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**Subsidiary Body for Scientific and  
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**Fifty-first session**

**Santiago, 2–9 December 2019**

Item 3 of the provisional agenda

**Report of the Adaptation Committee**

**Subsidiary Body for Implementation**

**Fifty-first session**

**Santiago, 2–9 December 2019**

Item 10 of the provisional agenda

**Report of the Adaptation Committee**

## **Report of the Adaptation Committee\***

### *Summary*

This report covers the work of the Adaptation Committee between October 2018 and October 2019. It contains organizational and procedural information, including on meetings and changes in membership and co-chairing arrangements. The report highlights progress in the implementation of the flexible workplan of the Adaptation Committee for 2019–2021 in the areas of promoting overarching coherence; providing technical support and guidance to the Parties on adaptation action and means of implementation; awareness-raising, outreach and information-sharing; and the technical examination process on adaptation. It concludes with recommendations for consideration by the Conference of the Parties.

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\* This document was scheduled for publication after the standard publication date owing to circumstances beyond the submitter's control.



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## Abbreviations and acronyms

AC	Adaptation Committee
AF	Adaptation Fund
CMA	Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement
COP	Conference of the Parties
CTCN	Climate Technology Centre and Network
DTU	Technical University of Denmark
FWG	Facilitative Working Group of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LEG	Least Developed Countries Expert Group
NAP	national adaptation plan
NWP	Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change
PCCB	Paris Committee on Capacity-building
SB	sessions of the subsidiary bodies
SBI	Subsidiary Body for Implementation
SBSTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice
SCF	Standing Committee on Finance
TEC	Technology Executive Committee
TEM	technical expert meeting
TEM-A	technical expert meeting on adaptation
TEP-A	technical examination process on adaptation
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

## **I. Introduction**

### **A. Mandate**

1. COP 17 decided that the AC shall operate under the authority of, and be accountable to, the COP, which should decide on its policies in line with relevant decisions.<sup>1</sup>
2. COP 17 requested the AC to report annually to the COP, through the subsidiary bodies, including on its activities, the performance of its functions, guidance, recommendations and other relevant information arising from its work and, as appropriate, on further action that may be required under the Convention, for consideration by the COP.<sup>2</sup>
3. CMA 1 decided that the AC shall serve the Paris Agreement.<sup>3</sup>

### **B. Scope of the report**

4. This report contains information on the work of the AC between October 2018 and October 2019. It also contains recommendations for consideration at COP 25.
5. This procedural summary of the AC's work throughout the year will be complemented by a concise outreach product to make the work of the AC tangible and accessible for a broader audience.

### **C. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation**

6. The SBSTA and the SBI are invited to consider the information contained in this report. In particular, they may wish to consider the recommendations contained in chapter V below and forward them for consideration and adoption at COP 25.

## **II. Highlights**

7. Throughout the past year, the AC further enhanced its partnerships with other bodies and institutions, collaborating on a wide range of initiatives. For example, the AC, the PCCB and the LEG worked closely together to strengthen their work on gender, including planning a gender-related event in 2020 and launching a toolkit for a gender-responsive NAP processes. In addition, COP 25 will feature an event celebrating indigenous and local adaptation to a changing climate organized by the FWG, the AC, the LEG and NWP partners.
8. The AC also advanced its communication and outreach work to ensure that accessible and authoritative information on adaptation is available to all. To this end, the AC finalized a new communications strategy that will help it reach wider audiences with its work.
9. Recognizing the enduring challenges countries, local communities and others face in securing adaptation finance, the AC stepped up its work in this area. This work included the 2019 TEP-A, which focused on adaptation finance, including the private sector, and a call for submissions inviting views on capacity needs in accessing funding for adaptation.
10. Building on the success of its earlier work on private sector engagement, the AC expanded its efforts to involve the private sector in adaptation planning and action. This included its 2019 Adaptation Forum on the topic of "Engagement of the private sector in adaptation planning processes, including NAPs: challenges and opportunities". To share its insights on this topic, the AC produced an interactive report on the Forum and a two-page outreach product on making the business case for adaptation.

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<sup>1</sup> Decision 2/CP.17, para. 95.

<sup>2</sup> Decision 2/CP.17, para. 96.

<sup>3</sup> Decision 11/CMA.1, para. 1.

11. At COP 25, the AC will be launching its 2019 flagship report on adaptation under the Convention, which highlights the milestones and evolution of adaptation. This report will serve as a useful guide to those seeking an introduction to and overview of adaptation under the Convention.

12. Following the successful adoption of the Katowice climate package at COP 24, the AC began the tasks mandated by the CMA. It is working in close collaboration with the LEG to deliver on the mandates shared by the two bodies.

13. The AC began exploring the challenges and opportunities associated with linkages between mitigation and adaptation action, and is set to publish an information paper on the topic before its next meeting. This work will help illuminate a topic that is garnering increased attention from policymakers and practitioners.

14. This past year also saw an increase in the number of ways identified to bolster support for developing countries looking to formulate and implement NAPs, in areas ranging from capacity-building to private sector engagement to gender. A useful means to drive this forward was the AC NAP task force, which includes members of: AC, LEG, SCF, TEC, AF, GEF and GCF.

### III. Organizational and procedural matters

#### A. Meetings

15. AC 15 and 16 were held from 19 to 21 March 2019 and from 9 to 12 September 2019, respectively. Both meetings were open to observers and webcast live via Skype.<sup>4</sup> At AC 16, it was agreed to hold AC 17 from 24 to 27 March 2020.

16. In addition, the AC held its 2019 Adaptation Forum on 10 April 2019 on the topic of “Engagement of the private sector in adaptation planning processes, including NAPs: challenges and opportunities”.<sup>5</sup>

17. Furthermore, a two-day TEM in the context of TEP-A took place on 25 and 26 June 2019 on the topic of adaptation finance, including in relation to the private sector.<sup>6</sup>

#### B. Chairing arrangements and membership<sup>7</sup>

18. Pursuant to decisions 2/CP.17 and 16/CP.19, Marianne Karlsen (Norway) was elected at AC 15 for her first term as Co-Chair, replacing Donald Lemmen (Canada). At the same meeting, María del Pilar Bueno (Argentina) was re-elected for her second term as Co-Chair. The AC thanked Mr. Lemmen for his dedication and leadership.

19. AC members serve for a term of two years and are eligible to serve a maximum of two consecutive terms of office.<sup>8</sup> Naeem Ashraf (Pakistan), Ms. Karlsen, Kazem Kashefi (Islamic Republic of Iran) and Navina Sanchez Ibrahim (Germany) were elected at COP 24 as members for the first time.

20. In welcoming its new members, the AC recalled decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 101, which stipulates that members serve in their personal capacity. Working arrangements agreed on by the AC are specified in box 1. Regarding the gender composition, the AC currently comprises nine women and seven men, with both Co-Chairs being female.

<sup>4</sup> All documents, presentations, on-demand Skype broadcasts and summary outcomes for each agenda item are available at <https://unfccc.int/event/fifteenth-meeting-of-the-adaptation-committee-ac15> (for AC 15) and <https://unfccc.int/event/sixteenth-meeting-of-the-adaptation-committee-ac16> (for AC 16).

<sup>5</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/event/2019-adaptation-forum-by-the-adaptation-committee-engagement-of-the-private-sector-in-naps>.

<sup>6</sup> See <http://tep-a.org/>.

<sup>7</sup> See <http://unfccc.int/6944> for a list of AC members.

<sup>8</sup> Decision 2/CP.17, para. 106.

21. The AC has promoted active observer participation in its meetings. Observer engagement and their potential to provide additional experience and expertise to inform discussions are considered beneficial for furthering the work of the AC and achieving its objectives of creating synergies and maintaining transparency.

**Box 1**

**Intersessional work and working arrangements**

In addition to attending the regular meetings of the AC, its members also work intersessionally via electronic means to advance work through dedicated working groups established for a range of agreed priorities. This intersessional work is essential and requires members to allocate a certain amount of time to it throughout the year.

It has become a useful practice for the AC to start its first meeting of the year with an informal half-day retreat for its members. This facilitates the seamless integration of new members, contributes to building a common understanding among members of the new tasks arising from the preceding session of the COP and enhances the overall performance and effectiveness of the AC in the rest of the year.

## **IV. Progress in implementing the workplan of the Adaptation Committee**

22. AC 14 agreed on the AC workplan for 2019–2021, with the understanding that the workplan would remain flexible enough to incorporate any relevant outcomes arising from COP 24. COP 24 welcomed that workplan and CMA 1 requested the AC to carry out additional tasks, including in preparation for the global stocktake. AC 15 included the new mandates in the workplan and streamlined some existing activities to accommodate them. The updated flexible workplan of the AC is available on the AC website in detailed<sup>9</sup> and overview<sup>10</sup> versions.

### **A. Promoting overarching coherence**

23. The AC is the principal body for promoting the implementation of enhanced action on adaptation in a coherent manner under the Convention.

24. The AC has continued or, in the case of the FWG, initiated collaboration with other constituted bodies and institutional arrangements under the Convention. This includes: LEG, NWP, TEC, SCF, Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts, AF, GCF, CTCN and PCCB. Bilateral and multilateral coordination meetings were held with the bodies at the sessions of the COP and subsidiary bodies, and the AC also provided inputs to and participated in meetings and events organized by the bodies. In addition, the AC communicated relevant outcomes of its work (including those considered and adopted at COP 24 and CMA 1), as well as related opportunities for collaboration, in letters to the IPCC Working Group II, the LEG, the PCCB, the TEC and the CTCN, and the SCF, and in a letter to the SBSTA Chair on behalf of NWP.

25. The AC contributed to various events in the reporting period, including the following at COP 24 and SB 50:

- (a) Two UNFCCC gender workshops;
- (b) Two workshops under the Koronivia joint work on agriculture;
- (c) The 12<sup>th</sup> NWP Focal Point Forum;
- (d) The 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the PCCB;
- (e) An informal strategy meeting between the scientific community, constituted bodies and the SBSTA Chair;

<sup>9</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/documents/194673>.

<sup>10</sup> See [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/2019-04/201904\\_ac\\_workplan\\_overview\\_3.PNG](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/2019-04/201904_ac_workplan_overview_3.PNG).

- (f) The 2019 SBSTA research dialogue;
- (g) The 2019 annual meeting of the GCF Board with representatives of the constituted bodies;
- (h) An SB 50 event providing an update on the NAP supplementary guidelines on gender;
- (i) An SB 50 event co-organized by the AF, CTCN and PCCB to enhance the delivery of readiness capacity-building support to countries;
- (j) The 2019 Korea Global Adaptation Week, including the 2019 NAP Expo;
- (k) The 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the task force on displacement.

26. Collaboration was initiated with the newly founded FWG: at SB 50 the AC participated in an open dialogue organized by the co-facilitators and other representatives of the FWG shortly after its inaugural meeting, and it was agreed to hold a joint event on local and indigenous adaptation at COP 25, co-organized by the FWG, the AC and the LEG, with inputs from NWP partner organizations. A representative of the FWG attended AC 16, and the FWG extended an invitation to the AC to participate in its second meeting that will take place in Santiago, just before COP 25.

27. Given the multitude of joint or parallel tasks mandated to the AC and the LEG, as well as their closely related mandates overall, the two bodies elaborated a road map for short- and long-term collaboration on related items.<sup>11</sup> The AC welcomed the remote participation of the LEG Chair at AC 16 to talk about this collaboration. The two committees also addressed encouragement from the COP for relevant bodies and programmes to assist with the implementation of the least developed countries work programme, in accordance with their respective mandates.<sup>12</sup>

28. Seeking to enhance coherence and reduce duplication of tasks with other bodies, the AC has been engaged with the following groups, which were initiated by either the AC or other bodies and have successfully produced concrete and well-coordinated outcomes:

- (a) The AC NAP task force (see paras. 51–57 below);
- (b) The AC TEP-A working group (see para. 75 below);
- (c) The LEG support group for NAP Central;
- (d) The LEG NAP Expo advisory group;
- (e) The task force on displacement (see para. 57 below);
- (f) The TEC task force on adaptation;
- (g) The CTCN Advisory Board;
- (h) The PCCB, including joint work on gender (see paras. 35–38 below).

29. Two specific examples of the AC promoting overarching coherence pertain to its work with the NWP and its work on gender, as follows.

30. In response to an invitation of SBSTA 48,<sup>13</sup> AC 15 provided advice on the delivery of NWP mandates and on the themes of the 13<sup>th</sup> and subsequent NWP Focal Point Forums.<sup>14</sup> Oceans will be the theme of the 13<sup>th</sup> Focal Point Forum (in 2019) and the link between climate change adaptation and biodiversity that of the 14<sup>th</sup> Forum (in 2020).

31. Building on the ongoing collaboration and recent mandates from the SBSTA, the AC invited NWP partners to provide technical support in respect of the work mandated to

<sup>11</sup> AC document AC/2019/29.

<sup>12</sup> Decision 16/CP.24, para. 5.

<sup>13</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2018/4, para. 19.

<sup>14</sup> The AC Co-Chairs communicated the advice to the SBSTA Chair, available at [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/20190411\\_ac15\\_letter%20NWP%20advice.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/20190411_ac15_letter%20NWP%20advice.pdf). Details are also contained in the NWP 2019 annual report, which was considered at SBSTA 51 (FCCC/SBSTA/2019/INF.1).

the AC by the CMA and of adaptation knowledge-related activities included in the AC workplan, as appropriate.

32. In addition, the AC invited representatives of the NWP to report regularly at AC meetings on knowledge and information provided to support the work of the AC. They were also invited to report on the findings from activities undertaken under the Lima Adaptation Knowledge Initiative. The AC will take this information into account when providing further advice on the delivery of NWP mandates, thus ensuring a transparent flow of feedback on work carried out under the NWP and by its partners and the continuity of that work.

33. AC 16 welcomed an oral report by a representative of the secretariat on the topics referred to in paragraphs 31 and 32 above and explored options on how to enhance the visibility and accessibility of adaptation knowledge products through the UNFCCC website.

34. NWP partner organizations participated in the 2019 Adaptation Forum on the engagement of the private sector in adaptation planning processes, including NAPs, attended AC 15 and 16 and provided inputs to documentation prepared by the AC. The AC regularly contributes to the NWP eUpdate newsletter.<sup>15</sup>

35. On **gender**, following a briefing at AC 14 on gender-related activities under the UNFCCC, the AC agreed to incorporate gender as a cross-cutting consideration into all its activities. Accordingly, the AC decided to:

(a) Develop a plan for enhancing consideration of gender in adaptation action and its workplan activities;<sup>16</sup>

(b) Hold a joint meeting with the PCCB in 2020 to identify gaps and solutions related to incorporating gender considerations into adaptation planning and implementation.<sup>17</sup>

36. The AC and its NAP task force also (see paras. 51–57 below) invited submissions from Parties and non-Party stakeholders to inform its work on gender by 15 July 2019. Seven submissions from Parties and 16 submissions from non-Party stakeholders were received.<sup>18</sup>

37. AC 16 adopted its workplan on how to mainstream gender into its work and welcomed the participation of a member of the PCCB in the discussion. The AC agreed on two topics for the meeting mentioned in paragraph 35(b) above:

(a) Promoting gender analysis in the NAP process: using sex-disaggregated data;

(b) Reducing gender inequalities through NAPs by raising awareness and building capacity.

38. The AC will continue the conversation with the PCCB and requested the secretariat to explore options for holding the meeting at the 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Community-Based Adaptation to Climate Change (Bangkok, June 2020).

39. The AC further co-authored, with the LEG and the NAP Global Network, a toolkit for gender-responsive NAP processes as a supplement to the technical guidelines for the NAP process. A pre-launch of the toolkit is planned for COP 25.

## **B. Mandates arising from the first session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement**

40. Since the adoption of the Paris Agreement, the AC, in collaboration with the LEG and other constituted bodies, has been mandated to undertake a number of activities towards the implementation of the adaptation provisions of the Paris Agreement. Topics are

<sup>15</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/topics/resilience/resources/adaptation-newsletters>.

<sup>16</sup> See AC document AC/2019/17.

<sup>17</sup> A concept note for the meeting is contained in AC document AC/2019/18.

<sup>18</sup> See <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx>.



related in particular to adaptation communications, the global stocktake and related methodological mandates.

41. Although such mandates are included in the AC workplan under different workstreams, they are addressed together in this report to illustrate how the AC has started considering them in a holistic manner. AC 15 established timelines and milestones for each of them to guide their implementation. The mandates and the agreed timelines are presented in the annex.

#### **1. Adaptation communications: draft supplementary guidance for voluntary use by Parties in communicating adaptation information**

42. In accordance with its workplan, AC 16 considered an updated mapping of existing guidance as a basis for its further work on that mandate.<sup>19</sup> The AC requested the secretariat to prepare an outline of the draft supplementary guidance for further consideration at AC 17.

43. In response to the mandate from CMA 1 (see section 2 of the annex),<sup>20</sup> the AC sent a letter to IPCC Working Group II with information on the mandate and timeline. At an informal strategy meeting between representatives of the scientific community, constituted bodies and the SBSTA Chair in June 2018, the Deputy Secretary of the IPCC confirmed receipt of the letter from the AC and the interest of the IPCC in working with the AC on relevant mandates. In a letter dated 10 September 2019 the Secretary of the IPCC took note of the mandates and suggested that the requests be discussed further during COP 25, and that a meeting be set up to this end.

#### **2. Methodologies for assessing the adaptation needs of developing country Parties**

44. In the letter referred to in paragraph 43 above the IPCC Working Group II was also updated about the timeline for the implementation of the mandate on methodologies for assessing the adaptation needs of developing country Parties (see section 4 of the annex).<sup>21</sup>

45. AC 16 also considered a concept note<sup>22</sup> for the mandated inventory and discussed different approaches towards its development. Based on the discussion, the AC requested the secretariat to prepare, by the end of November 2019, different options for the inventory as mock-ups with associated cost estimates. The AC will identify potential users to work with the secretariat to make the product useful to end users.

46. The AC, with support from the secretariat, will prepare guiding questions for the mandated submissions that are due in 2021, for consideration at AC 17.

#### **3. Modalities for recognizing the adaptation efforts of developing country Parties**

47. AC 16 considered different themes for its first synthesis report in the context recognizing the adaptation efforts of developing country Parties. It agreed on the theme of how developing countries are addressing hazards, focusing on relevant lessons learned and good practices and requested the secretariat to develop an initial draft for consideration at AC 17 (see section 5 of the annex).<sup>23</sup>

#### **4. Methodologies for reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support**

48. In line with the agreed timeline, the work on the mandate referred to in section 1 of the annex<sup>24</sup> will be initiated in early 2020.

#### **5. Collecting information in preparation for the global stocktake**

49. Work on the mandate referred to in section 3 of the annex<sup>25</sup> will also be initiated in early 2020.

<sup>19</sup> See AC document AC/2019/19.

<sup>20</sup> Decision 9/CMA.1, para. 15.

<sup>21</sup> Decision 11/CMA.1, paras. 15–17.

<sup>22</sup> AC document AC/2019/20.

<sup>23</sup> Decision 11/CMA.1, para. 13.

<sup>24</sup> Decision 11/CMA.1, paras. 35 and 36.

## C. Providing technical support and guidance to the Parties

50. The AC has continued to provide technical support and guidance to the Parties in the two main areas of adaptation action and means of implementation, including finance, technology and capacity-building. The main focus of this work is on NAPs as the main vehicle for planning and implementing pre-emptive planned adaptation at the national level. This work has been undertaken in close collaboration with the LEG, supported by the AC NAP task force.

### 1. Adaptation action

51. During the reporting period, the AC progressed its work on national adaptation planning mainly through the AC NAP task force, and through a technical paper on linkages between mitigation and adaptation. Information on the NAP task force is contained in box 2.

#### Box 2

##### The NAP task force

The NAP task force was established at AC 4 to further support developing countries seeking to formulate and implement NAPs. It was welcomed by COP 19 and consists of AC members and representatives of: AF, GCF, GEF, LEG, TEC and SCF.

The NAP task force delivers an oral report to the AC, at each AC meeting, on issues identified and on proposed activities to support the NAP process for all eligible developing countries.

52. The task force elaborated a new workplan for 2019–2021, which was endorsed at AC 15.<sup>26</sup> The workplan is in line with the flexible AC workplan and also responds to the invitation of SBI 47 for the AC and the LEG to consider ways to assist with the implementation of NAPs in their future work programmes and to include information thereon in their reports, as appropriate.<sup>27</sup>

53. In addition, the NAP task force:

- (a) Contributed to the AC work on integrating gender into adaptation action, in particular through a call for submissions to inform their work on gender;
- (b) Provided input to the guiding questions for a call for submissions on capacity gaps in accessing adaptation funding, focusing on NAPs (see paras. 64 and 65 below);
- (c) Is collecting ideas from all its members on how best to compile good practices and experience to improve domestic awareness-raising, communication and outreach efforts related to the NAP process.

54. Furthermore, the NAP task force addressed two specific COP mandates. Firstly, it considered, in coordination with the LEG, **gaps and needs** identified through their relevant work and how to address them.<sup>28</sup>

55. The LEG developed a compilation of gaps and needs, which was made available in the report of the LEG on its 35<sup>th</sup> meeting. The LEG and the AC, through the NAP task force, supplemented the compilation with more information, including:

- (a) Recommendations from the AC and the LEG and information on activities undertaken to address the identified gaps and needs;
- (b) Activities in their respective workplans for addressing the identified gaps and needs in the future;

<sup>25</sup> Decision 19/CMA.1, para. 24.

<sup>26</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/constituted-bodies/adaptation-committee-ac/areas-of-work/ac-s-task-force-on-national-adaptation-plans-nap-taskforce>.

<sup>27</sup> FCCC/SBI/2017/19, para. 73.

<sup>28</sup> In response to decision 8/CP.24, para. 18.

(c) Suggestions on how and by whom the remaining gaps and needs could be addressed.

56. The product was considered at LEG 36 and AC 16. The compilation considered at AC 16 is available in document AC/2019/23, and the AC will conduct further outreach before AC 17 with other bodies and organizations who can potentially address the gaps and needs. The LEG has already received initial feedback from other organizations during LEG 36 and made the status of its compilation available in the report on the meeting.<sup>29</sup> In line with the road map for short- and long-term collaboration of the AC and the LEG on related items referred to in paragraph 27 above, the AC and the LEG will further collaborate on their analyses from their respective meetings.

57. The AC and its NAP task force also noted the invitation of the COP to assist developing country Parties in integrating approaches to avert, minimize and address **displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change into relevant national planning processes**, including NAPs, as appropriate, in collaboration with the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism and in accordance with the AC mandate and workplan.<sup>30</sup> The AC has been represented in the task force on displacement since the inception of the task force.<sup>31</sup> In 2019 the AC contributed to the background material prepared for the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the task force on displacement and participated in the meeting. AC 16 welcomed this collaboration and agreed to further strengthen its work with the task force, including by engaging it in the preparation of the 2020 synthesis report of the AC on how developing countries are addressing hazards (see para. 47 above).

58. A new topic addressed by the AC under this workstream is **linkages between mitigation and adaptation**. In 2019, it prepared and considered an information document on the matter, which was considered at AC 16.<sup>32</sup> The AC engaged in an initial exchange on this topic and noted that the document would benefit from additional information, including on how to address challenges, highlighting tools and drawing on additional information sources, including indigenous and traditional knowledge. The AC requested the secretariat to update the document accordingly for further consideration at AC 17.

## 2. Means of implementation

59. One objective of the AC in its work is to provide guidance on ways to enhance support, including for finance, technology and capacity-building, in particular related to access, institutional arrangements and enabling environments, including for the process to formulate and implement NAPs. The AC undertook various related activities throughout 2019, including collaborating with the GCF on access to adaptation finance and advancing the engagement of the private sector in adaptation.

60. **Collaboration between the AC and GCF** included:

- (a) Participation of the AC in the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting of the GCF Board with constituted bodies under the Convention, held at COP 24;
- (b) Participation of AC members in the GCF regional TEM and other events held in the context of the 2019 Korea Global Adaptation Week;
- (c) The GCF having a leading role in the 2019 TEM-A;
- (d) Participation of GCF representatives in AC 15 and 16.

61. The AC provides input to the SCF for the preparation of the draft decisions on **guidance to the operating entities** of the Financial Mechanism. In 2019, inputs were considered at AC 16 and communicated to the SCF after the meeting. They are reflected in the annex of the background note by the SCF on the draft guidance, for consideration at SCF 21.<sup>33</sup>

<sup>29</sup> FCCC/SBI/2019/16.

<sup>30</sup> Decision 10/CP.24, para. 3, and annex, para. 1(e).

<sup>31</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/wim-excom/sub-groups/TFD>.

<sup>32</sup> AC document AC/2019/24.

<sup>33</sup> SCF/2019/21/3.

62. The AC and the SCF nominated focal points from their respective bodies to foster further collaboration, exchanged workplans and timelines for future relevant work, and agreed on continued engagement on relevant work.

63. With regard to the engagement of the **private sector** in adaptation, the AC approved the report<sup>34</sup> on its 2018 workshop on fostering the engagement of the agrifood sector in addressing resilience to climate change, organized in collaboration with the International Trade Centre.<sup>35</sup> The AC disseminated and discussed the outcomes of the workshop at its 2019 Adaptation Forum, which focused on private sector engagement, and several information and outreach products were subsequently developed (see chap. IV D. below). The AC agreed on a set of recommendations on private sector engagement, which are presented in chapter V below.

64. Finally, the AC prepared an information document on Parties' **capacity gaps in accessing adaptation funding** and on their successes and challenges in building in-country capacity.<sup>36</sup> Information was gathered through a desk review of previous work of the AC and other constituted bodies, including the LEG, the PCCB and the SCF, as well as seven submissions from Parties and nine from non-Party stakeholders. The document was discussed at AC 16.

65. The AC agreed to consult with the LEG, the PCCB and the SCF on follow-up activities. These should have a focus on sustained, long-term, in-country capacity-building in accessing adaptation funding.

#### D. Awareness-raising, outreach and information-sharing

66. To guide its awareness-raising, outreach and information-sharing activities, the AC has reviewed and updated its communications strategy, including its mission statement and social media strategy.<sup>37</sup> A detailed communications plan to implement the strategy will be created as a next step.

67. Since the publication of its previous strategy in 2013, the landscape of international climate action has changed substantially in the light of the Paris Agreement and the subsequent Katowice climate package. Additionally, social media has become even more integral to communications and outreach efforts for international organizations and climate change knowledge exchange. The AC therefore recalibrated the existing strategy to leverage the potential offered by social media and showcase the enduring value of its work as Parties move to enhance their adaptation action. It encompasses a combination of offline and online efforts to maximize the reach of the AC to all relevant audiences.

68. In this context, and to complement the procedural character of its official annual report, the AC will issue, before COP 25, a concise outreach product aimed at making the work of the AC more tangible and information thereon accessible to a broader audience. It will highlight the key achievements of the AC in 2019 and will provide easy access to information on main outcomes and more in-depth information on substantive findings.

69. Similarly, the core of AC work is to help a wide audience to better understand the concept of adaptation to a changing climate as a whole and how this fits into the broader history of how adaptation has been addressed by the international community. It is therefore preparing an update of its successful 2013 **report on adaptation under the Convention**,<sup>38</sup> which will clearly and concisely describe the history and evolution of work on adaptation since the inception of the Convention, with a particular focus on the Paris

<sup>34</sup> Available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/199180>.

<sup>35</sup> See <http://www.intracen.org/event/climate-resilience/> and <https://unfccc.int/event/adaptation-committee-fostering-engagement-of-the-agri-food-sector-in-resilience-to-climate-change>.

<sup>36</sup> AC document AC/2019/27.

<sup>37</sup> See AC document AC/2019/28.

<sup>38</sup> See [https://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/cancun\\_adaptation\\_framework/adaptation\\_committee/application/pdf/ac\\_2013\\_report\\_low\\_res.pdf](https://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/cancun_adaptation_framework/adaptation_committee/application/pdf/ac_2013_report_low_res.pdf).

Agreement and the changes that its adoption heralded for the collective effort to catalyse adaptation action under the Convention. The report will be officially launched at COP 25 with the aim of encouraging a broad audience to engage with the adaptation-related institutions under the Convention and, more generally, with efforts to rise to the adaptation challenge and secure a climate-resilient future.

70. The AC has also been involved in outreach activities to engage the **private sector** in adaptation. Following its endorsement of the 2018 workshop report referred to in paragraph 63 above, the AC produced several outreach products for wide dissemination, including a concise outreach product outlining the business case for adaptation.<sup>39</sup> A toolkit on engaging the private sector in the NAP process is also currently being produced by the NAP Global Network in collaboration with the AC.

71. This private sector work directly links to the **Adaptation Forum**, which has over the years become a regular event for communicating on AC work to a broader audience and raising the profile of adaptation overall. The 2019 Adaptation Forum focused on the engagement of the private sector in adaptation planning processes, including NAPs: challenges and opportunities. It took place during Korea Global Adaptation Week in April 2019.<sup>40</sup> An interactive summary of the Forum is available online.<sup>41</sup>

72. Finally, the AC issued an e-publication on **various approaches to long-term adaptation planning** that draws on work undertaken by the AC in the areas of long-term adaptation planning and various adaptation approaches.<sup>42</sup> The AC also continued to prepare its **Adaptation Finance Bulletin** in collaboration with the AF, the GCF, the GEF, the LEG and the SCF to inform a broad range of stakeholders on recent developments in the context of international adaptation finance.<sup>43</sup> The AC discussed exploring possible collaboration with the AF, the PCCB and the CTCN on enhancing access to readiness and capacity-building support for climate change adaptation actions that was introduced at a side event at SB 50.

73. All information products of the AC are available on the AC web page<sup>44</sup> and disseminated broadly, including via the adaptation knowledge portal<sup>45</sup> and the dedicated Adaptation Exchange Facebook page,<sup>46</sup> which is maintained by the secretariat's Adaptation Programme. As at 10 October 2019, the Exchange had 16,269 followers.

## E. Technical examination process on adaptation

74. TEP-A was established in decision 1/CP.21 as part of enhancing adaptation action prior to 2020. COP 21 decided that TEP-A was to be organized by the subsidiary bodies, conducted by the AC and supported by the secretariat. It includes annual TEM-As, bringing together a broad group of stakeholders to discuss policies, action and concrete opportunities and implementation.

75. To ensure an inclusive and participatory approach throughout, the AC established a dedicated working group comprising AC members and nominees from the LEG, the TEC and the SCF, as well as from business and industry, environmental, and research and independent non-governmental organizations. The theme of the 2019 TEP-A, as suggested by the working group and approved by the AC, was adaptation finance, including the private sector.

76. At the 2019 TEM-A, led by the AF, the GCF, the Stockholm Environment Institute, the UNEP DTU Partnership and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, through the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, adaptation finance

<sup>39</sup> <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/businesscase.pdf>.

<sup>40</sup> See <https://www.greenclimate.fund/meetings/2019/adaptationweek>.

<sup>41</sup> <https://spark.adobe.com/page/uRPq8eTsdD8nM/>.

<sup>42</sup> <https://unfccc.int/documents/199404>.

<sup>43</sup> See <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/constituted-bodies/adaptation-committee-ac/publications-bulletin-adaptation-committee>.

<sup>44</sup> <https://unfccc.int/Adaptation-Committee>.

<sup>45</sup> <http://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWP/Pages/Home.aspx>.

<sup>46</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/The.Adaptation.Exchange/>.

was acknowledged as being critical to unlocking adaptation action and ways to scale it up were explored.<sup>47</sup>

77. Discussions at the meeting, as well as other information relevant to the topic, are reflected in a technical paper prepared by the secretariat in consultation with the AC,<sup>48</sup> which will be used to produce a summary for policymakers to be issued before COP 25. At AC 16, recommendations for consideration at COP 25 were agreed on (see chap. V below).

78. The AC agreed on the topic of education and training, public participation and youth to enhance adaptation action for the final TEP-A, in 2020. Organizations interested in supporting the work on this, including the main TEM, or a regional TEM-A, are invited to contact the secretariat.

79. COP 23 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 regional action, including through regional mitigation and adaptation initiatives, and to provide their reports thereon to the secretariat as input to the technical examination processes.<sup>49</sup> In response, four regional TEM-As took place in 2019, as shown in the table below.

#### Overview of 2019 regional technical expert meetings on adaptation

<i>Host event</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Organizer(s)</i>	<i>Theme</i>	<i>Date</i>
Second Central Asia Climate Change Conference	Tashkent, Uzbekistan	Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia, World Bank	Climate finance	3–4 April
Korea Global Adaptation Week	Songdo, the Republic of Korea	GCF	Adaptation finance, including the private sector	11 April
Latin America and Caribbean Climate Week	Salvador, Brazil	Inter-American Development Bank, Libélula, Regional Network for Climate Change and Decision Making	Adaptation finance	23 August
Asia-Pacific Climate Week	Bangkok, Thailand	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	Adaptation finance	6 September

## V. Recommendations to the Conference of the Parties

80. On the basis of its 2019 activities, the AC agreed to forward recommendations for consideration at COP 25.

81. The following recommendations emerged from the work of the AC on the 2019 TEP-A on adaptation finance.

82. The COP may wish to encourage Parties to:

- (a) Increase their adaptation ambition and increase public finance for adaptation;
- (b) Align domestic expenditure from national budgets and climate change action with a view to catalysing domestic and international finance at both the national and subnational level, and therefore help advance government priorities and meet adaptation needs;

<sup>47</sup> See <http://tep-a.org/technical-expert-meetings-on-adaptation/2019-2/agenda-technical-expert-meeting-on-adaptation-2019>.

<sup>48</sup> FCCC/TP/2019/3.

<sup>49</sup> Decision 13/CP.23, para. 9.

(c) Set up and, as appropriate, invest in monitoring, evaluation and learning systems throughout the full project or programme life cycle, to make efforts for projects to go beyond output indicators, move towards programmatic approaches to adaptation rather than project-based approaches, and link national monitoring of progress on adaptation with monitoring under related international frameworks;

(d) Use national planning documents and instruments, such as the NAP and communication instruments, including nationally determined contributions, adaptation communications and GCF country programming, to coordinate their efforts and priorities, generate project proposals and identify appropriate sources of adaptation finance;

(e) Build networks with these civil society and local actors to help deliver enhanced results with the limited finance available;

(f) Support investments that integrate climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction approaches, and that centre on addressing risks, reducing vulnerabilities and promoting sustainable development;

(g) Ensure that their technology needs assessments and technology action plans are complete and up to date, with a view to advancing technology transfer and the commercialization of adaptation technologies;

(h) Invite the private sector to engage in adaptation planning and implementation processes;

(i) Use their policy instruments and frameworks to incentivize private sector investment in adaptation action in various ways, including by de-risking investment in adaptation to unlock and scale up private sector investing, or adapting the regulatory framework to allow the private sector to invest in adaptation efforts as necessary;

(j) Continue working within their regions to improve information exchange and strengthen capacity for scaling up and allow for replication of programmes, projects and strategies for mobilizing adaptation finance that have proven to be effective, with the aim of enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change.

83. The COP may also wish to:

(a) Express appreciation to organizations that volunteered to lead the 2019 TEM-A, as well as those that organized regional TEM-As in 2019;

(b) Invite Parties and relevant non-Party stakeholders to engage in awareness-raising activities, develop new finance instruments and build partnerships with industry associations to expand the market of adaptation technology solutions by accelerating the development, deployment and transfer of these technologies;

(c) Urge Parties to develop and implement robust and iterative national adaptation planning processes from existing multilateral climate funds and engage the private sector and integrate gender considerations to catalyse large-scale finance for adaptation that addresses the needs of the most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change;

(d) Note that finance mobilized through multilateral climate funds currently represents only a small fraction of total finance for adaptation, and encourage Parties and non-Party stakeholders to mobilize additional funds, including from the private sector;

(e) Encourage civil society organizations and other local actors to continue their efforts to increase transparency of adaptation finance and build trust among the communities to which the finance is directed;

(f) Encourage Parties and organizations to incorporate and build upon the insights and outcomes of the 2019 regional TEM-As in their efforts to plan, implement and finance adaptation action, and to continue organizing these meetings in 2020 with a view to enhancing adaptation action at the regional level.

84. The following recommendations emerged from the work of the AC on engaging the private sector in adaptation.

85. The COP may wish to emphasize:

(a) That mitigating risks through adaptation to climate change is at the core of a business's interests, noting that risks include transition risks and physical risks and should be addressed in a proactive manner, and that policies and regulation can incentivize companies to invest in adaptation, and can unlock finance for adaptation for vulnerable groups and sectors;

(b) That the landscape of private sector actors and its resources to invest in adaptation varies widely and ranges from micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises to multinational corporations;

(c) The existence of opportunities for the private sector, particularly micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, to develop bankable project pipelines that would enable access to finance from public and private sector sources;

(d) The need for meaningful and inclusive stakeholder engagement, including of women, youth, indigenous peoples and poor and vulnerable communities, with the private sector, with a view to putting people at the centre of adaptation and resilience-building efforts.

86. The COP may also wish to invite Parties to make full use of opportunities to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability through engaging with the private sector, and to:

(a) Initiate and, where appropriate, enhance their engagement with the private sector in their national adaptation planning and actions;

(b) Establish institutional arrangements, for example within NAP inter-agency committees, in order to facilitate dialogue among national and subnational decision makers, ministries governing relevant sectors, private enterprises, business organizations and private financiers;

(c) Provide accurate and reliable information and data, build capacity and communicate in a business-tailored and sector-specific way, with a view to supporting the private sector to better understand and articulate the impact of climate change on their business models, as well as to identify new business opportunities such as investments in technologies for adaptation;

(d) Make use of intermediaries, such as private sector organizations and/or chambers of commerce, as multipliers, as these organizations have better access to individual businesses and an overview of their constituents' needs, to better illustrate and communicate the business case for adaptation, in particular for micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, through compelling narratives, relevant data, and other key information sources and communication vehicles;

(e) Consider focused investments in education, training, public awareness and capacity-building, in particular for policymakers, business representatives and financial actors on a national and community level, with infrastructure and technology as priorities, as investment in these areas can catalyse widespread adaptation action among the private sector, particularly in developing countries; for the agrifood sector, increased public sector action, investments and financing are also necessary, as insurance, payment solutions and innovative financial products currently on offer from the private sector are insufficient to meet the needs;

87. The COP may further wish to urge private sector actors to register their adaptation efforts via the Global Climate Action portal.<sup>50</sup>

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<sup>50</sup> Available at <https://climateaction.unfccc.int/>.



## Annex

### Timelines agreed by the Adaptation Committee for work mandated by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement at its first session

<i>First half 2019</i>	<i>Second half 2019</i>	<i>First half 2020</i>	<i>Second half 2020</i>	<i>First half 2021</i>	<i>Second half 2021</i>	<i>First half 2022</i>	<i>Second half 2022</i>
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#### 1. Decision 11/CMA.1, paragraphs 35 and 36

The AC and the LEG, in collaboration with the SCF and relevant experts, to contribute to further technical work by continuing to compile existing methodologies for reviewing the **adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support**

Parties, United Nations entities and other relevant organizations, as well as bilateral and multilateral agencies, to submit by April 2020 to the AC and the LEG information on gaps, challenges, opportunities and options associated with methodologies for reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support

Call for submissions	Submissions due in April	Update compilation of methodologies (including submissions)	Consider compilation (in late 2020 or early 2021)
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#### 2. Decision 9/CMA.1, paragraph 15

The AC to develop, with the engagement of IPCC Working Group II, using relevant existing guidance as a starting point, as appropriate, by June 2022, draft supplementary guidance for voluntary use by Parties in **communicating information** in accordance with the elements contained in the annex to decision 9/CMA.1, for consideration at SB 57 in the context of the consideration of the report of the AC

Send letter to IPCC Working Group II	Update mapping of relevant existing guidance Meet with IPCC Working Group II in the margins of COP 25	Outline for consideration at AC 17	Elaborate draft guidance	(Finalization in 2022)
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<i>First half 2019</i>	<i>Second half 2019</i>	<i>First half 2020</i>	<i>Second half 2020</i>	<i>First half 2021</i>	<i>Second half 2021</i>	<i>First half 2022</i>	<i>Second half 2022</i>
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### 3. Decision 19/CMA.1, paragraph 24

Information collection and preparation for the global stocktake: relevant constituted bodies (AC referenced in footnote) and forums and other institutional arrangements under or serving the Paris Agreement and/or the Convention to prepare for the technical assessment, with the assistance of the secretariat, **synthesis reports** on the information identified in paragraph 36 of decision 19/CMA.1 in their areas of expertise

Concept and outline	Zero-order draft	Advanced draft	Close-to-final draft	(Finalization in March 2022)
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### 4. Decision 11/CMA.1, paragraphs 15–17

The AC, in collaboration with the LEG, NWP partner organizations, and users and developers of relevant methodologies, including academia and the private sector, to develop by June 2020 and to regularly update an **inventory of relevant methodologies for assessing adaptation needs**, including needs related to action, finance and capacity-building, and to make the information available on the adaptation knowledge portal

Parties and observer organizations to **submit** their views and information on the development and application of methodologies for assessing adaptation needs, including needs related to action, finance, capacity-building and technological support. Submissions may be made via the submission portal until February 2021

The AC, with the engagement of IPCC Working Group II, as appropriate, to prepare, drawing on the inventory and the relevant submissions, a **technical paper** on methodologies for assessing adaptation needs and their application, as well as on related gaps, good practices, lessons learned and guidelines, for consideration and further guidance at SBSTA 57 in the context of its consideration of the report of the AC

Letter to IPCC Working Group II	Concept note for inventory, including scope, approach and periodicity of update	Finalization of inventory in June	Call for submissions	Submissions due in February	(Finalization in 2022)
	Engage with the LEG and NWP after AC 16	Scoping note for technical paper for AC 17		Draft of technical paper, drawing on inventory	
	Meet with IPCC Working Group II in the margins of COP 25				

<i>First half 2019</i>	<i>Second half 2019</i>	<i>First half 2020</i>	<i>Second half 2020</i>	<i>First half 2021</i>	<i>Second half 2021</i>	<i>First half 2022</i>	<i>Second half 2022</i>
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## 5. Decision 11/CMA.1, paragraph 13

The secretariat, under the guidance of the AC and the LEG and in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, to **prepare synthesis reports every two years, starting in 2020, on specific adaptation themes**, focusing on relevant lessons learned and good practices in developing country Parties in the context of the recognition of their adaptation efforts

Identify three to five themes on the basis of current work	Agree on theme Prepare outline	Draft report	Finalize report	Identify three to five themes on the basis of current work	Agree on theme Prepare outline	Draft report	Finalize report
Coordinate with LEG Chair							