

VERMONT LAW SCHOOL COP23/CMP13 OBSERVER DELEGATION

November 6-17, 2017 Bonn, Germany

MEMORANDUM

Observer: Nicole Webbert – Vermont Law School

Session: APA agenda item 4: informal consultations 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 PA

Date: November 8th, 2017

Time: 11:00 – 12:00

Topics: Adaptation, Paris Agreement, adaptation communication, national adaptation plans

- I. **Summation:** The body wanted to move forward to create the format of the consultation to be submitted to the APA on adaptation communication in the NDCs. Countries were determining the heading and subheadings of the document and the areas that would be emphasized.

Key Take Aways:

- G77 had a proposal of subheadings that was largely supported
- Many developed countries objected to the focus on guiding principles and a lack of opt out options
- Key headings are preamble, purpose, and elements. With future discussions on other subheadings.

II. Speakers:

Argentina – G77 & China
Ecuador – LMDC
Saudi Arabia
European Union
Uruguay – Uruguay, Brazil and Argentina
Botswana – Africa Group
Malawi – LDCs

Kuwait – Arab State League
Colombia – AILAC
Canada
Australia
United States
New Zealand
Japan
Jamaica - SIDS

III. Notes:

Co-Facilitator:

- Roundtable occurred this weekend that broke out into small groups to discuss potential headings and subheadings for the consultation document. There were several similarities among the submissions from the breakout groups as well as individual country submissions. *This meeting should facilitate a movement towards an outline or a framework.*
- Reflections on the Round table: Organization of outline included many shared ideas such as: broad questions on linkages with Item 5; development options for guidance on parties; applicability on all vehicles.
- All groups include Preamble, Purpose and Elements as heading.

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- Difference in views on whether and where certain issues will be included.
- Roundtable worked toward common skeleton.

Argentina:

- Roundtable provided good opportunities to deliberate opinions on these discussions on how to deal with adaptation communication.
- Particularly with headings and subheadings.
- G77&China have firm opinion on headings and subheadings

Ecuador:

- Significant value in the roundtables on the views and arguments on headings and subheading and the working of the linkages.
- There are linkages that are purely recognized with the transparency framework and other APA agenda items.

Saudi Arabia:

- Would like to highlight and stress that at the roundtable not all groups got to work all aspects of the headings: only half got past preamble and discussed Adaptation Committee
- Also the Co-facilitator accepted input by email from parties that is reflected in the table and whether countries can email points for inclusion on the table.

Co-Facilitator:

- Breakout groups presented ideas and outcomes from those groups for inclusion into the table is reflection of what occurred in those groups.
- *Is concerned about expanding the tables and wants to bring the issue together for resolution*

EU:

- We all agree we should have preamble, purpose, and elements, and should have themes of linkages, support.
- Finds these rounds of submission and roundtables, *have reached a point where we can go forward and consolidate ideas and begin skeleton format.*

Uruguay & Botswana:

- Found the roundtable useful, but wants a more useful conversation on headings and subheadings and discussion of the content.

Malawi:

- Concerned with the lack of clarity in terms of linkages and would like to spend time on that

Argentina:

- Suggested Headings:
 - o Preamble or Introduction

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- Guiding Principles – how we convey our adaptation communication
- Purpose
- Elements – Common set of elements, one subheading of elements, however the conversation continues in their group about the possibly specific items on possible NDCs.
- Vehicles – good conversation on where to include timing or frequency issue as a subheading, could also be under other places
- Linkages
- Support – overarching point in adaptation communication guidance
 - three fields that should be taken care of in support of submissions of adaptation communication
 - Importance of needs and priorities, plans and strategies included in NDC communication, article 4 of the PA, and under Art 7 for support; related to support provided to developed to developing specific modalities under the workplan.
- Other Matters – not attached to the name, need a place for other things that can fit under other headings mentioned before.

Saudi Arabia:

- Would prefer not to have a mutually exclusive design of the paper and would prefer a mutually inclusive design.
- Argentina has a good design but subheadings and interaction of them must be mutually inclusive to parties.

Ecuador:

- Supports Argentina's headings and subheadings.
- Principle of differentiation from Common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities (CBDRRC).
- Important to highlight the guiding principles and support.
- Coherence of the different agenda items under the APA.

Kuwait:

- Supports proposal on headings and subheadings especially the guiding principles and the CBDRRC

Colombia:

- Supports approach of G77
- Elements very important for common set of elements and different elements
- Linkages and support very important.

Canada:

- Guidance is not mutually exclusive, this adaptation communication is for all
- Important for developing countries to be able to make plans and actions
- Guidance is developed for choice of vehicle; questioned previous methods of guidance by UNFCCC Secretariat

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Saudi Arabia:

- Wants a step-by-step approach where parties are in terms of divergence, convergence

Co-Facilitator:

- *Suggests moving forward with G77's proposed headings and subheadings as start of negotiations.*

Australia:

- There is a lot of divergence on the heading and subheadings from the synthesis report and wants to work more with the synthesis report.

Mod:

- Usage of G77 was not a fixed approach and willing to collaborate with Parties for common text

United States:

- Agrees with Australia but concerned with guiding principles and opt out principles.

New Zealand:

- Step by step is right approach
- Start by areas of convergence vs. areas of divergence

EU:

- Proposes pick some of the areas where there is good convergence and propose ideas on working on these areas and come back to the others later.

Argentina:

- Wants all headings and subheadings proposed in any kind of output in this conversation. Encourage all parties to interact with them on the proposals.

Saudi Arabia:

- Emphasizes mutually inclusive areas of convergence and divergence

Jamaica SIDS:

- We should focus on areas of divergence; where we have convergence, it would be a waste of time to discuss and negotiate on "commas, asterisks and periods" => the discussions on divergence should be substance based.

Facilitator: Parties will suggest new submissions and old submissions from parties who did not resubmit will also be considered and a document will be emailed to Parties for consideration before next on potential headings and subheadings.