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the AC recommends the following actions for consideration by the COP:

(a) Inviting the Board of the GCF to consider the significant work undertaken under the Cancun Adaptation Framework and on the NAP process as it continues to provide the governance of the Fund;

(b) Inviting the Board of the GCF to engage with institutions that have started initiatives on countries' readiness to access GCF funding and exploring how more countries can benefit from such initiatives;

(c) Inviting the GEF, in supporting the NAP process and when implementing its new programming strategy on adaptation for the LDCF and the SCCF for the period 2014–2018, to consider the findings arising from the meeting of the NAP task force referred to in paragraph 84 above and the initial conclusions of the AC on the monitoring and evaluation of adaptation referred to in paragraph 85 above.

89. In addition, the AC recommends that the COP take note that the Committee is in the process of formulating the next iteration of its workplan, for consideration and endorsement at COP 21.

90. Finally, the AC recommends that the COP urge Parties to recall the encouragement contained in decision 2/CP.17 to nominate experts to the Committee with a diversity of experience and knowledge relevant to adaptation to climate change, while also taking into account the need to achieve gender balance in accordance with decision 36/CP.7.

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