

Submission by Argentina on information and data for the preparation of the 2020 Report on the determination of the needs of developing country Parties related to implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement

Standing Committee on Finance

2020

The Government of Argentina welcomes this opportunity to submit its views on the needs of developing country Parties related to implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement, which will serve as an input for the SCF's 2020 Report on this issue.

This document addresses three issues identified in the outline of the 2020 report on the determination of the needs of developing country Parties:

- Processes and approaches utilized for the determination of needs of developing country Parties;
- Information and data on the needs of developing country Parties, and
- Challenges, gaps and opportunities.

1. Processes and approaches utilized for the determination of needs of developing country Parties

Argentina consider it is critical to avoid duplicating work between UNFCCC bodies. For that reason, we recognize the work done by the Adaptation Committee (AC) from 2016. Decision 1/CP.21 requested the AC to consider methodologies for assessing adaptation needs with a view to assisting developing country Parties, without placing an undue burden on them, and to prepare recommendations for the first session of CMA. At its 10th meeting, the AC considered a desk review of existing methodologies for assessing adaptation needs, including needs for adaptation action and support (finance, technology and capacity) and their applications and limitations. The information is included in AC/2017/12, as well as a set of principles.

At the same time, CMA1 requested the AC, in collaboration with the LEG, partner organizations of the Nairobi Work Programme, users and developers of relevant methodologies, including academia and the private sector, to develop by June 2020 and to regularly update an inventory of relevant methodologies for assessing adaptation needs and to make the information available on the Adaptation Knowledge Portal (AKP).

Overlapping on this matter is not desirable. For that reason, Argentina considers SCF should take into account the existing work developed by the AC .

It is also worth mentioning that Argentina, along with other countries, submitted its ideas to the AC in 2017, providing a concept of needs as the *“concrete necessities of developing country Parties in relation to the provision of means of implementation, exchange of lessons learned and/or information, to be developed in the future, aimed at the implementation of any stage of national adaptation cycle, that are communicated through the adaptation communication as established in Article 7.10 of the Paris Agreement, regardless of the chosen channel, as provided*

for in Article 7.11 of the Paris Agreement”¹. At the same time, the submission introduced a classification of needs, which distinguishes between:

- CORE NEEDS: Needs corresponding to means of implementation, such as finance, technology transfer and capacity building, to adequately implement projected stages of the national adaptation cycle.
- SECONDARY NEEDS: Needs corresponding to lessons learned and information exchange at the international level, to adequately achieve future stages of the national adaptation cycle.

We estimate that the approach applied to adaptation could be also applicable to mitigation and transparency needs.

2. Information and data on the needs of Argentina

It is necessary to highlight that, as per the definition presented ut supra, needs are understood as “concrete necessities of developing country Parties in relation to the provision of means of implementation, exchange of lessons learned and/or information”. Therefore, regardless of the specific sector (mitigation, adaptation, or transparency) all needs relate to provision of means of implementation, exchange of lessons learned and/or information.

Argentina has submitted various documents containing information related to needs under the UNFCCC, which are to be taken as supplementary to what is described in this submission:

- Third Biennial Update Report, 2019
- Second Biennial Update Report, 2017
- First Biennial Update Report, 2015
- Technology Needs Assessment, 2013

In the BURs, the country has included in its 4th chapter the assessment of needs identified by the country. This assessment, even though it has not yet been institutionalized, is based in the identification of the information gaps and challenges faced throughout the BUR preparation cycle. In particular, regarding to means of implementation, Argentina, during the preparation of the BUR 3, started to develop local criteria to identify and categorize the support received and provided in order to avoid double counting. However, the country was not able to adequately systematize and validate the process through the National Climate Change Cabinet yet. A similar process will be developed to systematize the identification of other needs related to means of implementation. At the same time, Argentina approved recently a National Act on Climate Change composed by the following features:

- Participatory Governance based on the National Climate Change Cabinet and the Advisory Council.
- National Plan of Adaptation and Mitigation as an iterative process.
- Subnational Plans of Adaptation and Mitigation.
- National System of Information on Climate Change.

¹ Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay submission on technical information concerning Decision 1/CP.21 paragraphs 41, 42 and 45, 2017.

Therefore, Argentina's needs of support are mainly focused on the implementation of the national framework provided by the Act at the national and subnational level.

Moreover, to guarantee the continuous operation of the National System of Information on Climate Change (under Law 27,520), it is necessary to have continuous and stable international financial support to maintain the human resources and the technical capacity already acquired, without the existing gaps between successive international financed projects.

Additionally, Argentina needs financial resources and support for the implementation of adaptation and mitigation measures, especially for the associated technological and infrastructure requirements.

A non-exhaustive listing of needs related to transparency, to the implementation of mitigation and adaptation measures, and to means of implementation has been included in annex I. Moreover, it also includes some needs that have been categorized as crosscutting.

3. Challenges, gaps and opportunities

[Challenges and gaps]

Certain developments at the systemic level can have an impact on the availability, accessibility, and predictability of the provision of means of implementation for developing countries.

Since they constitute prerequisites for the availability and predictability of adequate climate support, these issues act as an obstacle for developing countries, thus generating indirect needs, and a major challenge:

- *Differentiation between developing countries*

Attempts to restrict access to international financing by different means, to "middle income" developing countries. In the universe of multilateral environmental conventions there is no such categorization. Developing countries are mentioned as such, with some nuances depending on special circumstances agreed upon, namely, Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). However, the degree of development has never been linked to income.

- *Attempts to recognize specific regional needs and circumstances*

All developing countries have specific needs and circumstances and are, therefore, vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The Paris Agreement has particularly recognized the specific challenges of SIDS and LDCs, and we do not see the need to make any extension of this concept based on regional specifications. This would hinder the implementation and effectiveness of the Paris Agreement, and would create additional unevenness in the provision of support within the developing world.

- *Lack of a clear and standardized methodology for classifying, as well as providing and monitoring progress of climate finance*

Failure to achieve the goal for developed countries to jointly provide USD 100 billion annually by 2020 for mitigation and adaptation while significantly increasing adaptation finance from current levels and to further provide appropriate technology and capacity-building support.

- *Lack of progress in the negotiations to fulfill the mandate to set a new collective quantified goal from a floor of USD 100 billion per year, taking into account the needs and priorities of developing countries*

Paris Agreement should be understood as a package where all the features are critical in order to give a collective response to climate change according to the challenges that each country experiences. For that reason, financial support for the preparation and implementation of NDCs, LTS, advancing to low carbon economies and societies is imperative. SCF should raise its voice in advance to COP26 in order to achieve a clear road map to the new financial goal.

- *Double counting and overlapping of reported funds by donors based on the lack of clarity in the assignment criteria and methodologies on climate finance tracking.*

SCF should set a common criterion and develop clear methodologies for tracking climate funds in order to avoid double counting and different criteria that eventually obstacle the success of the Paris Agreement goals and targets.

[Opportunities]

- *The possibility to visualize and submit national adaptation needs through the Adaptation Communication and the BTR. The Adaptation Communication, as a new instrument, provides a clear opportunity for developing countries to make more visible the support needs and adaptation efforts, as well as priorities, policies, plans, goals and actions. Considering the different elements or set of information included in Decision 9/CMA.1, Argentina would also like to emphasize the role of gender responsive adaptation action and traditional knowledge as critical crosscutting considerations that our country is looking for applying to all the climate instruments and documents in a consistent matter.*
- *Development of a nationally determined methodology that allows to match the information from the donors with information reported by the recipients in a consistent manner*
- *Methodologies of quantification of needs to match them with available sources and support provided in the context of the Global Stocktake according to Decision 11/CMA.1.*
- *AC Mandate to develop and inventory of methodologies for adaptation needs assessment (June 2020), and subsequent work on the issue.*
- *Access to financial support oriented to shared resources management such as hydrological basins, including from an ecosystem and nature-based perspective.*

Annex I: Non exhaustive list of needs by type

Crosscutting needs

- Enforcing climate institutional arrangements in order to facilitate dialogue among national and subnational decision makers, civil society, the labor force, academy, and the private sector.
- Supporting permanent teams for reporting and monitoring of national GHG Inventory, mitigation and adaptation measures.
- Training and sustainability of trained technical resources and improvement of inter-institutional coordination for planning, management and maintenance of the National Climate Change Information System.
- Training and sustainability of multidisciplinary trained technical resources to support initiatives, with the aim of strengthening territorial planning processes.
- Enhancing citizen awareness and implementation of a communication strategy (dissemination channels, message quality, adaptation to new technologies)
- Support for the development of formal and non-formal education programs on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change, and on climate change mitigation.
- Enhancement of networks with civil society and local actors to help deliver enhanced results with the limited finance available;
- Complete and up to date technology needs assessments and technology action plans, with a view to advancing technology transfer.

Transparency Related Needs

- Considering that Argentina's NDC has an economy-wide absolute target, the country identifies as a need to align consistently the information used to track all mitigation actions to the one used to estimate its' national GHG inventory.
- Regarding to mitigation, in the BUR, the country has identified the needs related to the tracking of the mitigation measures. Within this framework, the identified needs are linked to the generation of information, to the establishment of institutional arrangements for data collection and to the compatibility of the information sources used with the national GHG inventory, to guarantee the compatibility of the mitigation measures with INGEI.
- Development of emission factors with local data (Tier 2) from sources identified as key categories.
- Development of a consistent methodology and data acquisition system between mitigation measures and the GHG Inventory, to be periodically updated for a consistent quantification of the GHG emission reductions of such measures.
- Improvement of uncertainty estimation, mainly through the generation of activity data with associated uncertainty.
- Development of local models to periodically project GHG emissions under different scenarios.
- Improvement of activity data and emission factors to estimate fugitive emissions from oil and natural gas production.
- Improvement of access to the information necessary for the estimation of GHG emissions associated with transport, through interaction with the private sector and the competent public agencies.

- Improvement of the estimation of GHG emissions from ammonia production, harvested wood products and the iron and steel industry.
- Generation of a consistent land use information system to improve the quality and scope of consistent land representation.
- Development of local representative models at the country level to estimate carbon stocks changes using local information.
- Availability of periodic statistics on the consumption of synthetic fertilizers by type of crop.
- In reference to the monitoring of climate finance, there is a need to establish a system of periodic monitoring, for which it is required to develop a methodology and a procedure for monitoring. Additionally, there is a lack of trained technical resources destined for the maintenance of the mentioned system.

Mitigation related needs

- Regarding the needs for the implementation of the mitigation measures, the country has not yet developed an assessment procedure. However, some initial work has been done with the mitigation action roadmaps from the sector action plans. This roadmap identified barriers and needs for their implementation of each mitigation measure. Additionally, these measures need to be revised and validated, applying the cross-cutting approach that will guide the work of the GNCC.
- Development of models with modal distribution of road transportation, for a more precise allocation of liquid fuels, with a view to improving estimates of the potential for reducing emissions from mitigation measures
- Mobilization of financing for the incorporation of solar water heaters, lamps with LED technology, more efficient appliances, both to favor production and demand.
- Development of local monitoring models for native forests to quantify restoration, degradation, Forest management with integrated livestock, and silvopastoral activities.

Adaptation related needs

- Expansion of monitoring networks, strengthening of early warning systems and climate services for health, food security, water, energy and disaster risk reduction.
- Promotion of R&D and technology projects as well as good practices in productive sectors.
- Development of maps of vulnerabilities and climate risks as a tool to diagnose the situation, and support for the management of adaptation to climate change.
- Economic quantification of the impacts of climate change and of the implementation of adaptation measures.
- Use financial instruments for transferring market and production risks of the agricultural sector.
- Development of structural and non-structural prevention actions against floods, droughts and heat waves.
- Strengthening of initiatives that support land recovery and rehabilitation processes, including ecosystem-based adaptation.
- Setting up monitoring, evaluation and learning systems that allow for actions to go beyond project-based approaches.

- Investments that integrate climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction approaches and focused on addressing risks, reducing vulnerabilities and promoting sustainable development;
- Readiness to promote private sector engagement in adaptation planning and implementation processes, taking into account its diversity and the different impacts climate change can have on micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, and multinational corporations.