

Submission on National Adaptation Plans

The Cancun Agreements established a process to enable least developed country Parties to formulate and implement national adaptation plans, building upon their experience in preparing and implementing national adaptation programmes of action (NAPA), as a means of identifying medium- and long-term adaptation needs and developing and implementing strategies and programmes to address those needs. **Norway** welcomes the opportunity to provide its views on the process of developing national adaptation plans.

1. Adaptation planning is about identifying the impacts of, and vulnerabilities, to climate change and finding ways to address adaptation needs and is a continuing part of any countries or organisations work to adapt to a changing climate.
2. Climate change will affect almost all sectors of society and there is an inseparable link between development and adaptation planning. Planning for the future in sectors like agriculture, health, transport and construction without taking climate change into consideration will not be sustainable. Hence, adaptation planning must be firmly integrated and embedded into sectoral and development planning.
3. It is important that adaptation planning takes the sub-national level into account, and that adaptation plans are made as operational as possible. They should be developed in close cooperation with stakeholders to ensure local ownership. An important lesson learnt from the development of NAPAs has been to ensure that the document is well embedded in national and sectoral planning processes and that there is a strong sense of national ownership.
4. An integrated perspective on adaptation planning has at least two key implications for national adaptation plans. Firstly, adaptation planning cannot take place outside existing planning cycles and systems. Planning cycles and systems differ from country to country. Standardised processes or formats will consequently have very limited value. Secondly, sectoral and development planning are continuous processes and adaptation needs to be part and parcel of these processes. Norway is therefore of the view that the national adaptation plan should consist of guidelines to support adaptation planning processes rather than as a separate plan. Such guidelines should be generic in nature and avoid being prescriptive. At an overarching level climate change adaptation should also be integrated into national poverty reduction strategies.
5. Integrating climate change considerations into planning and decision making is a challenge for all Parties, in particular for the poorest countries. The highly local and contextual nature of climate change impacts and vulnerability, the time scale and uncertainty associated with climate change impacts, limitation in data availability as well as limited experience with climate change adaptation are just some of the issues that form part of an adaptation process. In our efforts to facilitate adaptation at country level through initiatives such as national adaptation planning within the UNFCCC context, one cannot assume that it is possible to capture all the impacts and vulnerabilities to climate change, but rather design the process in a way that allows adaptation processes to evolve as knowledge and experience is gained.

6. As we further consider national adaptation plans, it would be necessary to determine how international initiatives can be best designed to support national adaptation processes. Norway considers that there are several elements that may constitute the building blocks for the National Adaptation Plans initiative:
 - Climate change impact and vulnerability assessments, including experiences gained from national adaptation planning and implementation efforts;
 - Integrating climate change into sectoral and adaptation planning at the national and sub-national levels;
 - Coordination of climate change adaptation at national level through adaptation strategies; and
 - Communication of adaptation strategies, planning and implementation from national to international level
7. Many countries are well ahead with their adaptation planning and an increasing body of experiences is being accumulated. These experiences should be the starting point for the work on national adaptation plans as they should build on and not duplicate what is already working.
8. While some countries are in the process of integrating climate change adaptation into sectoral planning, others are just starting impact and vulnerability assessments. Hence, any means of support must be developed in a flexible manner.
9. On modalities for the national adaptation plans the following elements could be considered:
 - Assistance for the development of national guidelines for inclusion of climate change adaptation in sub-national development plans;
 - Technical support to countries for the development of sectoral adaptation plans for selected key sectors like agriculture, water, health and energy;
 - Support to education for climate change adaptation at tertiary level, including university and vocational training; and
 - Assistance to ensure synergies between the outcomes of the analytical work related to loss and damage caused by climate change and the adaptation planning processes.
10. Norway recognises that climate change impacts pose a significant challenge for all countries, in particular developing countries. However, Norway considers the intention of the paragraph 15 of the Cancun agreement, 1/CP.16, to be clear. The Cancun Agreements prioritise the least developed countries, which are particularly vulnerable to climate change. We especially recognise their need for capacity building and technical support. Our understanding of the reference to other developing countries in paragraph 16 is that these may wish to utilise these guidelines, but that the focus of the process will be the least developed countries.
11. At the seventeenth Conference of the Parties (COP-17) in Durban Norway expects that there will be a decision on a way forward for the process on national adaptation plans. This decision should include the identification of guiding principles, as well as building blocks for the national adaptation plans' guidelines and means of implementation. As mentioned by several Parties at the Bonn session in June, the Least Developed Countries Expert Group may be the correct forum to take the

National Adaptation Plans forward from Durban. Hence, a mandate to do this will be essential outcome from COP-17.