



Background paper on the linkages with the Subsidiary Body for Implementation and the thematic bodies of the Convention

I. Background

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), at its seventeenth session, decided that the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) shall maintain linkages with the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) and the thematic bodies of the Convention.

2. In 2013, the SCF agreed that strengthening linkages with the SBI and thematic bodies of the Convention will be substantially addressed in 2014. The work programme of the SCF for 2014–2015¹ indicated that the co-chairs of the SCF are to meet presiding officers of the thematic bodies of the Convention at the beginning of 2014 and that the establishment of linkages with the SBI and thematic bodies of the Convention would be an on-going exercise.

3. At COP 19, Parties called on the SCF to further enhance its linkages with the SBI and the thematic bodies of the Convention. In order to enhance these linkages, the SCF may wish to seek an action-based approach with regards to the identification and maintaining of linkages with these bodies. This would entail that cooperation with the various bodies may be structured in accordance with the various activities that the SCF is conducting in 2014 and may provide the SCF with concrete approaches and tools to address the linkages with the various bodies.

4. The succeeding sections outline information on possible substantive linkages with the SBI, as well as the following information for each of the thematic bodies:

- (a) Mandate and recent developments;
- (b) Areas of overlaps/synergies with the activities of the SCF in 2014;
- (c) Proposed approach for the SCF.

5. The following are activities of the SCF where collaboration may be pursued with other thematic bodies of the Convention:

- The Forum;
- The biennial assessment and overview of climate finance flows (BA);
- The measurement, reporting, and verification (MRV) of support beyond the BA;
- The fifth review of the financial mechanism;
- The draft guidance to the operating entities (OEs); and
- The issue of coherence and coordination, under special consideration of financing for forests.

6. Based on this mapping exercise outlining substantive linkages, the SCF may wish to agree on a tailored approach for each of the bodies with a view to increase the cooperation and to promote synergies with those bodies. Proposals on concrete outreach and cooperation approaches are outlined in the draft communication strategy of the SCF (SCF/2014/6/10), which the SCF may wish to consider when discussing the linkages with the SBI and the thematic bodies of the Convention.

II. Subsidiary Body for Implementation

7. At COP 1, Parties established the SBI and decided that one of its functions in relation to the financial mechanism (FM) is to review the FM and advise on appropriate measures.² It is in this context that the SBI was responsible in the conduct of previous reviews of the financial mechanism.

8. At COP 17, Parties decided that the SCF shall assist the COP in exercising its functions with respect to the FM through activities such as providing expert input, including through independent reviews and assessments, into the preparation and conduct of the periodic reviews of the FM by the COP.³ At COP 18, Parties requested the SCF

¹ As contained in FCCC/CP/2013/8, annex VIII.

² Decision 6/CP.1, annex 1, paragraph B.3(a)(i).

³ Decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 120(e).



to provide periodic updates on the status of its work relating to the fifth review of the financial mechanism to the SBI, beginning at SBI 38, with the aim of ensuring an inclusive and transparent process.⁴ At COP 19, the SCF was requested to continue to provide expert input to the fifth review of the FM, with a view to the review being finalized by COP 20.⁵

9. The SBI is not expected to consider the fifth review at its sessions in 2014. Nonetheless, it would be vital for the SCF to liaise with the Chair of the SBI, through the SCF co-chairs, on issues other than the review of FM, including MRV of support, in order to avoid duplications of work and enhance collaboration.

10. By decision 7/CP.19, COP requested the SCF to consider in its work on coherence and coordination, *inter alia*, the issue of financing for forests, taking into account different policy approaches. Furthermore by decision 9/CP.19, the COP requested SCF to focus its soonest possible forum on issues related to finance for forests, including the implementation of activities referred to in decision 1/CP. 16, paragraph 70, and invite REDD plus experts to the forum. In addressing this mandate, SCF may wish to consider discussing with the chairs of the subsidiary bodies on possible areas that the SCF may pursue on forest financing taking into account the current work of these bodies.

III. Thematic Bodies of the Convention

1. Adaptation Committee (AC)

(a) *Mandate and recent developments*

11. The Adaptation Committee (AC) is to promote the implementation of enhanced action on adaptation in a coherent manner under the Convention, *inter alia*, through a) providing technical support and guidance to the Parties; b) sharing of relevant information, knowledge, experience and good practices; c) promoting synergy and strengthening engagement with national, regional and international organizations, centres and networks; d) providing information and recommendations, drawing on adaptation good practices, for consideration by the COP when providing guidance on means to incentivize the implementation of adaptation actions, including finance, technology and capacity-building; and e) considering information communicated by Parties on their monitoring and review of adaptation actions, support provided and received.

12. At COP 19, Parties noted with appreciation the progress made by the AC in promoting coherence in adaptation under the Convention, the 2013, thematic report on the state of adaptation,⁶ the first annual Adaptation Forum,⁷ and the establishment of the task force on national adaptation plans (NAPs). The COP also encouraged the AC to continue its work on providing technical support and guidance to the Parties, in particular in the area of NAPs, and to seek further coherence and synergy with other relevant bodies and programmes under the Convention in implementing its workplan. The AC was furthermore encouraged to utilize, where appropriate, resources, capacities, and expertise from relevant organizations, centres, and networks outside of the Convention in support of its work.

13. In its 2013 report,⁸ the AC outlined the terms of reference for the task force on NAPs, which, *inter alia*, is to serve as the panel within the AC that continuously looks at the issues related to NAPs. The SCF was invited to nominate one of its members to support the work of the task force. Additionally, the report also includes an elaboration of activities included in the AC's workplan under the three work streams of the AC in order to enhance overall coherence. Activities of interest for the SCF in this context in 2014 could be:

- (b) Mapping of mandates, workplans and/or decisions with adaptation relevance;
- (c) Comparing and analysing maps in order to identify concrete activities to reduce duplication, address gaps and promote synergies;
- (d) Identification of recommendations and guidance for consideration by the COP, as a as appropriate and as needed, on the basis of the outcomes of the workshop on the monitoring and evaluation of adaptation, with a view to providing technical support and guidance to Parties, in order to facilitate the enhanced implementation of adaptation actions.

⁴ Decision 8/CP.18, paragraph 3.

⁵ Decision 7/CP.19, paragraph 3.

⁶ Available at <unfccc.int/6997.php#AC>.

⁷ <http://unfccc.int/7978.php>.

⁸ FCCC/SB/2013/2, annex I.



- (e) Compilation of a list of regional centres and networks working on adaptation, with a view to strengthening their role in supporting country-driven adaptation actions;
- (f) Convening a workshop on best practices and needs of local and indigenous communities together with the Nairobi Work Programme (NWP) with input from and the participation of the SCF, the TEC, the LEG, the GCF Board, the Least Developed Countries Fund/Special Climate Change Fund and other relevant bodies and programmes, in order to share technical adaptation - related expertise;
- (g) Following the development of a template by the AC at its 5th meeting, inviting submissions from developed country Parties and bilateral, regional and other multilateral channels on current experience, including criteria, priorities and other relevant information, and on means to incentivize the implementation of adaptation actions, including finance, technology and capacity-building and other ways to enable climate-resilient development and reduce vulnerability;
- (h) Preparing a scoping paper for the workshop on means of implementation (planned for first quarter of 2015), taking into account the above mentioned submissions and the information paper on the roles of regional institutions and United Nations agencies;
- (i) Organize the 2014 Adaptation Forum in the third quarter of 2014;
- (j) Taking into account relevant work of the NWP and the LEG, in particular NAP Central, and the outcomes of the meeting with the IPCC, collection and compilation, as appropriate in an information paper, of relevant information on national adaptation planning, and identify good practices for integrating adaptation into national development policies, processes and actions;
- (k) Prepare a synthesis paper on means of implementation, considering submissions and other information available, including relevant information resulting from the above mentioned call to regional institutions and United Nations agencies;
- (l) Finalize the 2014 thematic report on tools and knowledge available, lessons learned and challenges faced in the application of different approaches guiding national adaptation.

(b) Areas of overlaps/synergies with activities of the SCF in 2014:

14. Provided that the SCF Forum in 2014 will be focused on mobilizing finance for adaptation from both public and private sectors, the SCF will have substantive synergies with the work of the AC on this matter. This may include general information sharing on adaptation finance, national adaptation planning, and adaptation needs based on current and previous work of the AC on this matter, as well as the convening of the 2014 Adaptation Forum, and also the preparatory work for the workshop on means of implementation that the AC will organize in the first quarter of 2015. Also, the SCF may profit from the outcomes of the first Adaptation Forum that was held in Warsaw in 2013.⁹

15. With regards to the BA, the SCF may wish to consider exchanging views and information with the AC on the issue of adaptation needs, as well as the definitional issues regarding climate finance. The AC's work on monitoring and evaluation of adaptation, the work of the NAP task force, as well as the call for submissions from Parties and bilateral, regional and other multilateral channels on means to incentivize the implementation of adaptation actions, especially in relation to finance, may also be of interest to the BA related work of the SCF.

16. The SCF may also wish to engage with the AC with regards to its consideration of MRV related work beyond the BA.

17. In relation to the fifth review of the FM, the SCF may wish to coordinate with the AC with regards to the planned AC call for submissions on means to incentivize the implementation of adaptation actions in order to avoid duplication of work and overburden of Parties and other stakeholders.

18. As outlined in documents SCF/2014/6/7 and SCF/2014/6/10 referring to the provision of draft guidance to the OEs, the SCF may wish to collaborate with the AC in developing draft guidance to the OEs with regards to financing for adaptation in general, and for NAPs, in particular.

(c) Proposed approach

19. The proposed approach for outreach/cooperation with the AC on the above mentioned tasks is outlined in the draft communication strategy of the SCF (SCF/2014/6/10).

20. Through the participation of an SCF member in the NAP taskforce, the SCF also actively engage with the AC and contribute to its work by transmitting finance related expertise to this body. To increase the overall transparency,

⁹ <<http://unfccc.int/7978.php>>.



the SCF member participating in the NAP taskforce may wish to regularly report back to the SCF on the progress within the NAP taskforce, as well as to seek inputs from the SCF on matters relevant to the NAP process.

2. Technology Executive Committee (TEC)

(a) Mandate and recent developments

21. The Technology Executive Committee (TEC), together with the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN), is mandated to facilitate the effective implementation of the Technology Mechanism, under the guidance of the COP.

22. In 2013, the SBI was unable to reach agreement on its consideration of the joint annual report of the TEC and the CTCN and decided to continue its consideration at SBI 40. In its 2013 report,¹⁰ the TEC identified short term activities for immediate follow up action to ensure the continuity of its work:

(a) To organize a workshop on technologies for adaptation, in collaboration with the AC, with a view to developing: (a) TEC brief(s) on the matter, to be held in early 2014 in conjunction with the 8th meeting of the TEC;

(b) To organize one or more workshops on barriers to and enabling environments for technology development and transfer in 2014 in response to decision 1/CP.18, paragraph 60, with a view to determining further relevant action;

(c) To follow up on areas of work for possible collaboration with other bodies under the Convention.

(d) In addition, the TEC will consider assessing the technology and research, development and demonstration financing needs, including options for stimulating investment in research, development and demonstration and deploying low-carbon technologies, in the preparation of its workplan for 2014–2015;

(e) Finalization of its workplan for 2014–2015.

23. Regarding the CTCN, COP 19 (decision 25/CP.19) noted that the modalities and procedures elaborated by the Advisory Board of the CTCN, which are based on the functions of the CTCN, include the following six key elements:

(a) Roles and responsibilities of the CTCN;

(b) Managing requests from national designated entities of developing countries and delivering responses;

(c) Fostering collaboration and access to information and knowledge in order to accelerate climate technology transfer;

(d) Strengthening networks, partnerships and capacity-building for climate technology transfer;

(e) Linkages with the TEC;

(f) Information and knowledge-sharing.

24. According to the rules of procedures of the Advisory Board of the CTCN, the Board shall constitute, inter alia, one of the co-chairs, or a member designated by the co-chairs, of the SCF in his/her official capacity as SCF representative (decision 25/CP.19, annex II).

25. In decision 1/CP.18, paragraph 62, Parties agreed to further elaborate, at COP 20, the linkages between the Technology Mechanism and the FM of the Convention, taking into consideration the recommendations of the Board of the Green Climate Fund, developed in accordance with decision 3/CP.17, paragraph 17, and of the TEC, developed in accordance with decision 4/CP.17, paragraph 6.

(b) Areas of overlaps/synergies with activities of the SCF in 2014:

26. The proposed programme of the SCF Forum includes a session on technology financing, including technology needs and enabling environments. In addition, the outcomes of the workshop organized by the TEC and the AC on technology for adaptation, to be held on 4 March 2014, could provide useful insights for the organization of the Forum.

¹⁰ FCCC/SB/2013/1.



27. The SCF may wish to consider consulting with the TEC and the CTCN on the results from the preparations of the technology needs assessments in light of the needs related considerations within the BA. In addition, the SCF may seek targeted information from the TEC on financing for technology transfer, enabling environments, as well as on the definitional deliberations regarding climate finance. The SCF may also wish to engage with the TEC with regards to its consideration of MRV related work beyond the BA.

28. As outlined in documents SCF/2014/6/7 and SCF/2014/6/10 referring to the provision of draft guidance to the OEs, the SCF may wish to coordinate with the TEC on concrete elements for drafting guidance to the OEs with regards to financing for technology transfer.

(c) *Proposed approach*

29. The proposed approach for outreach/cooperation with the TEC on the above mentioned tasks is outlined in the draft communication strategy of the SCF (SCF/2014/6/10).

30. As one SCF member will be part of the CTCN Advisory Board, the SCF may be able to provide inputs on climate finance-related issues. To increase the overall transparency, the SCF member participating in the Advisory Board may wish to regularly report back to the SCF on the progress made, as well as to seek relevant inputs from the SCF.

3. Executive Committee of the Warsaw international mechanism for loss and damage

(a) *Mandate and recent developments*

31. The COP, in decision 2/CP.19, established the Warsaw international mechanism for loss and damage, under the Cancun Adaptation Framework, to address loss and damage associated with impacts of climate change, including extreme events and slow onset events, in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. The mechanism shall fulfill the role under the Convention of promoting the implementation of approaches to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change in a comprehensive, integrated and coherent manner by undertaking, inter alia, the following functions:

- (a) Enhancing knowledge and understanding of comprehensive risk management approaches to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including slow onset impacts;
- (b) Strengthening dialogue, coordination, coherence and synergies among relevant stakeholders; and
- (c) Enhancing action and support, including finance, technology and capacity-building, to address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, so as to enable countries to undertake actions pursuant to decision 3/CP.18, including by:
 - (i) Providing technical support and guidance on approaches to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts, including extreme events and slow onset events;
 - (ii) Providing information and recommendations for consideration by the COP when providing guidance relevant to reducing the risks of loss and damage and, where necessary, addressing loss and damage, including to the operating entities of the financial mechanism of the Convention, as appropriate;
 - (iii) Facilitating the mobilization and securing of expertise, and enhancement of support, including finance, technology and capacity-building, to strengthen existing approaches and, where necessary, facilitate the development and implementation of additional approaches to address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts, including extreme weather events and slow onset events.

32. The COP further decided that the mechanism should complement, draw upon the work of and involve, as appropriate, existing bodies and expert groups under the Convention and that it will improve coordination of the relevant work of existing bodies under the Convention.

33. Furthermore, the COP decided that the Warsaw international mechanism will, inter alia:

- (a) Facilitate support of actions to address loss and damage;
- (b) Improve coordination of the relevant work of existing bodies under the Convention;
- (c) Convene meetings of relevant experts and stakeholders;
- (d) Promote the development of, and compile, analyse, synthesize and review information;
- (e) Provide technical guidance and support;



(f) Make recommendations, as appropriate, on how to enhance engagement, actions and coherence under and outside the Convention, including on how to mobilize resources and expertise at different levels;

34. The COP also established an executive committee to guide the implementation of functions of the mechanism. As an interim measure, the executive committee shall consist of two representatives from, inter alia, the SCF, the TEC and the CGE. The executive committee is requested to develop its initial two-year workplan for consideration at SB 41.

(b) Areas of overlaps/synergies with activities of the SCF in 2014:

35. With regards to the BA, the SCF may wish to consider exchanging views and information with the executive committee on the issue of adaptation needs, as well as the definitional issues regarding climate finance.

36. The SCF may also wish to engage with the executive committee with regards to its consideration of MRV related work beyond the BA.

37. Furthermore, the SCF may wish to coordinate with the executive committee in looking into the request by COP 19 to developed country Parties to provide developing country Parties with finance, technology and capacity-building, in accordance with decision 1/CP.16 and other relevant decisions of the COP.

(c) Proposed approach

38. The proposed approach for outreach/cooperation with the executive committee on the above mentioned areas is outlined in the draft communication strategy of the SCF (SCF/2014/6/10).

39. The two SCF representatives to the executive committee on an interim basis will contribute to the drafting of its two-year workplan. To increase the overall transparency, the SCF members participating in the executive committee may wish to regularly report back to the SCF on the progress made, as well as to seek inputs from the SCF on matters relevant to loss and damage.

4. Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG)

(a) Mandate and recent developments

40. The LEG is requested by the COP to provide technical support and advice to the least developed countries (LDCs) on the national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs) and the LDC work programme, and to provide technical guidance and support to the NAP process.

41. SBI 39 welcomed its work programme for 2013–2014,¹¹ including the outreach activities and the regional training workshops on NAPAs.¹² The SBI also welcomed the LEG's engagement with the AC and other relevant bodies under the Convention in support of its work on the NAP process and other relevant bodies under the Convention in support of its work on the NAP process, in particular it encouraged the LEG to further enhance its collaboration with the TEC on the topic of adaptation technology.

(b) Areas of overlaps/synergies with activities of the SCF in 2014:

42. The organization of the SCF forum could profit from discussions and experiences of the LEG in terms of NAPAs and the LDC work programme, coordination on these issues could therefore increase synergies between the work of the SCF and the LEG.

43. With regards to the BA, the SCF may wish to consider exchanging views and information with the LEG on the issue of adaptation needs, as well as the definitional issues regarding climate finance. The SCF could also seek targeted information from the LEG with regards to NAPAs and NAPs.

44. The SCF may also wish to engage with the LEG with regards to its consideration of MRV related work beyond the BA.

45. As outlined in documents SCF/2014/6/7 and SCF/2014/6/10 referring to the provision of draft guidance to the OEs, the SCF may wish to engage with the LEG, which could provide insights into the support received by LDCs in the implementation of NAPAs and thereby assist the SCF in drafting appropriate guidance to the OEs in this regard.

¹¹ Detailed information is available here <unfccc.int/7984>.

¹² FCCC/SBI/2013/L.2.



(c) Proposed approach

46. The proposed approach for outreach/cooperation with the LEG on the above mentioned areas is outlined in the draft communication strategy of the SCF (SCF/2014/6/10).

5. Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE)

(a) Mandate and recent developments

47. The COP decided to extend the mandate of the CGE for five years (2014-2018) (decision 19/CP.19). According to its terms of reference, the CGE shall improve the process of and preparation of national communications and biennial update reports by non-Annex I Parties by providing technical advice and support to such Parties, including on steps to integrate climate change considerations into relevant social, economic and environmental policies and actions. The CGE shall, in defining and implementing its work programme, take into account other relevant work by expert groups under the Convention in order to avoid duplication of work.

(b) Areas of overlaps/synergies with activities of the SCF in 2014:

48. As outlined in documents SCF/2014/6/7 and SCF/2014/6/10 referring to the provision of draft guidance to the OEs, the SCF may wish to engage with the CGE, which could assist the SCF in understanding the extent of the need for financial support for national communications and biennial update reports in Non-Annex I countries, and assess the appropriateness of the response of the OEs.

49. The SCF may also wish to engage with the CGE with regards to its consideration of MRV related work beyond the BA.

(c) Proposed approach

50. The proposed approach for outreach/cooperation with the CGE on the above mentioned area is outlined in the draft communication strategy of the SCF (SCF/2014/6/10).
