

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

Concept note

Side event to be conducted by the Adaptation Committee during the 44th sessions of the subsidiary bodies

Recommended action by the Adaptation Committee

The Adaptation Committee (AC), at its 9th meeting, will be invited to consider the information contained in this concept note and agree on possible next steps as noted under section VII below.

1. Background 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. The AC agreed to dedicate one of its work streams to technical support and guidance to the Parties and has, throughout its initial three years of work, considered collaboration with national, regional and international organizations, centres and networks under this workstream.
3. Past work in this respect included:
 - a) The establishment of an AC ad-hoc group on technical support;¹
 - b) A regional assessment (synthesis² and analysis³) of support for adaptation action provided by regional institutions and UN agencies, including gaps, needs and opportunities, based on a respective call for submissions;
 - c) A special event conducted during the 40th sessions of the subsidiary bodies and a report thereon.⁴
4. The ad-hoc group on technical support proposed two types of modalities to strategically strengthen and enhance the coherence of the provision of support to developing countries for activities related to adaptation,⁵ which the AC, at its 8th meeting, agreed to reflect in the elaboration of its next workplan. Type 1 are modalities for obtaining information on technical support provided and deriving existing gaps; and type 2 are modalities for facilitating the closure of such gaps. A specific type 2 modality proposed was the establishment of a partnership platform with regional centres.

¹ AC/2014/6.

² AC/2014/7.

³ AC/2014/22.

⁴ AC/2014/23.

⁵ AC/2015/5.

5. In follow-up, the AC included in its workplan for 2016-2018⁶ several activities related to a partnership platform with national, regional and international organizations, centres and networks. The first of these activities was to consult, including through a side event at the 44th sessions of the subsidiary bodies and through targeted outreach, with national, regional and international organizations, centres and networks on collaboration in the area of provision of technical support, building on work completed through the regional assessment performed under the first workplan, and drawing on all workstreams of the work of the AC.

6. The side event discussed in this note could be one element of the above-mentioned consultations, with further targeted outreach carried out at upcoming relevant events, such as the next NAP Expo.

7. 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, ensuring regional balance (2nd half of 2016). Following that, the workplan foresees the launch of a partnership platform with national, regional and international organizations, centres and networks in 2017. Building on the partnership platform, the AC envisages, in 2018, considering 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. Objectives and scope

8. As outlined in section I above, the side event is to build on findings from previous work on the provision of technical support to the Parties, and feed into the AC's discussion on establishing a partnership platform in this context.

9. Previous work had a substantive focus on the nine areas of support identified in paragraph 14 of the Cancun Adaptation Framework,⁷ as well as looking at geographical location, sectors covered, beneficiaries and participants and good practices and lessons learned in the provision of technical support on adaptation.

10. To complement this, the objective of the forthcoming side event could be to invite information on the technical/organizational aspect (the "how")⁸ of establishing a partnership platform, including good practices and lessons learned, to successfully facilitate the provision of technical support to the Parties. This would include assessing support for the concept of a partnership platform and defining the steps needed to establish such a platform.

11. Representatives of a variety of national, regional and international centres and networks could be invited to showcase their respective modalities of work, be it in providing technical support on adaptation, or even in a more general way. This could include:

- a) Which modalities are used and could be used to channel requests for technical support from the country/ies to the centre/network, and how is the response fed back?
- b) Which modalities are used to provide technical support (training, online databases, etc.) and which of these modalities have been effective (e.g. from regional/sectoral perspectives)?
- c) How is collaboration with other institutions (national, regional and international) formalized (MoUs, pledges, etc.)?
- d) Which gaps exist in existing partnerships/networks and how can a new partnership platform add value (South-South collaboration, etc.)?

⁶ FCCC/SB/2015/2, annex.

⁷ AC/2014/23.

⁷ Decision 1/CP.16.

⁸ Note that previous work focused on the "what", whereas the "how" has not yet been discussed.

- e) What could an AC partnership platform with national, regional and international organizations, centres and networks look like and what functionalities could the platform deliver?
- f) What are the incentives to participate in a new partnership for national, regional and international organizations?

3. Invitees

12. Representatives of a regionally balanced variety of national, regional and international centres and networks could be invited to the meeting to ensure a rich discussion. This could include the centres and organizations that have engaged in the work of the AC and the LEG in various forms, including those contained in the list of regional centres the AC made available on the web,⁹ partners of the Nairobi work programme (NWP) and other organizations who have responded to the NWP's current call for submissions on knowledge sharing modalities from regional centres and networks and global institutions with regional presence.¹⁰
13. Representatives of the LEG, the NWP and the ExCom should also be invited to contribute to the discussion.

4. Speakers

14. A limited number of speakers could be invited to showcase relevant work undertaken by their respective centre and network, answering the questions listed under section II above. In this, it would be useful to select centres and networks operating with different modalities of engagement and support, for example representatives of:

- a) The Climate Technology Centre and Network as a good example of a mechanism to provide technical support under the Convention;
- b) The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to showcase:
 - i. A network of regional networks, such as USAID's Adapt Asia Pacific, or the Global Adaptation Network (GAN) and its Asia-Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN);
 - ii. The Global Support Programmes on NAPs (NAP GSPs);
- c) Regional inter-governmental organizations, such as the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) or the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP);
- d) The NWP as an example of an international mechanism under the Convention to build partnerships and facilitate and catalyze the development and dissemination of information and knowledge;
- e) A centre showcasing South-South collaboration, such as the International Ecosystem Management Partnership (IEMP);
- f) The United Nations University to showcase an example of an international research experts network.

5. Date and time

15. The side event will take place on Tuesday, 17 May, from 13.15 to 14.45.

6. Format

16. The side event could be structured in three parts:

⁹ <unfccc.int/8199>.

¹⁰ For details see [FCCC/SBSTA/2014/2](#), paras. 18 and 25.

- a) Framing the event: An overview of previous AC work on technical support and introduce the proposal of establishing a partnership platform;
- b) 3-4 speakers representing centres/networks using different modalities of collaboration as suggested in section II above could showcase their mode of work ;
- c) A facilitated discussion to collect input for the AC to answer selected questions from section II above.

7. **Next steps**

17. The AC may wish to:

- a) Exchange ideas on what a partnership platform could look like, and what it aims to achieve;
 - b) Discuss the concept note and provide guidance to the secretariat on next steps in the organization of the event;
 - c) Identify an AC member to champion the partnership platform idea and lead further work on this;
 - d) Agree on other forms of targeted outreach to obtain information from the potential user side, for example a questionnaire to NWP partners and/or a survey to be conducted at the NAP Expo;
 - e) Use the information gathered from previous work, the side event and other targeted outreach, as appropriate, to initiate discussions on the terms of reference of the partnership platform;
 - f) Consider formalizing collaboration with the NWP in the context of the partnership platform;
 - g) Take stock the above during AC10.
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