

Informal note by the SBSTA Chair

Background

- *Informal consultations on this matter were convened on 2 June, 9 June, 12 June and 16 June 2021.*
- *This informal note has been prepared by the SBSTA Chair under his own responsibility, based on Party interventions and written inputs. The elements outlined in this note are not exhaustive, have no formal status and should not be considered final in any way. They are intended to assist Parties in advancing discussions on this matter and do not prejudice further work or prevent Parties from expressing their views at any time.*

Discussion

A. General reflections on progress to date and overarching advice

- Parties recalled decision 2/CP.11 that states the objective of the NWP;
- Parties welcomed the following:
 - Progress in implementing activities under the NWP since SBSTA 50,¹ noting that progress to date has strengthened the NWP as a knowledge-to-action hub on adaptation and resilience with a role in responding to the knowledge needs of Parties;
 - The secretariat's efforts to document lessons learned and challenges in implementing the NWP workplans for 2019–2020 and 2020–2021;²
 - The NWP workplan for 2021–2022, noting that it is consistent with relevant mandates;³
- Parties provided the following initial considerations for the secretariat:
 - To document lessons learned and challenges in implementing the NWP workplans, and applying the lessons learned to activities carried out under the NWP;
 - To communicate proactively with the constituted bodies about relevant questions and information needs, and on capacity gaps and needs identified by Parties during the formulation and implementation of NAPs, and to integrate any resulting guidance into indicative annual NWP workplans;
 - To scale up work under the NWP in all countries, in particular developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island developing States, including by engaging governments and non-Party stakeholders, and in ways that ensure that the NWP continues to be demand-driven and responds to the adaptation and resilience needs of all countries and regions;
 - To use additional inputs, such as adaptation communications under the Paris Agreement, as well as inputs from knowledge users and diverse knowledge systems, including local and indigenous knowledge holders, to identify relevant adaptation and resilience needs and good practices;
 - To align work under the NWP with global and regional initiatives, drawing on expertise from its network of partner organizations, and for the secretariat to actively engage with regional organizations to make knowledge products accessible to knowledge users in all countries;

¹ FCCC/SBSTA/2020/INF.1 and FCCC/SBSTA/2021/INF.2.

² As footnote 1 above.

³ FCCC/SBSTA/2019/2, paras. 15–31, and FCCC/SBSTA/2018/4, paras. 16–23.

- Parties considered the following actions for national Governments:
 - To nominate national adaptation contact points for the NWP to support the implementation of activities under the NWP that align with national agendas, as well as create synergies with other UNFCCC contact points to facilitate discussions on items related to adaptation and loss and damage;
 - To communicate their priority knowledge gaps in relation to climate change, including through the UNFCCC national focal points, loss and damage contact points or the possible nomination of national adaptation contact points, to inform work under the NWP;

B. Knowledge support provided to the AC, the LEG and other constituted bodies

- Parties welcomed the knowledge support provided to constituted bodies such as the AC and the LEG by the NWP in collaboration with NWP thematic expert groups and NWP partner organizations and note that this collaboration has improved access to scientific advice and expertise;
- Parties requested the secretariat, in collaboration with NWP partner organizations, to implement the advice from the 19th meeting of the AC;⁴
- Parties provided the following initial considerations on strengthening support to constituted bodies in a way that supports and does not duplicate the work of constituted bodies:
 - The secretariat to collaborate on efforts under the Lima work programme on gender to identify adaptation actions in which gender can be mainstreamed and to collaborate with the Facilitative Working Group of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform to include indigenous expertise in climate change response measures;
 - The secretariat, in collaboration with NWP partner organizations, to continue to contribute to the work of the LEG⁵ by providing technical guidance and advice to developing countries in the context of formulating and implementing NAPs;
 - NWP partner organizations to undertake activities to address gaps and needs in relation to the process to formulate and implement NAPs and share the outcomes with the AC and the LEG;

C. Thematic areas, LAKE and UN Climate Change and Universities Partnership Programme

- Parties welcomed:
 - The successful organization of the 13th NWP Focal Point Forum on oceans, coastal areas and ecosystems,⁶ held in collaboration with the NWP expert group on oceans, and also welcomed the engagement of the IPCC in this Forum, in particular its presentation of the IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere;⁷

⁴ Available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/271477>.

⁵ See documents FCCC/SBI/2020/6, annex V, and FCCC/SBI/2020/14, annex III.

⁶ Further details on the 13th NWP Focal Point Forum are available at <https://unfccc.int/event/13th-focal-point-forum-of-the-nairobi-work-programme-on-the-ocean>.

⁷ IPCC. 2019. *IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate*. H.-O. Pörtner, D.C. Roberts, V. Masson-Delmotte, P. Zhai, M. Tignor, E. Poloczanska, K. Mintenbeck, A. Alegría, M. Nicolai, A. Okem, J. Petzold, B. Rama, N.M. Weyer (eds.). Available at <https://www.ipcc.ch/srocc/>.

- The progress by the secretariat, in partnership with NWP thematic expert groups, in work under the following priority thematic areas:⁸
 - Forests and grassland;
 - Oceans, coastal areas and ecosystems, including mega deltas, coral reefs and mangroves;
 - Agriculture and food security;
- The secretariat's collaboration with NWP thematic expert groups and partner organizations on responding to the knowledge needs of developing countries, and invite the secretariat to:
 - Share the information on the thematic expert groups, including composition (representation of experts from developing countries and regional composition of experts), scope and modalities of their work, as well as engagement of UNFCCC national focal points and constituted bodies in thematic areas;
 - Ensure a balanced representation of experts from all regions in the thematic expert groups;
 - Strengthen the role of the thematic expert groups in helping identify sources of financial support and develop sector-specific guidance in developing countries;
- Parties considered inviting the secretariat to initiate work on the priority thematic area of drought, water scarcity and land degradation neutrality, taking into account information from the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land;⁹
- Parties welcomed the following:
 - The secretariat's continued collaboration with NWP partner organizations on bridging priority knowledge gaps in the context of LAKI, in particular the implementation of the second phase of LAKI in the Gulf Cooperation Council¹⁰ and North Africa subregions,¹¹ and also welcomed the organization of the priority-setting workshop for small island developing States in the Pacific;¹²
 - The launch of the UN Climate Change and Universities Partnership Programme,¹³ noted the relevance of the resulting outputs for closing specific knowledge gaps in developing countries, and invited the secretariat to scale up the programme with a view to bridging context-specific knowledge gaps in all regions;
- Parties considered inviting the secretariat to continue to implement actions and mobilize resources to close priority knowledge gaps and scale up the LAKI in all developing countries and subregions, recognizing that the LAKI has only been implemented in seven subregions to date and noting the need to scale up in other subregions, and to do so in collaboration with relevant NWP partner organizations, including relevant regional, subregional, national and local organizations;¹⁴

⁸ The SBSTA requested the secretariat to prioritize five priority thematic areas as contained in document FCCC/SBSTA/2019/2, para. 18.

⁹ IPCC. 2019. *IPCC Special Report on Climate Change, Desertification, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Food Security, and Greenhouse Gas Fluxes in Terrestrial Ecosystems*. PR Shukla, J Skea, E Calvo Buendia, et al. (eds.). Available at <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/srccl/>.

¹⁰ Available at <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/nwpstaging/Pages/LAKI-WestAsia.aspx>.

¹¹ Available at <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/nwpstaging/Pages/LAKI-NorthAfrica.aspx>.

¹² Available at [https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWPStaging/Pages/Lima-Adaptation-Knowledge-Initiative-\(LAKI\)-for-the-Pacific-sub-region.aspx](https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWPStaging/Pages/Lima-Adaptation-Knowledge-Initiative-(LAKI)-for-the-Pacific-sub-region.aspx).

¹³ <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWPStaging/Pages/university-partnerships.aspx>.

¹⁴ FCCC/SBSTA/2014/5, para. 19.

D. Knowledge management, communications and outreach

- Parties recognized the secretariat’s efforts in improving the usefulness and relevance of the knowledge products developed under the NWP, and welcomed the report capturing the results of the survey of knowledge users on the accessibility, applicability and clarity of the NWP knowledge products,¹⁵ noting that the survey had a low rate of response from the UNFCCC national focal points;
- Parties considered inviting the secretariat to continue enhancing the accessibility, clarity and applicability of NWP knowledge products for all Parties and non-Party stakeholders, including with the active engagement of governments, and UNFCCC national focal points, NWP partner organizations and the NWP thematic expert groups, by:
 - Preparing a synthesis of the knowledge products that covers thematic areas, means of implementation and regional focus;
 - Translating relevant knowledge products, including thematic knowledge products, into other United Nations languages;
 - Developing and employing tools to ensure that knowledge products are tailored to the needs of knowledge users and are accessible in a way that helps maximize the uptake of adaptation knowledge, and make these products more useful to knowledge users implementing adaptation action;
- Parties considered inviting national Governments to disseminate NWP knowledge products in their respective countries and regions, in collaboration with NWP partner organizations and regional organizations;
- Parties considered requesting the secretariat:
 - To solicit periodic feedback via surveys and other means, from knowledge users in all countries, in particular developing countries, in order to understand the knowledge needs to inform decision-making, and to enhance the usefulness and relevance of NWP knowledge products, and encouraging the secretariat to measure the uptake of the knowledge products by knowledge users, track progress and apply the results from the progress to enhance their accessibility, clarity and applicability;
 - To continue to enhance the adaptation knowledge portal to make it more accessible, user-friendly and relevant, including by drawing on inputs from Parties, UNFCCC national focal points and NWP partner organizations and updating methods, tools and knowledge resources in the portal as well as the resources available in the AC inventory of methodologies for assessing adaptation needs in the context of national adaptation planning and implementation;
- Parties considered inviting the secretariat to organize global and regional in-person events in combination with virtual events, considering Internet connectivity challenges and language barriers in developing countries;

E. Scope and modalities of the stocktake of the operational and institutional modalities of the NWP

- Parties recalled the SBSTA 48 conclusion to take stock of the operational and institutional modalities of the NWP at SBSTA 56 (June 2022), and to determine the modalities of the stocktake at SBSTA 54 (May–June 2021);¹⁶
- Parties provided the following initial considerations on guiding questions in taking stock of the operational and institutional modalities of the NWP:
 - How has work under the NWP enhanced the engagement of national governments, NWP partner organizations, diverse knowledge systems, including local and

¹⁵ The report containing the survey results is available at <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Final%20NWP%20survey%20report.pdf>.

¹⁶ FCCC/SBSTA/2018/4, para. 28.

indigenous knowledge holders, and others in a manner that is demand-driven and responsive to the adaptation and resilience needs of all countries, in particular, developing countries, subregions and regions?

- How has work under the NWP enhanced the usefulness and relevance of NWP knowledge products in closing knowledge gaps and promoted the uptake of the knowledge products by knowledge users in all countries, in particular developing countries, and regions?
- What are the lessons learned and challenges observed related to the operational and institutional modalities of the NWP in enhancing its relevance to the work of the constituted bodies and in assisting Parties in implementing the Paris Agreement?
- What are the additional thematic areas that should be considered under the NWP,¹⁷ taking into account the different types of vulnerable ecosystems in different regions, including mountainous regions?
- Parties emphasized that, on the basis of the outcomes of the stocktake, ways should be found to strengthen the operational and institutional modalities of the NWP that enhance the performance and effectiveness of the NWP in addressing knowledge needs of all Parties, in particular developing countries, relevant to implementing the Paris Agreement;
- Parties provided the following inputs on modalities to inform the stocktake:
 - Parties, NWP partner organizations and other relevant organizations could be invited to submit their views on the performance and effectiveness of the NWP in addressing knowledge needs relevant to implementing the Paris Agreement via the submission portal by [xx](#); and the secretariat to prepare a synthesis report thereon by [xx](#);
 - The secretariat could be invited to prepare a report summarizing outcomes of the work carried out under the NWP since SBSTA 48 by [xx](#), and containing information on:
 - Lessons learned in implementing the NWP workplans and an analysis of the gaps and challenges encountered in doing so;
 - The work of the NWP thematic expert groups;
 - Advice from the AC to the NWP issued in its meetings and the AC annual reports;
 - The impact of work under the NWP on the provision of support to the constituted bodies;
 - Feedback, solicited through surveys and other means, from knowledge users in countries and regions on the accessibility, clarity and relevance of NWP knowledge products;
 - Lessons learned about using digital tools and modalities;
 - NWP partner organizations and experts could be invited to provide information on their activities that support the work of the NWP as a part of the submission referred to in the bullet above;
 - Additional inputs could be considered, namely the annual progress reports of the NWP and results of the above-mentioned survey on NWP knowledge products;
 - The secretariat could be invited to organize global and regional webinars and in-person workshops, including on the margins of the NAP Expo, to engage relevant knowledge users, noting that Internet connectivity, different time zones and language barriers may pose challenges to the participation of developing countries;
- When taking stock of the operational and institutional modalities of the NWP, Parties could ensure a comprehensive, transparent approach is applied, one which considers

¹⁷ The thematic areas as defined by SBSTA 48 are contained in FCCC/SBSTA/2018/4, para. 21.

both lessons learned by countries and regions, and engaging Parties, NWP partner organizations and non-Party stakeholders to ensure an effective outcome.
