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Item 4 of the provisional agenda

Report of the Adaptation Committee

Subsidiary Body for Implementation

Forty-seventh session

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Item 12 of the provisional agenda

Report of the Adaptation Committee

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Summary

This report covers the work of the Adaptation Committee between October 2016 and September 2017. It contains organizational and procedural information, including on meetings held during this period and changes in membership and chairmanship. The report further highlights progress in the implementation of the flexible workplan of the Adaptation Committee for the years 2016–2018 in the areas of: promotion of overarching coherence; mandates arising from decision 1/CP.21, including the technical examination process on adaptation; provision of technical support and guidance to Parties on adaptation actions and means of implementation; and awareness-raising, outreach and information-sharing. It concludes with recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties and/or the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, as appropriate.

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I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP) 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.¹

2. 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.²

B. Scope of the report

3. This report contains information on the work undertaken by the AC between October 2016 and the end of September 2017, including action taken on mandates arising from decision 1/CP.21. It also contains recommendations for consideration by the COP and/or the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA).

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

4. 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, they may wish to consider the recommendations contained in chapter IV below and forward them for consideration by the COP and/or the CMA, as appropriate.

II. Organizational and procedural matters

A. Meetings and workshops

5. During the reporting period, the AC held its 11th and 12th regular meetings (AC 11 and AC 12) from 7 to 10 March 2017 and from 19 to 22 September 2017, respectively. Owing to a lack of financial resources, a live webcast of AC 11 was not made available. At AC 12 the provision of live and on-demand coverage of the meeting through Skype was tested. Both meetings were open to observers.³

6. Furthermore, members of the AC and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) met on 8 March 2017 to discuss intersessional progress in response to joint mandates arising from decision 1/CP.21 (see paras. 35–37 below).⁴ Progress on this work was showcased and discussed with Parties twice during the reporting period, first on 10 November 2016 during COP 22 in Marrakech, Morocco, and again on 12 May 2017 during the forty-sixth sessions of the subsidiary bodies in Bonn, Germany.

7. An informal experts meeting on assessing adaptation needs was held on 13 May 2017 (see paras. 32–34 below) and a two-day technical expert meeting (TEM) within the

¹ Decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 95.

² Decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 96.

³ All documents, presentations, video recordings (for AC 12 only) and summary outcomes for each agenda item are available at <http://unfccc.int/10060> (for AC 11) and <http://unfccc.int/10375> (for AC 12).

⁴ More information on the mandates and the meeting as well as the meeting report are available at <http://unfccc.int/9785>.

context of the technical examination process on adaptation (TEP-A) took place on 16 and 17 May 2017 (see paras. 39 and 40 below). At AC 12, the AC agreed to hold its 13th meeting from 27 February to 2 March 2018.

8. The AC welcomed with appreciation the financial support from the European Commission and the Governments of Canada, Japan and the United States of America. The support provided did not cover all the supplementary resources required⁵; the committee could have achieved more if additional support had been received.⁶ The AC noted with concern the significant gap between the increased tasks and responsibilities assigned to the committee and the resources available to carry out this work.

B. Chairing arrangements and membership⁷

9. Pursuant to decisions 2/CP.17 and 16/CP.19, at AC 11, Mr. Donald Lemmen (Canada) was re-elected for a third term as Co-Chair and Mr. Clifford Mahlung (Jamaica) was elected for a first term as Co-Chair, taking over from Ms. Minpeng Chen (China).

10. The COP decided that AC members shall serve for a term of two years and shall be eligible to serve a maximum of two consecutive terms of office.⁸ Mr. Lemmen and Mr. Ali Shareef (Maldives) were re-elected at COP 22, and members elected for the first time were Ms. Maria del Pilar Bueno (Argentina), Mr. Julio Cordano (Chile), Mr. Javier Antonio Gutierrez (Nicaragua), Mr. Frédéric Schafferer (France) and Ms. Cecilia da Silva Bernardo (Angola).

11. The terms of office of three other members will come to an end before AC 13 and the positions will be open for nominations at COP 23. These positions are currently held by Mr. Damdin Davgadorj (Mongolia), Mr. Andro Drecun (Montenegro) and Ms. Renske Peters (Netherlands). In addition, Ms. Christina Chan (United States of America) resigned from her position on 13 May 2017 and the coordinators of the group of Parties included in Annex I to the Convention nominated Ms. Kari Pederson (United States of America) as her successor for the remainder of the term. The AC welcomed her nomination.

12. In welcoming new members, the AC recalled decision 2/CP.17, which stipulates that members serve in their personal capacity.

C. Working arrangements

13. Outside the regular meetings of the AC, its members worked via electronic means to advance work on particular topics through dedicated working groups established for a range of agreed priorities. Depending on the estimated duration of the respective tasks, the working groups can either be short-term and informal, or be more formally arranged with specific terms of reference, such as in the case of the task force on national adaptation plans (NAPs) and the working group on TEP-A, both of which consist of members from the AC and other constituted bodies and, in the case of the TEP-A working group, representatives of constituencies of non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

14. It has become a useful practice for the AC to start its first meeting after the COP with an informal half-day retreat for members only. This facilitates a seamless integration of new members, contributes to building a common understanding among committee members of the new tasks arising from the COP and enhances the overall performance and effectiveness of the committee during the remainder of the year.

⁵ See document FCCC/SBI/2015/3/Add.2.

⁶ A lack of financial resources impacted the AC's ability to provide a webcast of its regular meetings (see para. 5 above), to invite funded experts to its meetings and to organize an Adaptation Forum (see para. 79 below). In addition, a workshop on accessing the Green Climate Fund Readiness Programme (see para. 74 below) had to be postponed to 2018. Furthermore, the AC was unable to attend a forum organized by the Standing Committee on Finance on climate resilient infrastructure.

⁷ See <http://unfccc.int/6944> for a list of AC members.

⁸ Decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 106.

15. Furthermore, the AC has developed a working routine of regularly seeking inputs from experts. This includes valuable inputs from: partner organizations to the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change (NWP); representatives of other institutional arrangements established under the Convention, including its Financial Mechanism; and other relevant stakeholders with specific expertise.

16. In this context, the AC has promoted active participation by observers in its meetings. Observers have been invited 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 objectives to create synergies and maintain transparency.

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

17. At its 8th meeting, in 2015, the AC agreed on its workplan for the years 2016–2018, with the understanding that the workplan would remain flexible enough to incorporate any relevant outcomes arising from COP 21. COP 21 welcomed that workplan and requested the AC to carry out further tasks in preparation for CMA 1 and to support enhanced action prior to 2020. The AC welcomed the strong vote of confidence that COP 21 awarded the committee and revised its flexible workplan accordingly, which was welcomed by Parties at COP 22. The table below shows the activities undertaken during the current reporting period and indicates the paragraphs in this document where further details are available.

Activities of the workplan of the Adaptation Committee undertaken between October 2016 and September 2017

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Description of activity</i>	<i>Paragraph cross reference</i>
Overarching coherence		
O1	Map mandates, workplans and/or decisions with adaptation relevance	18 and 19
O1	Engage with other constituted bodies under the Convention and report on progress and recommendations to enhance coherence	20–25
O1	Develop methodologies and modalities mandated under decision 1/CP.21 by the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement	26–37
O2	Engage with other relevant institutions, organizations, frameworks, networks and centres, and consider a partnership platform	53–56
Workstream A: Technical support and guidance to the Parties on adaptation action		
A1	Report on various approaches to adaptation, taking into account livelihoods and economic diversification	66
A1	Prepare a technical paper on long-term adaptation planning	57–59
A1	Produce a flexible workplan for the NAP task force	49–52
A1	Work on monitoring and evaluation of adaptation	62–65
A2	Continue to consider further modalities for supporting developing country Parties in their adaptation actions	Throughout
Workstream B: Technical support and guidance to the Parties on means of implementation		
B1	Develop an information paper, in collaboration with the GCF, the LEG and the SCF, on the experience of countries in	70 and 71

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Description of activity</i>	<i>Paragraph cross reference</i>
	accessing the GCF Readiness Programme for adaptation	
B1	Collaborate with the Adaptation Fund, the GCF and the GEF, United Nations agencies, relevant multilateral and bilateral organizations and non-governmental organizations supporting the process to formulate and implement NAPs to enhance communication, awareness, coordination and complementarity of donors and funds	67–77
B1	Organize a workshop for the engagement of relevant stakeholders to advance understanding and overcome challenges related to the establishment of national implementing entities and to accessing the GCF Readiness Programme for adaptation	73 and 74
B1	Identify the authoritative actors from the private sector, including a mapping of their influence, and identify next steps, building on the Private Sector Initiative under NWP	75–77
	Workstream C: Awareness-raising, outreach and sharing of information	
C2	Organize an Adaptation Forum, as appropriate	79 and 80
	Workstream D: Technical examination process on adaptation ^a	
D1	Conduct the technical expert meetings at the forty-sixth sessions of the subsidiary bodies and prepare a technical paper	39–46

Abbreviations: AC = Adaptation Committee, GCF = Green Climate Fund, GEF = Global Environment Facility, LEG = Least Developed Countries Expert Group, NAP = national adaptation plan, NWP = Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, SCF = Standing Committee on Finance.

^a All mandates arising from decision 1/CP.21 are reported in chapter III.A.

A. Overarching coherence, including the implementation of decision 1/CP.21

18. As part of its efforts to promote the implementation of adaptation action under the Convention in a coherent manner in line with the Cancun Adaptation Framework and the Paris Agreement, the AC requested the secretariat to prepare an updated map of mandates, workplans and/or decisions with adaptation relevance under the Convention after each meeting of the COP.

19. The paper prepared after COP 22⁹ provided an overview of new, relevant developments on adaptation under the Convention, including those that require action from the AC and those that the AC may wish to monitor. The AC took note of the information contained in the document and agreed to draw from it, as appropriate, in the discussion of subsequent agenda items and the implementation of activities contained in its workplan.

20. Some background to the post-COP 22 document was provided by the recent review by the COP of the AC's progress and performance, in which Parties noted with appreciation the ongoing and planned collaboration between the AC and other constituted bodies and institutional arrangements under the Convention, including the LEG, NWP, the Technology Executive Committee (TEC), the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF), the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts, the Adaptation Fund, the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) and the Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB), in order to enhance the process to formulate and implement NAPs and actions, the implementation of

⁹ AC document AC/2017/2. Available at <http://unfccc.int/10060>.

the relevant mandates contained in decision 1/CP.21 and access by developing country Parties to adaptation finance, in particular from the GCF, as appropriate.

21. This collaboration has developed over time in response to a series of mandates from the COP and invitations from other institutional arrangements under the Convention seeking to enhance coherence and reduce duplication of similar tasks. The AC has established linkages with other constituted bodies, including through the following groups, which were initiated by either the AC or those bodies, and which are fully operational and have produced concrete outcomes:

- (a) The AC's NAP task force;
- (b) The AC's working group on TEP-A;
- (c) The joint AC and LEG working group on joint mandates from decision 1/CP.21, with representatives of the SCF;
- (d) The LEG's support group for NAP Central;
- (e) The LEG's NAP Expo Advisory Group;
- (f) The Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism's Task Force on Displacement;
- (g) The TEC's task force on adaptation;
- (h) The Advisory Board of the CTCN;
- (i) The PCCB.

22. The AC further strives to improve coherence by exploring informal ways of exchanging information on current and future work of relevant entities and upcoming opportunities for collaboration. This has included holding informal bilateral meetings on the margins of the forty-sixth sessions of the subsidiary bodies with the high-level champions, with the LEG and the SCF, and with the facilitators of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement agenda item 4 (Adaptation communication) and agenda item 6 (Global stocktake). Similar meetings were held at COP 22 and are planned for COP 23, in particular in support of delivering on the mandates arising from decision 1/CP.21, including those related to TEP-A.

23. As in previous years, the AC welcomed the continuous provision of information by NWP partner organizations that has informed the work of the AC over time. SBSTA 45 acknowledged the activities undertaken by the secretariat in collaboration with NWP partner organizations and other relevant organizations in response to recommendations made by the AC and recognized that those activities have strengthened the function NWP has in providing knowledge support to the AC. In response to the recommendation of the AC, an overview of the landscape of existing platforms providing technical support on adaptation was prepared in collaboration with the CTCN, for consideration at AC 12 (see paras. 53–56 below).¹⁰

24. The AC further enhanced its collaborative efforts with the secretariat and the secretariat of the GCF (see paras. 68–74 below) and actively contributed to various in-session events at COP 22 and the forty-sixth sessions of the subsidiary bodies, including the first meeting of the PCCB, the sixth Durban Forum on capacity-building, the ninth meeting of the SBSTA research dialogue, the first annual meeting of the GCF with the constituted bodies of the UNFCCC, NWP's Focal Point Forum, and a meeting of the joint working group of the SBSTA and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

25. Finally, the AC organized a technical session at the 5th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum in Colombo on 19 October 2016 on moving the adaptation agenda under the Paris Agreement forward, and one of the Co-Chairs attended a workshop in Manila on 15 and 16 February 2017, which was organized by the Ministry of the Environment of Japan for countries of the Asia-Pacific region and focused on advancing national adaptation planning and the implementation of adaptation actions in the region.

¹⁰ See document FCCC/SBSTA/2017/INF.1 for details.

1. Review of the work of adaptation-related institutional arrangements under the Convention, in 2017

26. The COP requested the AC, taking into account its mandate and its second three-year workplan, and with a view to preparing recommendations for consideration and adoption at CMA 1, to review, in 2017, the work of adaptation-related institutional arrangements under the Convention, with a view to identifying ways to enhance the coherence of work, as appropriate, in order to respond adequately to the needs of Parties.¹¹

27. The AC's response to this mandate included a mapping of the core mandates of adaptation-related institutional arrangements,¹² which was considered and analysed at AC 10. The AC further issued a call for submissions to Parties and non-Party stakeholders, based on guiding questions. Their views, along with the outcome of the analysis, served as the basis for the recommendations developed at AC 11,¹³ which were finalized at AC12.

28. In undertaking its work under this mandate, the AC notes that some ongoing work under the UNFCCC process could result in a modification of the functions performed by various adaptation-related institutional arrangements, including:

- (a) The review of the functions of the SCF to be completed at COP 23;
- (b) The outcome of the planning efforts of the newly established PCCB.

29. The recommendations from the AC in response to this mandate are contained in chapter V below.

2. Methodologies for assessing adaptation needs

30. The COP requested the AC, taking into account its mandate and its second three-year workplan, and with a view to preparing recommendations for consideration and adoption at CMA 1, to consider methodologies for assessing adaptation needs with a view to assisting developing countries without placing an undue burden on them.¹⁴

31. At its 10th meeting, the AC considered a desk review of existing methodologies for assessing adaptation needs and their current applications and limitations, including needs for adaptation action and support (finance, technology and capacity).¹⁵ Based on these discussions, the AC agreed to further consider this issue, including through the convening of an informal expert meeting and a call for submissions from Parties and other stakeholders to inform its work on this topic.

32. At its 11th meeting, the AC considered a document based on the discussions at AC 10 and the submissions received.¹⁶ It requested the secretariat, with input from the NAP task force, to further revise the document and use it as background information for the informal expert meeting held on the margins of the forty-sixth sessions of the subsidiary bodies.

33. The expert meeting took place on 13 May 2017. It was facilitated by Mr. Kishan Kumarsingh (Trinidad and Tobago) and attended by 10 experts, including experts of the AC, the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE), the GCF, the GEF, the LEG, the Stockholm Environment Institute, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme.

34. Based on the discussions at the expert meeting the document was further refined and subsequently considered at AC 12,¹⁷ where the AC agreed on recommendations for consideration by the CMA. The recommendations from the AC in response to this mandate are contained in chapter V below.

¹¹ Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 42(a).

¹² AC document AC/2016/12. Available at <http://unfccc.int/9653>.

¹³ AC document AC/2017/3. Available at <http://unfccc.int/10060>.

¹⁴ Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 42(b).

¹⁵ AC document AC/2016/13. Available at <http://unfccc.int/9653>.

¹⁶ AC document AC/2017/4. Available at <http://unfccc.int/10060>.

¹⁷ AC document AC/2017/12. Available at <http://unfccc.int/10375>.

3. Joint mandates with the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

35. COP 21 requested the AC and the LEG to jointly develop modalities to recognize the adaptation efforts of developing country Parties, as referred to in Article 7, paragraph 3, of the Paris Agreement, and make recommendations for consideration and adoption at CMA 1.¹⁸

36. The COP further requested the AC and the LEG, in collaboration with the SCF and other relevant institutions, to develop methodologies, and make recommendations for consideration and adoption at CMA 1, on the following:

(a) Taking the necessary steps to facilitate the mobilization of support for adaptation in developing countries in the context of the limit to the global average temperature increase referred to in Article 2 of the Paris Agreement;¹⁹

(b) Reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support referred to in Article 7, paragraph 14(c), of the Paris Agreement.²⁰

37. Further details on this joint work of the AC and the LEG as well recommendations for consideration at CMA 1 are contained in the addendum to this document.²¹

4. Technical examination process on adaptation

38. TEP-A was established by decision 1/CP.21 as part of enhancing action prior to 2020. The COP decided that TEP-A is to be organized by the subsidiary bodies, conducted by the AC and supported by the secretariat.

39. TEP-A includes annual TEMs on adaptation (TEM-A), bringing together a broad group of stakeholders to discuss policies, actions and concrete opportunities and their implementation.

40. In response to its mandate, the AC established a core working group in 2016 to plan and organize TEMs for that year, and then expanded the working group's membership and responsibilities for the organization of TEP-A in 2017 and beyond. The working group now consists of members of the AC and representatives of the LEG, the SCF and the TEC, as well as representatives from business, industrial, research and environmental NGOs. The active involvement of representatives from constituted bodies and other stakeholder groups in the planning and implementation process of TEP-A has proven successful in gathering balanced input and feedback throughout the year, thus assuring that the TEMs and the technical papers are comprehensive, inclusive and thoroughly reviewed.

41. While the 2016 TEMs and technical paper initiated a broad exploration of opportunities to enhance adaptation action and options to support their implementation, the AC, based on the recommendations of its working group, agreed on topics for 2017 and beyond that have a narrower focus and can thus allow for a more in-depth examination of opportunities and options. The topics agreed are as follows:

(a) 2017: Integrating climate change adaptation with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030;

(b) 2018: Adaptation planning for vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems;

(c) 2019: Adaptation finance, including the private sector.

42. The AC agreed to keep the topic for 2020 open so as to maintain flexibility to address emerging topics.

43. The 2017 TEM-A was held on 16 and 17 May and brought together representatives from relevant United Nations organizations supporting work on adaptation, the SDGs and

¹⁸ Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 41.

¹⁹ Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 45(a).

²⁰ Decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 45(b).

²¹ FCCC/SB/2017/2/Add.1–FCCC/SBI/2017/14/Add.1.

the Sendai Framework, as well as practitioners from a broad range of sectors, all bringing a wealth of experience and suggestions for addressing the three agendas in an integrated manner. Key messages from the TEM include:

(a) Integrating adaptation with the SDGs and the Sendai Framework can be very beneficial for building resilience comprehensively across societies. While maintaining the autonomy of each of the post-2015 agendas, improved coherence of action to implement the three frameworks can save money and time, enhance efficiency and further enable adaptation action;

(b) There are many opportunities to support further policy integration between adaptation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction, owing in part to the common themes, scopes and objectives of the three global agendas;

(c) Unprecedented levels of coordination and coherence will be needed for policy integration. Building the capacity to achieve this will help to clarify roles and responsibilities and to encourage partnerships among a wide range of actors;

(d) The availability of data, including climate and socioeconomic data, and their resolution remain a challenge, especially for African States. Better data management, more informed policymaking and strengthened capacity-building are also needed;

(e) Adequate, sustainable support for adaptation efforts from public, private, international and national sources alike is crucial. Accessing finance, technology development and transfer, and capacity-building support is also critical, particularly for developing countries;

(f) The process to formulate and implement NAPs can effectively support the implementation of enhanced adaptation action and the development of integrated approaches to adaptation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction.

44. To address the feedback received from the first TEM-A conducted in 2016, the 2017 TEM-A was held in a more interactive manner, with an energetic and engaging moderator to encourage discussion, panel discussions and a general agreement to refrain from using PowerPoint presentations. The audience was engaged through an interactive audience management tool that enabled real-time submission of questions and remarks via smartphones, tablets and laptops.

45. Discussions held at this meeting as well as other information relevant to the topic are reflected in the 2017 technical paper²² prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the AC. In addition to more detail on the key messages mentioned in paragraph 43 above, the technical paper provides information on challenges posed by policy integration and options to support integration, including through NAPs, and on opportunities for pursuing integrated approaches to adaptation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction.

46. At AC 12, the AC considered an oral report by a member of the working group on experiences and lessons learned from the first two years of TEP-A and requested the group to initiate the organization of the 2018 TEM, taking into account the outcomes of the TEP assessment which will be carried out at COP 23.

B. Provision of technical support and guidance to the Parties

47. The AC has made progress in a range of activities aimed at providing technical support and guidance to the Parties in two main areas, namely adaptation action and means of implementation, which includes finance, technology and capacity-building.

1. Adaptation action

48. NAPs are the focus of the work of the AC on technical support and guidance, which it carries out in close collaboration with the LEG and with support from the AC's NAP task force. In addition, during 2017, the AC further focused on issues feeding into that work,

²² FCCC/TP/2017/3.

including aspects of long-term adaptation planning, existing partnerships providing technical support on adaptation, and monitoring and evaluation of adaptation.

(a) Task force on national adaptation plans

49. In 2016, the AC's NAP task force agreed on its flexible workplan for the period 2016–2018 and the AC approved the task force's revised terms of reference. The task force is to regularly report to the AC on its activities and did so during AC 11 and AC 12.

50. The task force's main activities during the reporting period included providing input to the following:

(a) Preparation of background material for an AC Co-Chair's participation in a video conference organized by the Technical Advisory Group of the NAP Global Support Programme (NAP-GSP);

(b) Work on the information paper on countries' experience in accessing the GCF Readiness Programme for adaptation;

(c) Collaboration with the TEC to advance the work on aligning technology needs assessment and NAPs;

(d) Work on the technical paper on long-term adaptation planning.

51. The task force's workplan foresees continued engagement with the Adaptation Fund, the GCF, the GEF, the NAP Global Network, the NAP-GSP and other organizations providing NAP support to countries.

52. Details on the work of the task force, as well as its approved workplan and its terms of reference, are available on the AC web pages.²³

(b) Partnership platform with national, regional and international organizations

53. The COP decided that the AC should promote synergy and strengthen engagement with national, regional and international organizations, centres and networks.²⁴ In its consideration of this matter, the AC agreed to utilize a range of modalities to identify gaps in the provision of technical support to the Parties, and modalities to address these gaps. In this context, the AC discussed the possible establishment of a partnership platform with national, regional and international organizations, centres and networks to provide technical support to developing country Parties on adaptation. During a side event held at the forty-fourth sessions of the subsidiary bodies,²⁵ the AC consulted with national, regional and international organizations, centres and networks on the current 'supply and demand' of collaboration for technical support.

54. Based on the inputs received at the event and discussions at AC 9 and AC 10, including with observers, the AC agreed not to establish a new partnership platform, but to prepare an overview of the landscape of existing platforms, including gaps, and report at AC 12 on progress. It invited NWP partner organizations and the secretariat, in collaboration with the CTCN, as the entity established under the Convention to provide technical assistance at the request of developing countries to accelerate the transfer of climate technologies, including adaptation, to prepare this overview.

55. The terms of reference for the overview and its analysis were agreed on by the AC, the NWP secretariat and the CTCN secretariat and an initial map of existing technical support mechanisms was compiled. The map contained all elements and criteria as defined in the terms of reference and was reviewed by a group of independent reviewers.

56. The AC, at its 12th meeting, considered the overview of the landscape of existing platforms providing technical support to developing country Parties on adaptation and an

²³ <http://unfccc.int/9917>.

²⁴ Decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 20(c).

²⁵ The report on the meeting is contained in AC document AC/2016/15, available at <http://unfccc.int/9653>.

analysis of the information contained therein.²⁶ It requested the secretariat to make the analysis, along with the overview, available on the Adaptation Knowledge Portal, if possible in a user-friendly format, and to report at AC 13 on progress made, including usage statistics. It invited other existing platforms that meet the established criteria to contact the secretariat in order to be included in the overview, and invited organizations that are already listed in the overview to regularly update the information they have provided. The AC also requested the secretariat, NWP partner organizations and the CTCN to widely promote the overview.

(c) Technical paper on long-term adaptation planning

57. While the concept note for the technical paper on long-term adaptation planning was already approved by the AC in late 2015,²⁷ the completion of the paper had to be postponed owing to new priorities introduced by the Paris Agreement.

58. At AC 12 the AC considered a draft of the paper,²⁸ which had been produced with a view to sharing information about long-term adaptation planning in order to assist Parties as they implement the provisions of the Paris Agreement (particularly Article 7), including the process to formulate and implement NAPs.

59. At AC 12 the AC provided guidance to the NAP task force and the secretariat on the finalization of the draft, to be done by AC 13, including possible draft recommendations that could be derived from it.

(d) Promoting livelihoods and economic diversification

60. As described in its previous report to the COP,²⁹ the AC requested the secretariat to develop an information and outreach product to communicate the key outcomes and messages from its expert meeting on livelihoods and economic diversification, which was held in September 2015.

61. The information product was finalized and disseminated before COP 22 through established channels, such as the UNFCCC website (AC, NWP³⁰ and Newsroom³¹ web pages), The Adaptation Exchange on Facebook³² and NAP Central,³³ as well as to key organizations and regional centres and relevant listservs.

(e) Inventory of ongoing work on monitoring and evaluation of adaptation

62. To follow up on previous work on monitoring and evaluation of adaptation, the AC, in its workplan, agreed to prepare an inventory of ongoing monitoring and evaluation work, including work undertaken by the LEG, the GEF and other initiatives outside the Convention. It invited support from NWP partner organizations to compile and verify the inventory.

63. The AC further agreed to convene, in 2018, a meeting to exchange views on national adaptation goals and indicators and how they relate to goals and indicators for sustainable development and for disaster risk reduction in the context of the Sendai Framework.

64. At AC 10, the AC considered an inventory and analysis³⁴ prepared by the secretariat with input from NWP. The AC requested the secretariat to add additional existing monitoring and evaluation tools and frameworks to the inventory, including those referred to in nationally determined contribution (NDC) or intended NDC undertakings, and during TEP-A.

²⁶ AC document AC/2017/14 and its annex. Available at <http://unfccc.int/10375>.

²⁷ FCCC/SB/2015/2, paragraph 28.

²⁸ AC document AC/2017/12. Available at <http://unfccc.int/10375>.

²⁹ FCCC/SB/2016/2, paragraphs 34–38.

³⁰ <http://unfccc.int/6997.php#NWP>.

³¹ <http://newsroom.unfccc.int>.

³² www.facebook.com/The.Adaptation.Exchange/.

³³ <http://www4.unfccc.int/nap/Pages/Home.aspx>.

³⁴ AC document AC/2016/16. Available at <http://unfccc.int/9653>.

65. At AC 11, the AC took note of a status report on this matter and agreed to continue consideration of the revised inventory at AC 13.

(f) Report on various approaches to adaptation, taking into account livelihoods and economic diversification

66. At its 11th meeting, the AC considered a concept note³⁵ for a report on various approaches to adaptation, taking into account livelihoods and economic diversification. According to its workplan the report should have been produced in 2016; however, the AC agreed to adjust the date for the finalization of the report to 2018 so as to be able to take into account relevant submissions to NWP.

2. Means of implementation

67. One of the objectives driving the work of the AC is to provide guidance on ways to enhance support, including for finance, technology and capacity-building, in particular related to access, institutional arrangements and enabling environments, including for the process to formulate and implement NAPs. The AC undertook various related activities throughout 2017, including collaboration with the GCF and advancing the engagement of the private sector in adaptation.

68. An ongoing focus area of this work is collaboration between the AC and the GCF. In its workplan, the AC agreed to engage continuously with the GCF to understand its policies and programmatic priorities as they relate to adaptation and as they evolve. COP 21 further formalized this by its request to the LEG and the AC to consider how they can provide more information on accessing funding from the GCF for the process to formulate and implement NAPs and to include such information, as appropriate, in their reports.³⁶ COP 22 requested the AC and the LEG to continue engagement with the GCF and to continue to include information, including on ways to enhance NAPs, in their reports, with a view to making recommendations to COP 23, as appropriate.³⁷

69. This has been furthered through an ongoing series of actions and interactions between members of the AC and the GCF Board, the Co-Chairs of the two bodies and the UNFCCC and GCF secretariats, including the following:

(a) The decision by the GCF Board, welcomed by the AC, to hold an annual meeting in order to enhance the cooperation and coherence of engagement between the GCF and the constituted bodies under the Convention. The first annual meeting was held during COP 22 on 9 November 2016. The meeting was attended, inter alia, by a Co-Chair of the AC, who highlighted activities by the AC that are closely related to those of the GCF;

(b) The regular participation of a representative of the GCF secretariat in the regular meetings of the AC, including AC 11 and AC 12;

(c) A request from the GCF Board to its secretariat to strengthen its current approach to engaging with constituted bodies, including through: (1) exchanging information; (2) participating in relevant meetings; and (3) identifying components of programmes and workplans of constituted bodies that could be incorporated into the relevant parts of the work programme of the secretariat;

(d) A standing invitation to the GCF to participate in the work of the AC's NAP task force.

70. The AC further developed an information paper, in collaboration with the GCF, the LEG, and the SCF on the experience of countries in accessing the GCF Readiness Programme for adaptation, including for the process to formulate and implement NAPs. While the outline of the paper was agreed at AC 9, the AC agreed to postpone the finalization of the document until after COP 22, when more relevant information would be available, including on the launch of the GCF independent evaluation of its Readiness Programme. A first draft was considered at AC 11, and a revised draft with more

³⁵ AC document AC/2017/6. Available at <http://unfccc.int/10060>.

³⁶ Decision 4/CP.21, paragraph 10.

³⁷ Decision 6/CP.22, paragraph 7.

information gathered through surveys, interviews with Party representatives and inputs from the GCF was considered at AC 12. The AC agreed that the findings from this paper will feed into the workshop described in paragraph 73 below, and agreed to continue work on bringing together experience from countries on this matter so that more information would be available at the workshop.

71. The recommendations that the AC derived from the consideration of this draft document were included in the AC's input to the draft guidance to the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, which was considered by the SCF at its 16th meeting.

72. As one immediate action to address some of the concerns raised in the information paper, and in the light of the evolving nature of the GCF and other funds for adaptation, the AC, at AC 11, agreed to periodically prepare a concise electronic Adaptation Finance Bulletin in collaboration with the Adaptation Fund, the GCF, the GEF, the LEG and the SCF. The AC recognized that developing country Parties and other stakeholders may find it difficult to keep up with the latest developments on adaptation finance, in particular as it relates to policies and access procedures, and thus may find it useful to have all the information brought together in one place. The first issue of the bulletin was published on the AC pages of the UNFCCC website³⁸ on 8 August 2017 and was broadly distributed through the UNFCCC's distribution channels. At its 12th meeting, the AC agreed to issue the bulletin twice a year, after the COP and after the May sessions of the subsidiary bodies, taking into account the timing of expected developments under the relevant bodies and entities.

73. Also in the context of providing information on accessing funding from the GCF for the process to formulate and implement NAPs, the AC, at AC 10, considered a concept note for a workshop to be held in 2017³⁹ to engage relevant stakeholders, including experts on national implementing entities and national designated authorities, to advance understanding and overcome challenges relating to:

- (a) Establishing national entities for direct access;
- (b) Accessing the GCF Readiness Programme for adaptation.

74. At its 11th meeting, the AC considered and endorsed a revised concept note,⁴⁰ which included more relevant background information for the workshop. The AC recognized the merits of linking the workshop to a relevant international meeting organized by the GCF. However, the GCF secretariat informed the AC that no such meetings were foreseen for the second half of 2017, and so the AC requested the UNFCCC and GCF secretariats to continue consulting on possible collaboration and dates for the workshop in 2018. At AC 12 the AC took note of an oral progress report by the secretariat and agreed to conduct the workshop in conjunction with the 2018 NAP Expo, which is scheduled to take place in Bonn in April 2018.

75. With regard to advancing the engagement of the private sector in adaptation, the AC agreed to identify, in 2017, the authoritative actors from the private sector and to map their influence. This work would serve as the basis for identifying the next steps regarding private sector engagement, building on the NWP's Private Sector Initiative. As a follow up to this work, the AC agreed to convene, in 2018, a meeting to foster greater contribution of the private sector to the process to formulate and implement NAPs and to showcase the examples of current involvement.

76. At AC 11, the AC considered the initial proposal for developing a comprehensive mapping of relevant private sector stakeholders in the area of adaptation and requested the secretariat to make an initial draft of the map available for consideration at AC 12. It welcomed the contributions by observers and established a small working group consisting of AC members and interested observers to support the work.

77. At AC 12, the AC considered a set of papers comprising a literature review of private sector engagement in adaptation, a report on a survey conducted to inform the

³⁸ <http://unfccc.int/6053>.

³⁹ AC document AC/2016/20. Available at <http://unfccc.int/9653>.

⁴⁰ AC document AC/2017/7. Available at <http://unfccc.int/10060>.

mapping, and a short summary of the findings of both, including possible next steps for the AC, in particular with regard to the organization of the meeting referred to in paragraph 75 above.⁴¹ It agreed to request its working group to work on a concept note, based on the discussions at this meeting, and to further define the focus of the 2018 workshop referred to in paragraphs 73 and 74 above.

C. Awareness-raising, outreach and sharing of information

78. The workplan of the AC contains a range of activities to facilitate awareness-raising, outreach and sharing of information. This subchapter provides details of the relevant work carried out by the AC during the reporting period.

79. The AC, in its workplan, agreed to hold an Adaptation Forum, as appropriate, seeking synergy or in conjunction with the annual high-level event. At AC 11, the secretariat reported that no resources were available to organize a large forum and that no offers had been received to host it or to collaborate on it. The AC agreed that while it would not plan an Adaptation Forum in 2017, it would keep the opportunity open for a forum in the future and would consider ways to partner with other organizations and events, including possibly reaching out beyond the climate change community. The AC re-established its working group on the Adaptation Forum to consider modalities, topics and linkages to other organizations for possible future forums.

80. At AC 12, recalling its positive experience gained at the 2016 Adaptation Futures conference,⁴² the AC agreed to explore the possibility of conducting a session during the 2018 Adaptation Futures conference, scheduled to take place from 18 to 21 June 2018 in Cape Town.⁴³ The session will be used to inform conference participants of the work of the AC in general, and will focus on the topic of integrating climate change adaptation with the SDGs and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The AC noted that this topic is broad enough to address other topics relevant to the work of the AC.

81. The AC accepted an invitation from the Global Adaptation Network to organize one of several parallel sessions during the 5th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum, which took place in Colombo from 17 to 19 October 2016. The theme of the forum was “Adapting and living below 2 °C: bridging the gaps in policy and practice”, and it explored platforms and concrete pathways for partnerships with government, civil society and business. The AC focused its session on one of its mandates arising from decision 1/CP.21, namely, the consideration of methodologies for assessing adaptation needs with a view to assisting developing country Parties without placing an undue burden on them (see paras. 30–34 above). The discussions at the session informed the AC’s consideration of this matter.

82. All information products of the AC, such as the technical paper resulting from TEP-A, are disseminated on the dedicated Facebook page of The Adaptation Exchange, which is maintained by the secretariat’s adaptation programme. As at 26 September 2017, the exchange had 13,535 followers.

IV. Recommendations to the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement

83. On the basis of its review of the work of adaptation-related institutional arrangements under the Convention undertaken in 2017, the AC agreed to forward the following recommendations for consideration by the CMA. The AC recommends that the CMA:

(a) Assign any future emerging adaptation-related work necessary for the effective implementation of the Paris Agreement to existing institutions;

⁴¹ AC document AC/2017/17 and Add.1 and Add.2. Available at <http://unfccc.int/10375>.

⁴² See document FCCC/SB/2017/2, paragraphs 73–74.

⁴³ <http://adaptationfutures2018.capetown>.

(b) Request the TEC and the CTCN, as well as the institutional arrangements relating to capacity-building and the Financial Mechanism, in accordance with their mandates, to strive for a balance in the provision of support to Parties for adaptation and mitigation actions;

(c) Request NWP partner organizations, in collaboration with the AC, to support the work of other adaptation-related institutional arrangements, in particular through providing relevant scientific and technical information and sharing knowledge;

(d) Request the LEG and the CGE to work together on training for assessing vulnerability and other aspects of adaptation in order to ensure efficiency and consistency;

(e) Request the AC, as necessary and in consultation with relevant adaptation-related institutions, to continue to make recommendations to enhance collaboration and promote coherence and synergies with a view to addressing the evolving adaptation-related needs of the Parties;

(f) Encourage Parties to make available sufficient resources for the successful and timely implementation of the work of adaptation-related institutions under the Convention.

84. On the basis of its consideration of methodologies for assessing adaptation needs, with a view to assisting developing countries without placing an undue burden on them, the AC, recognizing the principles for methodologies for assessing adaptation needs contained in AC document AC/2017/12,⁴⁴ as well as gaps in the accessibility of existing methodologies for assessing adaptation needs, gaps in essential data, data resolution and information required in existing methodologies, gaps in application capacity, gaps in coverage, and the lack of guidance regarding the selection of decision-making tools, and noting that other relevant entities may also be undertaking efforts in addressing the identified gaps, recommends that the CMA consider the following recommendations:

(a) The SBSTA to request NWP partner organizations, in collaboration with users and developers of relevant methodologies, including academia and the private sector, to develop, and periodically update, an inventory of relevant methodologies for assessing adaptation needs, including needs related to action, financial, capacity-building and technological support, using the information contained in the UNFCCC “Compendium on methods and tools to evaluate impacts of, and vulnerability and adaptation to, climate change” and the information from the AC’s desk review;

(b) The SBSTA to request NWP partner organizations to document and disseminate good practices and lessons learned in relation to the implementation of methodologies for assessing adaptation needs and to make the information available at the Adaptation Knowledge Portal;⁴⁵

(c) The SBSTA to invite all relevant entities to further improve the applicability of existing methodologies and tools for assessing adaptation needs related to action, financial, capacity-building and technological support;

(d) The SBSTA to invite the World Meteorological Organization, through its Global Framework for Climate Services, with a view to facilitating the development and application of methodologies for assessing adaptation needs, to regularly inform the COP, through the SBSTA, about its activities to improve the availability and accessibility of comprehensive climate information, including observational data, and about how it facilitates the provision and dissemination of the most up-to-date climate model predictions and projections;

(e) The COP to invite the PCCB and providers of capacity-building, in further enhancing capacity-building efforts, to facilitate accessing and implementing methodologies for assessing adaptation needs in developing countries in the context of support for building the capacity to adapt.

⁴⁴ Available at <http://unfccc.int/10375>.

⁴⁵ www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWP/Pages/Home.aspx.

85. Joint recommendations developed by the AC and the LEG in response to their joint mandates from decision 1/CP.21, paragraphs 41 and 45, are contained in the addendum to this document and the addendum to the report on the 32nd meeting of the LEG.⁴⁶

⁴⁶ FCCC/SB/2017/2/Add.1–FCCC/SBI/2017/14/Add.1.