

**Tenth meeting of the Adaptation Committee
Bonn, Germany, 13-16 September 2016**

Report on a side event held by the Adaptation Committee:

Establishing a partnership platform with national, regional and international organizations, centres and networks to provide technical support to developing country Parties on adaptation

Recommended action by the Adaptation Committee

The Adaptation Committee, at its 10th meeting, will be invited to take note of the information and feedback received by Parties, organizations and networks at the side event and contained in this report.

It may wish to consider whether to proceed to the formulation of terms of reference of a partnership platform, as indicated in its workplan, or possibly invite the Nairobi work programme to elaborate alternative next steps on this matter.

Possible next steps are contained in section 6 below.

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1. Mandate and context

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), by decision 1/CP.16, decided that the Adaptation Committee (AC) should provide technical support and guidance to the Parties and promote synergy and strengthening engagement with national, regional and international organizations, centres and networks.
2. To address this mandate the AC agreed to dedicate one of its workstreams to technical support and guidance to the Parties and it has, throughout its initial three years of work, considered collaboration with national, regional and international organizations, centres and networks under this workstream. This included the consideration of modalities to identify gaps in the provision of technical support to the Parties, and modalities to address these gaps.
3. As one of the latter, the AC proposed the establishment of a partnership platform with regional centres. As a follow-up, it included in its [flexible workplan for 2016-2018](#) several activities relating to this partnership platform, including consultation, during a side event at SB 44, with national, regional and international organizations, centres and networks on collaboration to provide technical support.
4. According to the workplan the next steps following the consultations would be to develop terms of reference for a partnership platform with national, regional and international organizations, centres and networks in the 2nd half of 2016 and then launch the platform in 2017. Building on the partnership platform, the AC envisages, in 2018, to consider ways to strengthen the institutional and technical capacity of national training and research institutions, as well as regional centres and networks, for scaled-up support to countries.

2. Objective of the meeting

5. The AC, in its previous work, had already done some groundwork to identify what would be needed in terms of providing technical support to developing country Parties (the “what”). This includes a synthesis¹ and an analysis² of support provided by regional centres in terms of sectoral and geographic coverage, including gaps, areas, beneficiaries and participants.
6. To complement this effort, the objective of this event was to a) obtain information on the technical/organizational aspect (the “how”) of providing technical support to the Parties, and b) assess support for the concept of a new partnership platform for that purpose.

3. Summary of key messages

7. In summary, the following main key messages were expressed during the event:
8. A wide range of regional centres and networks are already in place, offering a large variety of support, utilizing different modalities of collaboration. Their support to collaborate with the AC is high.
9. In order to take an informed decision on whether to establish a new partnership platform or to enhance collaboration with existing ones, the AC may wish to take stock of what already exists, and how a new platform can add value and address existing gaps.
10. The AC may further wish to explore the resources needed to establish and maintain a partnership platform.
11. In order to provide effective technical support to the Parties, a mechanism should be demand-driven and include flexible modalities to respond to specific requests and tasks communicated by the Parties and address emerging needs.

¹ <http://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/cancun_adaptation_framework/adaptation_committee/application/pdf/ac5_un_and_regional_support_for_adaptation_27feb.pdf>.

² <http://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/cancun_adaptation_framework/adaptation_committee/application/pdf/22.09.14_ac_analytical_paper_tech_support_final.pdf>

4. Proceedings

12. The event took place in Bonn during the 44th sessions of the subsidiary bodies to the UNFCCC on 17 May 2016. It was chaired by Ms. Minpeng Chen, Co-Chair of the Adaptation Committee (AC), and facilitated by Ms. Shyla Raghav, Director of Climate Change Policy at Conservation International.

13. Invited guest speakers were Mr. Jukka Uosukainen, Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN); Ms. Vositha Wijenayake, Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSA); Mr. Jian Liu, International Ecosystem Management Partnership (IEMP) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and Ms. Ana María Loboguerrero, Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CAAFS) of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). All presentations held during the side event area available on <unfccc.int/9576>. Highlights from the presentations are contained in the annex.

14. The event started with the AC Co-Chair providing a brief overview of the AC's previous work on technical support on adaptation to developing country Parties, including an introduction of the AC's proposal to create a partnership platform with regional centres. The facilitator then complemented this information by introducing the objectives of the event.

15. To recall the relevance of the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change (NWP) to this discussion, the secretariat was invited to present highlights of relevant work undertaken by the NWP. The presentation is also available on the website and highlights are summarized in the annex.

16. Following these introductory presentations, invited speakers highlighted different modalities of collaboration employed by their organizations, including areas and gaps of technical support to developing countries and the type of collaboration that was created to address these gaps.

17. Participants then exchanged views and information in the ensuing open discussion, using the highlights presented by the invited speakers as a starting point. The facilitated discussion was guided by the following questions:

- a) What existing gaps should a new partnership platform fill and how can it add value?
- b) What are the incentives to participate in a new partnership for national, regional and international organizations?
- c) Which modalities are used and could be used to channel requests for technical support from the country/ies to the centre/network, how is the response fed back, and have these modalities been effective?

5. Main messages from the presentations and discussion

18. Further to the key messages summarized in section 3 above, below are the main points that were raised by presenters and during the discussion regarding existing and suggested modalities for the provision of technical support, gaps, and incentives to join a new partnership platform.

19. There were strong calls to the AC to be aware of what an efficient provision of technical support to the Parties entails, including in terms of financial and human resources. As general guidance the representative of the CTCN shared the minimum resources that the CTCN have found to be necessary and offered to share their wealth of relevant experience on that matter with the AC. The representative from SPREP supplemented the information from the CTCN with experiences from the regional Pacific support mechanism and the related Pacific Climate Change Portal.³

Which modalities are used and would be useful to channel requests for technical support from the country/ies to the centre/network, how is the response fed back, and have these modalities been effective?

20. A range of concrete modalities were named in the discussion, including the following ones:

21. A platform for information and communication was considered useful by some, not quite so useful by others. While everyone agreed that information sharing and communication are key and that a repository of information is

³ < <http://www.rtsm.pacificclimatechange.net> >.

useful, it was also noted that when such platforms are only Internet-based tools their use may be rather limited, in particular for stakeholders from countries with technological limitations.

22. In this same context, knowledge management and networking activities are modalities that everyone agreed are important. They could be supported through webinars, focused working groups, information portals, training sessions at a country-and inter-regional level and learning from case studies.

23. Local activities were particularly noted as good practices for successful collaboration and knowledge sharing. These can include regional forums involving stakeholders at all levels. Familiarity with the region was named as essential.

24. Written agreements between stakeholders on collaboration, including Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs), were mentioned as modalities to formalize collaboration and long-time research frameworks. However, experience by some showed that focused shorter-term collaboration is most efficient. It was suggested that an arrangement based on targeted, well conceptualized collaboration on specific projects can be more effective than working on the basis of more general, ongoing MoUs with partners.

25. In terms of science, participants recommended supporting tailor-made research outputs that provide information useful for decision makers, and that translate scientific findings to respond to the actual needs on the ground. Efforts should be made to include all relevant stakeholders from the beginning, starting from the identification of research needs through to the implementation of projects using the relevant research outcomes.

26. Finally, flexibility in a mechanism was generally considered crucial, and a reliable roster of experts needs to be available assist on short notice.

What existing gaps should a new partnership platform fill and how can it add value?

27. Participants highlighted the following points as the main gaps they noted in their respective areas of work:

28. Collaborative community of practice: Participants expressed a general sense that there is a proliferation of networks. A coordinated would be helpful to counteract this proliferation and at the same time address remaining gaps.

29. Coverage and regional collaboration: Participants noted that many partnerships are already in place. However, not all communities and even countries are yet fully covered. Participants also noted gaps in South-South collaboration and overall inter-state collaboration, as well as the visibility of both.

30. Resources: Recurring themes were the gaps in human resources and finance required to establish and maintain functioning partnership platforms that is able to promptly and reliably address the technical support needs of developing countries. A short turnaround time between receipt of a request and the corresponding response is essential.

31. Awareness and capacity building: Participants noted that there is limited awareness of the wealth of publicly available information. This includes information on available technologies, and a thematic dialogue organized by the TEC on South-South collaboration was mentioned in that context.⁴ It was further noted that sharing information is useful but not enough to instigate action. To have a real impact a partnership should be able to invest staff and resources at the national level. International support for knowledge management and the improvement of enabling conditions is also required.

32. Topics: Participants mentioned that only few initiatives exist that deal with the food-water-energy nexus. This, as well as other focus areas, need better institutional support. A representative of the World Federation Engineering Organizations offered their network to collaborate with the AC on capacity building in the area of agriculture, in particular storage and transportation. The Paris Agreement was also mentioned as a topic for collaboration. As the new partnership platform in question would be under the AC, partners could all contribute to the implementation of the Agreement in line with their respective focus areas. This could include supporting actions to reach the global goal on adaptation, tracking progress and supporting the global stocktake.

33. Other gaps mentioned included those with social causes (norms, practices), policies and regulations, culture and religion, as well as macroeconomic conditions, institutions and technological capacity.

What are the incentives to participate in a new partnership for national, regional and international organizations?

⁴ <http://unfccc.int/ttclear/templates/render cms_page?s=TEC_TD6>

34. In order to set up and maintain a successful partnership platform, partners must be motivated and supportive of the notion that the new initiative adds value for Parties and partners. During the discussion many participants observed a prevailing “partnership fatigue”, indicating that too many of such initiatives exist, they partially overlap and do not collaborate.

35. The “fatigue” could be reduced by engaging organizations in clearly defined projects, and to carry out focused work on targeted pilot/demonstration projects.

36. One major incentive to join a new initiative could be summarized as “impact”. This includes the knowledge that the potential of contributing centres and networks would be fully utilized and recognized. Partners would receive greater visibility and their work would be proactively promoted on a large scale. Participants stressed that it is essential for a new partnership to magnify the reach and impact of ongoing work. If this is not the case then it could be of greater benefit to focus on strengthening existing arrangements, such as the NWP and the CTCN.

37. An effective new partnership platform would further ensure that relevant information reaches the ground level and that capacity is being built there. Partners would feel encouraged if there was certainty that a platform would serve as a knowledge retention facility ensuring that knowledge and information could be utilized freely by partners and the Parties to which technical support is provided.

38. 38. It was further noted that most platforms are supply driven. A good incentive for organizations to join a new platform would be if operations were tailored to respond to actual demands for technical support.

6. Possible next steps

39. The AC will be invited to take note of the information received by Parties, organizations and networks at the side event.

40. The AC may wish to agree on pursuing one of several possible paths:

- a) It may wish to consider whether to proceed to the formulation of terms of reference of a partnership platform, as indicated in its workplan.
- b) A possible alternative suggested during the side event was the preparation of a “guide of guides”, an inventory of existing mechanisms that could be useful to the AC in considering next steps, as well as to Parties wishing to navigate the landscape of existing networks.
- c) The AC may further consider inviting the Nairobi work programme to elaborate the next steps on this matter, based on additional input from their existing network of national, regional and international organizations, centres and networks, and report back to the AC at its 11th meeting.
- d) A combination of b) and c) above.

Annex: Summary of presentations held at the side event

1. Information received from the Nairobi work programme (NWP)⁵

1. The secretariat was invited to highlight the main functions and work areas of the NWP. It also provided a short overview of the technical support activities for adaptation planning and implementation undertaken by regional centres and networks and international organizations in 2015 which were recently communicated to, and synthesized by, the secretariat.⁶
2. The presentation further elaborated on how the NWP is advancing adaptation through knowledge, which includes engaging a growing network of non-party stakeholders to share their experience and expertise, and capturing and synthesizing the latest information and knowledge on key adaptation issues. The NWP further aims to facilitate North-South and South-South science-policy-practice collaboration to close identified knowledge gaps. It also disseminates knowledge and fosters learning to boost adaptation action at all levels. The ultimate goals are providing knowledge support to Parties and constituted bodies, as well as scaling up adaptation action on the ground, with a focus on developing countries.

2. Presentations by invited speakers

3. Speakers representing regional centres and networks were invited to provide some insights, in short 5-minute presentations, on areas and gaps of technical support to developing countries and the type of collaboration that was created to address these gaps.

2.1. Technical support under the Convention - Mr. Jukka Uosukainen - CTCN⁷

4. The CTCN is the body established under the UNFCCC to respond to developing country technology needs and it provides information, capacity building and technical expertise tailored to the national context. The CTCN is hosted by UNEP and supported by UNIDO and 12 Consortium Partners. Its network includes over 160 members.
5. With regard to technical assistance, at the time of the presentation it had received more than 100 requests from over 60 countries, channelled through nationally designated entities. The requests showed a significant demand for enabling conditions. A particular modality to respond to this is the “LDC Request Incubator”, a programme⁸ through which the CTCN offers support for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to access CTCN technical assistance, strengthen institutional capacities related to climate technologies, and reinforce efforts on technology transfer.
6. The CTCN also uses regional forums in the area of capacity building to link country focal points, the private sector, the Green Climate Fund and multilateral development banks. Knowledge management and networking is supported through webinars and information portals.
7. As potential gaps in the enabling conditions for adaptation technology the CTCN noted resources (human, physical, financial), social causes (norms, practices), policies and regulations, culture and religion, as well as macroeconomic conditions, institutions and technological capacity.
8. The CTCN welcomed collaboration with the AC and is very much aware of overlaps and similar mandates, noting that both should be aware of each other’s work and to avoid overlaps.

⁵ <<https://www3.unfccc.int/pls/apex/f?p=333:1:276626371047739>>.

⁶ <<http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2016/sbsta/eng/inf01.pdf>>.

⁷ <<https://www.ctc-n.org>>.

⁸ <<https://www.ctc-n.org/capacity-building/request-incubator>>.

2.2. North-South-South collaboration - Ms. Vositha Wijenayake - Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSA), Southern Voices⁹

9. Southern Voices is a coalition of climate networks and partners in the Global South, supported by a consortium of Danish development NGOs, all of which are engaged in promoting pro-poor climate policies locally and globally. Southern Voices concentrates its work on 12 countries in different regions, with a focus on participatory and inclusive policy making. It uses focused working groups, through the Climate Action Network, as one of the modalities to facilitate South-South collaboration.

10. Identified gaps and difficulties in the interaction between partners in the North and in the South include technical limitations. Experience shows that as Internet access is frequently problematic, the use of virtual participation, Internet phone facilities and web-based platforms are not accessible and, if communication relies on those, can lead to a communication failure.

11. Modalities for knowledge sharing need to be well conceptualized and not rely solely on web-based information platforms as these tend to work only for a limited period of time, if at all, and then become outdated. Effective modalities are training sessions at a country level and learning from case studies. It is also essential to package information in a way that is easily accessible, understandable and can be utilized.

2.3. South-South collaboration - Mr. Jian Liu – UNEP International Ecosystem Management Partnership (UNEP-IEMP)¹⁰

12. UNEP-IEMP is the first UNEP initiative in the South and for the South mobilizing science to support policy setting for sustainable ecosystem management in developing countries. It collaborates with the Chinese Academy of Sciences. UNEP-IEMP aims to become an international think tank, a technology and knowledge hub, and a centre for capacity building on ecosystem management for developing countries.

13. Two examples were presented that use specific modalities of collaboration. The first one is the EBA □ SOUTH Project, catalysing global and regional collaboration on ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) in context of South-South cooperation. Modalities used in the area of technology transfer are concrete, on-the-ground EbA interventions, implemented within a long term research framework. On knowledge support the EBA □ SOUTH Project works with a web platform and for capacity building it organizes inter-regional coordination activities and thematic training workshops.

14. The second example was the South-South Cooperation on Climate Change (SSCCC) Forum. Key messages resulting from the 2nd meeting of the forum include that new mechanisms are needed to promote SSCCC and that successful initiatives should be scaled up, such as a platform for promoting SSCCC. It was recommended to consult with UNFCCC on possible opportunities for interactions with its processes, such the AC, which was mentioned as most relevant to the SSCCC.

2.4. Collaboration with national and sub-national levels of government - Ms. Ana María Loboguerrero – CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CGIAR/CCAFS)¹¹

15. The CGIAR/CCAFS was established to address the impacts of climate change on agricultural practices. For this purpose it brings together researchers of agricultural science, climate science, environmental and social sciences. CGIAR/CCAFS is a collaboration among all 15 CGIAR research centres and it collaborates with other CGIAR research programmes.

16. The presentation focused on how CCAFS has been working in Latin America to address areas and gaps of technical support in the agricultural sector of developing countries. It emphasized the importance of developing tailor-made research outputs that provide information useful for policy makers and decision makers. Research must take into account the various contexts, stakeholders, as well as their respective strengths and capacities. CCAFS's strategy has been to translate scientific findings to respond to the actual problems of local farmers.

17. The key message of the presentation was that collaboration with regional centres is useful to bridge the gap between science and decision making. To collaborate successfully it helps to identify gaps jointly with all

⁹ <<http://www.southernvoices.net/en>>.

¹⁰ <<http://www.unep-iemp.org>>.

¹¹ <<https://ccafs.cgiar.org>>.

stakeholders and then generate tailored portfolios, rather than carrying out science for its own sake. It makes sense to invite the scientific community to local areas where they engage with local stakeholders and climate modellers. Furthermore, South-South collaboration is essential and international support for this is needed.
