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RECOMMENDATION
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CANCUN RECOMMENDATIONS ON ADAPTATION

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The current mitigation targets pledged in Copenhagen are not sufficient for avoiding dangerous climate change. Deep and immediate emissions cuts are crucial to avoid the worst impacts, and there is no option but to increase the pledged emission reductions targets drastically. At the same time the feeble attempts at mitigation compared to what is needed, show how important it is to prioritize adaptation. An ambitious and fair adaptation specific decision by the Conference of Parties (COP) to put in place an adaptation framework must therefore be a cornerstone of a successful outcome at COP16 in Cancun as part of the larger Cancun package. Such a COP decision on adaptation must be supported with substantial financial and technical means for the implementation of urgent adaptation actions in vulnerable developing countries.

The adaptation decision should be part of a package of decisions that would feed into the ongoing negotiation process to adopt a final legally binding agreement at COP 17 in South Africa. After COP 15 we are in fact close to agreeing a decision on establishing an Adaptation Framework for Implementation. Such a framework must be driven by the objective of enhancing actions on adaptation in developing countries through international cooperation, providing adequate technical and financial support from developed countries, and the establishment of an appropriate institution for adaptation under the UNFCCC. Therefore, to move this process forward effectively the COP decision must be structured around the following components:

FRAMEWORK

1. Provide financial, technical and capacity-building support for the implementation of immediate adaptation measures in all developing countries, in particular to vulnerable countries, communities and ecosystems. Priority needs to be given to those countries that have least capacity and resources to adapt to climate change impact.
2. Acknowledge that healthy ecosystems underpin climate change resilience, particularly in vulnerable populations. Support an integrated planning process for adaptation, which recognizes and includes the role of ecosystems, their sustainable use, protection and restoration. This emphasizes the inter-relationship and interdependence of ecosystems, people and livelihoods, and should help enable both people and species to adapt to future climate impacts. While most integrated planning should be country driven, in certain instances, for example marine resources, regional/trans-boundary adaptation approaches may be appropriate.
3. Establish an International Mechanism to address climate-related extreme weather events and their social, environmental and economic consequences through insurance.
4. Endorse a mandate to explore how an international mechanism for compensation and rehabilitation could address unavoidable loss and damage resulting from slow onset events such as sea-level rise. Such a compensation and rehabilitation mechanism should also include matters related to climate change induced displacement, migration and relocation of vulnerable populations.

GOVERNANCE

5. Establish an Adaptation Committee under the UNFCCC to coordinate, guide, support and assist the implementation of adaptation projects and programmes in developing countries, and guide the operation of the international UN adaptation mechanism. The

committee would provide advice on eligibility criteria, equitability of resource allocation among different thematic areas, and implementation procedures for developing countries' adaptation projects and would also function as the technical panel of the finance board of new climate fund. The Adaptation Committee would further coordinate with regional centers to enhance implementation of adaptation actions, as well as supporting regional centers for enhancing their activities at regional and national levels. This committee should include balanced representation of parties and experts from developing and developed countries, and should not duplicate the work of the Kyoto Protocol Adaptation Fund.

CAPACITY BUILDING

6. Establish and/or enhance regional adaptation centers in developing countries, aimed at capacity-building within regions and countries by providing scientific information, enhancing climate impact modeling, providing training, sharing expertise on adaptation technologies, and coordinating the regional dissemination of experiences, best practice and lessons learned. These regional centers need to coordinate the work with Nairobi Work Programme (NWP) and technology mechanism under the UNFCCC.

FINANCE

7. Facilitate the provision of finance for all developing countries, especially vulnerable countries, considering the adaptation needs of communities and ecosystems and securing direct and easy access, and should be in the form of grants and not loans. Adaptation funding is not aid, but is rather required on the basis of the 'polluter pays principle' based on the historical responsibilities of developed countries. Adaptation financing from developed countries should be a legally-binding commitment, and should be new, predictable, sustainable, adequate and additional to existing official development assistance (ODA) target commitments of 0.7% GDP and to be captured in the finance related part of the future legal agreement.
8. Allocate 50% of the fast-start funding pledge from Copenhagen to adaptation actions especially for the most vulnerable developing countries. Priority given for the dedicated financial support for urgent adaptation action needs and for strengthening the institutional capabilities and capacities of vulnerable countries to facilitate expeditious implementation of adaptation actions.
9. Secure an adequate share of long-term funding for adaptation based on need, estimated to be at least US \$100¹ billion annually by 2020. The scale of adaptation funding should be based on regular review that considers country needs-assessments, new science on climate change impacts, future mitigation scenarios and technology advancement.
10. Establish an adaptation window as one of the windows of a new Climate Fund. The new Climate Fund is under the authority and guidance of COP as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the UNFCCC.

CONCLUSION

Fundamentally, the primary purpose of the Adaptation Fund should be to build the resilience of vulnerable communities and ecosystems from climate change impacts. The Adaptation Fund should not be used to provide compensation for economic losses by fossil-fuel-rich countries as a consequence of lost oil revenues resulting from mitigation efforts. Therefore, in order to ensure a fair and equitable adaptation deal that addresses the needs of the vulnerable developing countries, 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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¹ NGO Treaty 2009:

[http://www.panda.org/what we do/footprint/climate carbon energy/climate agreement/?166141](http://www.panda.org/what_we_do/footprint/climate_carbon_energy/climate_agreement/?166141)