

Third Meeting of the Adaptation Committee Bonn, Germany, 18–20 June 2013

Draft scoping paper

Meeting to gather up-to-date information on adaptation, including the limits of adaptation, in collaboration with IPCC – WGII

1. Introduction

The Conference of the Parties, at its 18th session, adopted the draft three-year work plan of the Adaptation Committee (AC).¹ Within this work plan, the AC agreed to “convene a meeting to gather up-to-date information on adaptation, including the limits of adaptation, in collaboration with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Working Group II (IPCC-WGII)”. The AC further agreed to take into account the outcomes of the work programme on loss and damage and cooperate with the Nairobi work programme (NWP) and the IPCC-WGII when planning for and undertaking the meeting.

This draft scoping paper intends to serve as a basis for the AC to commence its consideration of this meeting. The paper first provides an overview of activities undertaken by IPCC-WGII, the NWP and the work programme on loss and damage. In addition, it provides information on relevant activities undertaken by the LEG and in support of the NAPs as well as on other adaptation events relevant for the meeting. The paper then reflects on the intended purpose and expected outcome of the meeting and on potential topics and concludes with ways of collaboration.

2. Relevant activities undertaken by IPCC-WGII, NWP, the work programme on loss and damage, the LEG, NAPs and others

IPCC-WGII

The IPCC WGII is tasked to carry out periodic assessments on current state of knowledge about the observed and potential impacts of climate change and options for adaptation through regular assessments of the most recent information published in scientific, technical, and socio-economic literature worldwide. The Working Group’s contribution to the Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) is scheduled for government approval at the end of March 2014. In addition to regional and sectoral assessments of climate change impacts and vulnerability, four chapters in WGII volume of AR5 will deal with different aspects of adaptation including:

- Ch. 14 — Adaptation needs and options;
- Ch. 15 — Adaptation planning and implementation;
- Ch. 16 — Adaptation opportunities, constraints and limits;
- Ch. 17 — Economics of adaptation.

Following the publication of AR5, the IPCC-WGII will organize outreach activities at various national, regional and international events and meetings, including UNFCCC sessions, to publicize and disseminate the main findings. Besides regular assessments of climate change and its effects, the IPCC WGII publishes special reports. The most recent in 2012 was on Managing the Risks of

¹ FCCC/SB/2012/3, annex II, item 15.

Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation (SREX). Its publication was followed by a series of outreach events across the globe.

Nairobi work programme

Since its inception in 2005, the Nairobi work programme has gathered up-to-date information on adaptation provided by Parties and partner organizations. Information has been collected, analysed and disseminated through numerous workshops, expert meetings, forums of focal points of partner organizations and knowledge products such as compilations, reports or databases.²

SBSTA 38 (3-14 June 2013) will consider the current and any potential future work areas of the Nairobi work programme with a view to making recommendations to COP19 on how best to support the objectives of the Nairobi work programme. Parties and relevant organizations have suggested a variety of new activities, including those aimed at gathering information, and called for the NWP to support the work of the Adaptation Committee.³

Work programme on loss and damage

The implementation of the work programme on loss and damage up till now has resulted in the development of knowledge resources, the sharing of knowledge and mutual learning, and a framework for action.⁴ As requested by COP 18, SBI 38 will elaborate additional activities to further the understanding of and expertise on loss and damage.

LEG and NAPs

Since its establishment in 2001, the LEG has been assisting LDCs in preparing and implementing national adaptation programmes of action, which focus on immediate and short-term adaptation needs. This support has been extended to the national adaptation plan process, which addresses medium- and long-term adaptation needs. The comprehensive NAP process, as envisaged by the LEG's technical guidelines, is expected to generate up-to-date knowledge on adaptation, including ways to integrate it into development planning, in LDCs and, where applicable, in non-LDC developing countries. Through its various activities, the LEG has gathered a wealth of information on adaptation in LDCs, including country experiences, best practices and lessons learned.⁵

Other meetings gathering up-to-date information on adaptation

During the last years, a number of international and regional adaptation events have been established, which seek to offer regular opportunities for a variety of stakeholders to share the latest information on adaptation and which could offer platforms for collaboration. For example, Climate Adaptation Futures is a biennial international adaptation conference, bringing together research scientists, including many from IPCC WGII, policy makers and practitioners from developed and developing countries to share knowledge about adaptation challenges and opportunities. The third Climate Adaptation Futures Conference will take place in Fortaleza,

² More information on the NWP is available in the documents AC/2013/2 (Possible cooperation in order to reduce duplication of actions, address gaps and strengthen synergies) and AC/2013/3 (Mandates, work plans and decisions with adaptation relevance).

³ Submissions from Parties and organizations are available at <<http://unfccc.int/5900.php>>.

⁴ More information is available in the documents AC/2013/2 (Possible cooperation in order to reduce duplication of actions, address gaps and strengthen synergies) and AC/2013/8 (Outcomes of the work programme to consider approaches to address loss and damage).

⁵ Information is available at <<http://unfccc.int/6491.php>>.

Brazil in May 2014.⁶ Examples of regular regional events include the Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum or the European Climate Change Adaptation Conference.

3. Planned meeting

The AC may wish to consider the intended purpose and expected outcome of the meeting. Does it wish to use the meeting:

- As a learning opportunity for its members to be given an in-depth account of the findings of the AR5, possibly in an interactive format with IPCC authors?
- To look for information to support the implementation of the AC's 3-year work plan, for example to be fed into the periodic reports of adaptation?
- To consider the information with a view to making recommendations to the COP on how to further enhance the implementation of adaptation and/or on what further scientific information and research is needed to better support enhanced adaptation action?
- To disseminate the information to Parties to support them in their adaptation planning and implementation?

In considering the intended purpose and expected outcomes of the meeting, the AC may reflect on the potential topics it wishes to see addressed in the meeting. Does it wish:

- To address the whole spectrum of adaptation: from observation and assessment to planning and implementation to monitoring and evaluation?
- To focus on a few specific aspects such as limits and constraints to adaptation to allow for more in-depth considerations?

Pending the intended purpose and expected outcome as well as topics, the AC may wish to consider ways of collaborating with the IPCC WGII, the NWP, the LEG, NAPs, the work programme on loss and damage and other actors. If so inclined:

- Does it wish to have a stand-alone meeting or to have the meeting in conjunction with other meetings, e.g. by the IPCC (such as the traditional IPCC side event at the SBs following the publication of a report), the UNFCCC Research Dialogue or others (such as the Adaptation Futures conference)?
- Does it wish for the meeting to be a one-off event or does it envision regular, e.g. biannual, meetings to gather up-to-date information on adaptation?
- How does it wish to organize the meeting?
 - Does it wish to agree on the specifics of the meeting by itself first and then invite the IPCC WGII, NWP stakeholders and other experts as appropriate to and as it see fits?
 - Or does it wish to engage the IPCC WGII and possibly NWP stakeholders early on and develop the meeting's specifics such as agenda and timing together? If so, the AC may wish to designate an AC member or members to engage with the IPCC WGII directly.

Other aspects, such as timing, duration, format and participants will need to be considered once the above issues have been resolved.

4. Next steps

The AC may wish to use the information provided in this note:

- To agree on the key parameters of the meeting and finalize the scoping paper (*Q3 2013*);
- To engage with the IPCC WGII and agree on modalities for cooperation (*Q4 2013*);
- To hold the meeting and prepare a report (*Q2/ Q3 2014 to await the publication of AR5*).

⁶ More information, including on the first two conferences, is available at <<http://www.unep.org/provia/ADAPTATIONCONFERENCE/tabid/55292/Default.aspx>>.