
Seventh meeting of the Adaptation Committee

Bonn, Germany, 24 – 27 February 2014

Modalities to strategically strengthen and enhance the coherence of the provision of support to developing countries for activities related to adaptation. Options for next steps

Recommended action by the Adaptation Committee

The Adaptation Committee (AC), at its 7th meeting, will be invited to consider the information provided in this paper so as to adopt modalities at AC8.

1. Introduction and background

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), by decision 1/CP.16, decided that one of the functions of the Adaptation Committee (AC) is to provide technical support and guidance to the Parties, respecting the country-driven approach, with a view to facilitating the implementation of adaptation activities, including those listed in paragraphs 14 and 15 of the same decision, where appropriate.

2. As part of its workstream on technical support and guidance to the Parties on adaptation action, and in accordance with activity 16 of its three-year workplan, the AC, at its 5th meeting, agreed to establish an ad hoc group on technical support. The objective of this group is to propose modalities for providing support to Parties on adaptation, for consideration by the AC. The tasks of this group include:

- a) Analyzing existing support for adaptation action provided by regional institutions and UN agencies, including gaps, needs and opportunities, based on the submissions by regional institutions and UN agencies and other relevant information, including related to issues such as geographic coverage, types and degree of technical assistance, and associated institutional and financial arrangements; and,
- b) Taking into account the above gaps, needs and opportunities, to propose modalities to strengthen and to enhance coherence of the provision of support to developing countries for activities related to adaptation.

3. At its sixth meeting, the AC endorsed the document prepared for the meeting (AC/2014/22) which proposed initial modalities based on the submission from organizations and the respective analysis report describing the roles of regional institutions and United Nations agencies in supporting enhanced adaptation actions in developing countries¹ prepared for AC5. The AC further agreed on the importance of catalyzing the work of the ad-hoc technical support group and to approach it in a strategic way, recognizing the role of the AC.

4. The AC requested the ad-hoc group to prepare an options paper for consideration at AC7, containing next steps to propose modalities to strategically strengthen and enhance the coherence of the provision of support to developing countries for activities related to adaptation which will be adopted at AC8. The paper would take into account comments made during the meeting and the relationship of this work with other work streams of the AC.

¹ AC/2014/7

2. Relevant developments since AC6

5. Further to the document on technical support for adaptation by regional institutions and UN agencies (AC/2014/22), which the AC had considered at its sixth meeting, the technical support group may wish to consider the following documents and recent developments when suggesting next steps for proposing modalities:

- a) The discussion on the technical support group's work at AC6;²
- b) Work of the AC Task Force on National Adaptation Plans (NAP-TF), which identified a number of potential next steps at its meeting in September 2014 that are relevant to the work of the technical support group.³ These include:
 - a. Facilitate coordination at key levels, e.g. by bringing together multilateral/bilateral agencies that work at the country level and facilitate coordination by regional institutions;
 - b. Support the sharing of information including on the type and coverage of support provided facilitating complementarity and on success factors of the NAP process, including through case studies;
 - c. Reach out to strategic partners of the NAP process including academia, media, regional institutions and bring together and enhance their specific strengths.
- c) Growing importance of regional partnerships as underlined by the focus of the 2015 Adaptation Forum which will focus on "Building partnership and strengthening regional adaptation networks";
- d) Other documents considered at AC6, particularly: Current engagement with, and proposals for future collaboration by, organizations outside the Convention;⁴ and the summary report on the special event organized by the AC "Promoting synergy and strengthening engagement with national, regional and international organizations, centres and networks";⁵
- e) Update of the online list of regional centres and networks working on adaptation;⁶
- f) Developments under the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change (NWP) including: the Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative, endorsed by the COP 20 Presidency; and the development of case studies in collaboration with the AC and the LEG and with contributions from relevant NWP partner organizations, including regional centres and networks, to highlight good practices and lessons learned for consideration at SBSTA 43 (November–December 2015).⁷

3. Proposed modalities based on the current status of consideration

6. The main responsibility of the AC in strengthening and enhancing coherence of the provision of support to developing countries for activities related to adaptation should focus on regularly surveying technical support provided, identifying gaps and needs and deriving appropriate modalities to facilitate the closure of such gaps.

7. In this regard, the technical support group may wish to suggest two types of modalities to the AC:

- a) Type 1. Modalities for obtaining information on technical support provided and deriving existing gaps;
- b) Type 2. Modalities for facilitating the closure of such gaps.

² <<http://unfccc.int/8467>>.

³ <http://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/cancun_adaptation_framework/adaptation_committee/application/pdf/5a_work_nap_tf_naps.pdf>.

⁴ AC/2014/21.

⁵ AC/2014/23.

⁶ <<http://unfccc.int/8199>>.

⁷ FCCC/SBSTA/2014/2.

8. Potential modalities under each of the two could include the following:
- a) Modalities for obtaining information on technical support provided and deriving existing gaps:
- a. Review of information: The AC to periodically review information available to identify trends on support made available to developing countries. This would be a similar exercise to the one that led to the creation of the working group, where information on trends is identified on what is working and what is not, e.g. through:
 - i. Working with focal points/ champions;
 - ii. Liaising and drawing on modalities of other UNFCCC constituted bodies for identifying and communicating gaps, needs, lessons learnt and practices:
 1. Nairobi work programme, including the Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative (which provides modalities for filling knowledge gaps associated with vulnerability and adaptation by identifying and prioritizing these gaps at the level of each of the world's subregions as well as at the thematic level e.g. different sectors and areas of vulnerabilities);
 2. TEC and CTCN (drawing on the requests for technical support and linking parties with relevant organizations);
 3. LEG (including on NAPs);
 4. SCF (in support of knowledge sharing and exchange on NAPs).
- b) Modalities for facilitating the closure of such gaps:
- a. Establish an ongoing review of support in the AC agenda and to make recommendations: The AC will take up the item once per [define period] and make strategic decisions, which may be linked to the bullet below;
 - b. Establish a partnership platform with regional centers: The AC in its current form cannot reach out to countries, but through establishing collaboration with regional centers we can channel our energy in a way that can be amplified;
 - c. Participate in advisory boards of relevant institutions or programmes, e.g. NAP GSP, CTCN;
 - d. Support coherence in online UNFCCC resource regarding adaptation, including NAP Central and NWP online resources;
 - e. Collaborate with other constituted bodies on existing (and if necessary new) modalities to facilitate information sharing to address needs identified by Parties through these entities and to guide planning, implementation and institutional set up for adaptation by Parties and organizations.

4. Next steps

9. In order to finalize and adopt the modalities at AC 8 the AC may wish to:
- a) Define the terms more clearly regarding the information it wishes to seek through the first set of modalities. In doing so, there should be clear linkage between technical support for formulation and implementation of NAPs and a paper can be developed on this;
 - b) Request the secretariat to do a compilation of technical support that is being provided to Parties on adaptation. This document can be discussed by the AC and gaps can be identified for further elaboration;
 - c) Understand better what other information can be reviewed in order to inform such recommendations as suggested under modalities type 2 above, as well as other ways to promote action in addition to making recommendations;
 - d) Define clearer terms for the establishment of the partnership platform, develop a proposal that will be interesting and useful to the AC, developing countries, as well as the regional centers.

10. In taking these steps the AC may wish to consider the outcomes of and/or take relevant action during:

- a) The discussion on its next workplan at AC7;
 - b) The workshop on means of implementation;
 - c) The Adaptation Forum;
 - d) The NAP workshop and NAP Expo;
 - e) Etc.
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