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Adaptation Recommendations for COP 18

Adaptation decisions required for the pre and post 2020 climate regimes

Millions of people around the world, and the critical ecosystems that their livelihoods depend on, are already experiencing the adverse impacts of climate change. As countries continue to fail to fulfill their mitigation responsibilities, climate change are increasing in frequency and severity. Although all countries will be impacted the hardest blows will fall on vulnerable developing countries that have the least capacity and resources to reduce their vulnerability. It is a cruel fate given that these countries are least responsible for global warming. The survival of vulnerable people and ecosystems in these nations will depend on mitigation action and adaptation support from the developed countries that are responsible for the loss and damage attributable to climate change.

At COP 18 Leaders need to recognize the growing crisis and take appropriate decisions to raise their ambition levels in delivering climate change mitigation and support for adaptation. This means that in Doha, parties need to operationalize the adaptation decisions taken in Cancun and Durban, ensuring that adaptation ambition is ramped up in both the pre and post 2020 climate regime. Specific decisions that need to be adopted to strengthen the adaptation framework include:

A second phase of the work programme on Loss and Damage

There are limits to the extent that communities and ecosystems can adapt to the impacts of climate change. Loss and damage of property, territory, biodiversity, ecosystems, lives and livelihoods results occurs if those limits are exceeded. Examples of irrevocable loss and damage are; If sea level rise inundates a community or island and inhabitants can no longer live there, or if coral bleaching wipes out a reef ecosystem. The current lack of significant mitigation efforts means that climate change is only going to get worse. This will mean more loss and damage from slow onset events as well as extreme events. Scientists predict that our GHG emission growth trajectory puts the world on track for more than 4°C of warming above pre-industrial levels by 2100. With such a future in store, there is an undeniable need to increase mitigation action, to find ways to deal with loss and damage and to rapidly scale up adaptation finance and actions.

In Durban, Parties fleshed out the details of a work programme on loss and damage as mandated by the Cancun decisions (1/CP 16). The work plan included organizing regional experts meetings to better understand the issues and challenges. The outcomes of these regional experts meetings will be summarized by the SBI and provide recommendations to COP 18 on a way forward. COP 18 must provide a comprehensive response to these recommendations. Given the dire forecasts of the science and the continued lack of any ambition on mitigation, COP 18 must agree on the following measures to address Loss and Damage:

1. Establish an International Mechanism on Loss and Damage;
2. Launch a second phase of the work program on loss and damage to elaborate the principles, functions and institutional arrangements of an International Mechanism on Loss and Damage that includes an International compensation and rehabilitation mechanism; and

3. Request the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI) to elaborate the procedures and modalities of the International Mechanism on Loss and Damage, to become operational by COP 20.

Three-Year Work Programme of Adaptation Committee

At COP 17 in Durban, parties agreed on the composition, modalities and procedures of the Adaptation Committee. At COP 18 the Adaptation Committee must deliver a concrete three-year work programme to fulfil its mandate to promote the implementation of enhanced action on adaptation in a coherent manner under the Convention. The work programme should incorporate the following elements:

1. Greater coherence among the various adaptation institutions within the UNFCCC, including the Standing Committee, Climate Technology Centre & Network (CTCN), and Green Climate Fund as well as outside the UNFCCC process (such as the Hyogo Framework for Action, CBD, and UNCCD).
2. An overview of gaps in adaptation planning & implementation in order to establish or strengthen regional centers and networks to address these gaps;
3. Facilitated discussions among Parties to explore ways to effectively address regional, cross-border, trans-boundary and common sub-regional adaptation issues through promoting ecosystem and community based approaches;
4. Guidelines and modalities for the National Adaptation Planning (NAP) Process for non-LDC countries and national institutional arrangements for adaptation;
5. A biannual adaptation conference with diverse stakeholders to create a platform for sharing new knowledge, practices and experiences; and
6. Inputs to the ADP negotiations towards a 2015 agreement from an adaptation perspective.

Work Programme for Adaptation under the Ad hoc Working Group on Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP)

Adaptation must be afforded its rightful place in a post 2020 climate regime. To ensure this in Doha the ADP must bring adaptation into its work programme by building on:

- Work already done on the means of support for Adaptation (incl financing needs, technology transfer and capacity building)
- The work programme on loss and damage,
- The implementation of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and
- Create a process to respond to the findings of the IPCC fifth assessment report as they become available,

Key elements that should be incorporated include unfinished business from the past years of negotiation as well as identification of adaptation needs for post 2020. Amongst other issues, the ADP should include.

- The means of implementation for adaptation (finance including for 2012-2020, technology and capacity building)
- The establishment of an International Compensation and Rehabilitation Mechanism to address the loss and damage resulting from the slow onset of climate change impacts.

Under the ADP Parties must also agree that post 2020 adaptation needs to be periodically reviewed based on assessment reports from developing countries, the best available science, impact reviews and developed countries' mitigation actions.

National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)

In Doha, Parties need to adopt the guidelines and modalities for the development of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). The draft guidelines and modalities developed during COP 17 has been elaborated further by the Least Developed

Country Expert Group (LEG). Now parties need to finalise these guidelines and modalities and adopt them at COP 18. The next step will then be to ensure that LDCs are also provided with financial and technical support for the preparation and full implementation of NAPs so that the work can be implemented and scaled up immediately. To ensure this, Parties need to adopt a decision in Doha on the funding modalities for the preparation of NAPs.

Furthermore, Parties need to agree on a timeline that would enable the Adaptation Committee to develop the guidelines and modalities for National Adaptation Planning Measures for non-LDC developing countries based on their adaptation needs. Parties also need to agree on the financial arrangements for the preparation and implementation of National Adaptation Planning Measures for Non-LDC Developing Countries.

Full implementation of National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) and NAPs should be key elements of the pre and post 2020 agreements. To achieve this Developed countries need to sustain an adequate level of support to the Least Developed Country Fund (LDCF) for the implementation of NAPAs (fulfilling existing commitments).

Adaptation Finance

Parties need to ensure that there will be equitable, adequate treatment of adaptation in the Green Climate Fund (GCF).. Access to funding for adaptation should be easy and direct, in the form of grants and not loans, without co-financing elements. To achieve adequate levels of financing developed countries should scale up pre-2020 adaptation financing from at-least 15 billion USD annually in 2013 to at-least 50 billion USD annually by 2020. The majority of adaptation finance must be channeled through the Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund and Least Developed Country Fund.

The scale of adaptation finance should be reviewed periodically in light of the the best available assessments of the adaptation needs in developing countries, science and impact reviews and developed countries' mitigation ambitions.

Regional Centers and Networks

As part of the COP18 decisions Parties need to adopt a decision on strengthening and, where necessary, establishing regional centers and networks for adaptation. They also need to take a decision to establish designated, national-level institutional arrangements, where appropriate, for adaptation. These decisions should enhance national, regional and trans-boundary adaptation actions in vulnerable developing countries. Developed country parties should provide financial and technical support for these adaptation centers and networks in developing countries.

Nairobi Work Programme (NWP)

At COP 18, Parties need to investigate the potential future areas for the work of the Nairobi Work Programme (NWP) under SBSTA. Continued work here should support the Cancun Adaptation Framework and also contribute to the content of a 2015 agreement. Submissions provided by Parties and observer organisations, the technical workshop report on water and climate change impacts and adaptation strategies and case studies on national adaptation planning should be used as sources to identify future areas of work.

WWF recommends that the role of biodiversity and ecosystem services in human adaptation be included as one of the potential future work areas of NWP. Other potential areas include climate change & water and an integrated ecosystem-based adaptation approach.

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