

Ninth meeting of the Adaptation Committee Bonn, Germany, 1-3 March 2016

Draft concept note for the 2016 Adaptation Forum

Recommended action by the Adaptation Committee

The Adaptation Committee (AC) will be invited to consider the draft concept note on its 2016 Adaptation Forum during the inter-sessional period, with a view to endorsing the finalized version at its ninth meeting.

1. Background

1. The Adaptation Committee (AC), at its eighth meeting, welcomed an offer from the Government of the Netherlands to host its next Adaptation Forum in the context of the 2016 Adaptation Futures conference, taking place in Rotterdam, the Netherlands from 10-13 May 2016. This agreement was included accordingly into the AC's revised workplan for the period 2016–2018.¹
2. Adaptation Futures is the biennial conference of the Global Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation (PROVIA).² The fourth Adaptation Futures conference is organized and co-hosted this year by the European Commission and the Government of the Netherlands. It targets scholars, practitioners, policymakers and business people from all regions and aims to serve as conference and market-place for practices and solutions, strengthening ties between science and practice, engaging communities of practice and building new partnerships as well as linking adaptation action to current development, investment, and planning.
3. Following input from the AC's task group for the organization of the Forum (Forum task group), the AC Co-Chairs requested AC members to consider proposals from the Forum task group and to suggest additional themes for the Adaptation Forum:
 - a) Community based adaptation (CBA) (How to link CBA with NAPs?);
 - b) The post-Paris adaptation landscape (What does the Paris Agreement mean for the adaptation community?);
 - c) The adaptation infrastructure (How to establish an appropriate infrastructure for country-driven adaptation measures in developing countries?).
4. Members then suggested that while all the above topics are important for the work of the AC, given the Paris outcome topic b) is currently the most relevant (see section 2 below).
5. The Co-Chairs of the AC and the lead of the Forum task group requested the secretariat to prepare, under their guidance and taking into account the Paris outcome, a draft concept note for consideration by the AC, with a view to advancing the preparations during the inter-sessional period and final endorsement at the ninth meeting of the AC.

¹ Contained in the annex to the report of the Adaptation Committee (FCCC/SB/2015/2).

² More information is available on <www.adaptationfutures2016.org>.

2. Theme and objectives

6. Both the temporal vicinity of the Adaptation Futures conference to the recent 2015 Climate Change conference in Paris, and the broad audience expected to attend, present an excellent opportunity for the AC to inform delegates and collect feedback on the adaptation-relevant outcomes from COP 21. The diversity of delegates has the potential to supply scientific and practical input useful for the AC's execution of its mandates. The suggested theme for the Adaptation Forum is therefore "Adaptation post 2015 Paris climate conference".
7. The Forum could hence have the following two objectives:
 - a) To inform conference delegates of the adaptation aspects of the Paris outcome; and
 - b) To receive input from the audience on tasks under the Paris outcome where the AC has a clear role.
8. Under objective a) above the AC will aim to ensure that first all of the adaptation-relevant elements of the Paris outcome are addressed. This includes not only the Paris Agreement but also its operationalizing decision 1/CP.21. It will then focus on areas of particular importance to the AC, which will be the link to seeking input from the audience (objective b)). Within the Paris outcome, the aspect of the "Global Stocktake" (Article 14) is of particular interest to the AC. The global stocktake will assess progress on mitigation, adaptation and support and give Parties relevant information for updating their efforts. Article 7 (Adaptation) details that the global stocktake shall, inter alia:
 - (a) Recognize adaptation efforts of developing country Parties;**
 - (b) Enhance the implementation of adaptation action taking into account the adaptation communication;
 - (c) Review the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support provided for adaptation; and**
 - (d) Review the overall progress made in achieving the global goal on adaptation referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article.³
9. While preparatory work for the global stocktake has been mandated to several bodies under the Convention, the AC and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) have been tasked with developing modalities/methodologies for two out of the four objectives of the adaptation stocktake, namely a) and c) above. Feedback from the audience of Adaptation Futures on these two topics would be useful and timely input to the immediate tasks of the AC.

3. Date and time

10. The organizers of the Adaptation Futures conference assigned the following time slot to the Adaptation Forum: Thursday, 12 May 2016, 13.45-15.30 (1 hr 45 min, followed by the closing plenary of the conference).

4. Format and outline

11. The format of the Adaptation Forum will be a plenary-style setting, in parallel with a number of smaller sessions.
12. The Forum could be organized as follows

³ Paris Agreement, Article 7, para. 14.

Adaptation Committee

18 February 2016
Agenda item 10 (a)

- 1 Welcome and introduction by the AC: Overview of adaptation-relevant provisions of the Paris Agreement and tasks for the AC⁴ (10 min)
- 2 Two overview presentations by presenters drawn from the conference participants, one on each of the following topics:
 - 2(a) What can be done to effectively and efficiently recognize the adaptation efforts that have been undertaken by developing countries? (7-10 min)
 - 2(b) What is needed to objectively review the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation actions and the support for adaptation in countries? (7-10 min)
- 3 Moderated discussion to receive input and share experiences on the above topics (60 min)
- 4 Reflections by the two overview presenters and wrap-up by the facilitator (10 min)
- 5 Closing by the Netherlands Minister for the Environment

13. To further focus the discussion, presenters and participants could be invited to provide information on existing ways of reporting and accounting for adaptation efforts. This could also include indicators, tools and methods they find useful to measure the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation action and support. This information would be helpful for the AC and the LEG when developing the modalities and methodologies as requested.

5. Target participants

14. All conference participants, in particular the science community and adaptation practitioners.

6. Support materials/outreach products

15. Hard copies of the AC's two recent publications by the will be made available as background information on AC: "Enhancing coherent action on adaptation 2012-2015" and "Navigating the landscape of support for the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans - 2015 Overview for developing countries".

7. Next steps and timeline

Concept note	AC to consider draft concept note	By 6 February
	AC to approve finalized concept note	At AC9, 1-3 March
Presenters	Secretariat to suggest delegates to be contacted for the two overview presentations	By 16 February
	AC to agree on presenters to be contacted	By 22 February
AC participation	AC members to express interest to attend Adaptation Forum	By 19 February
Logistics	Secretariat to ask further logistical information on Adaptation Futures conference from the organizers	Ongoing
	Secretariat to liaise with organizers on Forum logistics	Ongoing

⁴ The presentation should provide a comprehensive overview of all adaptation-related elements of the Paris Agreement and its operationalizing decision.