



Australian Government

Submission to the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement on adaptation communications referred to in Article 7, paragraphs 10 and 11 of the Paris Agreement

October 2016

Australia welcomes the opportunity to share its views on adaptation communications referred to in Article 7, paragraphs 10 and 11 of the Paris Agreement.

Australia considers the increased prominence of adaptation in the Paris Agreement to be an important outcome from COP21. The Paris Agreement elevates and strengthens the role of adaptation at both a national and global level, including a global goal for adaptation which will prompt action to build resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change; and a commitment by Parties to undertake national adaptation planning processes in a manner that is flexible and nationally appropriate. It also highlights the importance of country driven, gender-responsive and participatory adaptation action. These objectives accord with Australia's commitment to undertaking sustainable and practical adaptation action domestically and through the support we provide to the region.

In Australia's view, adaptation communications should:

- reflect the localised, context-specific nature of adaptation options and actions
- not duplicate existing efforts
- enable countries to showcase their adaptation priorities, actions, and progress.

Scope of the adaptation communication

Australia supports the flexibility enshrined in the Paris Agreement both in content and scope of adaptation communications referred to in Article 7, paragraph 10. This reflects the localised, context-specific nature of adaptation options and actions - that countries and communities experience climate impacts differently and need to consider the responses that work best for them.

There are already multiple avenues for reporting on adaptation actions, needs and progress, including through National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and national communications. Adaptation communications will need to build upon and add value to these processes. They should not duplicate existing efforts or place undue burden on countries with limited capacity to report.

Adaptation communications are an opportunity for countries to showcase at a high level their adaptation priorities, actions, and progress in a concise, easily accessible manner. Based on our domestic experience and our work with partners in the region, there are a number of areas where information would be valuable, both at a national and international level, to manage climate risks, assess progress towards the global adaptation goal and feed into the global stocktake. Australia invites Parties to consider including information on the following areas:

- climate related risks and vulnerabilities
- adaptation action and opportunities in key sectors

- an outline of governance and institutional responses, including processes, policies, regulations and legislation
- knowledge, research and institutional capacity gaps
- engagement of private investment in driving adaptation action and support
- monitoring and evaluation of progress.

There is a growing role for the private sector in supporting countries to meet the challenges of a changing climate. Adaptation communications could be an opportunity for countries to provide information on how they are engaging the private sector in their adaptation actions and encouraging shared responsibility for the management of risk.

Adaptation communications could elaborate on the adaptation elements that many Parties have included in their Nationally Determined Contribution. Developing countries could also use adaptation communications as an avenue to have their adaptation efforts recognised, as referred to in Article 7, paragraph 3.

Australia's experience

Australia has recent experience in developing a national adaptation strategy, having released our *National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy* in Paris. The *Strategy* recognises that in Australia, national and subnational governments, businesses, households and communities all have different but important roles to play in managing climate risks. The *Strategy* supports a 'mainstreamed approach' to climate change adaptation and resilience, emphasising the importance of building institutional capacity, and highlights Australia's support to the Region. It sets out principles that underpin effective adaptation practice and resilience-building, and outlines the Australian Government's vision for the future – key elements that will inform the way we communicate our action and measure progress.

Modalities for submission of the communications

In keeping with the flexibility that underpins Article 7, paragraph 10 and 11, the adaptation communication is to be submitted and updated periodically, as a component of or in conjunction with other communications or documents, including a National Adaptation Plan, a Nationally Determined Contribution as referred to in Article 4, paragraph 2, and/or a national communication. The adaptation communication should be written in a format that allows it to be recorded in a public registry to be maintained by the Secretariat.

Way forward

Australia is committed to working with Parties and the APA co-chairs to progress this important piece of work.