

**Fifteenth meeting of the Adaptation Committee
Bonn, Germany, 19 to 21 March 2019**

Technical Examination Process on Adaptation

Concept note

Recommended action by the Adaptation Committee

The Adaptation Committee (AC), at its 15th meeting, will be invited to consider this concept note and agree on next steps, including agreeing on the approach to the 2019 TEMs, considering ways to upscale and enhance the impact of the TEP and agreeing on the topic for the 2020 TEP.

1. Introduction

1. As per decision 1/CP.21, paragraph 126, the Adaptation Committee is to conduct the technical examination process on adaptation (TEP-A) from 2016-2020, consisting of technical expert meetings (TEMs), technical papers and summaries for policy-makers (SPMs) with a view to identifying concrete opportunities for strengthening resilience, reducing vulnerabilities and increasing the understanding and implementation of adaptation actions. The TEP-A is complemented by a similar technical examination of opportunities for actions with high mitigation potential (TEP-M). The Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action, led by two high-level Climate Champions, brings together Party and non-Party stakeholders to enhance collaboration, catalyze the scaling up of efforts and allow for a political showcasing of adaptation and mitigation successes, including those identified through the TEPs.
2. Having concluded an assessment of the TEPs in November 2017 towards improving its effectiveness, the Conference of the Parties (COP) in decision 13/CP.23:
 - a) Strongly urged the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies, the high-level champions, the AC, the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) and the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) to focus the TEPs on specific policy options and opportunities for enhancing mitigation and adaptation that are actionable in the short term, including those with sustainable development co-benefits;
 - b) Requested the AC to consider the needs of Parties expressed in their nationally determined contributions (NDCs), national adaptation plans (NAPs) and national communications, to address all four functions of the TEP-A, and to include in its annual report to the COP recommendations for respective processes and for constituted bodies under the Convention, Parties and other organizations on ways forward and necessary actions to be taken, based on the outcomes of the TEMs;
 - c) Invited expert organizations, constituted bodies under the Convention and non-Party stakeholders to enhance their engagement in the TEPs;
 - d) Invited Parties and non-Party stakeholders to organize regional TEMs, building on existing regional climate action events, as appropriate, with a view to examining specific finance, technology and capacity-building resources necessary to scale up actions in regional contexts, including through regional mitigation and adaptation initiatives, and to provide their reports thereon to the secretariat as input to the TEPs;

- e) Strongly urged the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies, the high-level champions, the Adaptation Committee, the TEC and the CTCN to ensure the necessary continuity of and follow-up on the identified policy options and opportunities, including by informing the SPMs and the high-level events.

3. COP 24 welcomed the TEM-As and expressed its appreciation to the Parties and organizations that led and participated in the TEM-As or organized regional TEM-As in 2018. It further encouraged Parties and organizations to build on the outcomes of the regional TEMs held in 2018 when planning and implementing adaptation action and to continue to organize such meetings in 2019 with a view to enhancing adaptation action and its overall coherence.¹

2. Planning of the 2019 TEMs

4. Following the initial topic of “Reducing vulnerability and mainstreaming climate change adaptation, including through the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans” in 2016, the 2017’s “Integrating climate change adaptation with the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction”, the 2018 “Adaptation planning for vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems”, the topic for 2019 is “Adaptation finance, including the private sector”.

5. The 2019 TEMs will take place during the SB sessions, which are scheduled from 17 to 27 June 2019. COP 23 provided additional guidance to organizing the TEMs, including:

- a) Inviting expert organizations to volunteer, through the secretariat, to lead the organization of relevant TEMs;
- b) Making the TEMs more interactive, including by means of round table discussions, thematic dialogues and virtual participation;
- c) Making the agenda and guiding questions for the TEMs available well in advance;
- d) Concluding the TEMs with a session on proposing ways forward and necessary actions in relation to the identified policy options and opportunities for inclusion in the technical papers and subsequent SPMs.

2.1. Volunteer expert organizations

6. In line with decision 13/CP.23, three expert organizations stepped forward and volunteered to be engaged: The Adaptation Fund, the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Stockholm Environment Institute and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), through the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre.

7. In addition, members of the TEP-A working group suggested to engage the following organizations:

- a) Multilateral development banks, including the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development; the Inter-American Development Bank and the Islamic Development Bank;
- b) UN organizations such as the International Fund for Agriculture and Development;
- c) Private sector actors and organizations working on stimulating private sector investment in adaptation such as Acclimatise, the GCF Private Sector Facility, Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures.

2.2. Proposed topics and agenda

8. Taking into account the proposals by the expert organizations, topics discussed by the TEP-A working group for the 2019 TEM could consider:

¹ The 2018 technical paper is available at <http://tep-a.org/technical-paper/>; an overview of the 2018 TEP-A, including regional technical expert meetings, is available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/ac14_tepa_0.pdf.

- a) Coordination, coherence and complementarity in financing adaptation, including roles, responsibilities, and strengths of the various players in this complex landscape;
 - b) Adaptation planning processes, using best available science and climate information for scaling up finance for implementation;
 - c) Financing for innovation, and incremental or transformational change – how can we leverage public finance towards fundamental shifts in impactful adaptation action and support at scale? Innovative financing instruments – green bonds, blended finance, and catalysing private sector action, including for commercialization of emerging adaptation technologies;
 - d) Effectiveness of adaptation finance/Measuring the impact of adaptation finance;
 - e) Direct access and other innovative means of implementation;
 - f) Reaching the most vulnerable with adaptation financing – how can finance reach most vulnerable countries and communities?
 - g) Adaptation finance at subnational levels: City and community-lead investment of local adaptation action;
 - h) Financing for regional and transboundary adaptation initiatives.
9. Regarding possible approaches to the 2019 TEM, members of the TEP-A working group proposed to:
- a) Enhance interactivity, including through break-out sessions as well as virtual participation and utilizing online tools such as sli.do;
 - b) Invite submissions to collect case studies and lessons learned on what is working, what not and why. Such submissions would not only inform the sessions but also serve as useful input to the subsequent technical paper.

10. Taking into account the volunteer and potential other expert organizations, it is proposed to organize the TEMs over two days (Tuesday 25 and Wednesday 26 June) as presented in table 1 below. The TEM-A would begin with discussing the goals and objectives of adaptation finance, what is needed from a developing country's perspective. Afterwards the TEM would consider the landscape/context and sources of adaptation finance, including public and private ones, before looking at questions regarding accessing resources for planning and readiness and moving to accessing resources for implementation. The TEM-A would finally consider questions of the adequacy and effectiveness of finance before closing.

Table 1. Possible agenda for the 2019 TEM-As

	Day 1	Time	Day 2
10:00-10:20	Session 1: Opening <i>Leads:</i> AC, Champions, SB Chairs	10:00-11:30	Session 5: Planning/ Climate Finance Readiness <i>Co-lead:</i> AF/GCF <i>Possible support:</i> <i>Key elements:</i> 1) GCF Readiness 2.0 (NAP Support, climate rationale, transboundary risks), 2) Direct access and simplified approval processes 3) Moving from financing planning to implementation
10:20-11:40	Session 2: What is adaptation finance for? Understanding the goals and emerging needs <i>Co-lead:</i> <i>Possible support:</i> GCF <i>Key elements:</i> 1) Transformational Change/Paradigm Shifts 2) Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening 3) Reaching the Most Vulnerable	11:30-12:45	Adaptation finance adequacy and effectiveness in the context of the Global Stocktake <i>Co-lead:</i> <i>Possible support:</i> LEG, SCF and others <i>Key elements:</i> 1) Global Stocktake Overview 2) Adaption Finance Data Availability/Issues 3) Perspectives on Assessing adequacy and effectiveness

	4) Iterative process 5) Meeting the needs of developing countries		
11:40-13:00	Session 3: Coordination and coherence in a fragmented public adaptation finance landscape <i>Co-lead:</i> SEI, GCF <i>Possible support:</i> SCF, WRI, UNDP <i>Key elements:</i> 1) Mandates, strengths, and Weaknesses 2) Synergies across actors, bilateral and multilateral 3) Existing modalities for coordination 4) Coordination and coherence in a national context and from a national perspective	12:45-13:00	Closing: Identification of specific policy options and opportunities that are actionable in the short term and outlook to remaining 2019 TEP <i>Lead:</i> AC, Champions, SB Chairs
Lunch break			
15:00-16:30	Session 4: Blending public and private finance <i>Co-lead:</i> Acclimatise (tbd) <i>Possible support:</i> GCF Private Sector Facility, NAP Global Network, TCFD <i>Key elements:</i> 1) Showcase different business models for blended capital in place or being planned; 2) Showcase good examples for PPPs; 3) Financial strategies and instruments for catalyzing private investment for adaptation;		
16:30-18:00	Break-outs		

2.3. Engagement and outreach

11. In line with the COP request for making the TEMs more interactive and making the agenda and guiding questions for the TEMs available well in advance, it is suggested to start engagement of partners and overall outreach well in advance of the TEMs, in order to secure adequate and diverse participation, including policy makers, researchers, civil society, UN bodies, private sector and country representatives.

12. Targeted engagement of partners, as well as overall outreach, are key components of achieving a successful meeting. Therefore, all efforts are undertaken to reach the audience identified above. This will include outreach via the secretariat's channels, including the website, social media, media contacts and others.

13. Outreach and engagement activities can be divided into three stages:

- a) Pre-meeting: Collect submissions and make them available on the dedicated web page TEP-A.org. Ensure participating by advertising the meeting via the respective channels in a timely manner (six to eight weeks before the meeting), including the distribution of the agenda;
- b) During the meeting: Ensure the visibility of the meeting in the context of the June Climate Change Conference by advertising via social media and the in-session channels; maximizing use of the remote participation, as much as possible;
- c) Capturing the main outcomes of the session in a newsroom article and related social media activities, for example a Facebook Live Exchange as done for the 2018-TEMs, which became the most watched UNFCCC video of the SB 48 session. Encourage Parties and organizations to conduct regional TEM-As and boost their outreach through the secretariat's social media channels (Adaptation Exchange on Facebook and NWP Twitter account) and publish results on the dedicated [website](#).

14. In order to make the meeting more interactive, the organizers will provide for:

- a) Organizing all sessions with a focus on interaction, i.e. reducing the amount of presentations to a minimum;
- b) Continued use of the interactive audience management tool “Sli.do”, which was used in the previous TEMs with positive feedback.

3. Upscaling and enhancing the impact of the TEP

15. In line with the COP invitation to Parties and non-Party stakeholders to organize regional TEMs and to provide their reports thereon to the secretariat as input to the TEPs, the AC may consider how to follow-up on this invitation and to reach out with a view to securing additional input. A list of potential regional events is included in table 2.

16. In general, participants in these TEMs noted that further regional TEM-As would benefit the regions. They also emphasized the need for enhanced regional collaboration and having a dedicated space to be able to share knowledge and identify opportunities. They welcomed the meetings’ innovative design that provided opportunity for strong collaboration between Parties and non-Party stakeholders. They recommended that these meetings should continue to be a vehicle through which different actors can share knowledge and mobilize action on adaptation at a national, sub-national, local and individual levels.

Table 2. Opportunities for regional TEM-As in 2019

Event	Date	Region	Organizer	Status
Korea Global Adaptation Week	8 to 12 April	Global, Asia	GCF	
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17. The regional TEM-A, organized by the GCF during the Korea Global Adaptation Week, will tackle the following topics: 1) Coherence and complementarity of climate funds and financial mechanisms; 2) Financial strategies and instruments for catalyzing private investment for adaptation; 3) Impact of adaptation investments for increasing resilience and reducing risk; 4) Breakout group discussions by sector (Climate information and early warning systems; integrated and resilient infrastructure; water security; health and well-being; agriculture and food security; ecosystems and ecosystem services).

4. TEP Topic for 2020

18. While the AC agreed to focus the 2019 TEP on “Adaptation finance”, it deliberately left the topic for 2020 open to remain flexible. As requested by the COP, the champions are considering topics for the mitigation TEP up until 2020 and they plan to organize their engagement in the Marrakech partnership in 2020 around SDG 1: reducing poverty and leaving no one behind.

19. Based on the initial list of topics and taking into account the topics of the 2016-2019 TEPs, the AC could consider focusing on specific policy options and opportunities for enhancing adaptation that are actionable in the short term in the areas of:

- a) The 2°C and 1.5 C° temperature limit and at multiple levels (i.e., local, national and regional);
- b) Addressing issues relating to transboundary adaptation;
- c) Partnerships for adaptation;
- d) Building resilience, reducing risk and avoiding mal-adaptation: examining specific policy options and opportunities offered through systematically building upon SDG interactions and leverage points for adaptation;
- e) Gender and adaptation;
- f) Promoting endogenous technologies and harnessing technology innovations for adaptation;
- g) Education and training, public participation and youth to enhance adaptation action;
- h) A summary of the TEM-A 2016-2019.

20. The AC may also wish to consider new topics that are emerging as new priorities and may not have been considered in previous discussions.

5. Next steps

21. The Adaptation Committee may wish to consider the following next steps:

- a) Agree on the approach to the 2019 TEM-A and request the lead organizations and the secretariat to organize the 2019 TEM, in particular considering how sessions would arrive at the identification of “specific policy options that are actionable in the short term”;
 - b) Collect submissions with advance input to the 2019 TEM-A and make them available on the dedicated web page TEP-A.org;
 - c) Consider ways to upscale and enhance the impact of the TEP, including ensuring that messages and recommendations are substantive, relevant and actionable and that TEMs offer a higher level of virtual participation;
 - d) Agree on the 2020 TEP-A topic.
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