

## Informal note by the co-facilitators

### *Background*

- *Parties met in informal consultations on 5, 10 and 15 June 2021.*
- *They reflected on the mandates for this item, which are (1) to develop actions and steps for the next assessment of progress in the process to formulate and implement NAPs, to happen before 2025, as per decision 8/CP.24; and (2) to consider information from the reports of the AC and the LEG, including on gaps and needs and the implementation of NAPs, as per decision 7/CP.25.*
- *On the basis of the discussions, the co-facilitators have prepared the following possible elements of an outcome on this matter under their own responsibility. These elements are not exhaustive, have no formal status and should not be considered final in any way. They are offered to assist Parties in advancing the discussions on this matter and do not prejudice further work or prevent Parties from expressing their views at any time.*

### **General reflections on the process to formulate and implement NAPs**

- The process to formulate and implement NAPs is critical for building resilience and prosperous communities in developing countries and should focus on delivering tangible results, beyond the formulation of plans;
- The principles of and approach to formulating and implementing NAPs are proving to provide good practices for addressing adaptation;
- Real progress on NAPs goes beyond production of NAP documents, and will be demonstrated through successful implementation of adaptation actions identified therein at local, sectoral, subnational and national level, as appropriate, and the achievement of tangible adaptation outcomes;
- The utility of NAPs goes beyond their role in facilitating adaptation and implementation, as under the Paris Agreement they can also serve as one of the possible vehicles for the adaptation communications or inform the elements of the adaptation communications, and also help to inform the development of the global goal on adaptation;
- The Open NAP initiative implemented by the LEG has huge potential to accelerate the formulation and implementation of NAPs in the LDCs and other developing countries;
- High-impact activities in terms of addressing the gaps and needs of all developing countries, such as the NAP Expos, must be prioritized;
- Many organizations are engaged in supporting the process to formulate and implement NAPs, particularly in the LDCs, as well as in providing thematic technical guidance;
- National adaptation efforts should be seen in the broader context of development, taking a whole-of-government approach, and synergy and coherence should be promoted in terms of monitoring and measuring progress in relation to the SDGs, the Sendai Framework and relevant humanitarian efforts, and activities identified in NAPs should be well integrated into and across sectoral planning as well as involving the private sector;
- As countries continue to make progress in formulating and implementing NAPs, their needs also evolve; and it is essential to ensure that actions are aligned with country goals;
- COVID-19 has negatively impacted progress in advancing the formulation and implementation of NAPs given the consultative nature of the work involved.

### **Gaps and needs related to the process to formulate and implement NAPs**

- The reports of the AC and the LEG provide a good compilation of the gaps and needs related to the process to formulate and implement NAPs to date and how they are being addressed;
- The table on gaps and needs<sup>1</sup> has great potential to guide countries in assessing their specific gaps and needs and what support is needed;
- Parties started to reflect on identified priority gaps and needs that require further attention by the appropriate entities, including:
  - Ensuring that all LDCs achieve their vision of having a NAP by the end of 2020 or soon thereafter, and supporting the transition from formulation to implementation;
  - Ensuring that both objectives of the NAP are addressed as they are necessary for successful adaptation;
  - Addressing the challenges associated with accessing financial support for NAP formulation under the GCF that are brought up year after year and which should form the basis for negotiations, including speed of approvals, changes in templates, which leads to additional work and delays in approval, and cumbersome procedures and lengthy review steps;
  - Clear guidance on GCF support for the implementation of NAPs, to help establish possible sources of support and information requirements for implementation of adaptation priorities during NAP formulation, and thereby facilitate subsequent implementation;
  - Enhancing technical assistance for countries to prepare project proposals, select accredited entities and undertake other steps in the process of accessing financial support from the GCF, while taking into account countries' different capacities;
  - Reducing gaps in financing between production of plans, project proposals and disbursement of funding;
  - Continuing support at the different phases of the process, from NAP formulation and implementation to subsequent monitoring, reporting and iterative update of the NAP;
  - Technical guidelines that address the multiscale and multilevel nature of adaptation, from local to subnational, national and regional/transboundary;
  - Challenges in accessing and using climate change scenarios owing to costs and technical gaps;
  - More detailed technical guidance on gender and social inclusion, including methods for monitoring and assessing progress;
  - Addressing challenges to progress on adaptation due to the impacts of COVID-19, including appropriate adjustment of the timelines for funded projects;
  - Enhancing involvement and participation of stakeholders from different sectors to ensure effective adaptation programming;
  - Building national capacity and promoting engagement of national experts to ensure the development and application of the most locally appropriate solutions;
- The above gaps and needs could be further prioritized, including by mapping where each country is in the process to formulate and implement NAPs and showing where obstacles exist, to facilitate targeted capacity-building;
- The above gaps and needs apply to all developing countries, not just the LDCs;
- A number of references were made relating to the ongoing work of the AC, the LEG and various organizations in connection with the gaps and needs. An assessment could potentially be done by or with input from the constituted bodies to explore how such

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<sup>1</sup> Contained in document FCCC/SBI/2020/14, annex II.

activities can also address the gaps and needs, including the gaps and needs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic;

- Parties could be invited to establish NAP contact points through their respective UNFCCC national focal points with a view to enhancing the flow of information between Parties and the LEG and the AC, and also with other relevant organizations and programmes, including the NWP, in relation to the process to formulate and implement NAPs at the national level.

### **Implementation of NAPs**

- There must be a specific focus on and guidance for the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism for the implementation of NAPs;
- The implementation of NAPs should be aligned with relevant activities contained in other documents submitted under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, including NDCs, adaptation communications and LT-LEDS;
- The implementation of NAPs should be aligned with efforts relating to the SDGs, the Sendai Framework, national and sectoral plans, national budgeting and programming, and private sector planning;
- Dedicated funding should be provided for the implementation of adaptation priorities identified in NAPs and the adaptation components of NDCs, in the same way that a specific window was created for funding the formulation of NAPs;
- The process of reviewing and approving NAP proposals should be expedited in order to ensure that the LDCs are supported in advancing the formulation and implementation of their NAPs;
- Projects for implementing adaptation priorities identified in the NAPs of the LDCs should not be subject to the same level of scrutiny as other regular projects;
- Delivery partners of the GCF Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme for the formulation of NAPs should strengthen efforts to expedite the submission of readiness proposals by developing countries to the GCF, in line with decision 7/CP.25, paragraph 10, taking into account the different needs and specific contexts of the countries, and provide information to the AC and the LEG, and through other channels, as appropriate, on their efforts;
- Support should be provided to developing countries at the national level for developing adaptation projects.

### **Actions and steps necessary for initiation of the next assessment of progress in the process to formulate and implement NAPs**

- The SBI, at its session to take place in June 2024, to initiate the assessment and make recommendations thereon to COP 29 (November 2024);
- The assessment should make use of established SBI modalities;
- As per decision 4/CP.21, the necessary actions and steps could be:
  - Submissions from Parties and relevant organizations by February 2024;
  - Information-gathering through the questionnaire on NAP Central;
  - A synthesis report on the progress, including in relation to objectives, guiding principles, etc., drawing on the sources of information referred to below;
  - A meeting of Party experts to develop a summary of progress before the above-mentioned session of the SBI;
  - A report on that meeting for consideration by the SBI at that session;
- The assessment should focus on the following issues, taking into account the different contexts and circumstances of developing countries:

- Progress in the process to formulate and implement NAPs;
- Achievements in relation to the objectives and guiding principles, and overall outcomes;
- Experience, good practices and lessons learned;
- Challenges, barriers, gaps and needs;
- Support provided and received;
- Use of data and science;
- Sources of information should include:
  - Submissions from Parties and relevant organizations;
  - Inputs from the constituted bodies on their support for NAPs;
  - National documents, including NAPs, NDCs, adaptation communications and national communications;
  - The synthesis report on the technical dialogue of the global stocktake;
  - NAP Expos;
- Sharing of case studies and knowledge products on how vulnerability has been reduced as a result of interventions on the ground is seen as useful for advancing learning, with a focus on what did or did not work and why.

**Other issues raised that are beyond the scope of this item<sup>2</sup>**

- The COP to establish an agenda item on adaptation, under which to discuss adaptation issues integrally and fully; and establish a task force and mandate a joint SBI–SBSTA technical paper to discuss the relationship between Article 7 on adaptation and Article 6, paragraph 8, on the framework for non-market approaches under the Paris Agreement, as well as a workshop, to provide inputs for negotiations at COP 26;
- The COP to establish a task force on the global goal on adaptation, led by the LEG and the AC, in order to effectively inform the first global stocktake;
- The need to develop and apply methods for measuring progress of adaptation actions and their impacts, as well as information on the local context, to inform the global goal on adaptation;
- The SBI to prepare an assessment report reviewing the effectiveness of the Financial Mechanism in financing implementation of NAPs, including types and modalities of finance, for stocktaking at COP 26;
- Support for the NAP Expos should not be moved to supplementary funding as is currently being proposed under the budget discussions.

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<sup>2</sup> Some Parties proposed deleting these issues from the note.