



Michał Kurtyka
COP 24 President

Date: 1 November 2019
Reference: OP/AM/IL
Direct line: +49 228 815-1117

Carolina Schmidt-Zaldivar
COP 25 President-Designate

COP 25 stocktake on pre-2020 implementation and ambition

Input by the Adaptation Committee

Dear Mr. Kurtyka, Dear Ms. Schmidt-Zaldivar,

On behalf of the Adaptation Committee (AC), we would like to thank you for seeking the inputs of the AC concerning the stocktake on pre-2020 implementation and ambition to be convened at the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties in Madrid, Spain, in December 2019.

At its 16th meeting, held from 9-12 September 2019, the AC agreed to submit reflections on the Technical Examination Process on Adaptation (TEP-A) for the years 2016-2019 to the COP 25 stocktake on pre-2020 implementation and ambition. The input is contained in the enclosure to this letter.

We would like to assure you of our fullest cooperation and commitment to work closely with the COP presidencies, and with other relevant bodies under the Convention, as well as organizations and stakeholders, in achieving the objectives of the Convention and the Paris Agreement.

Yours sincerely,

Pilar Bueno and Marianne Karlsen

Co-Chairs
Adaptation Committee

Enclosure: Input by the Adaptation Committee to the COP 25 stocktake on pre-2020 implementation and ambition

Input by the Adaptation Committee on the work related to pre-2020 ambition and implementation

I. Background

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), by its decision 1/CP.24, reiterated its decision taken at COP 23 to convene a stocktake on pre-2020 implementation and ambition at COP 25. Further, the COP decided to consider, inter alia, the inputs of the constituted bodies under the Convention and the Kyoto Protocol.
2. The Co-chairs of the Adaptation Committee (AC) were invited by the President of COP 24 and the President-Designate of COP 25 to submit inputs on the AC's recent work of relevance to pre-2020 implementation and ambition, on behalf of the AC. In preparing this input, the AC was encouraged to provide an overview of its activities and achievements, as well as any reflections that may be of relevance as the pre-2020 ambition and implementation process moves forward. The Presidencies expect the stocktake at COP 25 to be primarily based on Party discussions as an opportunity to reflect on the pre-2020 period and the implications for the period after 2020.

II. Input by the Adaptation Committee

1. Technical Examination Process on Adaptation (TEP-A)

3. As part of enhanced pre-2020 action, the COP, by its decision 1/CP.21 established the technical examination process on adaptation (TEP-A) with a view to identifying concrete opportunities for strengthening resilience, reducing vulnerabilities and increasing the understanding and implementation of adaptation action. The TEP-A's was to be organized by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation and conducted by the AC.
4. The TEP-A includes the organization of annual technical expert meetings (TEMs) on specific policies, strategies and actions on adaptation to promote enhanced action prior to 2020; the preparation of annual technical papers on opportunities to enhance adaptation action and options to support their implementation; and the preparation of annual summary for policy makers to serve as input to high-level events organized in conjunction with each session of the COP during the period 2016–2020. The COP also invited Parties and non-Party stakeholders to organize regional technical expert meetings with a view to examining specific finance, technology and capacity-building resources necessary to scale up actions in regional contexts, and to provide their reports thereon to the secretariat as input to the technical examination processes.
5. The AC established a working group to advise on the planning and implementation of the TEP-A, including the TEMs and the annual technical papers. The working group is composed of AC members and representatives of the LEG, the Standing Committee on Finance and the Technology Executive Committee, as well as representatives from business, industrial, research and environmental non-governmental organizations.
6. As a result of the assessment of the technical examination processes on mitigation and adaptation at COP 23, expert organizations, constituted bodies under the Convention and non-Party stakeholders were invited to enhance their engagement in the TEPs. Thus, a number of lead organizations worked actively with the AC during the TEP-A in 2018 and 2019. More information on organizations engaged in the TEP-A is available on <http://tep-a.org/>.
7. The 2016-2019 TEMs, including most recently the 2019 regional TEMs, were successful in contributing to the objectives of the TEP-A, mainly:
 - Facilitating the sharing of good practices, experiences and lessons learned;
 - Identifying actions that could significantly enhance the implementation of adaptation actions, including actions that could enhance economic diversification and have mitigation co-benefits;

- Promoting cooperative action on adaptation;
 - Identifying opportunities to strengthen enabling environments and enhance the provision of support for adaptation in the context of specific policies, practices and actions.
8. The outputs¹ of the 2016-2019 TEMs are included in technical papers that have been prepared annually according to the respective topics of the TEP-A for the year:
- 2016: [Opportunities and options for enhancing adaptation actions and supporting their implementation: reducing vulnerability and mainstreaming adaptation](#). It contributes to the understanding of how good practices and lessons learned can lay the foundation for the enhanced implementation of pre-2020 adaptation actions and beyond;
 - 2017: [Opportunities and options for integrating climate change adaptation with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030](#). The paper highlights how effective climate action in the near term is essential for both sustainable development and disaster risk reduction;
 - 2018: [Opportunities and options for adaptation planning for vulnerable ecosystems, communities and groups](#). The paper shows that vulnerable communities, groups, including indigenous peoples, and ecosystems should be viewed as agents of change and purveyors of climate adaptation solutions, not only for planning, but also for implementing climate action.
 - 2019: [Opportunities and options for adaptation finance, including in relation to the private sector](#). This technical paper explores the various dimensions of adaptation finance that featured in the 2019 TEP-A, offering insights into the global adaptation finance landscape, the link between adaptation planning and finance, assessing the impact of adaptation finance and the role of the private sector.
9. The regional TEMs on adaptation as invited by COP 23 have gained traction. The list below shows the regional technical expert meetings held in 2019 alone:

<i>Host event</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Organizer(s)</i>	<i>Theme</i>	<i>Date</i>
Second Central Asia Climate Change Conference	Tashkent, Uzbekistan	Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia, World Bank	Climate finance	3–4 April
Korea Global Adaptation Week	Songdo, the Republic of Korea	GCF	Adaptation finance, including the private sector	11 April
Latin America and Caribbean Climate Week	Salvador, Brazil	Inter-American Development Bank, Libélula, Regional Network for Climate Change and Decision Making	Adaptation finance	23 August
Asia-Pacific Climate Week	Bangkok, Thailand	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	Adaptation finance	6 September

2. Additional activities and outputs of the Adaptation Committee in support of the objectives of the TEP-A and enhanced action pre-2020

10. In addition to the TEP-A, the Adaptation Committee continued contributing to the above objectives, including by delivering the following products and events in 2019:
- A technical paper on linkages between mitigation and adaptation [AC/2019/24](#)

¹ All outputs of the 2016-2018 TEP-As, including presentations, recordings and outreach products, are available at <http://tep-a.org/>.

- An information document on Parties' capacity gaps in accessing adaptation funding and on their successes and challenges in building in-country capacity [AC/2019/27](#)
- An Adaptation Forum on the topic of "Engagement of the private sector in adaptation planning processes, including NAPs: challenges and opportunities. A short interactive summary is available on <https://spark.adobe.com/page/uRPq8eTsdD8nM>
- A concise outreach product outlining the business case for adaptation. <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/businesscase.pdf>

11. All outputs of the Adaptation Committee can be accessed through the AC's [website](#).

3. Reflections by the AC on the TEP-A 2016-2019

12. The AC agreed that the focus of the TEP-A in 2020 will be on "Education and training, public participation and youth to enhance adaptation action", also reflecting on the outcomes of the previous TEP-As.

13. The reflections on the outcomes from the TEP-A so far are based on the key messages derived from the discussions throughout the four years, including:

14. Adaptation planning

- Planning processes are not an end in themselves but a means to catalyse action and investment at the local and national level.
- Effective planning not only provides the opportunity to identify the most vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems, as well as associated needs and concrete policy options, but also enables capacity-building, helps to establish buy-in and contributes to the effective implementation of adaptation measures.
- Adaptation planning is strongly linked to sustainable development and DRR, as enhancing resilience to climatic risks also enhances the sustainability of socioeconomic systems.
- Emerging monitoring and evaluation frameworks provide opportunities to learn about the adequacy, effectiveness and efficiency of adaptation efforts and support. Monitoring and evaluation also supports the learning processes by reviewing good practices and lessons learned, including lessons learned from failed action.
- The availability of data, including climate and socioeconomic data, and their resolution remain a challenge, especially in Africa. Better data management, more informed policymaking and capacity-building are also needed.
- Ecosystem-based planning approaches can be cheaper and more effective than hard infrastructure measures for adaptation and can deliver additional benefits for people and conservation. EbA can complement 'grey' or 'infrastructural' approaches.
- The need to integrate gender perspectives into planning frameworks is increasingly recognized. It involves the consideration of comprehensive elements such as where people live, what resources they have access to, and their ethnicity, decision-making power and rights. Developing and implementing robust and iterative national adaptation planning processes that engage the private sector and integrate gender considerations will enable countries to catalyse large-scale finance for adaptation that addresses the needs of the most vulnerable.
- The process of formulating and implementing **National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)** in particular offers the opportunity to identify and make use of suitable sources of finance (including the GCF, which has been mandated by the COP to provide financing for NAPs), develop project proposals and create overarching financing strategies to support adaptation, among other things. NAPs are emerging as a powerful vehicle to assemble various adaptation efforts into coherent and sustainable national strategies. The process to formulate and implement NAPs seeks to reduce vulnerability and mainstream adaptation and to provide an opportunity to address synergies between adaptation and development. There are a number of challenges to the development and implementation of NAPs in developing countries, including those related to finance, capacity-building and technology development and transfer. For many countries (both developed and

developing) establishing institutional structures and coordination for climate change adaptation remains a key challenge.

15. Support for adaptation action

- Financial resources, technology development and transfer and capacity-building are essential for scaling up adaptation efforts. For many developing countries, financial, technological and capacity-building support is critical.
- There is already an array of institutions and processes that provide support, including technical, capacity-building assistance and finance. Nonetheless, it is crucial to explore new opportunities to mobilize additional support to developing country Parties, so that they may address their adaptation needs.
- Despite challenges related to accessing funding from multilateral climate funds, these funds play a crucial role in channeling finance to developing countries, as well as building capacity and enhancing readiness for finance. Such funds also play a crucial role in promoting synergies and coherence in the fragmented adaptation finance landscape. However, the impact of international finance will be limited unless it is accompanied by additional public and private resources.
- Aligning domestic expenditure with climate change action needs is an effective way to catalyse domestic and international finance at the national and subnational level. Supporting multilateral finance with domestic expenditure can help advance government priorities, enhance country ownership and ensure that there is consistent and predictable finance available to support the iterative adaptation process.
- Civil society organizations and other local-level actors can help increase the transparency of adaptation finance and build trust among the communities to which the finance is directed. While building networks with these actors is a time-consuming and resource-intensive process, these networks can help deliver greater results with the limited finance available. Given the importance of local-level actors and community-led initiatives in driving forward adaptation action, there is a continued need to increase the amount of adaptation finance. Advancing policies that commit to directing a minimum percentage of adaptation finance to the local level and promoting access mechanisms that are directly available to community-led organizations or groups can help to achieve this objective.
- In the light of the scarcity of adaptation finance flows relative to need, understanding how adaptation investments enhance adaptation action is crucial. At the level of projects, programmes or portfolios, opportunities to enhance this understanding include investing in monitoring, evaluation and learning throughout the full project or programme life cycle and requiring projects to go beyond output indicators and move towards programmatic approaches to adaptation. At the national or international level, this includes developing useful national adaptation monitoring and evaluation systems and linking national monitoring of progress on adaptation with monitoring related to international frameworks.
- **Capacity-building**, particularly in developing countries, is critical for the implementation of adaptation strategies and associated action. This includes the capacity of institutions, communities and individuals to plan and implement adaptation action, the human capacity to understand scientific knowledge, and the capacity to analyze and interpret climate and socio-economic data.
- In recent years, capacity-building efforts have also been directed at INDC and NAP development and implementation.
- In order to supplement national capacity-building efforts, bilateral and multilateral institutions are also helping to support regional capacity-building, which is proving to be very effective in information exchanges between countries. Capacity-building efforts are necessary to help relevant actors identify transboundary climate risks.
- Unprecedented levels of coordination and coherence will be needed. Building the capacity for it will help to clarify roles and responsibilities and to encourage partnerships among a wide range of actors.

- It is important to strengthen the capacity and engage local and community representatives in decision-making processes related to climate change adaptation.
- There is a multitude of opportunities to enhance the implementation of various approaches, including ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) and the integration of gender, and to advance adaptation planning, such as using success stories of similar projects to promote EbA; raising community awareness and capacity; and including EbA in the NAP process embedding interlinkages with SDGs and DRR.
- The Technology Mechanism established under the Convention is a good starting point to address technological needs. It responds to countries' needs for **technology development and transfer** at both the policy and the implementation level.
- Applying technologies for adaptation appropriately is a complex process that requires the integration of multiple actions (such as accounting for diversity and maximizing co-benefits; promoting the employment, development and transfer of hard and soft technologies, including knowledge; and developing platforms for sharing knowledge and experience), stakeholders and scales and the consideration of the particular political, economic, social and ecological context.
- Ecosystem-based approaches using adaptation technology will be an important means of ensuring adequate access to basic goods and services in changing climatic conditions.
- It is useful to explore leveraging new business opportunities by offering new products and services, and driving innovation and technology development, in response to emerging needs and markets. Governments can pursue approaches that aim to sustain suppliers of adaptation-related products and services. Examples of such approaches range from supplying weather, risk exposure and other data to the public and offering funding for capacity-building efforts among technology suppliers seeking to enter new markets to creating data and technology standards that facilitate smooth interactions among diverse actors in the climate risk market.

16. Private sector engagement

- The private sector is increasingly engaged in adaptation efforts, stronger linkages between the private and public sectors could further support the acceleration of adaptation action. Further work is also needed to improve the understanding of the private sector's full potential in addressing adaptation. Policymakers can incentivize private sector financing of adaptation action in various ways. The public sector can play an important role in unlocking and scaling up private sector investment in adaptation by de-risking these investments, increasing demand for adaptation products and services and supporting the suppliers of these products and services. Policymakers can also impose requirements on the private sector to invest in adaptation efforts relevant to their businesses. This could include, for example, using laws and regulations to ensure that sectors within a country are obligated to invest in adaptation efforts for the ecosystems and communities on which their businesses depend.
- Beyond broadly supporting and incentivizing private sector investment in adaptation, efforts to facilitate the commercialization of adaptation technology solutions warrant special attention. Technologies have long been recognized as a fundamental element of adapting to climate change. The process of transitioning from the research and development phase to the commercialization phase for adaptation technologies, however, continues to face a number of roadblocks, such as a poor understanding of adaptation markets, weak policy frameworks and few suitable financial mechanisms that are able to effectively blend public and private finance, reduce investment risk and shorten the time needed for a return on investment.

17. Adaptation as a collaborative and participatory process

- Facilitating participatory processes is not easy but such processes are necessary. Engaging with the public and private sector, civil society and NGOs, research institutes and universities through partnerships allows policymakers to gain crucial local knowledge in order to understand all perspectives and their synergies, thus facilitating the joint identification of more suitable adaptation plans. Furthermore, participatory processes are more likely to illicit beneficial behavioural and practical change at the individual level; they contribute to establishing the necessary buy-in to ensure the continuation of activities after a project has terminated; and,

moreover, they increase the chance of stakeholders taking ownership of and implementing adaptation measures.

- Dialogue between policymakers/decision makers and the scientific community provides an opportunity to undertake more targeted assessments and make more effective and informed adaptation decisions. Such dialogue can address challenges related to the availability and interpretation of scientific data, uncertainties of climate scenarios and the development of adaptation decision support tools. Boundary organizations can provide an interface to facilitate discussion between the science, policy and practitioner communities. While there are many examples of effective information-sharing and cooperation between these groups, there is still a need for climate services that are more demand-driven and address the needs of decision maker.
 - Further, engagement of, and coordination across, multiple levels of governance, including regional, national, subnational and local levels, is often critical to enhancing adaptation efforts and can provide opportunities to catalyse transformational change. Such engagement and coordination can be enabled through various mechanisms, including the provision of funding, the integration of adaptation into planning processes and the co-production of multidisciplinary knowledge.
 - Integrating adaptation with the SDGs and the Sendai Framework can be very beneficial for building resilience comprehensively across societies. While maintaining the autonomy of each of the post-2015 framework, improved coherence of action to implement the three frameworks can save money and time, enhance efficiency and further enable adaptation action.
 - It is important to recognize the synergy that exists between local, subnational and national policies vis-à-vis adaptation. Adaptation is an iterative process in which local decisions have the potential to shape future national planning, while national systems often guide local decisions and projects. It is important for local work to inform national processes. Harmonized local and national policies are more likely to yield cohesive and effective adaptation plans.
 - Intersectoral approaches are regarded as fundamental to ensuring that adaptation plans and programmes are sustainable and supported by the respective sectors.
-