

SUBMISSION BY THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA 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.

Valletta, 23/03/2017

Subject: Further views 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.

I. Introduction:

1. The European Union and its Member States (EU) welcome the opportunity to submit its further views in relation to the adaptation communication, including, inter alia, as a component of nationally determined contributions, referred to in Art 7. 10 and 11, of the Paris Agreement, stemming from APA 1-2 conclusions, taking into account submissions on this issue by Parties, the subsequent discussions on this item at the second part of the first session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement in Marrakesh as well as the annex to the informal note prepared by the co-facilitators¹.
2. Our submission focuses on the relationship with other relevant provisions of the Paris Agreement, the relation with different vehicles and their guidance as well as the EU's view on the workshop on APA agenda item 4. This submission builds on and should be read together with the previous submission (6th October 2016)² where the EU elaborated its views on the purpose of information communicated, key principles and further guidance in relation to the adaptation communication.
3. We would also like to thank the Secretariat for the preparation of the note³ "*Information related to possible elements of adaptation communications identified by Parties*" which provides a very good basis for further reflections and discussions.

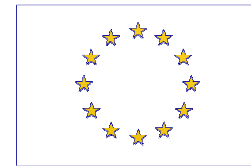
II. Adaptation communication and other relevant provisions of the Paris Agreement:

1. As highlighted in the Paris Agreement (Art 7.2) adaptation to climate change is a challenge faced by all countries. In order to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability, the Paris agreement in its entirety provides a variety of provisions to scale-up adaptation action and to increase its effectiveness.
2. In the EU's view provisions related to the ***communication of information of Parties' adaptation action*** are playing a fundamental role as we go through an iterative process in pursuit of climate resilient sustainable development. Regular communication of information on adaptation action and planning, including priorities, implementation and support needs, plans and actions, is a basis to collectively exchange information, share lessons learned and enable and support implementation of adaptation action on the ground. In this context the adaptation communication under Art. 7 and transparency of Parties' adaptation actions as described in Art. 13 are important tools.

¹ http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/marrakech_nov_2016/in-session/application/pdf/apa_item_4_informal_summary_note_final_version_14112016_1920.pdf

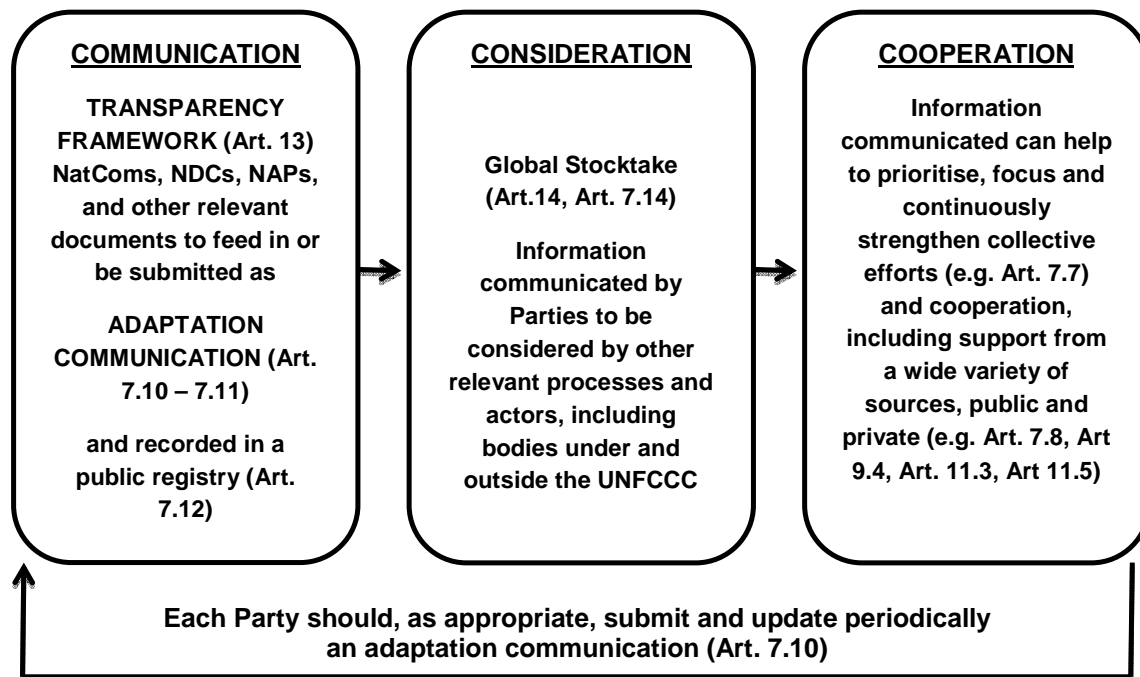
² http://www4.unfccc.int/Submissions/Lists/OSPSubmissionUpload/75_280_131202983317121819-SK-10-06-APA%204%20Adaptation%20COM.pdf

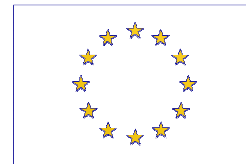
³ FCCC/APA/2017/INF.1



3. For ease of finding as well as use of any relevant information, the public registry (Art 7.12), which modalities and procedures for its operation and use is currently under negotiations in the SBs, will provide a valuable means and place to gather and host such information.
4. In order to enhance implementation and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of adaptation action it is important that ***information communicated by Parties*** could be ***taken up, effectively used and considered by all relevant processes and actors***, including bodies under and outside the UNFCCC, as appropriate, informing any subsequent actions and recommendations.
5. Several provisions encourage enhancing ***cooperation and support*** in order to strengthen the implementation of adaptation action on the ground. In the EU's view, information communicated and considered by Parties can help to prioritize, focus and continuously strengthen their collective efforts and cooperation, including support through means of implementation from a variety of sources, including public and private.

Provisions of the Paris Agreement to improve our adaptation actions over time:





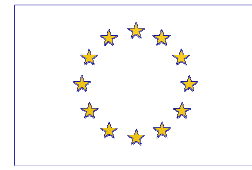
III. The relation between guidance to the adaptation communication and the guidelines for the different vehicles mentioned in Article 7, paragraph 11, of the Paris Agreement:

1. While the Paris Agreement considers the adaptation communication as one source of input to the Global Stocktake (§99 1/CP.21), Art 7.14b also states that information communicated should enhance the implementation of adaptation action. Parties, including the EU⁴, through submissions ahead of the COP as well as at discussions at COP22 in Marrakesh have also identified a variety of additional purposes⁵ the information provided through the adaptation communications could serve e.g. enhancing visibility of action, recognizing action and efforts or sharing of knowledge, experiences and good practices. It is therefore important to consider all these purposes while analyzing what elements of information would be most useful to include in adaptation communications and what is the relation with the guidelines for the different vehicles mentioned in Art 7.11 of the Paris Agreement.
2. The EU recognizes that different vehicles have their own inherent guidelines or – in case of the transparency framework – guidelines are in the process of being developed. The EU highlights that the elaboration of further guidance in relation to adaptation communication should not intend to change those guidelines but rather build on and make best use of them without creating duplications or additional reporting/communication burden.
3. As stated in the previous submission in EU view those elements include: **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.**
4. Based on the exchange amongst Parties until now, we have noticed that most of the elements Parties consider of added value in providing through an adaptation communication are also covered by guidance or guidelines of existing communication/reporting vehicles, or Parties have deliberately communicated some in their adaptation component of their Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)⁶. In our view those elements – well aligned and taking full account of the range of vehicles available, including as a component of NDCs – constitute a set of minimum information serving the purpose of the adaptation communication.

⁴ See e.g. EU submission

⁵ See informal note by the co-facilitators

⁶ see also the Secretariat's paper



5. In the EU's view, the transparency framework is also closely linked with the adaptation communication. Art 13 – in relation to adaptation - refers back to Art 7 and asks Parties to provide detailed information and a clear understanding of Parties' adaptation action. The same information can also be the basis of or be submitted as an adaptation communication as both Art 7.10 and 13.5 also refer to adaptation good practices, priorities, needs and gaps.
6. Defining guidance in relation to the adaptation communication as a minimum set of elements allows strengthening the visibility of adaptation action, among other purposes, and at the same time minimizes additional burden for countries. Any information a Party decides to communicate in addition to the adaptation communication' guidance, as well as the choice of the vehicle(s) that is/are most appropriate to communicate adaptation information, is up to the discretion of every Party.
7. Not preempting the negotiations on the set up of the registry, a specifically created table/site in the registry according to the elements agreed on under adaptation communication could help to better cluster information from Parties. Links from the registry to the corresponding information in the different communication/reporting vehicles could help to find and make best use of the information available. In addition, the registry will also help to avoid the burden on communication/reporting as new templates or structures could be avoided by just linking different chapters into a table.

IV. EU views on the workshop on agenda item 4 (6 May 2017, Bonn):

1. The EU appreciates the constructive discussions on further guidance in relation to the adaptation communication and the initial exchange of views amongst Parties at COP 22. However, as time was also scarce in Marrakesh, Parties couldn't get into an in-depth, interactive discussion. This is why the EU appreciates the opportunity to continue the discussions in an open and inclusive manner outside the negotiations room in order to deepen our common understanding of the adaptation communication.
2. In the EU's view, the workshop should help Parties to understand the concept of the adaptation communication better and how it is embedded in the framework of the Paris agreement, in particular linkages to other relevant negotiation tracks like e.g. the transparency framework and the Global Stocktake. Once Parties have a common understanding on the linkages and relationship, a next step could be to talk about the minimum elements the adaptation communication could entail.