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30th of September 2016

Subject: 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.

Reference: FCCC/APA/2016/L.1.

1. AILAC welcomes the opportunity to submit its views on item 4 of the APA agenda on 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.
2. This submission is structured in three sections: the first is an introduction in which the objective and other relevant considerations of the adaptation communication are presented, following with the proposal of guidance for the adaptation communication and finally, the latter sections include the follow up of the adaptation communication and concluding remarks.

I. Objective and other considerations of the adaptation communication

3. **The objective of the adaptation communication** is to catalyse action by communicating clearly and effectively national priorities, needs and plans. The guidance of the adaptation communication should make the adaptation communication a useful tool for Parties to identify and communicate priorities and needs that will allow for more efficient support to enhance adaptation action.
 - a. AILAC recalls the role that the adaptation communication should play in enhancing the implementation of adaptation action, in accordance to Article 7 paragraph 14 of the Paris Agreement, and that the adaptation communication would ultimately assist in achieving the global goal of adaptation (Article 7 paragraph 1) and the purpose of the Agreement (Article 2 paragraph 1(b)).
 - b. In this sense, the adaptation communication should be a tool to:
 - i. Facilitate understanding of synergies in priorities and needs that have been submitted as potential opportunities that facilitate enhancing adaptation action and related issues (i.e. research, development and investment).
 - ii. Facilitate cooperation, collaboration and support needed for adaptation actions.
 - iii. Promote multi-sectorial, local and national political processes that help define nationally determined adaptation actions, priorities, needs and plans (to be submitted in the adaptation communication) and that could also facilitate progress of national adaptation planning processes.
4. **Relevance of the guidance of the adaptation communication:** Article 7 paragraph 10 of the Paris Agreement provides basic guidance for the adaptation communication, indicating that Parties can communicate and update periodically their adaptation priorities, needs, plans and actions.
5. The lack of guidance for the adaptation component of the intended Nationally Determined Contributions that was provided (refer to decision 1/CP.20) made analysis or aggregate understanding difficult. Further guidance to ensure that the information to be submitted by Parties via the adaptation communication would facilitate understanding and aggregated assessments to make a meaningful understanding of progress and to promote enhanced adaptation action.
6. Furthermore, Article 7 paragraph 11 of the Agreement indicates that the adaptation communication can be submitted through a variety of already existing documents. This flexibility is critical for Parties; however, the variety of communication instruments should not hinder clarity nor national and international follow up. The guidance that Parties agree to for the adaptation communication should

be applicable regardless of which document the Party chooses to submit its adaptation communication.

7. With further guidance, the adaptation communication could foster clear submission of Parties' adaptation priorities, needs (technology, finance and capacity-building needs) and plans which could facilitate Parties linking support to needed implementation and enhancement of adaptation actions; furthermore, create incentives for international funding to align with nationally identified adaptation priorities rather than having isolated efforts prioritized by the international agencies.
8. In order to simplify follow up and provide clarity of what the priorities and needs of Parties are, the guidance of the adaptation communication should consider categories of information that contribute to simplify follow up and also, facilitate the development of the adaptation communication by Parties (avoiding additional burden to Parties). The content of these initial categories of information to be provided by Parties could be drawn from other existing instruments and are described below.
9. **Avoiding additional burdens:** Guidance of the adaptation communication requires consideration of the different instruments used adaptation. There must be coherence between the adaptation communication and other existing instruments (i.e. National Communications, NAPs, NAPAs, among others) as they can serve as a basis for the adaptation communication and its consideration would help to avoid unnecessary additional efforts. Examples of coherence amongst instruments and the adaptation communication or how the existing communications or documents serve as a basis for the adaptation communication include the following:
 - a. The National Communication (NATCOM), a reporting instrument that includes climate scenarios and vulnerability assessments, can provide input and serve as a basis to identify needs to be submitted in the adaptation communication. Furthermore, as a main reporting instrument of adaptation measures Parties have carried out, for AILAC it is the key input for the Enhanced Transparency Framework.
 - b. The National Adaptation Plan (NAP), a national instrument designed to assist Parties in adaptation planning processes, could serve as a basis to define priorities to be submitted in the adaptation communication. In the same way, the adaptation communication could be used to communicate current and upcoming implementation of adaptation plans included by Parties in their NAPs.
 - c. The Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), as per Article 3 of the Paris Agreement (which highlights its political prominence), is considered as the most appropriate vehicle to communicate climate action, including adaptation that cannot be seen as isolated from mitigation. The communication of adaptation priorities, needs, plans and actions in the iNDC (more than 75% of Parties presented adaptation component of their iNDC) has helped to raise the political support for adaptation, and in that sense for AILAC, the NDC should serve as the main vehicle for the adaptation communication.

II. Guidance for the adaptation communication

10. **Consideration of timeframes for the submission of the adaptation communication:** In terms of an adequate period of communication that could allow for enhancement of implementation of adaptation actions and measure overall progress of the new commitments under the Paris Agreement, Parties should update their communication on adaptation on the same period they will communicate their mitigation actions (5 year period). This will facilitate the follow up on adaptation efforts and support under the global stocktake and the enhanced transparency framework.
 - a. **Considerations to define categories of information:**
 11. A point of departure for the guidance of the adaptation communication is contained in the Global Goal on Adaptation “of enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change, with a view to contributing to sustainable development and ensuring an adequate adaptation response in the context of the temperature goal referred to in Article 2” as defined in Article 7.1 of the Paris Agreement.
 12. Content of the “categories of information” must be available and shared across all Parties, even if there are different degrees of progress in adaptation planning and different levels of development of national systems of monitoring and evaluation.

13. The “categories of information” should be understood as elements that contribute to facilitate follow up of the adaptation communication including for better understanding among Parties and for an aggregate analysis.
14. The guidance for the adaptation communication that will be provided by establishing “categories of information” shall not be of a permanent nature, on the contrary, this guidance can be improved throughout time by the Parties. In this sense, there should be a periodic review of the guidance and specifically of the categories of information that the adaptation communication should include in order to ensure the adaptation communication is fit to the aforementioned objectives.
15. These information categories should not be considered a requirement for accessing funding mechanisms of any source, as well as to accessing technology development and transfer not to capacity building.

b. Categories of information

16. The following proposal of categories of information for the adaptation communication should be considered as an evolving one. Once Parties decide upon these initial categories of information this can be adopted and revisited by Parties.
17. The categories of information to guide the development of the adaptation communication can be established in two groups: the first group of categories should be the common information that Parties should address in their adaptation communication and the second group of categories would include additional information that Parties could voluntarily include if there is information available for the Parties to submit.
18. Some of the common “categories of basic information” in the adaptation communication that Parties could consider in their Adaptation Communications could include:
 - a. Context information on the country, in order to facilitate the understanding of adaptation priorities and needs, including national long-term adaptation objectives or vision, ideally indicating priority or strategic areas and a brief description of the vulnerability assessment and the expected impacts informed by temperature scenarios.
 - b. Prioritized actions identified, including timeframes if available (short, medium and/or long term).
 - c. Adaptation support needs by developing countries, including financial, technology transfer and development, and capacity building needs to implement identified adaptation actions (*if possible, distinguishing between conditional and national actions*).
 - d. Development instruments through which the adaptation actions or priorities are to be or would be implemented, including national development plans, local and sectorial plans, projects, among others.
19. Parties could also include the following **additional categories of information** in the adaptation communication (if information is available to Parties):
 - a. Information on how the country is planning to monitor and evaluate its progress at a national level.
 - b. Nationally determined co-benefits including the mitigation co-benefits that adaptation action may provide.
 - c. The local, sectoral, subnational, national, regional and international dimensions of adaptation priorities, plans and needs could be included in the context.
 - d. Specify which upcoming adaptation actions to be implemented contribute to increase resilience, increase adaptive capacity and/or to reduce vulnerability (according to Art.7.1).

III. Follow up of the adaptation communication

20. As established in the Paris Agreement, the adaptation communication will have international follow up and according to Article 13 and Article 14, it will occur in both the Enhanced Transparency Framework and the Global Stocktake.
21. In terms of Transparency for adaptation, AILAC believes that it should be oriented as a way to share experiences and lessons learned in the spirit of cooperation and as a way to enhance action and support.

22. In relation to Global stocktake, AILAC considers that this periodic momentum will enable an opportunity to assess overall adaptation efforts and support and increase these efforts in the light of the Global Goal on Adaptation and Art. 2.1(b).
23. The aforementioned categories of information would be required to address the collective aspects of adaptation priorities, needs and support. Along with the financial information provided by developed countries, the assessment of adequacy thereof can be understood, as follow up to the adaptation communication.
24. In order to provide clarity for this international follow up, the registry established in Article 7 paragraph 12 will be fundamental to centralize priorities, needs, plans and actions communicated by Parties. In this sense, the Registry could be informed by the categories of information the adaptation communication will include in order to facilitate international collaboration and identification of trends and synergies to make progress towards the global goal of adaptation.
25. AILAC has provided submissions on both the Global Stocktake and the Enhanced Transparency Framework where greater detail is provided in the role of adaptation in each.

IV. Concluding remarks

26. The Paris Agreement has recognized the importance of enhancing adaptation action including through the identification of adaptation priorities, needs, plans and actions that Parties hereon submitted via the adaptation communication.
27. Considering the alternative instruments to submit the adaptation communication, for AILAC there are clear advantages of presenting it as a component of the nationally determined contributions, including high level political support at the national and international level, parity and articulation with mitigation action.
28. The Agreement has also set up the key elements for adaptation follow up through the Enhanced Transparency Framework and the Global Stocktake. In order to maximise the usefulness of these processes, the adoption of guidance for the adaptation communication and its comprehensive follow up will be fundamental to Parties.
29. Guidance for the adaptation communication should be provided particularly through the definition of categories of information. These adopted categories of information shall be revised iteratively in order to ensure that the adaptation communication is being as useful as possible to enhance adaptation action throughout time and to further follow up and analysis.
30. This guidance should take into consideration existing adaptation information to avoid additional burdens as well as same communication periods as mitigation to be able to identify potential synergies and required ambition.
31. AILAC is providing further associated details to this submission via its submissions for other agenda items, including on Global Stocktake and the Enhanced Transparency Framework. AILAC will also be sharing further views regarding this submission during upcoming negotiations within the UNFCCC.