NEW ZEALAND

Submission to the APA on Adaptation Communications
August 2017

Context

Regarding APA agenda item 4 on further guidance in relation to the adaptation communication, the conclusions of the third part of the first session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA) invite "Parties to submit by 15 September 2017, focused submissions on the proposals for elements and 'skeleton' outlines as contained in the informal note on this agenda item".

2 The informal note[1] by the co-facilitators contains their reflections on the discussion in the informal consultations to date, including three annexes covering: proposals for possible purposes of an adaptation communication; proposals for the elements of an adaptation communication; and, proposed "skeletons". We note each of the annexes is caveated, including as being non-exhaustive, and not prescribing or prejudging the scope, structure or content of further guidance to be developed. New Zealand thanks the co-facilitators for providing the informal note on this basis; we recognise it as a way of capturing views and providing context for this next round of submissions from Parties. New Zealand's submission addresses elements of the note/annexes without in any way accepting them as the base documents for future work.

3 As context for this submission we recall our September 2016 and April 2017 submissions and reiterate the following observations about Articles 7.10, and 7.11 of the Paris Agreement:

- Adaptation communications are not mandatory
- The updating and submission of an adaptation communication is not to create any additional burden on developing countries
- If a Party chooses to make an adaptation communication there is flexibility in how it does so i.e. as a component of, or in conjunction with other communications or documents.

[1] http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/bonn_may_2017/in-session/application/pdf/apa_4_informal_note_final.pdf

4 The considerations above are important and have a bearing on the appropriate type of language to use in guidance for adaptation communications (i.e. how prescriptive the guidance is and the level of detail that is needed).

"Skeleton" outline

5 Reflecting on the agreements already reached between Parties about the voluntary and flexible nature of adaptation communications, and also on the content of Annex III to the co-facilitators' informal note, New Zealand considers there should be two parts to the outcome on adaptation communications:

(i) high level guidance for adaptation communications; and,
(ii) a COP/CMA decision under which the guidance is adopted, with the guidance itself annexed to the decision.

6 To set the context for its operational paragraphs, the COP/CMA decision would contain a preamble recalling the relevant articles of the Paris Agreement. These would, for example, include the provisions relating to flexibility for adaptation communications, the vehicles for communicating, linkages between the communications and other processes, for example the global stocktake. The operational part of the decision, at a minimum, would adopt the guidance (as set out in an annex to the decision), specify when Parties would start using the guidance, and when the guidance would be reviewed, and by which UNFCCC body. A suggested "skeleton" outline of these operational paragraphs is contained in annex 1 to this submission.

Elements of an adaptation communication

7 New Zealand's proposal for elements of the guidance for adaptation communications is contained in annex 2 to this submission. Within this annex we have indicated how the relevant provisions of Article 7 of the Paris Agreement are addressed by the guidance. These references are provided to assist with the understanding of our proposal, but we would not see such references used in the finalised guidance..

Linkage to Article 13

8 Noting the provisions in Article 13.8 that "each Party should also provide information related to climate change impacts and adaptation under Article 7, as appropriate", New Zealand proposes that the same guidance (as per annex 2 to this submission) is integrated into the guidelines being developed under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement (transparency). Given that the updating and submission of an adaptation communication is not to create any additional burden on developing countries (Article 7.10), and that the transparency framework (under Article 13) is, *inter alia*, to avoid placing undue burden on Parties (Article 13.3) it is New Zealand's view that the best approach is to have one set of guidance for communicating information on impacts and adaptation that Parties can use no matter which channel/vehicle is used to communicate that information.

Conclusions

9 New Zealand looks forward to further discussion of the guidance on adaptation communications.

Annex 1
New Zealand's proposal for a "skeleton" outline for the COP/CMA decision that adopts the adaptation communications guidance.

Draft Decision X/CMA.1

Guidance for the preparation of adaptation communications under Article 7 of the Paris Agreement

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement,

Recalling [the relevant provisions of the Paris Agreement in particular Article 7 and Article 13.8] [others]

Recalling [decisions on guidelines for the preparation of NCs, NAPs]

Noting the ongoing process of learning by doing and the value of continuous improvement,

Recognizing that adaptation communications are not mandatory and that Parties may submit their adaptation communication as a component of or in conjunction with other communications or documents;

1. *Adopts* the guidance for the preparation of adaptation communications by all Parties as contained in the annex to this decision;

2. *Decides* that Parties may begin using use this guidance for the preparation of adaptation communications immediately upon its adoption;

3. *Decides* that the [Subsidiary Body for Implementation] will review this guidance in [2028] and make such revisions as may be appropriate, taking into account the experience of Parties in its use.

4. *Invites* Parties to submit, by [date], their views on experiences with the use of the guidance for the preparation of adaptation communications, to assist with the revision of the guidance outlined in paragraph 3 above.

Annex 2: New Zealand's proposal for elements of the guidance for an adaptation communication

Annex to draft decision:

PURPOSE

1 The purpose of this guidance for adaptation communications is to assist Parties in communicating their priorities, implementation and support needs, plans and actions regarding adaptation to the impacts of climate change {Article 7.10}, and to facilitate learning, cooperation and support for implementation of such priorities, plans and actions.

APPROACH

2 If a Party chooses to submit its adaptation communication as a component of another document or communication, or as a standalone, Parties are encouraged to use the following structure for their communication, irrespective of the channel/vehicle selected, taking into account guidance for national communications, national adaptation plans, and biennial communications (under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement) as appropriate.

3 In preparing information to be included in the adaptation communication Parties are encouraged to use and reference relevant methodologies and guidance for assessing climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation measures.

STRUCTURE AND CONTENT

A. Information on the expected impacts of climate change {Article 7.9(c)}

4 Such information could cover:

(i) Climate modelling, projections and scenarios, relevant to the assessment of climate change impacts and vulnerability;

(ii) Climate change impacts already experienced or forecast

B. Information on risks and vulnerability {Article 7.9(c)}

5 Such information could cover:

(i) Assessment of climate risks and vulnerability to current and expected climate change impacts

C. Information on action taken to plan for and adapt to climate change

6 Such information could include:

(i) Domestic adaptation planning processes {Article 7.9(b)}

(ii) Implemented and planned actions, strategies, approaches {Article 7.9(a)}

(iii) Building the resilience of socioeconomic and ecological systems {Article 7.9(e)}

(iv) Progress and outcomes of adaptation action {Article 7.9(d)}

(v) Monitoring and evaluation {Article 7.9(d)}

(vi) Implementation and support needs {Article 7.10}

D. Information on cooperation to enhance adaptation

7 Such information on cooperation and enhancing adaptation could include efforts made regarding:

(i) Sharing of information, good practices, experiences and lessons learned, including as these efforts relate to science, planning, policies and implementation in relation to adaptation actions. {Article 7.7(a)}

(ii) Strengthening institutional arrangements to support the synthesis of relevant information and knowledge, and the provision of technical support and guidance to Parties {Article 7.7(b)}

(iii) Strengthening scientific knowledge on climate, including research, systematic observations of the climate system and early warning systems in a manner that informs climate services and supports decision-making {Article 7.7(c)}

(iv) Assisting developing countries in identifying effective adaptation practices, adaptation needs, priorities, support provided and received for adaptation actions and efforts, and challenges and gaps, in a manner consistent with good practices {Article 7.7(d)}

(v) Improving the effectiveness and durability of adaptation actions. {Article 7.7(e)}

UPDATING OF THE GUIDANCE

8 This guidance shall be reviewed and revised, as appropriate, in accordance with relevant decisions of the CMA.