

Environmental Integrity Group (EIG) views on Adaptation Communication (APA agenda item 4)

The Environmental Integrity Group (EIG) welcomes the opportunity to submit its views on APA item to contribute to the ongoing work for the Adaptation Communications.

The EIG supports the statement of the Paris Agreement that adaptation is a global challenge that must be faced at international, regional, national, subnational and local levels and takes note of the progress made during the last discussions on purposes, elements, and the skeleton of further guidance in relation to the adaptation communication discussed during the Bonn meeting last May 2017.

The group acknowledge that there are many similarities between the existing proposals in terms of purpose, elements and the adaptation communication skeletons. The EIG is of the view that these similarities should be taken into account as a good basis for further discussions.

In terms of the purpose of the adaptation communications, the EIG foresees the following:

- Enhance visibility / profile of adaptation to enhance the recognition of Parties adaptation efforts.
- Facilitate learning by sharing good practices, experiences and lessons learned.
- To provide information about the vulnerability expected impacts and adaptation needs.
- Provide input to the Global Stocktake, which will assess the collective progress towards the global adaptation goal

Mindful of Art.7.10 of the Paris Agreement, which underlines the non-mandatory nature of the adaptation communication and the Party-driven definition of its contents, the EIG considers that adaptation communications could be an important way for sharing information, experiences, lessons learned and best practices through scientifically based knowledge on climate change impacts and response action such as:

- Studies concerning regional climate change impacts, especially those related to food security and priority ecosystems.
- Progress on Ecosystem – based adaptation achievements, including the integration of traditional ecological knowledge, as appropriate.
- Description of the methods or tools applied to monitor and evaluate their adaptation actions
- Selection of priority action areas

However, the EIG stresses the importance of flexibility in terms of the choice of vehicles (NDCs, NAPs, national communications, reporting under Article 13.8), in order to avoid burdens and duplication. Flexibility is also important to ensure an adequate timing of communications in line with national policy and planning processes, and to achieve coherence among national instruments.

Nevertheless, Parties may be encouraged to include certain set of common elements in order to provide inputs to the global stocktake. Therefore, the EIG proposes the following elements to be addressed in the context of the proposed skeleton, bearing in mind that the detail of provided information would be nationally determined:

- National context/circumstances, including assessment of risks, impacts and vulnerabilities
- Information on plans, priorities, actions, programs, strategies or other adaptation efforts implemented
- Best practices, experiences and lessons learned
- Monitoring and Evaluation of adaptation action, its outcomes and findings

Other topics that could be considered, as appropriate, are:

- Inclusion of adaptation/mitigation co-benefits
- Synergies with other conventions, particularly the Rio Conventions