

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

Background note on a workplan of the Adaptation Committee's task force on National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)

Recommended action by the Adaptation Committee

The Adaptation Committee (AC), at its ninth meeting, may wish to consider the background note prepared for this meeting, including possible new tasks of the NAP TF, and agree on next steps.

1. Introduction

1. The 2016-2018 workplan of the Adaptation Committee (AC) foresees the NAP TF to develop a new workplan during the first half of 2016, based on and contributing to the AC workplan. This background note first provides an overview of the NAP TF and its deliverables so far before elaborating on potential new tasks and possibly revising its objectives and composition. The note concludes with possible next steps the AC may wish to take.

2. Overview of the NAP Task Force

2. The NAP TF was established at the fourth meeting of the AC (September 2013) with the aim of further supporting developing countries in the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans (NAPs) and its establishment was welcomed by the COP at its nineteenth session ([decision 16/CP.19](#)) (November 2013). The terms of reference (TORs) of the task force define its objective, composition and engagement with others

3. The NAP TF's objectives are as follows:¹

- a) To serve as the panel within the AC that continuously looks at issues related to NAPs;
- b) To liaise with the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), upon request, in support of its work with regard to NAPs in the least developed countries (LDCs), ensuring consistence and complementarity of mandates;
- c) To identify opportunities in which activities can also be employed by non-LDCs;
- d) To follow up on the operationalization modalities identified for the support of non-LDCs' NAPs under the guidance of the Co-Chairs² of the AC;
- e) To report to the AC at each of its meeting and via e-mail intersessionally, as necessary on issues identified and proposed activities to support the NAP process for all eligible developing countries.

4. The task force' [workplan for the period 2014-2015](#) took into account the activities in the AC's workplan and the modalities and activities identified through the AC's work in 2013, and was adopted by the AC in May 2014 and published³ as a *living document*. As a result of some of the activities, additional activities to be undertaken by the NAP TF and areas for collaboration were identified.

5. The NAP TF is composed of five AC members and one member each of the LEG, the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF), the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) and the Board of the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

6. In addition, the ToRs also envisaged the active engagement of external members and experts to support the work of the task force, including representatives of United Nations agencies, research and

¹ See also the NAP TF ToRs, contained in document FCCC/SB/2013/2.

² Note that the original ToRs still refer to Chair and Vice-Chair.

³ See <unfccc.int/8858>.

training institutions, regional centres and civil society, as well as other stakeholders, according to the specific needs that the task force is trying to address.

3. Summary of activities undertaken by the NAP Task Force

7. The task force's workplan referred to in paragraph 3 above included the following two types of activities, which were also re-prioritized at the 7th meeting of the AC:

- a) Activities led by the NAP TF, which have not been included in the broader workplan of the AC, the LEG or other constituted bodies;
- b) Activities led by the AC, LEG or other constituted bodies, to which the NAP TF wished to contribute in an effort to enhance overall coherence on issues related to NAPs.

8. Activities led by the NAP TF include:

- a) The NAP TF engaged Parties, relevant multi- and bilateral organizations and NGOs on a regular basis at its meetings and/or at the AC, AC/LEG meetings or workshops.⁴ It also engaged them by contributing to monitoring efforts under the SBI through summaries of reports/submissions received by the AC; by summarizing of major gaps, needs and lessons learned; by providing recommendations for consideration by the AC for inclusion in its annual report to the COP on ways to further enhance the NAP process, including solutions to obstacles faced by countries, and recommendations to relevant organizations and agencies on ways to enhance support. Here, it is worth to highlight that the task force shared updates from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), UNDP's and UNEP's NAP-Global Support Programme (GSP) and other multi- and bilateral agencies and funds on financial and technical support provided and had technical exchanges with the GEF Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel (GEF STAP), the Global Programme of Research on Climate Change Vulnerability, Impacts and Adaptation (PROVIA), the United Nations University (UNU) and others;
- b) The task force organized a two-day meeting between NAP TF members and representatives from UN agencies, relevant multilateral and bilateral organizations and NGOs supporting the NAP process,⁵ at which the NAP TF presented a short background paper.⁶ This meeting helped to identify strategic efforts to address gaps and needs encountered by developing countries when undertaking the NAP process;
- c) Taking into account results from a) and b) above and additional input on long-term adaptation planning aspects, the secretariat is currently developing a technical paper on long-term adaptation for the review and finalization of the NAP TF;⁷
- d) In addition to the existing language version of the technical guidelines for the NAP process (English, French and Portuguese), the task force suggested to develop Spanish and Arabic language versions. The Spanish language version is available⁸ and the Arabic one is currently under development;
- e) Finally, the NAP TF developed a publication highlighting the state of play of available support for the process to formulate and implement NAPs. The publication focuses on institutions and agencies providing financial, technical and institutional capacity-building and technological support, as well as those offering knowledge hubs and platforms.⁹

9. In terms of activities to which the NAP TF contributed:

- a) It provided NAP-specific input to the AC workshop on means of implementation,¹⁰ including provision of inputs to the relevant scoping and synthesis paper¹¹ and inputs to the document on information, key issues and recommendations on the means of implementation for

⁴ See <unfccc.int/8903>.

⁵ See document: AC/2015/3.

⁶ See <http://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/groups_committees/adaptation_committee/application/pdf/20140926_background_paper.pdf>.

⁷ A scoping note can be found in document AC/2015/11.

⁸ See <http://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/application/pdf/21209_unfccc_nap_es_lr_v1.pdf>.

⁹ The publication "Navigating the landscape of support for the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans - 2015 Overview for developing countries" is available at <http://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/application/pdf/nap_highres.pdf>.

¹⁰ See <unfccc.int/8860>.

¹¹ See document AC/2015/9.

enhanced adaptation action,¹² based on regular dialogue and exchange of information with relevant constituted bodies, including the LEG, SCF and TEC/CTCN, and operating entities of the financial mechanisms, including the GEF, the Adaptation Fund and the GCF;

- b) It contributed to the organization of, and participated in, the NAP Expos in August 2014¹³ and April 2015 in Bonn, as well as the workshop on experiences, good practices, lessons learned, gaps and needs on the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans, which also took place in Bonn in April 2015;¹⁴
- c) The task force contributed to ongoing work on monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of NAPs by the AC and the LEG;
- d) It provided input for the development and maintenance of *NAP Central*,¹⁵ so as to enable non-LDCs to access and benefit from information provided;
- e) Finally, the task force participated in regional training workshops organized by the LEG and was invited to join the technical advisory group of the NAP-GSP for non-LDCs.

10. While the NAP TF accomplished a lot, it is worth noting that the workload was not evenly distributed among TF members, and that the members from other constituted bodies had limited involvement. If the AC decides to extend the mandate of the TF, it may wish to consider how to address some of these shortcomings.

11. Additionally, it is important to ensure that the activities of the NAP TF be visible and clear as part of the overall work of the AC. The separation between the AC workplan and the NAP TF workplan in the past has at times created confusion as to whether the AC was doing any work related to NAPs.

4. Extending the NAP TF: possible tasks, objectives and composition

12. The 2016-2018 AC workplan foresees the NAP TF to develop a new workplan during the first half of 2016 based on, and contributing to, the AC workplan. The AC may wish to consider asking the NAP TF to lead, or contribute to, the following tasks contained in the AC workplan:

- a) Workstream A - Technical support and guidance to the Parties on adaptation action: Finalize the paper on long-term adaptation planning and follow-up work on M&E;
- b) Workstream B - Technical support and guidance to the Parties on means of implementation:
 - i. Provide guidance on ways to enhance support, including finance, technology and capacity-building, in particular related to access, institutional arrangements and enabling environments, including for the process to formulate and implement NAPs;
 - ii. Collaborate with the GEF, the GCF, the Adaptation Fund, United Nations agencies, relevant multilateral and bilateral organizations and NGOs supporting the process to formulate and implement NAPs to enhance communication, awareness, coordination and complementarity of donors and funds;
 - iii. Develop an information paper, in collaboration with the LEG, the SCF and the GCF, on experiences of countries in accessing the GCF readiness programme in supporting adaptation, including for the process to formulate and implement NAPs;
 - iv. Convene a meeting to foster greater contribution of the private sector to the process to formulate and implement NAPs, including examples of private sector involvement to date in NAPs.

13. In addition, COP 21 agreed on a number of NAP related requests that the Task Force could address for the AC, including:

- a) The TEC, in collaboration with the CTCN, the AC and the LEG, to consider how it can help Parties align their technology needs assessments with the process to formulate and implement NAPs;

¹² See document AC/2015/14.

¹³ See <unfccc.int/8425>.

¹⁴ See <unfccc.int/8903>.

¹⁵ See <<http://www4.unfccc.int/nap/Pages/Home.aspx>>.

- b) The LEG and the AC to consider how they can provide more information on accessing funding from the GCF for the process to formulate and implement NAPs and to include such information, as appropriate, in their reports;
- c) The LEG, in collaboration with the AC, to organize a meeting of Party experts in spring 2018 with a view to providing a summary of progress made in the process to formulate and implement NAPs and to prepare a meeting report for consideration by SBI 48 in its assessment of progress made in the process to formulate and implement NAPs.

14. Given the focus on support for NAPs, the AC may wish to revisit the TORs of the NAP TF, including its objectives and composition. Other financial and support entities, including the GCF secretariat, the GEF, the Adaptation Fund and the NAP GSPs have actively contributed to the work of the NAP TF in the past, the AC may thus wish to consider reflecting this engagement in a revised composition.

5. Next steps

15. The AC may wish to:

- a) Consider the modus operandi of the NAP TF;
- b) Agree on a lead and other AC members for the NAP TF;
- c) Agree to request the AC Co-Chairs to engage in a process to confirm the non-AC members of the NAP TF;
- d) Agree to request the NAP TF to intersessionally:
 - i. Elaborate a draft workplan for 2016-2018, taking into account the information contained in this document and related discussions at AC9, for consideration by the AC by May 2016;
 - ii. Consider the revision of the ToRs of the NAP TF, including its objectives and extending the membership, for consideration by the AC by May 2016;
 - iii. Organize a meeting of the NAP TF at the margins of the 2016 NAP Expo (July 2016) and to report on its outcome at AC10.
