

**Fourteenth meeting of the Adaptation Committee
Bonn, Germany, 24-26 October 2018**

Information note on the 2018 Adaptation Forum

Recommended action by the Adaptation Committee

The Adaptation Committee (AC), at its 14th meeting, will be invited to take note of the report on the 2018 Forum and to consider next steps as noted in section 6 below.

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1. Introduction

1. The AC, in its workplan, agreed to hold Adaptation Fora, as appropriate. At its 12th meeting, it agreed to explore the possibility of holding its 2018 Forum as a session of the 2018 Adaptation Futures conference (Cape Town, South Africa, 18-21 June 2018). The application for the session was subsequently approved by the organizer and the Forum took place on 19 June.
2. The AC agreed on the following topic for the Forum: “Integrating climate change adaptation with the SDGs and the Sendai Framework for DRR”, noting that this topic is broad enough to accommodate additional focus areas, such as the perspective of small islands and long-term adaptation planning.

2. Background

3. The topic for the 2018 Forum was selected to build on the findings of the 2017 Technical Examination Process on Adaptation (TEP-A) that addressed the same topic. The technical paper¹ arising from the technical expert meeting that the AC conducted in May 2017 as part of the TEP-A highlighted following six key messages:

- a) 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 frameworks, improved coherence of action to implement the three frameworks can save money and time, enhance efficiency and further enable adaptation action;
- b) There are many opportunities to support further policy integration between adaptation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction, owing in part to the common themes, scopes and objectives of the three global agendas. Both “resilience” and “ecosystems” can act as core concepts for motivating such integration. Actors, including state and non-state, operating across multiple sectors and scales ranging from local to global, can facilitate policy coherence, and vulnerable people and communities can benefit from and initiate effective bottom-up, locally driven solutions that contribute to multiple policy outcomes simultaneously;
- c) 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;
- d) 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;
- e) Adequate, sustainable support for adaptation efforts from sources public, private, international and national alike is crucial. Accessing finance and technology development and transfer and capacity-building support is also critical, particularly for developing countries;
- f) The process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans (NAPs) can effectively support the implementation of enhanced adaptation action and the development of integrated approaches to adaptation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction, thanks in part to its demonstrated success as a planning instrument, the resources available for its support, and its iterative nature and flexible, nationally driven format.

¹ See <http://tep-a.org/technical-paper/>

3. Objective of the 2018 Adaptation Forum

4. The 2018 Adaptation Forum was held to further elaborate on the key messages noted above, adding an additional perspective from the audience of the Adaptation Futures conference, i.e. experts from the research, science and practitioners' communities.

4. Proceedings

5. The event was chaired by Ms. Pilar Bueno, Co-Chair, Adaptation Committee, moderated by Ms. Musonda Mumba, UN Environment, and the rapporteur was Ms. Cecília da Silva Bernardo, member of the Adaptation Committee.

6. After the opening and broad framing of the Adaptation Forum by the moderator, the Co-Chair of the AC presented a short overview of the work of the Adaptation Committee and the TEP-A. To familiarize the audience with the key findings from the 2017 TEP-A, a video was then shown that briefly summarized the key messages² presented above. The Forum was then kick-started by presentation of a case study.

7. Presentation of the case study was followed by a moderated panel discussion, with each panellist focusing mainly on one guiding question, also taking into account the overall focus of how coherence can be improved in the long term between the three post-2015 frameworks. The following questions, recommended by the AC, guided and focused the discussion:

- a) Overarching (to be addressed by all): In your experience, how can coherence be improved in the long term between the three post-2015 frameworks? "Resilience" or "resilient ecosystems" can act as core concepts for motivating integration. What is your experience with this and are there other concepts that could be motivators? This question also served as the link between all panel interventions.
- b) Focus on capacity building: Significantly enhanced 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. What would effective capacity building look like, in particular for vulnerable groups and regions?
- c) Focus on data management and interpretation: The availability of data, including climate and socioeconomic data, their resolution, interpretation and user-friendly presentation remain a challenge, especially in Africa and small island developing states. How could better data management and interpretation, more informed policymaking and capacity-building be stimulated?
- d) Focus on NAPs: How can the process to formulate and implement National Adaptation Plans effectively support the implementation of enhanced adaptation action and the development of integrated approaches to adaptation, sustainable development and DRR? What are your experiences?

8. The overarching case study was presented by Aisha Khan, Civil Society Coalition for Climate Change (CSCCC); and the panel comprised: Bettina Koelle, Red Cross and Red Crescent Climate Centre (Focus on capacity building); Tufa Dinku, Lead, Enhancing National Climate Services initiative, International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI, Columbia University) (Focus on data management and interpretation); and Raul Alfaro-Pelico, World Bank - Pilot Programme for Climate

² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vZIO4J5szgE>

Resilience (PPCR) (focus on NAPs). The panel discussion was followed by a lively interaction with the audience.

9. The introductory case study discussed two major disasters in Pakistan's history (the 2010 Flood and the 2005 earthquake) and the opportunities and challenges for integrating the three post 2015 frameworks at national and subnational levels in Pakistan. Particular focus was placed on governance challenges, demographic shifts, capacity issues, resource crunch, and the role of women and decision making approaches through the lens of the civil society.

10. As a country that is prone to a range of natural and human induced disasters, Pakistan is a signatory to a number of international frameworks and conventions regarding development, disasters and climate change. It has actively pursued the post-2015 development agenda, ratifying and signing all major agreements. Pakistan has invested in the development of institutions and policies such as the National Disaster Management Authority and its subnational components; the Ministry of Climate Change; and the Parliamentary Committee on the Sustainable Development Goals as well as the passage of the National Climate Change Act. These institutions have developed comprehensive policies and implementation frameworks, along with efforts made by the federating units to develop their own place and people-centred policies for building resilience and reducing vulnerability. However, despite these institutional mechanisms and arrangements, there have been significant challenges in achieving progress due to issues related to coherence and coordination between stakeholders at the national and subnational levels and a lack of capacity and financial resources for translating policy objectives into measurable actions on the ground. Good governance and institutional strength remain at the heart of all policies, plans and implementation and monitoring frameworks. Challenges particular to developing countries with similar constraints are managed with different results at different times.

11. Regarding capacity building, Bettina Koelle (Red Cross and Red Crescent Climate Centre) focused on experience gained in the areas of developing and facilitating approaches to interactive learning and dialogue on climate adaptation in Southern Africa. Her work includes Future Climate for Africa (FCFA), which aims to generate new climate science focused on Africa, and to ensure that this science has an impact on human development across the continent; and the Collaborative Adaptation Research Initiative in Africa and Asia (CARIAA), which builds the resilience of vulnerable populations and their livelihoods by supporting collaborative research on climate change adaptation to inform policy and practice. Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters (BRACED) is a project helping people become more resilient to climate extremes in South and Southeast Asia and in the African Sahel and its neighbouring countries. To improve the integration of disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation methods into development approaches, BRACED seeks to influence policies and practices at the local, national and international level.

12. Overall, Ms. Koelle stressed the importance of linking experience from the grassroots level to the national level, and highlighted the benefits of innovative dialogue and capacity development.

13. Looking at data management and interpretation, Tufa Dinku (IRI) noted that there are different efforts underway to overcome the different challenges with climate data in Africa. One of these efforts is the ENACTS (Enhancing National Climate Services) initiative, led by the International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI) of Columbia University. This initiative works with National Meteorological Services in Africa to improve the availability and quality of climate data by combining quality-controlled data from national observation networks with satellite estimates for rainfall and climate model reanalysis products for temperature. ENACTS has been implemented in about a dozen countries in Africa.

14. Mr. Dinku pointed out that climate data are essential in an array of climate research and applications. For instance, analyses of climate variability and trends require long-term and temporally

consistent climate time series. Applications that use climate data in modelling the impact of climate variability and change on different socio-economic activities also require long-term climate time series data at suitable temporal and spatial resolutions. Climate data could support a suite of climate-smart solutions that strengthen adaptation to climate change and at the same time contribute to sustainable development and risk reduction. However, the use of climate data for research and applications in Africa is very limited. This is mainly because of limitations in the availability of, and access to, climate data. Currently, the primary source of climate data is observation by ground-based weather stations across the continent. However, in many parts of Africa stations are sparse and the number of weather stations has been declining. Coverage tends to be lacking in rural areas, where livelihoods may be most vulnerable to climate variability and climate change. Where station records do exist, they are often of poor quality with many gaps in the data.

15. On national adaptation planning, Raul Alfaro-Pelico reported that the World Bank's PPCR, a focus on resilience has helped mainstream climate aspects into core development planning in at least 28 countries across three continents (Africa, Latin America and Asia) and two island regions (Caribbean and the Pacific). The PPCR, a US\$1.2 billion dedicated financing mechanism under the Climate Investment Funds (CIFs), has supported the integration of adaptation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction in national policy, planning and investment decision-making processes. With technical assistance grants of US\$1.5 million per country supported, the World Bank Group, alongside other multilateral development banks, has helped countries prepare Strategic Programs for Climate Resilience (SPCRs). These SPCR have increased country consensus on nationally-appropriate approaches to promote climate resilient development in line with a broad post-2015 international agenda.

16. Mr. Alfaro-Pelico noted that the NAP process can learn from the success in resilience mainstreaming through the SPCR process. Each PPCR-supported country has followed their own approach. In Africa, Madagascar took a multi-dimensional approach to climate risk management in line with several policies aligned to SDGs, Paris and the Sendai framework. Ethiopia's SPCR was anchored in its existing Climate Resilience and Green Economy strategy that already streamlined adaptation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction. "Resilience" has cut across these planning processes in all PPCR-supported countries, however, success has been anchored on the pursuit of "transformational change at scale" where countries have been in the driving seat (not the MDBs). Finance from the PPCR has leveraged other sources of funds (e.g. AF, GEF, GCF, private sector, government resources), and learning and knowledge of the resilience mainstreaming has been disseminated at the local, national and international levels.

17. In lively exchange between the panellists and the audience the following main points were raised:

- a) In its sixth assessment report, can the IPCC include the Sendai framework in the chapter linking adaptation and the SDGs?
- b) How does the UNFCCC see the reporting of actions coming together from these three frameworks in terms of transparency?
- c) The issue of the three frameworks is addressed at the policy, scientific and academic levels, however, it does not exist at local level. How can it be considered at a local level in a comprehensive way?

5. Key findings

18. In line with its intended objective, the 2018 Adaptation Forum further elaborated on the key messages from the 2017 TEM-A as follows:

- a) Integrating adaptation with the SDGs and the Sendai Framework can be beneficial for building resilience comprehensively across societies. There are many opportunities to support further policy integration, owing to the common themes, scopes and objectives of the three global agendas. In particular, “resilience” and “ecosystems” can act as core concepts for motivating such integration;
- b) Adequate, sustainable support for adaptation efforts is crucial, including finance, technology and capacity building; as well as the availability and access to climate and socioeconomic data to inform policymaking. This includes consideration of what data is needed and for what purpose;
- c) The process to formulate and implement NAPs can support the implementation of enhanced adaptation action, as well as an integrated approach by which projects and programmes should be shaped. Projects and programmes should also be shaped by national conditions, include a multi-stakeholder involvement approach and be based on the priorities given by resilience and vulnerabilities. Mainstreaming resilience is a key component for achieving the integration;
- d) Governance and strong institutions are important in the context of integrated approaches. Coherence and coordination at national level is crucial;
- e) Language is a challenge. This includes questions such as: How to package and disseminate all the different types of knowledge in an adequate and useful manner? How can we talk more effectively to each other? If we want to build bottom-up approaches we need to start from vulnerable groups and communities and improve communication with them;
- f) It is useful to think of resilience from a systematic perspective and not in isolation;
- g) The aspects of risk management and capacity need to be addressed, regardless of the complexity, with a focus on solutions to the challenges we are facing now. Without integration is not possible to find solutions to climate change problem;
- h) The issue of the three frameworks is addressed at the policy, scientific and academic levels. It also needs to be addressed at a local level and capacity should be built at community level;
- i) Financial resources for countries are crucial to implement their policies and reduce vulnerabilities.

6. Possible next steps

19. The AC will be invited to consider the key findings of this report and agree on possible next steps to be included in its next workplan for the years 2019 to 2021, as appropriate.
20. The AC will also be invited to consider the next Adaptation Forum, including:
 - a) Holding it in 2019 so as to ensure progress on key topics under consideration by the AC:
 - i) Possibly as an element of the next global NAP Expo, tentatively scheduled to take place in April 2019 in the Republic of Korea; or
 - ii) In conjunction with other international adaptation events or a non-climate change event where adaptation is particularly relevant (e.g. sustainable development, disaster risk reduction, health, economic development);
 - b) Not holding it in 2019 and instead holding it every second year in conjunction with Adaptation Futures.

Annex: Information provided to the organizers of Adaptation Futures after the Adaptation Forum

1. The organizers of the Adaptation Futures conference had several requests to the rapporteurs of the individual sessions. Below are the requests and the responses supplied for the AC's Adaptation Forum:

2. **Which chapter in IPCC 6th Assessment Report Working Group II is most relevant to your session?**

- a) Climate resilient development pathways

3. **Please share references to peer-reviewed and other literature that should be reviewed by the IPCC:**

- a) Davis M, Benzie M and Barrott J. 2016. Transnational Climate Change Impacts: An Entry Point to Enhanced Global Cooperation on Adaptation? Policy Brief. Stockholm: Stockholm Environment Institute.
- b) Kehler Siebert C, Klein RJT, Biskupska N, Dickin S, Piman T and Vulturius G. 2017. Adaptation Futures 2016: Practices and Solutions. Conference Synthesis.
- c) Benzie M, Hedlund J and Carlsen H. 2016. Introducing the Transnational Climate Impacts Index: Indicators of Country-level Exposure – Methodology Report. Working Paper. Stockholm: Stockholm Environment Institute.
- d) Peters BG. 1998. Managing Horizontal Government: The Politics of Coordination. Research Paper No. 21. Ottawa: Canadian Centre for Management Development.
- e) Metcalfe (1994) cited in: Persson Å. 2004. Environmental Policy Integration: An Introduction. Policy Integration for Sustainability Background Paper. Stockholm: Stockholm Environment Institute.
- f) Peters K, Langston L, Tanner T and Bahadur A. 2016. 'Resilience' Across the Post-2015 Frameworks: Towards Coherence? Working Paper. London: Overseas Development Institute.
- g) Meijers E and Stead D. 2004. "Policy integration: what does it mean and how can it be achieved? A multi-disciplinary review." Paper presented at the Berlin Conference on the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change on "Greening of policies: interlinkages and policy integration" held in Berlin on 3 and 4 December 2004.

4. **What are the main takeaway points from your session that should be conveyed to IPCC authors? Please be concise**

- a) Integrating adaptation with the SDGs and the Sendai Framework can be very beneficial for building resilience comprehensively across societies.
- b) 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 needed specially for developing countries also for the NAP process.