

Submission on agenda item 4 of APA by Japan
Further views in relation to the adaptation communication

Japan welcomes this opportunity to submit its further views on the adaptation communication, taking into account the discussions on agenda item 4 at APA1-2 and the informal note made by the co-facilitators (FCCC/APA/2016/L.4). Japan also appreciates the Secretariat's efforts on preparing the information note related to possible elements of adaptation communications identified by Parties (FCCC/APA/2017/INF.1).

The informal note shows possible themes that may be considered for the further guidance in relation to the adaptation communication, and Japan shares its views in line with these themes, especially purpose, element, and vehicle, as well as possible next steps, building on Japan's previous submission (29th August 2016).

Before going through each theme, Japan would like to reiterate the following principles of the further guidance.

- The guidance should be considered and developed based on Article 7, paragraphs 10 and 11 of the Paris Agreement, taking into account Article 7, paragraphs 12 and 14 (b).
- Since Article 7, paragraphs 10 and 11 provide Parties with flexibility in terms of the content of the adaptation communication, its vehicle of submission and frequency of submission, the guidance should be suggestive and general.

1. Purpose

Communicating information on the actions is essential to mobilize adaptation actions among local, subnational, national, regional and international dimension, which could contribute to achieving the global goal on adaptation of enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change (Article 7, paragraph 2). Therefore, the adaptation communication should play an important role on that aspect.

The adaptation communication will contribute to **maintaining high profile of adaptation** through recognizing adaptation efforts and to **enhancing adaptation actions** through identifying priorities and needs and/or sharing lessons learned and good practices, which are the purpose of the adaptation communication, taking into account that the adaptation communication would be a source of input to the global stocktake and contribute to achieving the global goal of adaptation referred to Article 7, paragraph 1.

2. Elements

Elements of the adaptation communication should be corresponded to the purpose of the communication mentioned above. A list of the elements should not be exhaustive but kept basic so as to avoid additional burden on Parties, though Parties are not prevented from providing any additional information as they want if the information provided fits the purpose of the adaptation communication. The elements described in the guidelines should be general so that the guideline can give Parties flexibility on what they include in their adaptation communications.

While Parties expressed various views on the elements at APA1-2, Japan recognizes that there are many similar views on the elements. Therefore, it would be useful to extract common elements, and merge them if possible, and then create a basic list of the elements for further discussion.

Japan shared its view on the elements in the previous submission; impact/vulnerability assessment based on the latest scientific data, monitoring systems, strategies of adaptation policies, adaptation planning process, best practices, challenges/obstacles and lessons learned. Among these elements, Japan believes, in particular, that the following elements can contribute to achieving the objectives of the adaptation communication mentioned in the previous section, taking into account the informal note by the co-facilitators and the information note by the Secretariat. The following elements would also have synergy with the national adaptation plan process, which is fundamental to address adaptation.

- **Climate change impacts and vulnerabilities based on the latest scientific data**
 - Information on climate change impacts and vulnerabilities based on the best available scientific data is an essential element in order to determine priority actions, identify needs and gaps, develop plans, and implement measures on adaptation. Also, the information on rationale, methodology and data sources of climate change impacts and vulnerabilities assessment is encouraged to be provided.
- **Policy frameworks and institutional arrangements**
 - Domestic policy frameworks and institutional arrangements on adaptation are important to mainstream adaptation into national development plans and other relevant sectoral plans as well as to keep high profile of adaptation.
- **Priorities, needs, plans and actions**
 - A series of determining priorities based on climate impact/vulnerability assessment, identifying needs, developing plans, and implementing adaptation actions are fundamental aspects of undertakings in adaptation. Good practices,

challenges and lessons learned, which enable Parties and relevant stakeholders to learn how to enhance adaptation actions, could also be included.

- Since adaptation is inseparable from development policies, it would be challenging to provide information on costs of adaptation. That information would include huge uncertainty about how Parties extract only climate costs from total project's cost. In addition, providing information on “adequacy” of support provided has also difficulties in separating only adaptation costs from development costs and evaluating how the investments reduce vulnerabilities. It is necessary to keep these difficulties in mind when discussing on this matter.

- **Monitoring and evaluation of adaptation**

- Monitoring and evaluation process is essential to implement and review adaptation policies and measures effectively and efficiently. Also, the information on results and process of evaluation of adaptation actions would be useful for other Parties and relevant stakeholders.

3. Vehicle

Since Parties can choose a vehicle to submit adaptation communications in accordance with Article 7, paragraph 11, each vehicle should be dealt with equally. When Parties prepare adaptation communications, Parties should be allowed to integrate information of the adaptation communication into the existing vehicle in order to avoid additional burden.

Adaptation communication should be submitted periodically, while frequency of submission of the adaptation communication should take into account the frequency of the existing vehicle's submission and the global stocktake as well as the fact that the adaptation actions generally take longer time than mitigation actions to be implemented.

4. Next Steps

It is essential to make steady progress on developing the further guidance on adaptation communication toward its adoption at COP24 in 2018.

With respect to the workshop (6th May, 2017), it would be useful to discuss and build common understanding on purpose of the adaptation communication, and then have substantive discussion on what elements should be included to achieve the purpose.

Once Parties make progress on discussion to some extent related to purpose of the adaptation communication, possible next steps would be to invite submissions from Parties on the specific theme of the guidance, and then prepare the draft guidance by mandating it

to the co-chairs or the co-facilitators, hopefully by the COP23. It also would be useful to hold a technical workshop to exchange Parties' views and elaborate the draft guidance.

On the other hand, it would be necessary to consider how we can coordinate with related APA agenda items, especially the transparency framework and the global stocktake. For the global stocktake, it would be important to consider how to reflect the work done by the Adaptation Committee and the Least Developing Countries Expert Group on the modalities to recognize adaptation effort and on the methodologies to review the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support, which tasked out by decision 1/CP.21.