

## Durban Recommendation on Adaptation

The COP 16 Cancun Agreement establishing the Cancun Adaptation Framework (CAF) was a major milestone in negotiations on Adaptation within the UNFCCC. Its objectives include, enhancing action through international cooperation and building coherent consideration of matters relating to adaptation under the Convention.

COP 17 taking place in Durban from 28<sup>th</sup> November to 9<sup>th</sup> December 2011, needs to deliver on the issues that have been mandated by COP 16. Parties should further deepen the Cancun Adaptation Framework and ensure its operationalization.

WWF has prioritized the following areas for substantial progress in Durban:

### Operationalizing the Adaptation Committee

Parties should agree on the composition of and modalities and guidelines for the Adaptation Committee and enable it to be operational in 2012. The Committee's composition should be fair, representative and equitable and should draw on relevant expertise. This expertise should extend beyond government representatives and negotiators, drawing on experts from academia and civil society in particular.

The Committee needs to ensure effective linkages and build synergies with other issues such as Technology, REDD, and Capacity Building.

The Committee should be under the guidance and authority of the COP, and therefore should report to the COP directly. This will not only raise the profile of adaptation as an essential pillar of the global response to climate change, but will also reduce bureaucracy within the UNFCCC process.

The Committee must have a well-defined relationship with other relevant institutions under the UNFCCC, especially the Green Climate Fund.

Parties also need to agree on activities for the Adaptation Committee, to carry forward in the first year, to ensure implementation without delay.

### Elements of the Work Program on Loss and Damage

The current mitigation targets pledged by developed countries are not sufficient to avoid damaging climate change impacts. Scientists predict that global average temperature increases could be as much as 4°C above pre industrial levels, if we don't cut our emissions swiftly and deeply now. Even with significant emission reductions, we are locked in to a level to climate change that means devastating impacts in vulnerable countries. Some impacts can no longer be avoided through mitigation, so more capacity building, finance and technology need to be invested in adaptation actions. However, there are limits to adaptation and therefore the work program on loss and damage is crucial.

In Durban, Parties should agree on the elements of the loss and damage work program that are associated with climate change impacts in developing countries, especially for

those that are particularly vulnerable. They need to agree on a clear mandate to work towards a decision at COP 18 on this issue. Parties need to flesh-out activities which enable the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) to provide recommendations at COP 18 for decisions to be made on disaster risk reduction and risk management, the establishment of an international insurance mechanism and a rehabilitation mechanism to deal with long term climate loss and damage.

### **National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)**

In Cancun Parties decided on a process to enable Least Developed Countries (LDCs) to formulate and implement National Adaptation Plans, and requested the SBI to elaborate modalities and guidelines for NAPs for adoption by COP 17. In Durban, Parties should agree on the guidelines and modalities for the development of National Adaptation Plans as a means of identifying medium and long-term adaptation needs for Least Developed Countries and other vulnerable developing countries. These guidelines and modalities should follow a country driven, gender sensitive, environmentally sound, participatory and fully transparent approach, taking into consideration vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems. Developed countries must also be given clear guidance to provide adequate resources for the development and implementation of NAPs. Also, the implementation of existing NAPA, the short-term adaptation actions of least developed countries, need to be supported urgently.

### **Nairobi Work Program (NWP)**

In Durban, parties should agree to extend the further phase of the NWP to facilitate the dissemination of knowledge on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation practices to reach local levels of government, civil society and communities.

### **Regional Centers and Network**

Parties should also develop a program for 2012 for strengthening or establishing, as appropriate, regional centers and networks. There should be greater clarity on the role, functions and governance of these centers, in supporting adaptation work in developing countries. These centers and network are most needed in developing countries and will require support from developed country parties.

### **Adaptation Finance**

Parties need to ensure that there will be an adequate treatment of adaptation in the Green Climate Fund. The allocation of funds for adaptation should be balanced, equitable and adequate. A dedicated adaptation window is needed under the Green Climate Fund to ensure the flow of new and additional funding for the implementation of adaptation action in vulnerable developing countries. The access of funding should be easy and direct, and in the form of grants and not loans. Developed countries also need to sustain and adequately support the LDCF funding for the implementation of NAPAs.

### **Response Measures**

Response measures as a consequence of mitigation actions should be kept separate from the adaptation negotiations, and should accordingly be dealt with under the mitigation framework.

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