



## Development & Climate days

Global ambition.

Local action.

Climate resilience for all.

#DCdays17

*Over the last decade, Development & Climate Days (D&C Days) has built a reputation for providing stimulating and interactive debate of topics and issues at the interface of development and climate change during the middle weekend of the UN climate change talks.*

*Transparency and downward accountability, will be one of four key themes explore at this year's D&C Days.*

*This year the host partners have elaborated a strategic plan to contribute to the achievement of the Paris Ambition and seek to do this by bringing evidence into dialogues aimed at influencing key stakeholders – the private sector, the climate negotiators and the climate adaptation community.*

### 3. Transparency and downward accountability

#### International Institute for Environment and Development

The focus of this evidenced theme is climate adaptation. This is because adaptation is closely related to poverty eradication and because issues of transparency and downward accountability are more difficult to assess and therefore less tractable than for mitigation.

Transparency and accountability are arguably the two most important yet complex elements to be negotiated under the Paris Agreement. Despite being addressed separately in the negotiations, they are inherently interlinked.

The Paris Agreement seeks to put in place an enhanced transparency framework<sup>1</sup> for climate change action and support. This framework will guide national reporting of greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories, implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), climate change impacts, adaptation actions and support on financial, technological and capacity-building aspects. In addition, Article 2 of the Agreement seeks to achieve the global adaptation goal of enhancing

adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change.

#### Issues at stake

Although many developing countries have developed their adaptation priorities under their National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), the focus is now on the NDCs. The non-mandatory “adaptation” component of NDC development has insufficient level of detail on how to monitor and report on adaptation measures. Moreover, the many qualitative adaptation targets (such as better adaptive capacity, improved resilience) are more complex and require assessment across a range of levels: global, national, local, and sectoral.

Unlike mitigation, adaptation cannot sensibly be measured or estimated using any single metric. The challenge for the international transparency framework is how to capture adaptation actions and attribute adaptation benefits, as well as review progress

towards the global adaptation goal – a point that is relevant for the NDC review, the global stocktake and biennial reporting by developing countries.

In the context of implementing the NDC adaptation targets, it is critical that knowledge and guidance on adaptation monitoring and evaluation methodologies, successful approaches, innovative methods and tools are collated, assessed, improved and disseminated. Significant effort is needed to establish ways to monitor and evaluate the implementation of NDCs toward adaptation targets, and thereby, to contribute to the enhanced transparency framework of the Paris Agreement.

A number of contentious questions around transparency and downward accountability have emerged following the signing of the Paris climate deal. These will be discussed at sessions during the D&C Days:

- 1) How can we reach a common global transparency mechanism with built-in flexibility that will enable less prepared developing

countries to effectively ratchet up and demonstrate climate action in the coming years?

- 2) What are the modalities, procedures and guidelines for reporting and reviewing, that can support implementation of the Agreement?
- 3) What features of NDCs will help facilitate clarity, transparency and understanding at international level and build trust among Parties?
- 4) What capacity building, financial and other support will be needed and made available for transparency-related activities for developing countries?
- 5) Can transparency and accountability discussions be linked to the current UNFCCC Measuring Reporting and Verification framework, and if so, how?
- 6) What lessons have been learned so far from countries that are communicating their plans and reporting through National Communications, national GHG inventories, Biennial Update Reports, Technology Needs Assessments and NAPs?

7) What will be the linkages between the transparency framework, global stocktake and compliance (e.g. can a review report on implementation of an NDC be a trigger for a case of compliance?)

8) Can the UNFCCC's Compliance Committee really promote and ensure transparency?

The accountability discussion in the UNFCCC is mainly linked to markets, financial support and mitigation activities. Developing countries have large disbursements to support adaptation through bilateral support or from international climate funds. But as implementation of the Paris Agreement gets under way, some technical and institutional blockages are emerging. These are preventing adaptation finance from having an impact on the ground.

Attention has turned to developing mechanisms, tools and approaches that can hold governments to account for ensuring that this finance delivers the intended benefits to vulnerable populations. The experience gained through these initiatives can support a more robust global stocktake for adaptation as laid out in Article 14 of the Paris Agreement and discussions on an enhanced transparency framework under Article 13.

## Development of key messages and influencing strategy

D&C Days is in the process of becoming a more strategic partnership platform. Over a series of events and engagement opportunities, the host partners and participants will harness their experience, evidence and learning into aggregated key messages designed to influence the climate negotiations, business sector planning, and the formulation of climate adaptation strategies in-country.

D&C Days discussion of this theme will examine new, innovative ways of enhancing downward accountability and tracking how equitably the benefits arising from adaptation are shared, as well as how Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are approaching the transparency and accountability framework in the Paris Agreement.

At targeted events during the second week of COP23 we will promote key messages from the transparency and downward accountability evidenced theme at key events targeting different negotiating groups including the LDCs and European Union. We will develop web-based outputs that communicate these messages for stakeholders to refer to and respond during COP23 and beyond. In addition, host partners will develop submissions to the UNFCCC on these key messages.

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<sup>1</sup> Article 13 of the Paris Agreement establishes an enhanced transparency framework for action and support as a core element of the Agreement. The requirements under Article 13 apply to mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology transfer, and capacity building and will therefore play a cross-cutting and critical role in tracking progress against countries NDCs. The transparency framework will also serve to ensure trust among both Parties and their national stakeholders by providing confidence that actions are being implemented fairly, at an adequate pace and scale, and in ways that preserve environmental integrity and prevent free-riding. See: <https://www.wri.org/sites/default/files/mapping-linkages-between-transparency-framework-other-provisions-paris-agreement-exec-summary.pdf>