

Submission on adaptation communication Argentina – Brazil – Uruguay

Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay welcome the opportunity to submit views on adaptation, in particular on APA agenda item 4 "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".

1. Framework of principles and the importance of adaptation

Adaptation is a key component of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Paris Agreement. Adaptation is a global challenge for all, which affects especially those developing country Parties that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, as underlined in article 7.2 of the Paris Agreement. Adaptation is a matter of survival for people and ecosystems that need to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change that we are already facing.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has defined adaptation as “the process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects. In human systems, adaptation seeks to moderate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities. In natural systems, human intervention may facilitate adjustment to expected climate and its effects” (IPCC AR5, 2013).

Adaptation is an integral part of the objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and also of the the Paris Agreement, as highlighted in its purpose. In both cases, under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, adaptation is closely related to mitigation actions. Article 2 of the Convention expresses that the stabilization of greenhouse gases concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system should be achieved within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.

The Paris Agreement affirms, in its Article 2, that, in enhancing the implementation of the Convention, it aims to strengthen global response to the threat of climate change, in the context of sustainable development and efforts to eradicate poverty, including holding the increase in the global temperature and increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience.

Furthermore, as recognized both in the Convention and in the Paris Agreement, the implementation of our efforts and actions both in mitigation and adaptation should reflect equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

Developing countries have consistently argued for political parity between mitigation and adaptation, on the understanding that, even if the international community

develops timely ambitious mitigation actions, adaptation will still be necessary as a result of the adverse effects of climate change already reflected in our countries including the ecological, social and economic systems.

We emphasize the vulnerability of our countries to the adverse effects of climate change (see additional submission that provides information on those) and the need to access to the means of implementation required in order to face our challenges and increase our adaptive capacity and resilience.

It is fundamental to sustain and protect the delicate balance achieved in Paris between the recognition of the national/local nature of adaptation and at the same time to acknowledge the urgency of acting at the international level. This urgency is based on scientific data provided by the best available science, in particular the IPCC Reports.

The national/local nature of adaptation is deeply related to the diversity of national circumstances, including geographic, economic, social, political and ecological systems. Adaptation action must necessarily be country-driven. We believe that adaptation communications shall be based on that diversity and for that reason, any compilation should have a qualitative perspective taking into account national development priorities and respective capabilities, particularly poverty and hunger eradication priorities in the context of achieving sustainable development.

Under articles 7.9 and 7.10 of the Paris Agreement is possible to identify not only the relation, but also the different specificities between adaptation planning processes and the communication of adaptation actions. National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and National Adaptation Programs of Action (NAPA) are important tools that help countries to conduct adaptation planning process according to their national conditions and priorities.

We see adaptation planning processes, as well as the communication, as key instruments to catalyze action. The implementation of actions that fall from those planning processes – with the adequate support from developed country Parties - will ensure the necessary adaptation response, in the context of the temperature goal, and contribute to sustainable development and resilience of societies and ecosystems. We endorse the importance to reinforce the relation between adaptation planning processes and means of implementation through the different channels recognized under the Convention and the Paris Agreement.

2. Adaptation communication

As specified in article 7.9 of the Paris Agreement, Parties shall, as appropriate, engage in adaptation planning processes and the implementation of actions. This effort may include the formulation and implementation of national adaptation plans; the assessment of climate change impacts and vulnerability, with a view to formulating nationally determined prioritized actions, taking into account vulnerable people, places and ecosystems; monitoring and evaluating and learning from adaptation plans, policies, programmes and actions; and building the resilience of socioeconomic and

ecological systems, including through economic diversification and sustainable management of natural resources, among others.

The value added of an adaptation communication is to inform clearly, concisely and effectively Parties' adaptation strategies, including priorities, implementation and support needs, plans and actions, as outlined in Article 7, paragraph 10 of the Paris Agreement, without creating any additional burden for developing country Parties.

In adaptation communications, Parties could state their long-term vision or goals for national adaptation and articulate how those can contribute to the global goal on adaptation referred to in Article 7.1. Likewise, Parties are encouraged to highlight how their ongoing or planned actions on adaptation could respond to the temperature goal and contribute to sustainable development at the national level.

Adaptation communications could also serve as a source of information for the recognition of adaptation efforts of developing countries, subject to the decision on modalities to be adopted by the CMA, as per paragraph 3 of Article 7.

Even though we recognize that engaging in adaptation planning processes and submitting an adaptation communication are two different obligations under Article 7 (paragraphs 9 and 10 respectively), we also emphasize that the Paris Agreement provides for flexibility to Parties in communicating their strategies, taking into account adaptation actions vary significantly and their formulation depend on the provision of adequate and timely means of implementation.

The Paris Agreement already provides flexibility in terms of the vehicle available to Parties to submit or update adaptation communications. Parties willing to inform their adaptation strategies as a component of or in conjunction with other communication or documents are encouraged to use whichever information best fits their rationale for doing so.

We emphasize that guidance for the adaptation communication should not be prescriptive or mandatory, nor should it seek to provide for comparisons or harmonization of Parties' actions on adaptation. But it can support a minimum understanding of impacts, exposure and vulnerability at local, national and regional scales, considering the diversity of territories and national capabilities. We also recognize that the adaptation communication may serve the purpose, among others, to provide information in relation to the aggregated efforts of Parties in contributing to the global goal on adaptation to be considered within the Global Stocktake.

We propose a non prescriptive list of elements which could be included, *inter alia*, and clearly identified in adaptation communications, regardless of the variety of channels mentioned under article 7.11 of the Paris Agreement, and without creating any additional burden to developing country Parties.

1. Ways in which the country is contributing to the global goal on adaptation stated in article 7.1 of the Paris Agreement (for developed and developing

- country Parties in terms of adaptation planning and implementation; for developed country Parties also in terms of support provided for adaptation action in developing country Parties);
2. National circumstances;
 3. Legal framework and institutional arrangements at national, and subnational level as appropriate;
 4. Policies, strategies, programmes and plans as basis for adaptation actions at the national and subnational level as appropriate;
 5. Adaptation measures and/or actions planned or under implementation;
 6. Adaptation needs and costs (in relation to action and with assistance under country request);
 7. Impact vulnerability, and risks assessments;
 8. Financial costs of actions already delivered or in implementation;
 9. Means of implementation required to further develop adaptation at national, and subnational; level as appropriate;
 10. Losses and/or damages due to climate related impacts;
 11. Monitoring and evaluation of adaptation;
 12. Cooperative dimension at the national, regional and international level: arrangements/organizations/nets where countries share information, good practices, experiences and lessons learned;
 13. Relation between adaptation and global mitigation actions in the context of temperature goal.