



Climate Action Network Submission on Adaptation Communications

April 2017

Climate Action Network International (CAN) is the world's largest network of civil society organizations working together to promote government action to address the climate crisis, with more than 1100 members in over 120 countries. www.climatenetwork.org

Introduction

Under the Paris Agreement Article 7, Parties agreed to establish the global goal on adaptation for enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change, with a view to contributing to sustainable development and ensuring an adequate adaptation response in the context of the temperature goal. Furthermore, Parties stressed that adaptation action should follow a “country-driven, gender-responsive, 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 knowledge, knowledge of indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems, with a view to integrating adaptation into relevant socioeconomic and environmental policies and actions.”

The Paris Agreement and decision 1/CP.21 stipulate that adaptation communications should serve as one of the inputs to the global stocktake and define the overall scope as well as the communication and recording process for adaptation communications. The adaptation communication is referred to in the context of the global stocktake as contributing to enhancing the implementation of adaptation action taking into account the adaptation communication, as a source of input to be identified by the APA for the global stocktake, that includes information on the state of adaptation efforts, support, experiences and priorities from, and also reflecting the submitting Party's priorities, implementation and support needs, and plans and actions.

Climate Action Network would like to submit our views on elements for adaptation communications, highlighting the following as key aspects network members consider necessary for providing accurate and updated information on climate adaptation, which will contribute effectively to the global stocktake.

Role and Purpose of Adaptation Communications

CAN believes that adaptation communications from each Party are important to joint actions in the Paris Agreement, providing Parties and the UNFCCC Secretariat a sufficient national overview in the following areas which, among others, will contribute to the global stocktake:

- The country-specific challenges faced in responding to the impacts of climate change and developing a climate resilient framework which could be included with data on differentiated approaches according to temperature scenarios and timeframes;
- The efforts and initiatives already planned or implemented at national and sub-national levels;
- To the extent possible, an aggregation of the above to assess the collective progress towards the global goal on adaptation, and remaining gaps;
- Potential amendments and expansion of the mandates and capacity of different institutions under the UNFCCC related to adaptation;
- Lessons learnt relevant for sharing with other countries and actors of challenges, including success-stories of adaptation as well as obstacles in addressing climate change which could be replicated for increase in ambition in adaptation actions;
- The gaps identified between needs and challenges, and the human, technical and financial resources available, providing a basis for determining adequate levels of support to be provided in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and the Paris Agreement.

Vehicles for adaptation communications

A number of instruments related to communicating adaptation efforts already exist under the UNFCCC, which is why it is important to give more clarity to the different roles and functions of such vehicles. They all can serve for “adaptation communications” but for different purposes:

- NDCs: The most important role of the NDCs is to outline forward-looking objectives and targets for action, as nationally determined, including on adaptation, as most developing countries have actively chosen to include this in their NDCs;
- National Communications, prepared regularly (every 4 years) by Annex I countries and less regularly by non-Annex I countries, focus on providing information on actions and policies already undertaken;
- NAPs: In CAN’s view, National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) are primarily a national planning tool which can provide a roadmap towards achieving objectives outlined in the NDCs or various types of national development plans. Submitting them to UNFCCC is useful for information purposes.

While CAN sees the need for certain key elements included in adaptation communications, the level of detail and depth regarding these elements may vary depending on the purpose and function of an adaptation communication at a specific point in time and in the context of a specific vehicle. For example, the NDCs may focus on the forward-looking elements.

Elements to be Included in Adaptation Communications:

CAN is of the view that adaptation communications need to include elements such as (and not limited to):

- a) **National circumstances:** Adaptation communications need to reflect country circumstances, and be contextualized to countries' vulnerabilities, and needs for resilience building. It is important to highlight the country's circumstances to gain insight on how adaptation actions will reflect these circumstances and existing actions and policies. In a post-2015 world, this should address key Sustainable Development Goals prioritized in a country, and their link to climate change and climate action.
- b) **Impacts, vulnerabilities and risks (short- and long-term):** In addressing climate change, and taking adaptation actions, it is pivotal to address the vulnerabilities, and assess risks from climate change impacts, including under different temperature scenarios. This needs to be done in the short term and long term in order to have effective actions to meet the global temperature and adaptation goals. Specific attention should also be given to the **identification of particularly vulnerable segments and groups of the population** and the risks and impacts they face, especially regarding their human rights. This could also include aspects of **occurred and expected loss and damage** due to adaptation limits
- c) **Legal and policy frameworks and institutional arrangements:** In order to understand the context in which a country is taking actions to address climate change impacts, it is important to communicate the legal and policy frameworks that exist in the country to facilitate such actions, including how parties integrate relevant international obligations, including those related to human rights, food security and gender equality in the design of adaptation actions.
- d) **Description of decision-making processes, application of adaptation principles and how and why adaptation options are prioritized:** In order to facilitate adaptation actions, and commitments on adaptation by countries, it is important that decision making processes are prioritized, as well as ensuring they are inclusive and participatory - with a particular focus on the consultation of the poor and most vulnerable to adaptation actions. Art. 7.5 of the Paris Agreement provides important guidance, including that, they need to be inclusive and participatory and take into account vulnerable communities. Inclusion of this information, specifically how countries take up aspects in Art. 7.5, would provide better insight on the effectiveness of decision making on climate change adaptation of a country, and transparency on how adaptation

actions are taken by the country making the submission. It will further enable countries to learn from the experience and good practices of other governments on this issue. Relevant experience related to the guidelines for the preparation of the NAPAs and their annotation by the LEG could serve as a model for the guidance related to Adaptation Communications.

- e) **Key economic sectors in which adaptation action takes place:** In order to make decisions on adaptation actions, it is necessary to focus on a country's development and key economic sectors. To achieve sustainable development, there needs to be an understanding of a country's economic sectors, and priority areas. In including this information, the country submissions would reflect how adaptation actions contribute to key sectors of a country.
- f) **Costs of adaptation:** In order to assess the overall need for support for adaptation actions, there needs to be a calculation of their costs including the underlying methodologies for their assessment to allow for comparison.
- g) **Implementation and support needs and adaptation needs:** In light of the scale of the climate change impacts (today and in future) and the Convention obligations, means of implementation – finance, technology and capacity-building – are essential. In order to implement adaptation actions that have been designed, an evaluation of implementation and support needs for adaptation is necessary. Including such information in the adaptation communications will contribute to the assessment of support needs and adaptation needs ahead of the global stocktake.
- h) **Indicative level and adequacy of support provided:** Support required for adaptation action needs to be assessed based on countries' vulnerabilities and the need for resilience building. To assess these and potential additional resource requirements, countries are requested to provide information on the adequacy of existing support.
- i) **Monitoring and evaluation of adaptation, process used, and findings:** For adaptation actions to be effective and efficient, they need to be monitored and evaluated in a manner that is transparent. Information on a country's monitoring and evaluation of adaptation actions will contribute to developing better transparency frameworks on countries' adaptation activities.