

VIEWS OF ARGENTINA, BRAZIL AND URUGUAY ON APA AGENDA ITEM 4

Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay welcome the opportunity to submit views on APA agenda 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*”, taking into account the discussions under this item at the third part of its first session, held in Bonn from 8 to 17 May 2017, focused on proposals for elements and “skeleton” outlines.

Building on those discussions as well as on our previous submissions¹ on this agenda item, this submission proposes a “skeleton” for the adaptation communication, including general remarks regarding each item, and specifies possible elements.

The proposed “skeleton” outline and its specific content further develops the agreed skeleton proposed by the G77 and China²:

Proposed Skeleton:

1. Preamble/Introductory remarks

1.1 Guiding Principles/Guidance

The guiding principles of the adaptation communication should be, among others, the following:

- Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities
- Equity
- Not creating additional burden to developing country Parties
- Adaptation needs are linked to the global level of mitigation and the temperature goal
- Contribution to the Global Goal on Adaptation
- Provision of Means of Implementation for Adaptation, from Developed Country Parties to Developing Country Parties.
- No comparison between Parties
- Flexibility of the vehicle according to Article 7.11

¹ http://www4.unfccc.int/Submissions/Lists/OSPSubmissionUpload/209_280_131197085010401383-Further%20views%20APA%20agenda%20item%204%20Arg%20Br%20Uru.pdf

http://www4.unfccc.int/Submissions/Lists/OSPSubmissionUpload/597_322_131383847218347778-AR-BR-UY%20adaptation%20communication.pdf

² <http://unfccc.int/files/bodies/apa/application/pdf/proposals.pdf>

2. Purpose

Following the proposal made by the G77 and China on purpose and elements during the APA session in May 2017, we understand that the adaptation communication serves the following purposes:

- Raising the profile of adaptation in the context of the global response to climate change;
- Communicating national adaptation actions, plans, implementation and support needs;
- Recognizing adaptation efforts of developing country Parties;
- Enhancing support for adaptation actions and plans from developed country Parties to developing country Parties / catalyzing support to implement actions contained in the adaptation communication;
- Contributing and informing progress towards the global goal on adaptation.

3. Elements

In relation to the elements of the adaptation communication, Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay agree on the identification of a set of “common” elements and a set of additional “opt-in opt-out” elements.

3.1 Common elements

- National circumstances, including legal framework and institutional arrangements;
- Impacts, vulnerabilities and risk assessments (including future scenarios);
- National adaptation priorities, policies, plans, actions, strategies and/or programs, as appropriate;
- Adaptation support needs of developing country Parties; understood as means of implementation, including finance, technology transfer, and capacity building.
- Biennial communication of indicative support by developed country Parties, including finance, technology and capacity building.
- Adaptation efforts of developing country Parties (for recognition), understood as concrete adaptation actions, either concluded, ongoing or unfinished and, where available, associated financial costs;

3.2 Opt-in Opt-out

- Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for adaptation;
- Cooperative dimension at the national, regional and international level: arrangements/organizations/nets where countries share information, good practices, experiences and lessons learnt.

The list of opt-in opt-out elements is open ended.

The nature of the chosen vehicle for the adaptation communication (e.g. NAPs, NDCs, NATCOMs) may also be considered by Parties when deciding on opt in – opt out elements.

4. Vehicles

Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay are of the view that the flexibility provided for in the Paris Agreement (Article 7, paragraph 11) in terms of the vehicle available to Parties to submit or update their adaptation communication allows for each Party to choose the vehicle according to its own priorities, thereby avoiding the creation of additional reporting burden for developing country Parties. However, regardless of the chosen vehicle, the adaptation communication should be clearly identified –from beginning to end- within such vehicle.

Since it is possible that successive Adaptation Communications from a single Party are made available throughout different vehicles at different times, a numbered series could be considered, as well as a summary that connects previous Adaptation Communications, also though e.g. links, tables and charts, that could be helpful for understanding adaptation progress and identifying future opportunities to enhance adaptation action and support.

Given that adaptation communications will serve as an input for the Global Stocktake, Parties may be encouraged to submit or update them well in advance of its sessions starting in 2023, taking into account the modalities to be developed for Article 14.

5. Linkages

We understand that the adaptation communication is linked with several items within the Paris Agreement, such as the financial mechanism and the constituted bodies (i.e. to provide support for preparing adaptation communications, Article 7, paragraph 13), Articles 9 to 11 on means of implementation, the Transparency Framework for Action and Support (Article 13) and the Global Stocktake (Article 14), directly contributing to the continued enhancement of adaptation action.

Considerations on transparency of action and support in adaptation

Adaptation action

On the basis of the modalities, procedures and guidelines (MPGs) on enhanced transparency of action and support to be developed, with respect to the **reporting** of adaptation action and support required, Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay propose that those Parties that decide to do so may submit their Adaptation Communication as part of their Biennial Transparency Reports (BTR) in the context of the "should" provision of Article 13, paragraph 8, without creating any additional burden for developing country Parties. In addition, the submission and contents of developing countries' BTR shall be consistent with their capabilities and the level of support received.

With regard to the **review**, and bearing in mind the broad consensus expressed by the Parties at the APA 1-3 session in Bonn, Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay consider that the information

related to climate change impacts and adaptation (Article 13, paragraph 8) should not be subject to any kind of review.

The “**facilitative, multilateral consideration of progress**” (FMCP) provides an opportunity for Parties to highlight the implementation and achievement of their NDCs. For that reason, Parties that decide to submit their Adaptation Communication as part of the BTR may express their willingness to include adaptation considerations in the FMCP.

Adaptation support

The transparency provisions of adaptation support should be those resulting from the MPGs for enhanced transparency of action and support, including the modalities for the accounting of financial resources provided and mobilized through public interventions developed by SBSTA.

Taking into account existing support commitments in the context of the Convention and the Paris Agreement: Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay state that the biennial communication of indicative support by developed country Parties, including finance, technology and capacity building should be a "common" element of the Adaptation Communication.

6. Support for developing country Parties for the preparation, submission and implementation of adaptation communications

In accordance with Articles 7 paragraph 13, and Articles 9, 10 and 11 of the Paris Agreement, continuous and enhanced international support shall be provided to developing country Parties for the implementation of the cooperation provisions, for the adaptation planning processes and the implementation of actions (national level), as well as for the submission and update of the adaptation communication (international level). For that reason, Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay understand that continued and enhanced support in the form of finance, technology and capacity building shall cover both the domestic process of planning and implementing adaptation action, as well as the preparation and submission of the Adaptation Communication, no matter the vehicle chosen.

7. Other matters

This section includes other matters that Parties may wish to address within their adaptation communications.

General considerations

Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay envisage a simple and dynamic adaptation communication system that takes full account of the adaptation communications presented by Parties and integrates information selected by Parties from other vehicles and documents, thus supporting the achievement of the purpose of the Paris Agreement.

We reiterate that guidance for adaptation communications should not be prescriptive or mandatory, nor should it seek to provide for comparisons or harmonization of Parties' adaptation actions. By no means should the adaptation communication become a pre-requisite or conditionality for access to means of implementation by developing country Parties.