



SUBMISSION BY THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC AND THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND ITS MEMBER STATES

This submission is supported by Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia.

Bratislava, 6 October 2016

Subject: 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

Introduction

1. The EU and its Member States welcome the opportunity to submit its views on further guidance in relation to the adaptation communication. The elements build on the experience gained from both the European level as well as from our collaboration with partner countries in their efforts on national adaptation planning and communication. We look forward to making significant progress in Marrakesh towards preparing the related CMA decisions. The submission presents also a set of questions that we would wish to elaborate with other Parties during the resumed session of APA-1 in Marrakesh.

The purpose of information communicated

2. The Paris Agreement has elevated adaptation to the same level and importance as mitigation and means of implementation. The concept of adaptation communication underlines the growing relevance of adaptation-related information in the global efforts for action on climate change.
3. In the EU's understanding, the adaptation communication is an overarching concept which provides a choice to Parties to decide on the most appropriate vehicle, as highlighted in Art. 7.11, to communicate their adaptation efforts, including their priorities, needs, plans and actions.
4. In the EU's view, the communication of this information is to serve several purposes, such as:
 - **Enhancing the profile of adaptation**, both domestically and internationally;
 - Providing **visibility for and recognition of each country's adaptation actions**, the efforts undertaken and the achievements to date;



- **Facilitating cooperation and enhance our understanding of progress made and the challenges ahead** on adaptation action, including towards meeting the global goal on adaptation. We consider engagement in sharing experiences, knowledge and lessons learned to be a vital component of coordination and collaboration at the national, regional and international level, to increase our understanding and improve the effectiveness of our efforts to adapt, as well as to support others in undertaking action. The information given in subsequent adaptation communications will also be key in helping countries and the international community to better understand the transformational process going on, and how to further advance the implementation of adaptation action;
- Informing Parties how to **prioritise, focus and continuously strengthen their collective efforts and cooperation, including support**. The information provided will support countries in their efforts to improve domestic effectiveness of adaptation action and to enhance ambition, including in those countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. In the long term, this information will also highlight how Parties intend to address adaptation as well as helping to better focus and target support through means of implementation from a variety of sources, including public and private.
- **Enhancing linkages to other processes, in particular the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction**. Adaptation plays a key role in all those processes mentioned, therefore sharing of information could help to create synergies, break down silo approaches, enhance coherence and links across policies but most importantly could help to avoid additional reporting burden.
- Being **considered and taken up by relevant processes and bodies under the Convention**, informing any subsequent recommendations and actions, with a view to enhancing implementation and providing recommendations for strengthening and improving effectiveness and efficiency of the Adaptation Framework.
- Being a key source of **inputs for the Global Stocktake** with the aim of building a shared understanding of the state of implementation of adaptation, the progress made, including in achieving the global goal on adaptation, and the challenges ahead.

Key principles of further guidance in relation to the adaptation communication

5. The EU considers below key principles to guide our discussions on further guidance in relation to adaptation communication:
 - **Choice of vehicle**. The EU stresses that the choice of the vehicle(s) that is/are most appropriate to communicate adaptation information is up to the discretion of every Party.
 - **No additional burden**. The choice that is enabled by Art 7.10 helps to minimise additional burden on the most vulnerable countries with the least capacities.
 - **No duplication of existing efforts**. Existing vehicles to communicate information related to adaptation action, including those mentioned in the Paris Agreement, should be used and built on.

Further guidance in relation to adaptation communication

6. The Paris Agreement already provides some guidance on the possible elements of an adaptation communication – priorities, implementation and support needs, plans and actions.
7. In addition, the Paris Agreement and its implementing decision also provide a broader outlook in respect to adaptation, with the transparency framework and the Global Stocktake as close determinants that will have a complementary role in shaping the adaptation action and communication.
8. In order to communicate information in an efficient way, Parties shall seek to elaborate on possible common elements aimed at providing common guidance across the different vehicles. While recognising the importance of flexibility for those countries with least capacities it will be important that the information communicated covers the whole bandwidth of relevant information, from planning actions to experiences and results achieved in order to ensure the usefulness of the adaptation communication for the purposes outlined above.
9. The EU considers the examples below, **which are already part of different communicating vehicles**, as possible elements aiming at providing common guidance for communicating information:
 - **Climate change impacts.** Analyses and assessment of climate change impacts, vulnerability and risks, the most vulnerable sectors or geographical zones, key climate hazards.
 - Adaptation **priorities, goals**, overall policy objectives.
 - **Planning.** Legal and regulatory frameworks, strategies, programmes and plans that provide the basis for adaptation actions or enabling environment for adaptation action; Governance systems to manage adaptation; Coordination and involvement of relevant stakeholders in the planning and implementation of adaptation.
 - **Implementation and progress made so far.** Measures or actions under implementation and implemented in specific areas or/and sectors in the short and long term, approaches to adaptation, information on progress of action/programmes/policies, including highlighting their results in increasing the resilience/reducing the vulnerability, good practices, opportunities to upscale, challenges.
 - **Means of implementation.** Robust and reliable information on: domestic and international resources invested in adaptation, support received and needed, sources of finance including North-South and South-South cooperation, private finance, funds.
 - **Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)** of adaptation. Systems in place, indicators used, challenges with the establishment of an adaptation M&E system / the inclusion of adaptation in existing M&E systems.
10. Content, depth and comprehensiveness of adaptation information will improve over time, as we will learn through successive reporting/communications.

Questions that we would wish to consider with other Parties in Marrakesh

- What other elements, in addition to those mentioned in the Paris Agreement, should the adaptation communication contain to serve its purpose?
- How can the information submitted via adaptation communications best be taken up by the process of the Global Stocktake?
- What are Parties views on the relationship between existing guidance for different communicating vehicles, further guidance in relation to the adaptation communication and the guidance developed under the transparency framework?
- How can we design the communication of relevant information through adaptation communication without creating additional burden?
- How can we ensure that discussions under APA agenda item 4 (further guidance in relation to adaptation communication) are not going to pre-empt/duplicate/be incoherent with discussions under APA agenda item 5 (modalities, procedures and guidelines for the transparency framework)?