



Wilton Park



COP26 PRESIDENCY UK 2022

**DELIVERING THE
GLASGOW CLIMATE PACT**

Report

**COP26 Catalyst for Climate Action Assembly at the
UN Regional Climate Week for Latin America and
Caribbean**

Adaptation action

Friday 14 May 2021 | WP1942V

In association with:



**NAP
Global
Network**



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Summary

Countries from Latin America and the Caribbean shared their perceptions and experiences about Adaptation Communications (ADCOMs) during an open dialogue held during the UN Regional Climate Week.

Participants joined from several countries including, Mexico, Colombia, Ecuador, Chile, Guatemala, Paraguay, Argentina, Jamaica, and Costa Rica.

Introduction

Adaptation communications (ADCOMs) have a critical role in informing the Global Stocktake (due in 2023) as set out in the Paris and Katowice texts.

They provide an opportunity to showcase national adaptation priorities, strategies, policies, plans, goals and actions as well as the implementation and support needs of developing countries, amongst other things.

They also have a role in informing the world about the progress that is being made in terms of implementation of adaptation actions and plans, including at a local level.

In order to inform the Global, Stocktake, the UK COP 26 Presidency is encouraging countries to produce adaptation communications by COP26. As Presidency the UK will provide a platform for countries doing so to showcase what they are doing.

The COP26 Catalyst for Climate Action is focusing on the capacity building needed for countries to develop an ADCOM. This interactive conversation, held during the UN Regional Climate Week for Latin America and the Caribbean, provided a platform for the sharing of experiences and ideas about the ADCOM process, which will lead to recommendations about the collective capacity needed to produce them.

Background to the ADCOM

Adaptation Communications form part of the Paris Agreement article 7. There have been 3 years of process to implement, including outcomes of COPs at Marrakesh and Katowice.

- In Katowice the Adaptation Committee was given a mandate to develop guidelines and a lot of progress has been made since.
- There are also other sources of information and work by other organisations and distinct modes ADCOMs can take.

At the time of this discussion 15 ADCOMs had been presented, 6 of which were from Latin America. Argentina has put forward its 2nd, having put their first forward, along with Uruguay, before the decision on ADCOMs was confirmed. 22 National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) have been submitted, 10 of which are from the Latin American & Caribbean region. Other countries in the region are starting their ADCOM process, for example Chile and Jamaica, or continuing, as Paraguay, as we heard during this session.

The Paris Agreement sets out three different options for submitting and updating an ADCOM:

- As a standalone document
- As a component of 'vehicle document' (e.g., National Adaptation Plan, Nationally Determined Contribution, National Communications, Biennial Transparency Reports)
- In conjunction with a vehicle document (ADCOM + vehicle document submitted together)

Why are ADCOMs important?

Preparing an ADCOM is voluntary. However, during the discussions a varied range of points were put forward as to the value of a country producing an ADCOM. These included:

- a way to raise visibility of adaptation politically
- strengthen adaptation action
- create a better balance with mitigation
- a way to raise visibility of funding needs and an opportunity to apply for funding, including from multilateral funds – e.g., Green Climate Fund (GCF) readiness funding (several countries in the region noted this)
- informing the Global Stocktake due to take place in 2023
- to give a snapshot of where a country is now- even if the country doesn't yet have a NAP; an instrument to show priorities for the future, as well as provide a backward-look for the country
- as policy instruments which can be complementary to the NAP process (e.g., for Paraguay, if a NAP is prepared every 5 years, an ADCOM can play a role in between).
- have a strong planning and policy relevance and role
- provide learning and understand of adaptation needs and actions.
- communicate government goals on adaptation
- a way to talk to different sectors and say it's an opportunity for everyone
- opportunity for tech and innovation

"it wasn't an additional burden, it helped us develop our vision"

"its more than a report"

"donor countries can see our priorities"

"In mitigation you can quantify your indicators. [In adaptation] indicators is a basic problem, people want a say"

- should help in the process of developing sustainably, adding value
- share internationally, both to enable donors to identify country priorities, and good for bilateral and south-south cooperation

There are different views on whether the ADCOM should be a stand-alone or a component of a wider document (e.g., NAP, or NDC) or done in conjunction with another? How they are produced is a political choice for countries. One country-lead noted that including an ADCOM in the NDC raises its visibility further. However, there was concern that ‘this is yet another document’ and might be an additional burden; and questions were raised about how this might link with existing documents. Also noting that there is a distinct difference between the process and the content of the document itself.

Preparing ADCOMs

Several points were noted about the preparation of an ADCOM, including the need to

- summarise activities across sectors and involve the local government and local level (who are being impacted by climate change). The national approach should align with and make links to the **local**; adaptation also needs to be cross cutting across ministries
- some countries start with sectoral plans.
- find the right level of detail for an ADCOM.
- create noise to get as many sectors as possible and people involved to prepare a first draft.
- include specific referencing on the impact climate change has on different populations
- be inclusive, including consider gender and indigenous peoples.

Inclusivity

Building on inclusivity as a key factor in preparing an ADCOM participants commented that:

- it is good to consult with a lot of stakeholder(s) groups, and examples were given of using an **inclusive process**, and planning of national or local significance with for example government, civil society, academia, and sometimes donors involved. Some countries demonstrated the use of this process to include participation of indigenous groups; and have conversations with private sector.
- there is a general recognition that an ADCOM needs to reflect the most **vulnerable groups**, including focusing on people with disabilities. For example, Jamaica has material in braille on climate change.

An ADCOM needs to **incorporate gender** (and Chile, for example, has a bureau for this); build an understanding of the impact of climate change on women; for example, Jamaica is in the process of developing a gender and climate change strategy and action plan to reflect in their ADCOM.

“DCs don’t belong to a ministry, it belongs to a country”

“You need localised approaches for adaptation to be effective and sustainable in the future – what’s come out recently is the need for there to be dedicated programme level gender specialists to ensure that the design of the programme is followed through”

Preparing ADCOMs – capacity building needs

In discussion about how to better prepare an ADCOM several areas where capacity could be built including:

- How to get the **governance** right, recognising that governance is a critical issue, being clear on the purpose and value add of an ADCOM, and the difference with, and relation to other planning processes including the need to work across ministries and integrate stakeholder concerns.
- How to work with and integrate wider **stakeholder** concerns and give vulnerable stakeholders a voice
- How to integrate **gender**; more specialists on gender are needed, not only at a national level, but also on a local and project level. There also need to be exchanges – gender experts with climate capacity, and climate experts with gender capacity.
- How to identify the **right level of detail**, to work across ministries and integrate stakeholder concerns, and integrate the best projects as examples.
- How to build in **monitoring and evaluation** to understand what is working and what isn’t.

Questions countries are asking as they prepare their ADCOM:

- How will we move the process forward? How will it build on existing processes?
- How do we link all the parts of the process?
- How do we develop this in a way which enforces the domestic process?
- How do we make that work?
- What is a country’s priority?

Country experiences

Chile

Chile is working on preparing its ADCOM, building a number of subnational, national, and international plans. This should give visibility to adaptation, doing so in a strategic manner, and linked with other tools such as the NAP and National Communication (NC), adding value. The ADCOM will help Chile set out its priorities and plans which are not visible elsewhere, and to help approach funding, including from multilateral funds.

Jamaica

Jamaica is new to the ADCOM process and working through what is needed, having prepared 3 NCs and now working on the 4th. They have used these instruments to guide the planning processes, develop policy and help prioritise initiatives. Especially vulnerable sectors. Jamaica is also working on a NAP, which may take a couple of years to develop so see the value of doing an ADCOM now. It will also be an advantage to provide a current overview of the adaptation situation in Jamaica, and hopefully elevate the importance of adaptation. In building an ADCOM it will be valuable to outline both the progress made so far and the expected goals. Internationally the ADCOM can help towards the Global Stocktake, be instrumental in developing proposals and get GCF readiness funding.

Paraguay

Preparing its first [ADCOM](#) was considered an achievement by Paraguay. (It was registered with the UNFCCC in July 2021)

There were exercises to do initially, including considering in which report to put the ADCOM (Paraguay chose the NDC), but also how it will link with their NAP. Adaptation to climate change is a national priority for Paraguay, and actions need to be transformative. In terms of approach, they had to summarise activity across sectors and involve local government. They also undertook a public consultation and have received a lot of congratulations for that.

Whilst their NAP must be updated every 5 years, their ADCOM identifies actions that must take place in the mid-term, along the way to the long-term measures to 2030. Their approach is inclusive, talking to different sectors, working with local government, and encouraging people to see it as an opportunity for all. The aim is that it is much more than 'just a report', and that through this approach more sectors and people can get involved in building adaptation.

Costa Roca

Costa Rica submitted its [ADCOM](#) in December 2020 as part of their NDC. Their decision to use this approach was to show priorities for the future, and to raise the profile of adaptation through the visibility this gave.

They took advantage of the participative process in developing their NDC. It also proved a valuable opportunity to develop a vision, building on their national policy on adaptation, take account of risks, and think about the future. Through the process it is also an opportunity to share internationally so donor countries can see the countries' priorities.

Robin Hart, with input from NAP-GN

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Annex

[Adaptation event programme](#)