

Adaptation in human settlements: key findings and way forward

Presentation of the synthesis report

Laura Kavanaugh, UNFCCC Secretariat

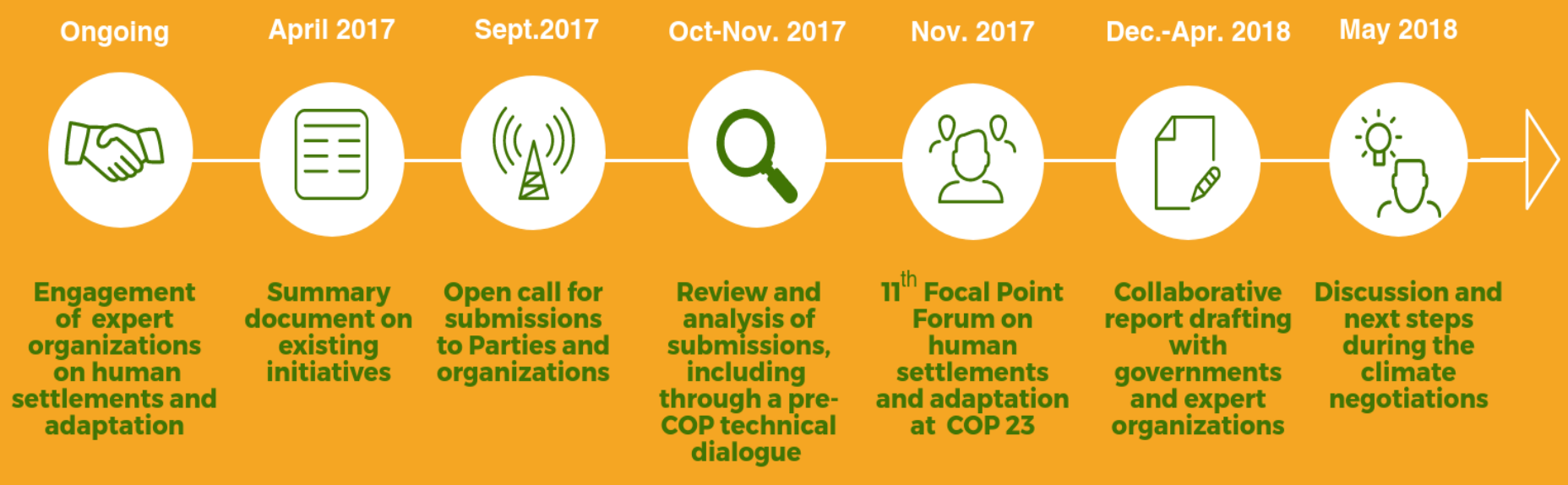
Nairobi work programme side event

SBSTA 48 – Bonn (Germany)

1 May 2018 – 13.15 – 14.45



The NWP's 7-step approach on human settlements



Addressing the challenges that hinder adaptation

- Numerous challenges still hinder adaptation planning in human settlements, including:
 - poor access to quality data, including downscaled climate projections
 - lack of technical skills at the local government and among CSO staff
 - access to financial resources for adaptation
 - inadequate powers at the local level
- Sufficient capacities are a prerequisite to effective adaptation planning and implementation.
 - Capacity building activities do take place, but further support is needed
 - Better access to international finance.
 - Enabling frameworks and mandates from national governments.



Assessing sensitivity and vulnerability to climate change

- Climate change will exacerbate the vulnerability of the world's human settlements, especially in developing countries, coastal and delta regions, and Small Island Developing States (SIDS)
- Vulnerability assessments should consider location specific drivers of risk and differentiated impacts on populations group, for example by using gender-disaggregated data
- Inclusive and participatory planning processes with all stakeholders foster local ownership and enhance the success of adaptation actions
- Numerous vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning toolkits are available for communities including those with limited human and financial resources. Local and national officials could benefit from additional support, e.g.in the form of trainings, to better apply these tools.



Integrating both short term and long term climate considerations into planning

- Important for avoiding maladaptation, minimizing loss and damage, and building on long term adaptive capacity. Adopting a long-term view on adaptation includes:
 - developing land-use plans to manage the geographical expansion of human activities
 - incorporating ecosystem-based adaptation, which brings numerous co-benefits and can be combined with engineering-based solutions
 - taking a regionally integrated approach to manage interdependencies, including as they relate to food security
- Adaptation is a dynamic, ongoing and iterative process which requires cross-sectoral collaboration and often behavioral change. A long-term view is needed to raise awareness and foster systemic change. Visualizing a range of “adaptation pathways” can provide necessary, flexible guidance.
- Resettlement of communities should be a ‘last resort’



The role of national governments and linkages to NAPs

- National adaptation plans (NAPs) and strategies should address adaptation in human settlements and support coordinated planning and implementation of adaptation actions, e.g. through multilevel governance approaches.
- National governments are responsible for creating an enabling framework for local governments to develop, fund, and enforce adaptation actions.
- Supporting local research can facilitate the work of “mediators” (e.g. research of multi-stakeholder groups) to provide actionable information and capacity building support



City-to-city partnerships

- Facilitate a shared learning process between cities and communities with similar contexts, to improve understanding of risks and good practices.
- Several local government networks and multi-stakeholder networks focus on urban resilience at the global, regional, and national.
- Sector-specific networks also support knowledge exchange and mentoring in areas such as food security and water.
- The contributions of such networks can be enhanced by providing support to enhance local capacities in the area of adaptation planning that promote sustained engagement across political cycles
- Monitoring and evaluation of climate change risks and responses, and the impacts these have, is also important.



Next Steps

- National Governments and the international community are invited to support the capacity-strengthening of public sector staff and researchers and to facilitate the access of subnational governments and other relevant local actors to adaptation finance.
- The secretariat under the NWP was invited to identify the specific knowledge needs of national and subnational decision makers, as well as of developers of adaptation plans (including NAPs), to help align the supply of and demand for knowledge of adaptation in human settlements
- NWP partner organizations and experts are invited to put forward proposals and action pledges for closing knowledge gaps and removing barriers that hinder adaptation action.



Further information and action pledges on the Adaptation knowledge portal

ADAPTATION KNOWLEDGE PORTAL

Entire portal SEARCH Q

KNOWLEDGE RESOURCES

Human settlements resources

BY THEMATIC AREA

BY WORLD REGION

CASE STUDIES

TOOLS

ACTION PLEDGES

SEE MORE @

UNFCCC RESOURCES

Action pledges



Thank you!

nwp@unfccc.int

Full synthesis report:

<https://unfccc.int/documents/65137>

