

BRIEFING PAPER

# Adaptation Committee #5

## All Hands on Deck!

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*Advance Copy*

**Brief Summary**

Adaptation Committee: This briefing paper briefly summarizes major discussion points for the upcoming 5th meeting of Adaptation Committee, that takes place from the 5 - 7th March, 2014 in Bonn.

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## 1 Introduction

The Adaptation Committee (AC) enters the second year of its work. This marks an important crossroad for the work of the AC, either showing that it represents added value to the international response on adaptation, or falling back behind expectations showing that it is busying itself with little impact for the vulnerable people on the frontlines of climate change.

The AC represents the global body that directly informs and promotes international norms on climate change adaptation. This is a major opportunity – and responsibility for the AC. The briefing for AC#4<sup>1</sup> called for putting the AC on a strategic path. In its last meeting the AC rationalized its work-plan into three different work-streams. AC#5 will be critical in moving these work-streams ahead.

The year 2015 represents a major milestone for the international community with a new climate agreement to be decided at COP19 in Paris. While there is near-universal agreement that adaptation is an important part of the deal, Parties are currently figuring out how exactly the 2015 agreement can support further adaptation action. While there is no official mandate yet for the AC to provide input into the ADP talks, it is clear that the AC currently advances through its work many issues that are discussed as part of the ADP negotiations in 2014 and 2015. The AC should therefore use its potential leadership and foresight of its members in 2014 and better focus its existing work also towards this important political opportunity.

### **Background: History, Role and Functions of the Adaptation Committee**

The establishment of the Adaptation Committee (AC) – the UNFCCC’s primary advisory body on matters related to adaptation – was an important milestone in the last years. Before, the adaptation agenda under the UNFCCC was fragmented over several agenda items and negotiation streams. In order to provide coherence and promote implementation of adaptation under the Convention, COP16 in Cancun in 2010 established the AC laying out the following functions.<sup>1</sup>

1. Providing technical support to the Conference of the Parties;
2. Enhancing sharing of information on adaptation on all levels;
3. Promote synergies and entry-point for engagement with national, regional and international organizations and networks to advance adaptation action;
4. Provide information and recommendations to the COP on the support of adaptation actions;

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<sup>1</sup> <http://germanwatch.org/de/node/7267>

5. Stream information by Parties on monitoring and review of adaptation actions for possible needs and gaps to recommend further actions

At COP17 in Durban, 2011, Parties operationalized the AC, giving it modalities, determining its board representation and linkages, and clarifying reporting pathways. The COP also decided a list of indicative activities, and asked the AC to develop a 3-year work plan.<sup>2</sup> In September 2012, the AC met for the first time. The meeting yielded in the development of a work plan, which was subsequently endorsed by the COP in Doha at end of 2012. The 3-year work plan entails a list of different activities – employing a variety of different modalities such as reports, workshops, direct interaction with other technical bodies of the UNFCCC and stakeholders.

COP19 in Warsaw welcomed the work of the Adaptation Committee.

## **2 Coherence and collaboration on adaptation related matters under the Convention**

### *Substantive background report for the standing task of promoting coherence*

It is a standing task of the AC to promote adaptation in a coherent manner under the Convention. The AC responded to this by formulating a management cycle that involves

- the mapping and screening of adaptation relevant decisions, processes and their mandates,
- an analysis of the gaps and overlaps, and the identification of concrete activities, and
- the ongoing implementation of activities such as the establishment of a working relationship between the AC and other bodies under the UNFCCC.

This work is to be repeated every year, and on an ongoing basis. The secretariat has updated the mapping of adaptation related processes under the Convention in light of the various decisions that came out of COP19.<sup>2</sup> It is encouraging to see that first attempts of the AC to streamline the adaptation work are actually bearing fruits. This relates for example to how the AC works together with the NWP on the outputs related to gender and traditional knowledge. Also the NWP decision 17/CP.19 more broadly gives an

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<sup>2</sup> See AC/2014/3

idea of how the coherence promotion work of the AC works in practice, with the SBSTA reacting specifically to the AC proposal in the AC report to SB39.

As a second point, the coherence task needs to be exercised regarding other bodies under the UNFCCC. The joint workshop with the Technology Executive Committee (TEC) on adaptation technologies is one encouraging example of how increasing work on adaptation across UNFCCC cooperation bodies can work.

Bearing this in mind, the AC should further aim to integrate the coherence theme in its work, e.g. the in the general work on National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) in non-LDCs. Generally, the preparation document by the secretariat<sup>3</sup> did a very good job in highlighting the different options, where the coherence theme will need to be picked up in the work of the AC.

### *The Green Climate Fund and its latest adaptation relevant work*

One immediate point for consideration of the AC is the interaction with the Green Climate Fund (GCF). While it is clear that the mandate of the AC is not to have a direct advisory role to the GCF, the GCF should consult with the AC on areas that are relevant to adaptation. Specifically, the GCF Board decided at its 5<sup>th</sup> meeting for initial result areas for its adaptation component work<sup>4</sup> and in doing so decided for an activity/theme based approach of how it will support adaptation. After failing to agree on further elaborations of adaptation related result areas, more detailed discussions on this are scheduled for the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting in May 2014.

### **GCF: Initial result areas for adaptation**

- Design and planning of cities to support mitigation and adaptation;
- Sustainable land use management to support mitigation and adaptation;
- Sustainable forest management to support mitigation and adaptation including afforestation and reduction of forest degradation;
- Adaptation activities to reduce climate-related vulnerabilities;
- Selected “flagship” activities cutting across adaptation result areas;
- Readiness and capacity building for adaptation and mitigation activities;
- Scaling up of effective community-based adaptation actions;
- Supporting the coordination of public goods such as “knowledge hubs”.

The major goal of the GCF for 2014 is to mobilize resources. For this the following eight essential conditions will need to be fulfilled:<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> AC/2014/3

<sup>4</sup> Decision B.05/03 and Annex I of document GCF/B.05/23

<sup>5</sup> Annex 12 of Decision B.05/03

To have an initial:

1. Fund structure and Secretariat structure,
2. Financial risk management and investment frameworks;
3. Result areas, performance indicators and a results management framework;
4. Procedures for implementing entities and intermediaries;
5. Policies for allocation of Fund resources, including results-based approaches;
6. Proposal approval process,
7. Modalities for the operation of the Fund's mitigation and adaptation windows and the Private Sector Facility;
8. Fund Independent Evaluation Unit, an Independent Integrity Unit and an independent redress mechanism.

From an opportunity perspective it is essential to have the GCF to be able to receive funds as soon as possible, meaning after the upcoming meeting. As of 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, only one of the eight requirements was decided, namely the allocation of fund resources (mitigation vis-à-vis adaptation, country allocation also specifically to LDCs, African and SIDS countries, and the role of the private sector facility).

In addition the GCF Board in its workplan is planning to elaborate on the linkages with other cooperation bodies under the UNFCCC, including the AC at its October meeting in 2014. However, this means that the GCF will only draw upon the AC after some of the initial decisions have been taken. This is unfortunate, especially since some of the adaptation related result areas could benefit from an adaptation coherence perspective, also making it a better fit with for instance the need for NAPs funding. On the other hand, the GCF Board also has to manage its work load and expedite towards getting ready for donor pledges.

In the work of the GCF Board a lot is shaped through the GCF Secretariat. The GCF Secretariat, in elaborating the background documents for the GCF board meetings, should therefore ensure the call for coherence on adaptation. Therefore, the AC could consider to reach out to the GCF Secretariat for instance through a letter of the AC Co-chairs asking to input their views on adaptation related areas. In fact, also the GCF Board Co-Chairs (Germany & Philippines) could be an addressee in such a letter.

### ***Coherence: Opportunity coming with the 2015 agreement discussions***

The ongoing negotiations towards the 2015 agreement represent the biggest opportunity to advance national and international adaptation action, and to actively aim to reduce redundancies. It is illustrative, that the Co-Chairs of the ADP in their scenario note for the ADP 2.4., which will take place the week after AC#5, explicitly highlighted adaptation, and how the

2015 agreement should stand vis-à-vis existing institutions on adaptation.<sup>6</sup> The AC as the main body to enhance consistency on how the international community addresses the adaptation challenge should have a say in the ADP discussions too, and possibly prepare some technical inputs.

- The first step is foremost a task on updating the ADP negotiations on the state of work in the Adaptation Committee.
- At the same time though, it should also be used to get an input to possibly tailor some of the AC outputs towards the ADP discussions, and get an idea of where tailored recommendations in the 2014 report to the SBs is necessary.
- The AC Co-chair<sup>7</sup> Christina Chan already presented the AC work during the adaptation roundtable of ADP session 2.2. in May 2013.

The 2.4. meeting might come all too soon and it is not clear how the ADP negotiations will be structured (e.g. when it will move towards contact groups etc.), and there is only little understanding/consensus on how adaptation shall exactly be encapsulated in the agreement (Parties do stress however, the general importance of adaptation). Therefore, the June ADP session represents a better opportunity, where an AC briefing could provide added value. Again, the AC could become active by sending a letter to the ADP co-chairs highlighting the role and expertise of the Committee in promoting adaptation and championing coherence in order to deliver an intervention at one of the subsequent ADP sessions.

### **3 Workshop on monitoring and evaluation of adaptation**

Regrettably, preparatory material has not been made available in time for the meeting. Therefore, we refrain from detailed commenting at this step. The M&E workshop report, depending on its quality and depth could provide a meaningful input into

- general recommendations on M&E to the SBs,
- an entry point for the incentivizing means of implementation discussion,
- a solid input into the NAPs work and subsequent input for instance into the GCF.

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<sup>6</sup> See Scenerio Note for ADP 2.4. <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2014/adp2/eng/2infnot.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> Then Vice-chair Christina Chan presented the AC work at ADP 2.2. to the Adaptation Roundtable that was organized in May 2013.



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## **4 Joint meeting of the Adaptation Committee and the Nairobi work programme (NWP)<sup>8</sup>**

From 1 to 4 April 2014 the AC and the NWP will jointly held a technical expert meeting to address a series of questions around the following two themes:

- the use of local, indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices
- the application of gender-sensitive approaches and tools

Regarding the former it will be essential to find suitable approaches how to best collect indigenous, traditional and local knowledge and practices and how this can be merged with scientific knowledge in the field of adaptation planning and implementation. On top, participants of the expert meeting should explore the best ways how holders of indigenous, traditional and local knowledge and practices can effectively get involved in local adaptation processes. On the gender-sensitive approach the meeting should deliver on some practical solutions how practitioners can best integrate a gender-sensitive approach in the planning and implementation phase of adaptation measures.

Overall, the workshop should advance both important issues also politically. For that the workshop should provide clear recommendations for the COP as to how the UNFCCC can better promote both the theme of gender considerations and the theme of local, indigenous and traditional knowledge.

To ensure discussions to be explorative and convertible on the local level the organizers should draw upon a broader range of invitees compared to other NWP activities, including community-based adaptation experts, grass-root organizations, civil society representatives, research institutes and government stakeholders.

Given the broad range of participants and the meeting's goal to find new and practical answers with regard to the two themes it would be useful to innovate different modes of conferencing, e.g. open space discussions, fishbowls or games instead of relying on plenary sessions and panel discussions.

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<sup>8</sup> AC/2014/5

## **5 Ad-hoc group to propose modalities for facilitating technical backstopping<sup>9</sup>**

In accordance with its workplan the AC is currently in the process of establishing an ad hoc group, in collaboration with relevant organizations and experts, to propose modalities for technical backstopping services on adaptation.

The preparatory document for the AC meeting defines backstopping in this regard as the provision of technical assistance, and includes functions such as advisory services, supervision, support and a guarantee for a certain degree of continuity with regard to a project or programme. Technical backstopping can be delivered through different modalities such as trainings, support in the development of project documents (e.g. project proposals) or in-situ country support for project implementation.

The preparatory document suggests creating an ad-hoc working group to further elaborate on the if and how the AC can provide technical backstopping to Parties. To ensure added value of potential technical backstopping services of the AC and being mindful of the workload of AC members and capacity and resource constraints, it is important to embed this discussion in a wider context of systematically covering opportunities and gaps that arise from the work with regional institutions and UN agencies, screening the AC's outputs and look where a technical backstopping component could add value, and lastly also discussing the role towards the NWP considering that the NWP has its own mandate, but has the potential to organize a large pool of organizations.

## **6 Roles of regional institutions and United Nations agencies in supporting enhanced adaptation actions in developing countries**

The AC in its 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting developed a questionnaire towards UN agencies, and regional institutions to give a current landscape of the adaptation support towards developing countries. After receiving some return from relevant institutions, AC #4 renewed the call. For AC#5 the secretariat has prepared a substantive analysis detailing the various inputs received.<sup>10</sup> The activity itself stems from the Cancun Adaptation Framework (CAF), where strengthening and establishing regional centres is one of the institutional aspects of the framework.

While the information paper has been prepared thoroughly, it should be noted that less than 50% of the institutions that the secretariat actively contacted on behalf of the AC actually responded to the call. Caution

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<sup>9</sup> AC/2014/6

<sup>10</sup> See AC/2014/7

should, therefore, be exercised on how the overall results can be interpreted. Nevertheless respondent rate of over 30% can equally be painted as a success (presumably exceeding for instance the normal response rate of NWP partners, if the secretariat issues a call e.g. for input on technical papers).

Overall, it is telling that the support available to countries is mostly characterized as capacity building activities – even though some of the responding organizations have an operational mandate. The secretariat notes that no organization actually characterizes their engagement as “systemic capacity building”. This could be a starting point to define the AC’s engagement.

It is unfortunate, however, that the information paper does not reflect on the section of how organization ensure principles in their adaptation support (e.g. gender driven, country driven etc.). It would be nice to get the secretariat insight on what prevented them from analyzing the respective section of the questionnaire also because it bears relevance on how to set up the next questionnaire to gather further views on incentivizing means of implementation.

## **7 Regional centres and networks working on adaptation<sup>11</sup>**

The AC Secretariat compiled an exhaustive list of regional centres and networks working on adaptation, providing a sound overview of regional distribution and thematic areas being covered as well as the kind of (technical) support provided. At AC #5 members are tasked to consider developing a strategy to address gaps and opportunities identified in this paper.

The list clearly indicates a substantial amount of existing centres and networks (72). It is important to also see this debate on gaps and opportunities of the current setting in the context of the ad-hoc group to be set up to propose modalities to facilitate technical backstopping for adaptation projects.

From the analysis the AC might group its potential action points into three clusters:

- Operationalize better engagement with regional organization and UN agencies in their own activities of the AC, and in how other cooperation bodies in their adaptation relevant activities engage with those organizations.
- Have a dedicated strategy to harmonize and align work of regional centres and UN organizations with priorities of the Parties and parties. This could be in the context of the backstopping function.

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<sup>11</sup> AC/2014/8

- Develop policy recommendations to better include regional actors and UN institutions also in addressing adaptation under any 2015 deal.

While the current format of the list is useful for providing an overview for AC members and experts familiar with the adaptation setting, it would very much benefit from some web functions and tools making it more accessible to the broader climate change and adaptation community. With its mandate of increasing coherence of adaptation also outside the UNFCCC, the AC should decide on a proper layout and on the functionalities, taking up its role as facilitating intermediary. Committee members should evaluate whether the NAPs Central could serve as a hosting platform.

## **8 Communication of current experiences on means to incentivize the implementation of adaptation actions<sup>12</sup>**

Under this agenda item the AC will discuss one of its core mandates: issues around the means of implementation of adaptation actions. Following the recent call for submission to UN agencies and regional organisations, of which the results have been synthesized in AC/2014/7, the AC at its 5th meeting will decide whether to issue a similar call to another audience – major adaptation donors and players. The combined results would then be envisaged to feed into a scoping and later a synthesis paper on means of implementation. Based on those findings a workshop is planned for the first quarter of 2015 to steer discussions on how to further engage in the activity on means of implementation.

Generally, a call for submissions to developed country Parties is useful for two reasons:

- For reasons of consistency and comparability it makes very well sense, after having asked for submissions from UN agencies and regional organisations, to also do so for other groups of adaptation support.
- Furthermore, while there is an increasing infrastructure on reporting climate finance – a reporting burden to which the AC should probably not add, there are specific qualitative elements of the Cancun Adaptation Framework that will not be captured by these, e.g. on how the provision of means is aligned with the Cancun Adaptation Framework (CAF) is not easily compiled or generally available. Concretely asking for such information to be submitted by donor countries can be a possible way forward.

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<sup>12</sup> AC/2014/9

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While it does make sense to initiate a call for submissions, the following criteria should be taken into account:

- To maximize the response rate, the template should only comprise a limited number of questions.
- The AC should aim to reduce the reporting burden by only posing questions on additional elements that can not be created through existing information streams.

Taking those elements into account an option would be to feed the scoping paper and the subsequent synthesis report with information originating from (1) submissions by donors (mainly qualitative input) and from (2) the various existing reports (quantitative component).

Ideally the information obtained through submissions would very much focus around elements of the CAF. Questions would for example focus on how countries have addressed para 12 and para 14 through their bilateral work. While the CAF has been in place for more than four years, no explicit review has yet taken place. A call for submissions on this issue would therefore also help shedding light on the progress made under and potential useful adjustments to the CAF. Information on this could be very valuable with regard to discussions around adaptation the 2015 agreement.

It is clear, however, that the call for submission can by no means be the only preparation for the workshop that will take place later in the year. In addition information should be drawn e.g. quantitative analysis from the biennial assessment conducted by the SCF, which is scheduled for publication around October 2014. For that, and generally to promote adaptation, the AC should ask the SCF to be able to closely follow and input into the biennial assessment.

## **9 Financial support for National Adaptation Plans**

This document has not been uploaded in time to be analysed in this briefing paper.

## **10 Task force on National Adaptation Plans**<sup>13</sup>

The task force (TF) on NAPs was established at AC#4 with the objective to further support developing countries seeking to formulate and implement NAPs. The draft plan of action lines out a number of activities to undertake until mid-2015. The political importance of creating such a task force and start the work was exemplified also by the interest on the issue during the SB negotiation on guidance to the AC. The preparatory document AC/2014/11 gives an elaborated work plan for the task force, including deliverables in 2014 and 2015.

It will be important to ensure meaningful participation of other bodies, particularly the LEG, so that the work of the task force and the LEG will not be redundant.

## **11 NAPs Central**

The NAPs Central Platform has not yet been launched yet.

## **12 Adaptation Forum**<sup>14</sup>

Under this agenda item the AC will discuss on the future of the Adaptation Forum. At COP19 the Adaptation Forum took place for the first time. Despite a high-level panel, the event did not succeed in initiating a greater debate on adaptation at the COP, or outside of the COP. Neither did the panel manage to create substantive discussions with the audience.

In order to raise the profile of adaptation at future forums, the paper suggests to continue with the Forum yet with a more focused objective and in a different format. It proposes two pillars:

- A number of Satellite Adaptation Fora (SAF): Small-scale AFs in conjunction with relevant conferences on adaptation outside the UNFCCC to gather external information from these conferences to enrich and broaden the knowledge and discussion under the UNFCCC. Secondly, SAF would be used to inform the outside community about the activities on adaptation under the UNFCCC to thirdly raising the profile of the AC as the UNFCCC focal point on adaptation for the outside world.
- Biennial Adaptation Fora: To ensure a larger outreach and broader participation not only from the adaptation community but also other related fields the AC should consider to only hold the Forum once

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<sup>13</sup> AC/2014/11

<sup>14</sup> AC/2014/12

every two years. This would leave more time for preparation (the last AF was prepared on a very tight schedule), e.g. the development of an innovative concept, a sophisticated (social) media strategy and the invitation of eminent persons. The two themes proposed are: Disaster risk management and the food security-energy-water nexus.

Generally SAFs are a promising idea to raise the profile of adaptation outside the UNFCCC and at the same time gather information from the larger climate change community that could be useful for broadening discussions around adaptation. A useful event in this regard could be the SCF Forum to take place in Jamaica in June, as it will focus on adaptation finance. Also the CBA conference and the Resilient Cities conference could serve as a useful platform to get in touch with adaptation practitioners.

For the biennial AF the proposed themes are useful but particularly the latter one should not try to incorporate three topics but define a concrete focus.

### **13 Meeting to gather up-to date information on adaptation in collaboration with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change<sup>15</sup>**

As agreed at AC #3 a joint meeting with IPCC authors but also including members from the executive committee (EC) of the L&D mechanism, the co-chairs of the NWP contact group and members of the LEG, will take place at the 40th session of the SBs. The meeting aims to raise awareness, promote outreach and share up-to-date information about adaptation.

For the meeting the following would be desirable:

- Presentation of the key findings of the IPCC WGII to be used by the AC and NWP to communicate those through their networks and platforms
- Discuss how key findings of the WGII can inform future AC, NWP, NAP and L&D work
- Propose ideas on how the IPCC can provide technical guidance and support (via the AC) for the NWP, work on the NAPs and the L&D EC
- Translate relevant IPCC WGII outcomes into practical recommendations for the NAPs and adaptation planning process
- Consider potential contents for the AC's 2014 thematic report based on the joint meeting

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<sup>15</sup> AC/2014/13

- Feed in any relevant information needs into the work of the L&D EC (e.g. on the limits of adaptation)
- Potentially provide input into discussion important for the 2015 agreement, e.g. the global adaptation goal

## **14 Overview and thematic reports**

### *2014 Thematic Report*

During AC#4 the AC discussed the theme for the upcoming thematic report of 2014. It proposed the title “Tools and knowledge available, lessons learnt, and challenges facing in the application of different approaches guiding national adaptation”. However, this rather cryptic title prompted the COP at the Warsaw Meeting to request the AC to rework and further define the title of the report. Document AC/2014/14.1. gives a proposal of how the proceed.

Before commenting on the specific proposal a general discussion should be done on what are the roles of annual thematic reports. While the 2013 version, which gave an overview of the state of adaptation under the UNFCCC, was partly born by need, but also partly determined through the capacity constrains by the member of the ACs and the secretariat, this should certainly not become the norm. Instead, the AC should decide where specific input by the AC is necessary, considering that the AC is the spear-head of the international response on adaptation, and a major body that formulates, and facilitate international norms on the issue.

In decision 1/CP.16 in Cancun all Parties\* agreed to the CAF. In the framework the same countries:

*Para 12: Affirm[s] that enhanced action on adaptation should be undertaken in accordance with the Convention, should follow a country-driven, gender-sensitive, participatory and fully transparent approach, taking into consideration vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems, and should be based on and guided by the best available science and, as appropriate, traditional and indigenous knowledge, with a view to integrating adaptation into relevant social, economic and environmental policies and actions, where appropriate.*

These principles presumably represent what good adaptation practice is about. However, so far there has been no further input by the international community as to how to operationalize these high principles, although various bodies and mechanisms under the UNFCCC give guidance that is relevant to that (e.g. NAPs, e.g. GCF).

Therefore it is high time for the AC to get active on this issue. It is our understanding, that the old title – ambiguous as it was – would have allowed such a report to be taken forward. A cleaner title probably would be



something like “Principles for adaptation”, which would be more outspoken as to how such a report could fill the void that not much guidance exist on how to operationalize Para 12.

Such a report would aim to give guidance on the definition of each elements of the principles for good adaptation. Furthermore, it would collect the various outputs that exist under different convention bodies, or as part of decisions and synthesise them to be of good value for national decision makers, and adaptation practitioner in order to design adaptation initiatives. Sources for such report are various, including NWP (also for instance the upcoming joint activity on gender and traditional knowledge), decisions, work of the LEG, etc.

The background document in preparation for AC#5 takes another route. It proposes the title “Hands on adaptation” which should focus on the actors involved in successful adaptation practice. While additional guidance on good practice in the institutional set-up (including for national level arrangement to address adaptation and successfully entertain National Adaptation Plans & Planning) would be a welcomed move, the concept note might need further revision especially regarding the target audience.

### *2015 Overview Report*

The Overview Report is going to become the flagship publication of the AC, rounding of the three year workplan. There have been substantial discussions both on the content and organization of work at AC#2, AC#3 and AC#4.

In taking the decision at AC#5, the option outlined in the preparatory paper<sup>16</sup> to aim for making recommendation in the Overview Report, and/or the aim to “to help Parties in making informed decisions towards CoP21 (sic) (Paris)”<sup>17</sup> provides a helpful framing. It is clear that the AC will fall short of the expectations if the document only show-cases AC outputs without bringing context.

## **15 Communication, information and outreach strategy<sup>18</sup>**

By activity 22 of its work plan the AC decided to develop and implement a communication, information and outreach strategy. For AC#5 the secretariat revised the communication, information and outreach strategy.

The communication strategy should not only be the place, where AC members try to optimize the outreach of the AC. Rather, this is the place

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<sup>16</sup> See AC/2014/14.2.

<sup>17</sup> ibd.

<sup>18</sup> AC/2014/15

to have some strategic discussions. The AC is becoming an increasingly specialized body, which makes it very hard for outsiders to follow the work of the AC. At the same time, the inclusion of external expertise and stakeholders is pivotal to its success. This problem should be actively addressed in this context. It is a mistake to view the webcast for instance only as a tool to increase transparency. Rather, it should be viewed as a tool to have outside world participate in the AC elaboration. The AC in its communication strategy should also explore means to better engage stakeholders and experts in the work in-between session. A similar undertaking had successfully been established by the Long-term finance work programme, in which Parties and observer organizations, including climate finance stakeholders shared their views on specific climate finance issues via a joint webinar. Taking a similar approach for the AC would enable the outside community to better contribute to the process.

To initiate an effective strategy the AC will have to identify tailored key messages. Moreover it should take under consideration to link the communication strategy to other items of the work programme, e.g. the Adaptation Forum, particularly the proposed Satellite Adaptation Forum, national adaptation planning processes and the NAPs Central. In this context it would also be beneficial to identify ways on how the NWP can help facilitating the implementation of the strategy.

On the thematic side the following aspects should be taken into account:

- Giving adaptation a more positive connotation can also include some aspects around adaptation co-benefits, as those might help (local) decision makers to get enough support from local populations and investors.
- M&E is a vital aspect of adaptation and deserves more reflection also in the communication strategy.
- Being least able to cope with the impacts of climate change, the poorest and most vulnerable people deserve special attention in the AC's communication, information and outreach strategy. As climate change might very well be not so relevant in their day-to-day life, the AC should find ways and means how to best provide them with dedicated information and tools.

To increase outreach and make effective use of the ACs mandate the following aspects might be useful to take under consideration:<sup>19</sup>

- Establish an AC quarterly newsletter that features adaptation 'champions' from government, private sector and NGOs.

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<sup>19</sup> Partially taken from AFB/B.11/8 Communications Strategy for the Adaptation Fund Board

- Select AC "Ambassadors" who can do peer to peer communications. Developed as well as developing countries' "Ambassadors" should in a comprehensive manner be able to explain intentions and future undertakings of the AC.
- It would be useful to have spokespeople from other organizations (SBI chair, civil society) who can validate the need of the opportunity of the AC to produce results.
- Build momentum on the issue of adaptation and educate key stakeholders at international events. Satellite Adaptation Fora could be used for this.
- The establishment of a strong communication, information and outreach strategy also increases legitimacy and transparency of the work of the AC.

The development of factsheets and presentations on specific issues as well as other concise informative notes are a promising way to make the information produced by the AC more accessible and easier available to the internal (climate change community) as well as external (broader public) audience.

## **16 Special event at the 40th sessions of the subsidiary bodies<sup>20</sup>**

As requested by the COP (16/CP.19) the AC will convene a special event at the 40th session of the SBs. The overall objective of the event is to showcase AC's activities and at the same time engage in a dialogue with Parties and other relevant stakeholder.

Given the overall goal of the event, the AC should particularly aim at achieving the following:

- Increase awareness of AC's work among Parties and other stakeholders (here a short presentation on the ongoing efforts of the task force on NAPs would be useful)
- Steer discussions along the lines of what the audience suggests regarding potential future activities of the AC
- Identify possible organisations or bodies for opportunities of synergy and collaboration
- Generate ideas and suggestions to address gaps and needs of the work of the AC
- Gear inputs also towards some of the major questions that come out the discussions to the 2015 agreement.

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<sup>20</sup> AC/2014/16

## **17 Various**

An interesting topic will be discussed on the last day of the meeting under the heading of "Work load of members of the Adaptation Committee". Germanwatch as a constant observer of the AC from its beginning can only comment that each member of the AC should contribute substantially to the success of the committee. Past observations suggest that this is not necessarily the case. Therefore, it should be applauded that the AC takes the question of sharing the work-load more equally frond and centre during the meeting.

Related to this is also the question of preparing for meetings. For the upcoming AC#5 meeting not all documents have been published on the UNFCCC website, with other documents being published very late. A timely preparation for members, and observers (including responding to/with proposals) is a necessary prerequisite to handle the workload and have successful meetings. Therefore, the issue of workload is one that should also be discussed jointly with capacity bottle-necks, that exist on part of the UNFCCC secretariat.

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## **Background Documents**

- AC/2014/1 Provisional agenda and annotations
- AC/2014/2 Revised rules of procedure of the Adaptation Committee
- AC/2014/3 Possible cooperation in order to reduce duplication of actions, address gaps and strengthen synergies
- AC/2014/5 Scoping paper on the joint meeting of the Adaptation Committee and the Nairobi work programme: Available tools for the use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices for adaptation, needs of local and indigenous communities, and the application of gender-sensitive approaches and tools for adaptation
- AC/2014/6 Concept paper on an ad hoc group to propose modalities for facilitating technical backstopping
- AC/2014/7 Information paper to strengthen the understanding of the roles of regional institutions and United Nations agencies in supporting enhanced adaptation actions in developing countries
- AC/2014/8 Initial list of regional centres and networks working on adaptation
- AC/2014/9 Draft template for submissions to communicate current experiences on means to incentivize the implementation of adaptation actions
- AC/2014/11 Draft plan of action of the task force on National Adaptation Plans
- AC/2014/12 Concept paper for the Adaptation Forum
- AC/2014/13 Revised scoping paper on a meeting to gather up-to date information on adaptation in collaboration with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
- AC/2014/14.1 Concept note on the 2014 thematic report
- AC/2014/14.2 Concept note on the 2015 overview report
- AC/2014/15 Revised communication, information and outreach strategy
- AC/2014/16 Scoping paper on the Adaptation Committee's special event at the 40th sessions of the subsidiary bodies



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