

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

**Concept note on the implementation of tasks for the Adaptation Committee
emanating from decision 1/CP.21**

Recommended action by the Adaptation Committee

The AC, at its ninth meeting, may wish to consider the information contained in this document, in particular the possible approach for addressing the tasks emanating from decision 1/CP.21 and agree on next steps.

1. Introduction

1. As part of decision 1/CP.21, the Adaptation Committee (AC) has been mandated to undertake a total of five tasks, either by itself, jointly with the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), and/or in collaboration with the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) and other relevant institutions, with a view to providing recommendations for consideration and adoption by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its first session (CMA 1) (see table 1).¹

Table 1: Tasks for the Adaptation Committee emanating from decision 1/CP.21

Tasks	Origin	Responsible
<i>Requests</i> the AC, taking into account its mandate and its second three-year workplan, and with a view to preparing recommendations for consideration and adoption by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its first session: (a) 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 their work, as appropriate, in order to respond adequately to the needs of Parties; <i>(Task 1)</i> (b) To consider methodologies for assessing adaptation needs with a view to assisting developing country Parties, without placing an undue burden on them. <i>(Task 2)</i>	1/CP.21, para. 42	AC
<i>Requests</i> 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 Agreement, and make recommendations for consideration and adoption by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its first session. <i>(Task 3)</i>	1/CP.21, para. 41	AC and LEG
<i>Requests</i> the AC and the LEG, in collaboration with the SCF and other relevant institutions, to develop methodologies, and make recommendations for consideration and adoption by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its first session on: (a) Taking the necessary steps to facilitate the mobilization of support for adaptation in developing countries in the	1/CP.21, para. 45	AC and LEG, in collaboration with the SCF and other relevant institutions

¹ Please note that the Adaptation Committee was also requested to conduct the technical examination process on adaptation (decision 1/CP.21, para 126). More detail is provided in AC/2016/3.

Tasks	Origin	Responsible
context of the limit to global average temperature increase referred to in Article 2 of the Agreement; <i>(Task 4)</i> (b) Reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support referred to in Article 7, paragraph 14(c), of the Agreement. <i>(Task 5)</i>		

2. This note seeks to provide background information on these five tasks (section 2) and to outline a possible approach through which the AC could address those tasks, including a common and joint approach for tasks, which are to be undertaken jointly by the AC and LEG (section 3). The note concludes with a number of possible next steps (section 4).

2. Background to the tasks for the Adaptation Committee²

3. Broadly, the Paris Agreement contains a number of provisions related to (a) global goals, (including a global goal on adaptation); (b) a global stocktake; (c) a transparency framework; and (d) individual efforts defined by Parties.

4. Each substantive area (mitigation, adaptation, means of implementation) has different provisions within these four elements. While the specificity of the relationship between these four elements is still to be defined for each area, generally such a relationship could be described as follows: Parties announce their individual efforts, including their actions and support (1), the transparency framework clarifies and tracks those efforts (2) and informs the global stocktake (3), which, in turn, assesses overall progress towards the global goals (4) and makes recommendations to Parties for updating their individual efforts (5) thus completing a cycle, which is to ultimately lead to an increase in the ambition of efforts (see figure 1).

Figure 1: Elements of the Paris Agreement



5. The adaptation-specific provisions can be described as follows below.

6. The **global goal on adaptation** is defined in Article 7, para.1 as follows: “[G]lobal goal on adaptation of enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change, with a view to contributing to sustainable development and ensuring adequate adaptation response in the context of the temperature goal referred to in Article 2.”³

7. Progress towards achieving the adaptation goal (along with other long-term goals of the Agreement) is to be assessed through the **global stocktake**, which will take place every 5 years

² Unless indicated otherwise, all references to Articles refer to the Paris Agreement, which is contained as an annex in decision 1/CP.21, and all references to paragraphs refer to decision 1/CP.21.

³ “Holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change” (Article 2, para. 1(a)).

starting in 2023 (Article 14). The AC, being the Convention's overall advisory body on adaptation, may be given a role, within its mandate and functions, in the overall process of achieving and reviewing progress on the global goal on adaptation (Article 7, para. 14 (d)).⁴

8. In addition to reviewing progress towards the adaptation goal, the stocktake shall also, *inter alia* (Article 7, para. 14 (a-c)):

- a) Recognize adaptation efforts of developing country Parties;
- b) Enhance the implementation of adaptation action taking into account the adaptation communication referred to in Article 7, para. 10;
- c) Review the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support provided for adaptation.

9. The Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA) will develop overall modalities for the stocktake (para. 101) and also identify inputs for the stocktake (para. 99). In order to operationalize the adaptation aspects of the stocktake, the AC and the LEG were requested by the COP to develop modalities/methodologies for the recognition of adaptation efforts and for the review of the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support (paras. 41 and 45(b)).

10. While the global stocktake assesses progress towards the global goals, the main function of the **transparency framework** is to clarify and track progress towards nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and adaptation actions and provide clarity on support provided and received (Article 13, paras. 5 and 6). For adaptation specifically, the transparency framework should provide for "clarity and tracking of progress towards [...] adaptation actions under Article 7" and the "support provided and received" for those actions. In addition, each Party should provide information related to impacts and adaptation under Article 7 at least on a biennial basis (Article 13.8).

11. Further work was launched in Paris to operationalize the transparency framework; in particular that the APA will develop modalities for the transparency framework by COP 24, which will forward them to CMA 1 for adoption (para. 91). In relation to adaptation, when developing the modalities, the APA should "consider [...] that Parties report information on adaptation action and planning including, if appropriate, their national adaptation plans" (para. 94 (c)).⁵

12. The transparency framework and the global stocktake will take into account the **individual efforts** of Parties communicated to the UNFCCC through various channels. Regarding adaptation, "each Party shall, as appropriate, engage in adaptation planning processes and the implementation of actions, including the development or enhancement of relevant plans, policies and/or contributions" (Article 7, para. 9). The Article further specifies that these may include implementation of adaptation actions, undertakings and/or efforts, the process to formulate and implement NAPs, assessments of impacts and vulnerability, monitoring and evaluation, as well as building resilience of socioeconomic and ecological systems.

13. The other tasks emanating from decision 1/CP.21 for the AC (considering methodologies for assessing adaptation needs and developing methodologies on taking the necessary steps to facilitate the mobilization of support for adaptation) can be seen as being aimed at supporting developing countries in undertaking their individual adaptation efforts.

14. There are also provisions outlining what Parties should communicate. Article 7, para.10 states that each Party should "submit and update periodically an adaptation communication" that may describe its "priorities, implementation and support needs and plans and actions". The communications can be submitted "as a component of or in conjunction with other communications or

⁴ The 2018 assessment of progress on NAPs, which is mandated to be undertaken by the SBI and supported through an expert meeting organized by the LEG in collaboration with the AC, could provide valuable insights into reviewing the global goal on adaptation. In particular assessing progress on achieving the NAP objectives, which are to reduce vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, by building adaptive capacity and resilience, and to facilitate the integration of climate change adaptation into relevant new and existing policies, programmes and activities, may be helpful in this regard.

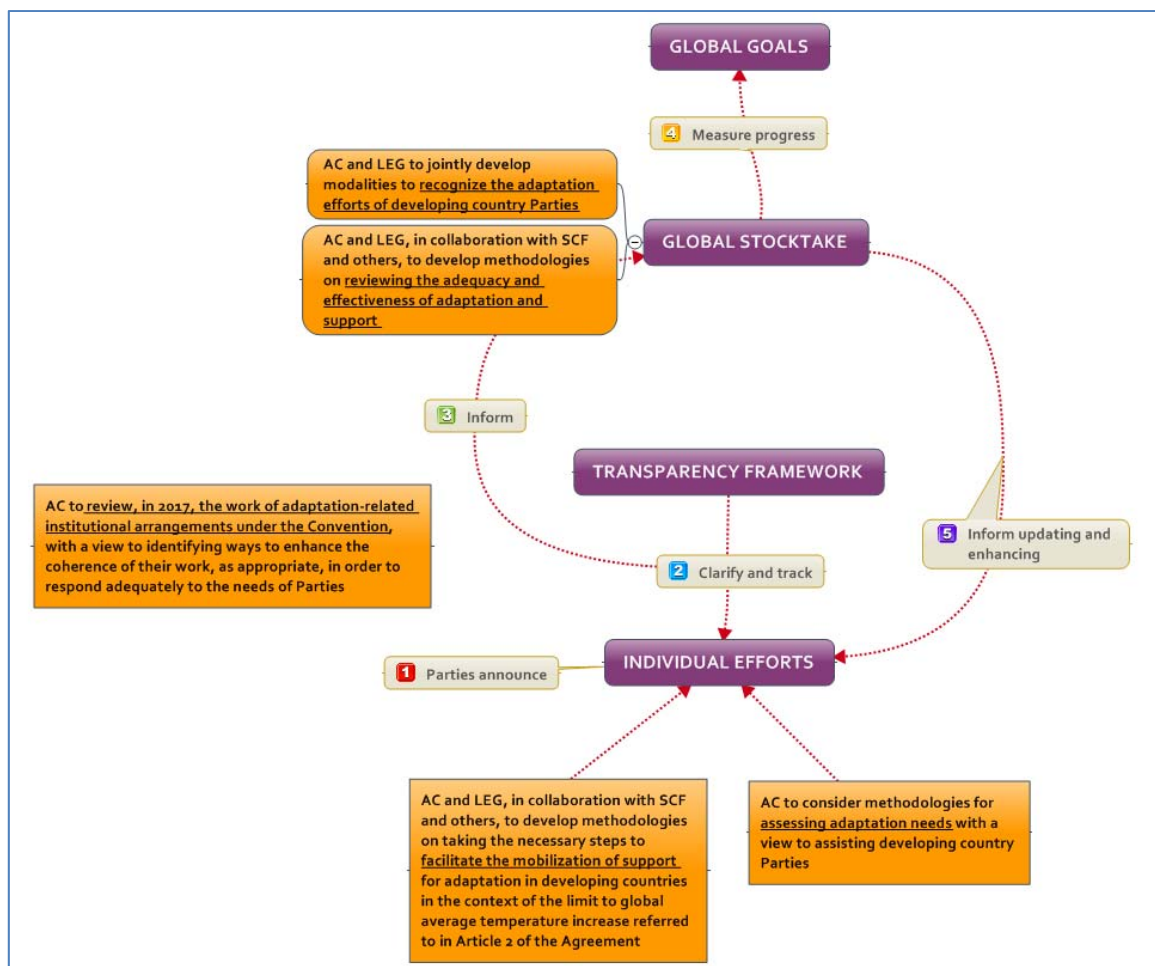
⁵ For the purpose of the stocktake, the COP has, in para. 99 (a) (ii), already identified two types of adaptation specific inputs: adaptation communications of Parties (Article 7, paras. 10 and 11) and reports on impacts and adaptation (Article 13, para. 8). The relationship between these two inputs is unclear, the AC and the LEG may wish to monitor relevant developments under the APA when working on modalities for the stocktake with a view to informing the COP on issues of duplication and undue reporting burdens on Parties. In terms of the APA developing modalities for the transparency framework, including as they relate to reporting on adaptation, the AC and the LEG may wish to highlight the need for ensuring coherence and consistency in the various reporting channels and highlight the work of the SBI on reporting on NAPs at SBI 44.

documents, including a NAP, a NDC as referred to in Article 4, para. 2, and/or a national communication" (Article 7, para. 11).

15. Finally, the request to the AC of reviewing, in 2017, the work of adaptation-related institutional arrangements under the Convention, with a view to identifying ways to enhance the coherence of their work (para. 42 (a)), can be seen as an opportunity for reviewing the different adaptation-related institutional arrangements and how they can coherently support the different components of the Paris agreement to ultimately respond to the needs of Parties.

16. Figure 2 provides an overview of tasks for the AC emanating from decision 1/CP.21 and how they relate to elements of the Paris Agreement.

Figure 2: AC tasks in relation to elements of the Paris Agreement



3. Possible approach for addressing the tasks

17. In approaching the five tasks, including considering timelines and sequencing, ongoing processes and work of other bodies under the Convention, including in support of the Paris Agreement, could provide valuable input, such as:

- Relevant information communicated by Parties, including through national communications, national adaptation programmes of action, NAPs, and intended NDCs (INDCs);
- Relevant activities of the AC, LEG, SCF, TEC and the new Paris Committee on Capacity-building, as appropriate;
- The 2018 assessment of the process to formulate and implement NAPs;
- The technology needs assessments;
- The development of modalities for the periodic assessment of the effectiveness and adequacy of the technology support, to be initiated at SBI 44;

- f) The process for the identification of information to be provided by Parties on the provision of finance (ex-ante info), by the COP;
- g) The development of modalities for ex-post information on support provided and received by the APA and the SBSTA;
- h) The 2016 and 2018 Biennial Assessment and Overview of Climate Finance Flows as conducted by the SCF;
- i) The 2017 Review of the Financial Mechanism and the annual guidance to the operating entities to the Financial Mechanisms;
- j) The review of the capacity-building framework.

Working jointly with the LEG

18. Given that three of the five tasks are to be addressed jointly by the AC and the LEG, the two bodies may wish to address them in a coherent and efficient way. As a start, the AC may wish to:

- a) Discuss the tasks to develop an understanding of what outputs are expected by the CMA 1;
- b) Propose a joint meeting between the AC and LEG in the near future, possibly the May SB sessions, to discuss timelines and steps towards joint outputs
- c) Consider requesting the secretariat to prepare a background paper on the joint tasks, including considering possible elements, such as possible timelines of activities, sequencing, engagement of stakeholders, ways of soliciting inputs etc., for the joint meeting in May.

19. At the meeting in May, the bodies may:

- a) Develop indicative steps/milestones in addressing the three tasks, including considering possible sequencing;
- b) Identify relevant inputs for each of the three tasks;
- c) Agree on ways of collaborating with the SCF and other relevant institutions, including the Technology Executive Committee and operating entities of the financial mechanism;
- d) Identify additional stakeholders to be engaged in the three tasks;
- e) Identify modalities for gathering stakeholder inputs such as through calls for submissions, or organizing technical expert meetings;
- f) Decide on concrete steps to address the mandates, outputs/outcomes and timelines (including supporting inputs from the secretariat).

4. Next steps

20. The AC may wish to:

- a) Discuss the five tasks to develop an understanding of what outputs are expected by CMA 1;
- b) Designate AC members, including a lead, to work intersessionally, with the support of the secretariat, on those tasks that are exclusively directed at the AC, including to identify a timeframe for addressing these tasks, possible inputs, stakeholders to be engaged and through what means and to prepare a progress report for consideration by AC10;
- c) Agree on a joint meeting AC and LEG members in the near future, possibly the May SB sessions, to discuss timelines and steps towards joint outputs and to reach out to the LEG accordingly;
- d) Consider requesting the secretariat to prepare a background paper, including considering possible elements, such as possible timelines of activities, sequencing, engagement of stakeholders, ways of soliciting inputs etc., for a possible joint meeting in May;
- e) Following the joint AC-LEG meeting, designate AC members, including a lead, to work with the LEG on the joint tasks;
- f) Consider a process for reaching out to the SCF and other relevant institutions;
- g) Take stock of the above, during AC10.