



Mr. Tosi Mpanu Mpanu
Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific
and Technological Advice (SBSTA)

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Reference: AC/NWP/2020/1
Direct line: +49 228 815-1630

**Advice to the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability
and adaptation to climate change**

Dear Mr. Mpanu Mpanu,

The Adaptation Committee (AC) held its 17th meeting from 24-27 March 2020 and subsequently considered further advice to the Nairobi work programme (NWP), as mandated by the SBSTA. We are pleased to update you on the outcome of these considerations.

You may recall that in response to the invitation from the SBSTA,¹ the AC, at its 15th meeting, deliberated on the delivery of NWP mandates that relate to the work programmes of constituted bodies, and on opportunities to align its activities with relevant bodies, workstreams and institutional arrangements. The resulting advice was then communicated to the Chair of the SBSTA and included in the NWP's annual report of 2019.²

At its 50th session, the SBSTA welcomed the advice provided by the AC and requested the secretariat to implement it. The SBSTA also requested the secretariat to collaborate with NWP partner organizations in contributing to the work mandated to the AC by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement as well as to the adaptation knowledge related activities set out in the AC's three-year workplan for 2019 to 2021,³ including:

- (a) Developing and updating an inventory of methodologies for assessing adaptation needs;
- (b) Sharing experience and lessons learned from developing and implementing monitoring and evaluation systems.

The SBSTA invited the AC to consider, as appropriate, the work of the NWP when implementing its mandates related to the adaptation communication and the global stocktake.⁴

In addition, the AC at its 15th meeting invited regular updates, as appropriate, on knowledge and information support provided by NWP partners to support the work of the AC, as well as on the most recent findings resulting from activities undertaken under the Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative (LAKI).

An electronic update⁵ was circulated to AC members prior to AC17, which included key points from the outcomes of a survey on the accessibility, applicability and clarity of NWP knowledge products,

¹ [FCCC/SBSTA/2018/4](#), para. 19.

² <https://unfccc.int/documents/196303>

³ <https://unfccc.int/documents/218221>

⁴ [FCCC/SBSTA/2019/2](#), paragraphs 22-24.

⁵ <https://unfccc.int/documents/210543>



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including the Adaptation Knowledge Portal and most recent findings resulting from activities undertaken under LAKI.

Based on this update, the AC agreed to communicate the following advice, presented in the annex to this letter, to you in your capacity as the Chair of the SBSTA.

We trust that you find this advice useful and look forward to the continuing supply of technical knowledge from NWP partner organizations to the AC and other constituted bodies to further advance their work on adaptation under the UNFCCC.

Sincerely,

(signed by)

Cecilia da Silva Bernardo and Alessandra Sgobbi,
Co-Chairs
Adaptation Committee

CC:
Wanna Tanunчайwatana, UNFCCC SBSTA Coordinator
Hanna Hoffmann, UNFCCC SBSTA Focal Point



Annex: Advice to the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change (NWP)

Sharing of information with a global network of partners

The Adaptation Committee (AC) noted the secretariat's ongoing work of sharing information through its communication channels (eUpdates, Adaptation Knowledge Portal (AKP)), social media and direct email communication with NWP partners. Relevant work and engagement opportunities, including the engagement in the Technical Examination Process on Adaptation, should continue to be communicated to and from the NWP partners.

The AC looks forward to seeing the dedicated page on the AKP to provide up-to-date information on such engagement opportunities with relevant constituted bodies and institutional arrangements under the Convention.

Strengthening partnerships to close adaptation knowledge gaps, including at the subregional level

In the context of the Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative,⁶ strengthened partnerships and new partnerships with academic institutions, regional partners and networks are in place to help address the priority knowledge gaps in various subregions of the world based in a demand-driven process. The outcomes will constitute knowledge outputs for specific knowledge users in each of these subregions.⁷

The AC invites the secretariat to explore whether these partnerships can also be engaged in other contexts, and whether engagement could be further expanded to other organizations.⁸ In this context, the AC invites the secretariat to explore strategic partnerships with regional networks so that NWP work can be disseminated as part of their activities.⁹

The AC further invites the secretariat to explore how such partnerships could be replicated with other academic institutions and partners ensuring balanced geographical coverage, as processes for the terms of engagement for such institutions in the South may differ from those in the North.

Deepening the understanding among Parties and stakeholders about adaptation themes and convene partnerships to design collaborative actions, such as on oceans in 2019 and on biodiversity in 2020.

In 2019, the secretariat, through a successful collaboration with a specialized group of experts on oceans, co-produced a scoping paper on existing knowledge and knowledge gaps; co-organized an expert meeting to refine the knowledge gaps and design collaborative actions; and co-organized the 13th NWP Focal Point Forum on the thematic area of oceans, coastal areas and ecosystems at COP 25. Collaboration with the oceans expert group to close existing adaptation knowledge gaps is still ongoing and the 2020 work on biodiversity has begun.

⁶ <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWPStaging/Pages/laki.aspx>

⁷ So far partnerships have been established with Yale University and IUCN in the context of Andean subregion; Harvard University and ICIMOD in the context of Hindu Kush Himalayan subregion; the University of Michigan collaboration in Indian Ocean Island countries as well as South African subregion; and with WGEO as a Regional Climate Centre in Dubai in MENA and North African subregions.

⁸ For example, with the [LDC University Consortium on Climate Change](#).

⁹ For example, the Red Iberoamericana de Oficinas de Cambio Climático (RIOCC) for Latin America, which is already a NWP partner, and which brings together the region's climate change bureaus.



The AC welcomes these partnerships and work with specialized groups of experts. It invites the secretariat to include in its update to AC 18 information on the process for identification of experts in its specialized groups of experts, and how the NWP engaged with the IPCC regarding the *Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate* in the thematic work on oceans. It also recommends engaging the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in the expert group on biodiversity.

Relevance, accessibility and utilization of adaptation knowledge: Findings of an NWP survey

The NWP secretariat undertook a survey to seek feedback on the relevance, accessibility and utilization of NWP knowledge products, including the AKP, between November 2019 and February 2020. The purpose of the survey was to seek insights from UNFCCC national focal points, NWP partners and other users of the NWP products to improve NWP knowledge products and identify collaborative opportunities.

The secretariat included preliminary outcomes in its update to AC 17. A short report is being finalized and key findings will also be shared through the NWP's annual report.

The AC considered the preliminary outcomes of the survey as reported to AC 17 and is looking forward to seeing the full report. It notes with concern the relatively low response rate and recommends the secretariat to explore ways to increase the visibility of the NWP's work overall. It also recommends dedicating a short session of the next NWP Focal Point Forum to presenting the results of the survey and planned improvements of the website. The session may also include seeking feedback on the reasons for the low response rate, and possibly result in the design of another survey. The AC also recommends encouraging national focal points' participation in these interactions, or to identify technical counterparts at the national level.

Supporting the work mandated to the AC by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA)¹⁰ and the AC's 2019-2021 workplan

Developing and updating an inventory of methodologies for assessing adaptation needs

Further to the overall SBSTA 50 guidance on NWP support to the inventory, the AC considered the engagement of the NWP on this in the context of its AC 17 agenda item 6(c) Methodologies for assessing adaptation needs. This pertains in particular to the integration of the inventory in the AKP, and the AC invited the secretariat to prepare a pilot inventory by June 2020.

The AC invites the secretariat teams supporting the AC and the NWP to jointly analyse the submissions associated with paragraph 16 of decision 11/CMA.1 (due by February 2021). In this context it invites the NWP and Paris Committee on Capacity-building to recall paragraphs 18 and 20 of decision 11/CMA.1 with regard to addressing the applicability of existing methodologies.

Mandates relating to the adaptation communication and the global stocktake

SBSTA 50 invited the AC to consider, as appropriate, the work of the NWP when implementing its mandates related to the adaptation communication and the global stocktake.

The AC has not yet agreed on specific advice on the design and delivery of NWP work and priorities in 2020 that are relevant for the adaptation communication and the global stocktake (e.g. in the context of the LAKI, and the thematic areas of biodiversity, oceans and ecosystems).

¹⁰ See AC document AC/2019/2, available at <https://unfccc.int/node/193710>.



With regard to water, the AC invites the NWP to partner with Alliance4water, GIZ and other relevant organizations, including to identify adaptation-relevant elements on water from relevant documents, including National Adaptation Plans and the Nationally Determined Contributions.

The AC, noting the wealth of information that the NWP has developed since its creation, invites the secretariat to align, to the extent possible, this information to be useful for the sources of information identified in decision 19/CMA.1 for the process of the GST.

Contributing to the overall coherence of adaptation-related institutional arrangements under the Convention

The NWP helps advance knowledge and understanding related to impacts, vulnerability and adaptation among Parties, constituted bodies and work programmes, as well as across a wide range of stakeholders and institutions outside the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement that engage in adaptation-relevant activities. NWP institutional arrangements, knowledge and understanding can be instrumental for the creation of an integrated approach to impacts, vulnerability adaptation across the Convention and the Paris Agreement, moving away from separate work programmes.

In this context, the AC invites the secretariat to share with relevant constituted bodies lessons learned in implementing the NWP, with a view to facilitate coherence across adaptation-relevant work and promoting the uptake of successful approaches. This could include sharing key information on operating institutional arrangements, such as working scope, main targets, operation modality, and the practical steps undertaken to establish effective partnerships, as a contribution from the NWP to other relevant constituted bodies to consider, as appropriate, and as deemed useful in the implementation of their workplans.

Sharing experience and lessons learned from developing and implementing monitoring and evaluation systems

The AC agreed that it would be valuable for NWP contributions to planned and ongoing AC work on this matter to take into account a range of scales, including local, national, and regional.

NWP priority work areas

SBSTA 50 requested the secretariat to prioritize the following NWP thematic areas mandated at SBSTA 48, in collaboration with relevant constituted bodies and work programmes, and within their respective mandates:

- Extreme weather events such as heatwaves, flash floods, sand and dust storms, cyclones and heavy precipitation;
- Drought, water scarcity and land degradation neutrality;
- Forests and grassland;
- Oceans, coastal areas and ecosystems, including mega deltas, coral reefs and mangroves;
- Agriculture and food security.

Regarding extreme weather events, the AC recommends the NWP to analyse relevant work undertaken by the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage, including events, reports, databases and methods and tools, with a view to identifying key topics for further work.



Regarding land degradation neutrality, the AC noted that while land degradation neutrality is a concept employed by UNCCD and others, it recommends a broader and less constraining framing of “land degradation”.

On forest and grassland, the AC recommends taking into account the work under REDD plus. On agriculture and food security, the AC recommends linking to the Koronivia joint work on agriculture and the recent workshop on adaptation in the agriculture sector.

The AC is looking forward to the NWP’s report to AC 18 on key topics identified for further consideration on each of the five priority work areas. This will enable the AC to consider priority topics for further work, including for the thematic focus for the 15th Focal Point Forum to be held in conjunction with SBSTA 55.
