

**Submission by the Arab Republic of Egypt on behalf of the
African Group of Negotiators (AGN)**

on

**Matters related to the Assessment of Progress made in the Process to Formulate and
Implement National Adaptation Plans**

02 March 2018

1. Background

This submission is made in response to the invitation to Parties to submit their views regarding information on progress made towards the achievement of the objectives of the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans (NAPs), experiences, good practices, lessons learned, gaps and needs, and support provided and received in the process to formulate and implement NAPs. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation was requested by its forty-eighth session to assess progress made in the process to formulate and implement NAPs, with a view to making recommendations thereon to the Conference of the Parties, as appropriate (decision 4/CP.21).

The African Group of Negotiators (hereinafter referred to as African Group or AGN) is pleased to submit a summary of key lessons and existing gaps in formulating and implementing NAPs based on the experience of African countries. The Group recognises that many of developing countries have initiated or launched the process to formulate and implement NAPs, however there are still a number of African countries which are yet to start the process. Therefore, the information submitted is based on the experiences of the member Parties in their different levels of implementation of the process. The Group's submission provides a summary of generic issues, therefore individual African member countries may submit their specific experiences in the process of the formulation and implementation of NAPs separately.

2. Introduction

The AGN underlines the importance of the NAP for developing countries to reduce their vulnerabilities to the negative impacts of climate change by achieving the NAP's objective of building adaptive capacities and increasing resilience. The AGN reiterates that the NAP has been a challenging process for many African countries as it is associated with considerable finance, technology and capacity needs that are required to effectively implement its different stages. Accordingly, the AGN believes that the advancement of the progress of the NAP depends on the full implementation of the decisions associated with NAPs, particularly paragraph 18 of decision 1/CP.16, and paragraph 9 of Article 7 of Paris Agreement.

Africa, a continent of 54 countries, is responsible for not more than 2.3 percent of global CO₂ emissions. However, according to the Africa's Adaptation Gap Report, past emissions have already committed the African continent to adaptation costs in the range of USD 7 to 15 billion per year until 2020. A 4°C world can be avoided through ambitious mitigation actions but the window of opportunity for keeping warming below 2°C is quickly narrowing. The

climate change challenge exceeds the capacity of the continent to respond to projected damages and impacts through domestic resources, even if the base to raise additional funding is broadened. Scaling-up international support for African countries is therefore critical. The AGN underlines with concern that even if warming is kept below 2°C, adaptation needs in developing countries will be significant. Adaptation costs in Africa alone could rise to USD 50 billion per year by 2050. Mitigation action could limit the costs of adaptation significantly and reduce the negative impacts on sustainable development. However, without swift and concerted mitigation action adaptation needs and costs will continue to swell and the adaptation gap will continue to widen.

African countries are conducting a lot of activities and exerting a lot of efforts to characterize vulnerability to climate change in priority sectors and areas. They are also engaged in the identification of adaptation strategies, including policies, technologies and programmes, awareness raising and consultations of different stakeholders, and undertaking national research on climate change adaptation.

With this in mind, the remainder of this submission will draw on African countries' experiences, gaps and needs.

3. General experiences, good practices and lessons learned

In general, the engagement in the NAP process was useful for conducting comprehensive assessments and identifying gaps and needs as well as challenges and opportunities regarding the NAP process. Many countries have started the preparatory phase however the implementation of identified actions stand as a challenge faced by many of the countries that have completed the initial phase(s).

The NAP is for identifying medium- and long-term adaptation needs and for developing and implementing strategies and programmes to address those needs. The experience of African countries related to vulnerability assessments has been challenging, including due to lack of methodologies, technologies and guidelines for understanding current vulnerabilities (baseline), as well as expenses associated with costly software and foreign consultants. As many countries have realised the need to formulate comprehensive, medium- and long-term strategic responses on adaptation, to date, the implementation of urgent adaptation actions has been at the cost of development. Finally, with respect to mainstreaming, African countries are making efforts to integrate adaptation in development planning. They are at different stages and adopting diverse approaches including considering the integration at different levels (national regional, local), policy making and climate legislations, or new institutional arrangements. Understanding the process of mainstreaming is challenging and associated with barriers and opportunities that influence the integration processes. Climate-proofing has been identified by some countries as a useful process as it is in line with the objectives and guidelines of the NAP, and supports the integration of climate change related impacts and risks into the existing and planned development activities as well as policies. However, even for countries that conducted climate-proofing they were only to do so on a pilot basis as the process was described as costly and requires advanced tools and methodologies.

4. Experience related to support provided and received

With respect to support provided and received, African countries have used different sources of technical and financial support, such as the LDCF or support provided by bilateral organisations and global support programmes such regional trainings and events like the NAP Expo. While this support was helpful to African countries, it covered activities such as pre-NAP groundwork, or only some aspects of the NAP preparations.

Since the launch of the NAP decision, nine countries have uploaded their NAPs on the NAP Central, five of which are from Africa. This slow progress was mainly due to the lack of financial support available to developing countries, including African countries. Therefore, a major milestone was achieved with the decision of the Green Climate Fund to make available up to USD 3 million for each country for NAPs and other adaptation planning processes. As of the end of February, of 47 NAP requests that have been submitted to the GCF, 23 requests are from Africa. Of these 23 requests, 7 requests have been endorsed and approved.

As some developing countries, including African countries, have started to access the financial support provided by the GCF, some challenges experienced include:

- Confusions around templates,
- Lengthy review processes, including low disbursement rate
- Delays due to internal policies of delivery partners, e.g. for some delivery partners', disbursements were only twice a year; and
- Capacity constraints to self-implement the request. About 80 per cent of the submitted NAP requests have been submitted with two entities as delivery partner, rather than aiming for managing the NAP support by the countries themselves. This is due to capacity constraints to comply with the fiduciary standards, and or lack of awareness that NAP support does not require an accredited entity for implementation.

While the Secretariat has taken steps to address some of these issues, the following challenges remain:

- Ensuring support, particularly financial support, for the implementation of adaptation actions that are grants-based, and ensuring a smooth process from identifying adaptation priorities and formulation of concept notes, requests for the Project Preparation Facility, as necessary, and the project proposal approval process. The Secretariat should identify measures internally to support countries, that wish to do so, to go through these stages in an expedited manner to ensure the swift implementation of adaptation priorities identified as part of the NAP process;
- Provide and communicate support available to build country capacities to enable countries to self-implement the NAP process rather than relying on (international) delivery partners, should they wish to do so;
- Recognise that the NAP process is an iterative, continuous and country-driven process and that some countries are only starting with some aspects of the NAPs and developing other aspects at a later stage. Further, it must be recognized that the NAPs are developed based on country circumstances and priorities, therefore not all NAPs will meet criteria such as private sector engagement, and hence, such criteria should not be used as criteria when reviewing NAP requests; and

- Address the development vs. climate change adaptation paradox, as on the one hand, adaptation considerations are supposed to be mainstreamed into national and sub-national development processes, yet on the other hand projects have debated, and in some instances have been rejected, on the basis of being a development rather climate change project.

5. Gaps and needs

The following gaps and needs have been identified as key issues for African countries.

- With respect to climate information, there is a need for:
 - Establishment and/or improving of existing freely-accessible databases on the impacts of climate change for the different regions; and
 - Information packages on climate change impacts and vulnerability to increase the awareness level and understanding of climate change issues among different stakeholders.
- With respect to capacity, there is a need for
 - Enhanced capacities to address climate change impacts, including capacity building to develop and utilize climate scenarios/modelling;
 - Enhance capacities to attract finance from different sources including through the development of adaptation project proposals;
 - Enhanced capacities on monitoring and evaluation of adaptation actions in line with the reporting requirements under the UNFCCC.
- With respect to technologies, there is a need for
 - Robust methodologies for assessing the impacts of climate change at different levels (national, regional local) and at different timescales (current, medium and long-term) for vulnerability assessments, following mitigation scenarios;
 - Accessible and affordable software for mapping of vulnerability hot spots; and
 - Methodologies for the assessment of adequate support to address adaptation priorities and needs:
- With respect to mainstreaming, there is a need for
 - Appropriate tools and capacity building to identify appropriate entry points and opportunities for integration;
 - Strengthening institutional capacity for making national policy and planning more coherent at all levels;
 - Enhanced climate-proofing of policies, planned and existing projects/programmes, as well as finance, technologies and capacity building activities to undertake such activities, e.g. Kenya and Sudan identified means of implementation challenges with climate-proofing of infrastructure and agriculture development schemes, while other countries also identified the challenges of tools and methodologies.
- Finally, with respect to finance, there is a need for

- Adequate and grants-based financial resources, particularly for implementing the identified adaptation priorities; and
- Support for countries in costing adaptation options and developing financing strategies to identify several sources of funding, including bilateral and multilateral funds.

6. Conclusion

African NAPs are open to different stakeholders, donor agencies and development partners to support the national initiatives to prepare and implement the NAP. The strategies and roadmaps for the NAP process is an initial step towards the preparation and implementation of NAPs. It is expected that the NAP will contribute positively in achieving resilience as well as fulfilling sustainable development and contribute to the achievement of the Global Goal on Adaptation.