



**Submission by the Republic of the Maldives  
on behalf of the *Alliance of Small Island States***

**Further guidance in relation to the adaptation communication,  
including, inter alia, as a component of nationally determined  
contributions, referred to in Article 7, paragraphs 10 and 11, of the Paris  
Agreement**

30 September 2016

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**Title:** Submissions on APA Item 4

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**Issue:** Submissions on APA Agenda Item 4

## **CONTEXT**

The development of guidelines for an Adaptation Communication should reaffirm SIDS priorities, implementation and support needs, plans and actions, without creating any additional burden for SIDS. Any such guidelines should build in the flexibility recognised in the Paris Agreement, in particular, the mandate provided in Article 7 paragraph 10 on priorities, implementation and support needs, plans and actions. Parties should also have flexibility in reporting on their adaptation efforts implementation, with the view to building and retaining capacity in this regard over time. Some of the challenges faced by SIDS in the application of the initial guidelines include, inter alia:

- No existing guidelines for Adaptation Communications;
- No guidelines for inclusion of Adaptation in Nationally Determined Contributions for countries choosing to do so;
- No guidelines for Adaptation Communications in relation to existing guidelines developed for National Adaptation Plans;
- Uncertainty as to the timing of the release of any such guidelines, that will fit within the timely development of national adaptation planning processes such as those that inform National Communications;
- The lack of or limited funding to enhance the existing reporting burden of SIDS in meeting reporting obligations under the UNFCCC.

Therefore, SIDS regard the development of guidance on Adaptation Communications as an urgent priority. The Convention and the Paris Agreement provide the essential framework for the recognition of SIDS needs as they relate to reporting under the UNFCCC. It is well acknowledged that small island developing countries are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change and already bear a disproportionate or abnormal burden in adapting to them.

## **SUGGESTED CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDELINES**

Guidelines for an Adaptation Communication should address scope, frequency of reporting, and the level of detail of reporting.

The Adaptation Communication guidelines should facilitate the provision of adequate and relevant information for a global overview of support needs and finance provided to feed into any global stocktake on the state of adaptation efforts, support, experiences and priorities on adaptation.

Guidelines for an adaptation communication should ensure consistency irrespective of the choice of reporting vehicle in line with Paragraph 7.11 of the Paris Agreement: ...as a component of or in conjunction with other communications or documents, including a national adaptation plan, a nationally determined contribution...

The minimum elements for such an Adaptation Communication may include content and structure as follows:

Important elements to be included where possible (irrespective of Structure):

- Impacts and vulnerability assessment
- Information on resilience-building activities/actions
- Information on state of adaptive capacity
- Adaptation plans/strategies and priorities
- Synergy with national goals/policies related to improved adaptive capacity and resilience, reduced vulnerability
- Implementation and support needs
- Support provided and/or received

Proposed Structure:

- Background section: Impacts, climate resilience and climate vulnerability
- Adaptation plans/strategies:
  - priorities , planned actions, expected results
  - Implemented adaptation actions, results
  - Process to formulate plans/strategies
  - Domestic M&E framework
- Adaptation Needs & Support:
  - Qualitative and/or quantitative needs for support
  - Support provided and/or received

## **LINKAGES**

In developing Adaptation Communication guidelines, Parties should factor in the link with various agenda items under the APA, SBI and SBSTA to include paragraph 7.12 of the Paris Agreement which makes reference to an Adaptation Communication being recorded in a public registry maintained by the secretariat.

In this respect, AOSIS has taken the position that the mitigation and adaptation registries should be treated separately. This is because mitigation and adaptation actions, while linked, are very different technologically, and have very different planning horizons and lifecycles. A singular registry will likely link adaptation actions to the agreed cycle for mitigation, which not only may not represent reality in respect of the implementation of the two types of activities, but would also present an undue reporting burden for SIDS given well-documented experience of the challenges in meeting current reporting requirements under the Convention, e.g. NatComs and BURs, in terms of technology, capacity, timing etc..

For the Adaptation Communication to act as a vehicle for enhancing the adaptation efforts of SIDS, it must fit with their unique circumstances. The development of Adaptation

Communication guidelines under the Paris Agreement must be flexible enough to take SIDS, whose people are at the forefront of climate change impacts, into account.

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