

# **SUBMISSION**

## **Of Tajikistan**

### ***Nairobi work program on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change (FCCC/SBSTA/2013.L9)***

In response for a draft conclusions proposed by the SBSTA's Chair during 3-14 June 2013 in Bonn under the agenda item 3 "*Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change*" the Republic of Tajikistan is glad to submit its national view on ways to enhance the relevance and to support the objective of the work programme, taking into account paragraph 5 of the document FCCC/SBSTA/2013.L9:

- (a) Considering the scope of the work of the Nairobi work programme as agreed in the annex of Decision 2/CP.11 through additional cross-cutting issues;
- (b) Sequencing activities so that they build on each other, and engaging adaptation practitioners;
- (c) Developing linkages with adaptation-related workstreams and bodies under the Convention, including the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, as appropriate.

Tajikistan welcomes the progress on recent activity under the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change (NWP), particularly the significant progress made during the thirty-eighth session of the Subsidiary Bodies (SB 38) to the UNFCCC, and the second part of the second session of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP 2-2) which took place from 3 to 14 June 2013 in Bonn, Germany.

Tajikistan considers that the nine work areas of the NWP are quite extensive and could cover past, current and future needs of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change in all countries. Tajikistan also believes that a list of cross-cutting issues, indicated in the paragraph 2 (b) of the Annex to FCCC/SBSTA/2013/L.9, is very useful starting point for developing further concrete and effective activities under the NWP. However, these cross-cutting issues should be embedded and coordinated within the workstreams and bodies under the UNFCCC relevant for adaptation.

Tajikistan is a landlocked mountainous country highly vulnerable to various impacts of climate change, especially when considering the fragility of its ecosystems, the dependence of its economy on availability of water resources, as well as effects on food security and human health. Additionally, implementing gender and climate change related activities often face difficulties

due to the lack of staff capacity and understanding of these issues, particularly in the rural communities.

For these reasons, in May 2009 the Government of Tajikistan confirmed its commitments to the Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience (PPCR), which is a multi-donor initiative designed to integrate climate risk and resilience measures into core development planning. Under this activity the Republic of Tajikistan identified the following vulnerable sectors and areas to be addressed: agriculture, water resources, energy, environment and disaster risk management.

The PPCR in Tajikistan comprises two phases. During Phase 1 (September 2009 to October 2011), analytical work and consultations with a wide range of stakeholders were conducted to assess the consequences of climate change on the economy and development. Teams of national and international experts studied the adverse effects of climate change on land management, energy, water resources management, natural systems and the energy sector, and also assessed capacity needs to strengthen national institutional arrangements for climate change. The findings of these technical assistance activities informed Tajikistan's investment plan on climate resilience – the Strategic Program for Climate Resilience – which was approved for funding in November 2010.

Phase 2 supports an implementation of the investment plan, with financial resources totalling \$47.5 million both from the PPCR and other sources. Four investment projects will (i) strengthen the country's hydro-meteorological services; (ii) enable farmers and rural communities to become more climate resilient and conserve natural resources; (iii) increase resilience of the hydropower sector, and (iv) help communities in the Pyanj river basin cope with the adverse effects of climate change. A comprehensive programme of capacity building will support climate resilience investments by promoting risk management approaches in government, formulating national and local adaptation plans, raising public awareness on climate change, producing climate data and information, and establishing a national implementing entity.

Tajikistan would like to further point that its territory is a key source of freshwater for the whole of Central Asia. It includes the source of the largest river in Central Asia – the Amu Darya – as well as 65% of the catchment area of the Aral Sea basin. Tajikistan's water resources are formed of 9475 glaciers, rivers, lakes, groundwater and mineral sources.

Particular attention should be given to the glaciers which cover 9000 km<sup>2</sup>. The largest glaciers include the Fedchenko Glacier (651,7 km<sup>2</sup>), Grum-Grzhimailo Glacier (142,9 km<sup>2</sup>), and Garmo Glacier (114,6 km<sup>2</sup>).

However, during recent decades the extent and volume of the country's glaciers has been decreasing. Therefore, in 2010 the Government of Tajikistan adopted the State Programme on Glaciers' Research and Conservation for the period of 2010-2030. In 2011 a Memorandum on preparation and implementation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Pamir Alpine International Geophysical Expedition was signed between Tajik academic institutions and a Consortium of international scientists representing academic organizations from the USA, Germany, Japan and China. The purpose of this research is to assess the evidence of past and present climate change, its impact on snow cover, permafrost and Pamir glacier water resources; and to model regional climate change scenarios to inform adaptation policy and planning.

Taking into consideration all of the above, Tajikistan would be glad to share its experience and engage with other countries on adaptation practice during the UNFCCC workshops and events at COP 19 in Poland.

The Republic of Tajikistan supports the activity of the UNFCCC secretariat in engaging and collaborating with various stakeholders including NWP partner organizations, as well as in enhancing the development, dissemination and sharing of practical adaptation knowledge. Tajikistan also supports the need for a technical paper on indigenous and traditional knowledge and practices, as well as gender-sensitive approaches and tools for adaptation to climate change that will provide inputs to a workshop to be held prior to SBSTA 40 (June 2014).

Tajikistan would like to highlight the importance of the Work Plan presented in the Appendix to the Annex to FCCC/SBSTA/2013/L.9. This Work Plan is a useful starting point, but it should be given further consideration and development under the UNFCCC negotiations.

The Republic of Tajikistan would like to underline the need for a National Adaptation Strategy (NAS) for each country defining basic principles and frameworks for action. . Such national strategies would provide a basis for more detailed National Adaptation Plans (NAP), specifying key sectoral priorities, cross cutting issues, implementation arrangements, financing sources and mechanisms, as well as monitoring and evaluation measures. Such comprehensive strategic documents, based on the UNFCCC guidelines and current adaptation practices could facilitate progress towards more effective climate change policy implementation at the international and national levels.

Tajikistan is currently preparing its National Adaptation Strategy and Plan, and it would like to state the importance and usage of availability of the UNFCCC guidelines for NAPs in all UN official languages. Tajikistan appreciates the efforts of the Secretariat to make available for

Parties these guidelines in English, French and Portuguese, and it looks forward to seeing such guidelines in Russian language also, which will be helpful for involving all national stakeholders in developing the NAS and NAP.

Tajikistan looks forward continuing constructive discussions with all Parties on the NWP in order to agree an appropriate decision at COP 19 in Warsaw, Poland.