

COP
**SUBMISSION BY PERU ON BEHALF OF THE AILAC GROUP OF COUNTRIES - CHILE, COLOMBIA,
COSTA RICA, HONDURAS, GUATEMALA, PANAMA, PARAGUAY AND PERU**
August 2021

**Views on the progress, effectiveness and performance of the Adaptation Committee and on
the review process**

Following the invitation to Parties contained in decision 5/CP.22, paragraph 12, AILAC is pleased to provide its views on the progress, effectiveness and performance of the Adaptation Committee (AC) and on the review process with a view to informing that process.

Background and general remarks

Purpose, functions and governance of the Adaptation Committee

1. COP16 established the AC **“to promote the implementation of enhanced action on adaptation in a coherent manner under the Convention**, inter alia, through the following **functions**:
 - a. Providing technical support and guidance to the Parties, respecting the country-driven approach, with a view to facilitating the implementation of adaptation activities, including those listed in paragraphs 14 and 15 above, where appropriate;
 - b. Strengthening, consolidating and enhancing the sharing of relevant information, knowledge, experience and good practices, at the local, national, regional and international levels, taking into account, as appropriate, traditional knowledge practices;
 - c. Promoting synergy and strengthening engagement with national, regional and international organizations, centres and networks, in order to enhance the implementation of adaptation actions, in particular in developing country Parties;
 - d. Providing information and recommendations, drawing on adaptation good practices, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties when providing guidance on means to incentivize the implementation of adaptation actions, including finance, technology and capacity-building and other ways to enable climate-resilient development and reduce vulnerability, including to the operating entities of the financial mechanism of the Convention, as appropriate;
 - e. Considering information communicated by Parties in their monitoring and review of adaptation actions, support provided and received, possible needs and gaps and other relevant information, including information communicated under the Convention, with a view to recommending what further actions may be required, as appropriate.”¹
2. COP17 affirmed that the AC “shall be the overall advisory body to the Conference of the Parties on adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change”, and decided that the AC “shall operate under the authority of, and be accountable to, the Conference of the Parties, which should decide on its policies in line with relevant decisions”².
3. CMA1 decided that the AC “shall serve the Paris Agreement”³.

First review of the Adaptation Committee (2016, COP22)

4. The first review of the progress and performance of the AC took place at COP22 and covered

¹ Decision 1/CP.16, para 20.

² Decision 2/CP.17, paras 92 and 95.

³ Decision 11/CMA.1, para 1.

the period 2012-2016⁴ (until September 2016).

5. As an **outcome of the first review**, the COP requested the AC “to continue with the implementation of its revised workplan, in particular by giving priority to the activities in support of the Paris Agreement, and to seek further ways to enhance its progress, effectiveness and performance”⁵.
6. The COP also noted with concern the shortfall in resources available to the AC, the need for supplementary financial resources and the estimated budgetary implications of the activities to be undertaken by the secretariat pursuant to decision 1/CP.21⁶, and encouraged Parties to make available sufficient resources for the successful and timely implementation of the three-year workplan of the AC⁷.

Second review of the Adaptation Committee (2021, COP26)

7. COP22 decided “to review the progress, effectiveness and performance of the Adaptation Committee at the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties, with a view to adopting an appropriate decision on the outcome of that review”⁸, and invited Parties “to submit via the submission portal, no later than three months prior to the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties, their views on the progress, effectiveness and performance of the Adaptation Committee and on the review process (...) with a view to informing that process”⁹.
8. In response to restrictions and delays owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Bureau of the COP decided to maintain the original timelines for mandates. Therefore, the review of the progress, effectiveness and performance of the AC will take place in 2021 as planned, pursuant to decision 5/CP.22.
9. Since the first review covered the period from the first meeting of the AC in 2012 to September 2016, AILAC understands that the second review, to be held at COP26, will target **the period ranging from October 2016 to September 2021** (noting that the 2021 annual report of the AC will be produced following the 20th meeting of the AC that will take place from 7 to 10 September).

Work of the Adaptation Committee

Response of the AC to mandates from relevant decisions of the COP and the CMA for the implementation of the adaptation provisions of the Paris Agreement

10. During the period covered by the second review, the AC successfully delivered on its mandates contained in paragraphs 41, 42 and 45 of decision 1/CP.21 and prepared recommendations for consideration and adoption by CMA1, which were included in its 2017 annual report to the COP through the subsidiary bodies (SBs).
11. The AC also conducted successfully the technical examination process on adaptation (TEP-A) from 2016 to 2020, as mandated in paragraph 126 of decision 1/CP.21.
12. CMA1 (2018) decided that the AC shall serve the Paris Agreement and mandated new work to the AC related with the following:

⁴ Decision 5/CP.22, para 9.

⁵ Decision 5/CP.22, para 10.

⁶ Decision 5/CP.22, para 14.

⁷ Decision 5/CP.22, para 15.

⁸ Decision 5/CP.22, para 11.

⁹ Decision 5/CP.22, para 12.

- a. Adaptation communications: draft supplementary guidance for voluntary use by Parties in communicating adaptation information¹⁰
 - b. Methodologies for assessing the adaptation needs of developing country Parties¹¹
 - c. Modalities for recognizing the adaptation efforts of developing countries¹²
 - d. Methodologies for reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation support¹³
 - e. Collecting information in preparation for the global stocktake¹⁴
13. Furthermore, a new mandate arose from decision 1/CMA.2 in relation to approaches to reviewing the overall progress made in achieving the global goal on adaptation.
14. The AC is currently advancing work on all of these mandates according to the timelines that it has defined in its flexible workplan for 2019-2021.

Progress on the implementation of the AC's workplan

15. During the 2nd revision period, the AC has implemented two workplans:
- a. The flexible workplan for the years 2016-2018;
 - b. The flexible workplan for the years 2019-2021.
16. It is important to recognize that the AC has itself shown great capacity to adapt to the evolving circumstances arising from the multiple new tasks mandated by the COP and the CMA or coming from invitations of the SBs (like the invitation from SBSTA 48 to provide advice on the delivery of Nairobi Work Programme mandates that relate to the work programmes of constituted bodies under the Convention). In this line, the AC wisely agreed to keep its workplans flexible in order to allow for adjustments and integration of work related to those new mandates and invitations.

Collaboration, coherence and partnerships with bodies, entities and work programmes, and with relevant stakeholders within and outside the Convention

17. The AC's annual reports from 2017 to 2020 clearly show the various modalities by which the AC has been successfully engaging and collaborating with other constituted bodies and institutional arrangements under the Convention, e.g., contribution to events, joint organizations of events, elaboration of a road map on related items (with the LEG), participation in task forces, working groups, advisory bodies, etc.
18. We notice that collaboration with the LEG has been fluid, despite the number of joint or parallel tasks that have been mandated to them. In this line, the elaboration of a common road map for short- and long-term collaboration on related items was a good step forward.
19. AILAC also finds that the AC has wisely taken advantage of the work of the NWP by inviting NWP partner organizations to provide technical support in respect of the work that the CMA has mandated to the AC and of adaptation knowledge-related activities included in the AC's workplan.
20. We nevertheless observe that the AC has faced some difficulties for fully engaging the IPCC Working Group II in joint mandated tasks (draft supplementary guidance for voluntary use by Parties in communicating adaptation information; methodologies for assessing the adaptation needs of developing country Parties). Hence, we would suggest the AC to strengthen its efforts

¹⁰ Decision 9/CMA.1, para 15.

¹¹ Decision 11/CMA.1, para 15.

¹² Decision 11/CMA.1, para 13.

¹³ Decision 11/CMA.1, para 35.

¹⁴ Decision 19/CMA.1, para 24.

in order to obtain the mandated collaboration from IPCC Working Group II.

21. AC should continue to enhance its collaboration with other constituted bodies and institutional arrangements under the Convention. This is essential for continuing to make the overall work of constituted bodies and institutional arrangements more efficient and coherent, and for avoiding duplication of work.

Meetings of the AC

22. Meetings of the AC have been webcast live via Skype since the 12th meeting. However, before having to switch to virtual meetings due to COVID-19 pandemic, possibilities for active participation of observers was limited only to those observers that could physically attend the meetings;
23. The virtual format used to hold the AC's meetings in response to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions in 2020 and 2021 allowed for broader active participation from observers all over the world. This has been the case for AILAC, who has taken the opportunity of the AC's virtual meetings to actively engage with the AC by providing oral and written inputs at the occasion of these meetings.
24. AILAC acknowledges the challenges associated with the virtual format, as mentioned in the AC's 2021 annual report (reduced discussion time available due to the need to accommodate different time zones; challenges with Internet connectivity).
25. Nevertheless, AILAC believes some sort of compromise could be achieved in order to continue allowing for broad active observer participation in AC's meetings. Hence, we encourage the AC to continue promoting active observer participation in its meetings, including through the use of hybrid formats once in-person meetings will be possible again, as this creates transparency and provides an opportunity for the AC to receive direct feedback from Parties and observer organizations.

Providing technical support and guidance to Parties

26. The focus of this work has been on NAPs as the main vehicle for planning and implementing pre-emptive adaptation at the national level.
27. AILAC is however of the view that the AC could adopt a more holistic approach to the different instruments relevant to adaptation and resilience that were introduced in the Paris Agreement, and extend the focus of its work to other instruments such as the adaptation communications and the biennial transparency reports.
28. AILAC appreciates current work and progress of the AC on the mandate to develop draft supplementary guidance for voluntary use by Parties in communicating adaptation information (which has already been very useful to some AILAC countries in developing their first adaptation communication), but technical support and guidance to Parties on adaptation communications should continue, as needed, after the AC has completed this mandate.

Awareness-raising, outreach and sharing of information

29. AILAC appreciates all the efforts that have been made by the AC and the Secretariat to make improvements in the area of awareness-raising, outreach and information-sharing, e.g., by reviewing and updating its communication strategy, including its mission statement and social media strategy, and issuing a detailed communications plan to implement the strategy.
30. However, despite these efforts AILAC is of the view that the outreach of the AC's products and events continues to face important challenges, as these products and events are still not well known to a number of AILAC countries. Our general impression is that, in most AILAC countries, only those persons working closer to the UNFCCC processes are more aware of the work and

outputs of the AC.

31. One of these challenges relates to accessing information in the adaptation knowledge portal (AKP), e.g., information related to the inventory of methodologies for assessing adaptation needs. AILAC welcomes the general overhaul that is being made to the AKP in order to make it more accessible and user-friendly. It is important that information in the AKP is regularly updated.
32. Another challenge relates to making information available in languages other than English. The AC's 2018 annual report indicates that, during their 2018 half-day informal retreat, members agreed on considering producing outreach materials in languages other than English. However, nothing else on this matter was mentioned in the same and subsequent reports.
33. AILAC is of the view that "adaptation and resilience contact points" nominated by Parties could be a very useful channel for disseminating information and products of the AC (as well as adaptation-related products and events of other bodies and institutional arrangements under the Convention) both at the national and subnational levels. Because of their subject-specificity, these "adaptation and resilience contact points" would be a much more direct channel for communicating on adaptation than the national focal points.
34. AILAC is also of the view that it could be useful for the Secretariat to regularly communicate to Parties and maintain in the AC's webpage:
 - a. An updated table containing past and upcoming adaptation-related products and events of the AC or of other bodies and institutional arrangements under the Convention, with the corresponding hyperlinks to the information.
 - b. An updated list of all existing bulletins and newsletters of the AC and of other adaptation-related institutional arrangements, like the **Adaptation Finance Bulletin** and the **NWP eUpdate newsletter**, including information on how to subscribe.
 - c. An updated list of existing webpages and social media accounts through which adaptation-related information is communicated.
35. Finally, regarding technical and outreach events, we were not able to identify any of them having been celebrated in Latin America, and we ignore if these events have had simultaneous interpretation into other languages different to English, e.g., Spanish. In this regard, it is AILAC's view that the AC should alternate the venue of its meetings and events in a more equitable way between regions, and that it must aim at providing simultaneous interpretation into other UN official languages as necessary.

Workload of AC members and the Secretariat

36. In addition to participating in AC's regular meetings, AC members work intersessionally via electronic means through working groups, participate in regular meetings of other constituted bodies, contribute to and participate in the events that the AC organizes alone or in conjunction with other bodies or organizations, and contribute to and participate in events hosted by those other bodies, among others.
37. AILAC recognizes the significant workload that the foregoing and the multiple COP and CMA mandates may imply for the AC members and the Secretariat.

COVID-19 pandemic challenges

38. AILAC recognizes the efforts and hard work of AC members and the Secretariat to overcome the challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and continue moving forward with its technical work and reaching milestones in the implementation of its flexible workplan 2019-2021.

39. COVID has impacted the work of the AC, but the AC has responded and adapted to the exceptional circumstances, e.g., by switching to virtual meetings and organizing webinars on different issues (adaptation communications; global goal on adaptation).

Underfunding

40. Insufficient resources for duly accomplishing its tasks and responsibilities has been a recurring issue for the AC, as it has been informed in several of the AC's annual reports. Let's recall that, in response to this, decision 11/CMA.1 (para 7) urged developed country Parties and invited other Parties that provide resources on a voluntary basis "to make available sufficient resources for the successful and timely implementation of the work of adaptation-related institutions under the Convention and the Paris Agreement".
41. The inclusion of an update on this important issue in the AC's 2021 annual report would be important in order to be able to inform discussions during the AC's second review.
42. Sufficient resources are a condition for the Committee (and the Secretariat) to be able to duly accomplish all its tasks, including those related to awareness-raising, outreach and information-sharing. Sufficient resources should allow, *inter alia*, for translation of AC products, and simultaneous interpretation of events organized by the AC, into other UN official languages.

The review process

Inputs

43. Relevant inputs to the review could be the following:
- The annual reports of and outputs by the AC and information on work of the NAP task force contained in relevant documents of the AC;
 - The views submitted by Parties on the progress, effectiveness and performance of the AC and on the review process, pursuant to decision 5/CP.22, paragraph 12;
 - The flexible workplans 2016-2018 and 2019-2021 of the AC;
 - Relevant COP and CMA decisions and the Paris Agreement.

Modalities

44. The modalities for the review are the ones that were agreed at COP 22:
- The call for submissions referred to in decision 5/CP.22, paragraph 12;
 - The undertaking of the review by the subsidiary bodies, which can take place in conjunction with their consideration of the 2019, 2020 and 2021 annual reports of the AC.

Expected outcome

45. On the basis of the review undertaken, the subsidiary bodies should prepare a draft decision, including a set of recommendations, for consideration by the COP and the CMA.