



Development and Climate Days

Global ambition
Local action

Climate resilience for all
#DCdays18

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.

In 2018 host partners will continue to build on the topic of 'Global ambition. Local action. Climate resilience for all', aiming to influence the 'ambition mechanism' processes under the UNFCCC – particularly the Talanoa Dialogue and global stocktake – and to inform climate action on all levels, looking ahead to 2020.

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

3. Transparency and downward accountability

International Institute for Environment and Development

Effective adaptation can help countries keep sustainable development on track. By investing in transparency and monitoring systems, countries can improve their national planning processes and use these systems for reporting progress under the Paris Agreement. But, although developing countries have large disbursements to support adaptation, technical and institutional blockages are preventing adaptation finance from having an impact on the ground. We need to hold governments to account to ensure this finance delivers the intended benefits to vulnerable populations and supports a more robust global stocktake for adaptation.

Article 13 of the Paris Agreement established an enhanced transparency framework for action and support as a core element. This oversight system ensures the implementation of the agreement's provisions and holds states accountable for their pledges and actions. The framework provides a clear understanding of actions taken to mitigate and adapt to climate change, requiring countries to provide national greenhouse gas inventories

and information to track the implementation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs), climate change impacts, adaptation actions and support on financial, technological and capacity building. It also helps ensure trust among Parties and their national stakeholders by providing confidence that actions are being implemented fairly, at an adequate pace and scale, in ways that preserve environmental integrity and prevent free riding.²

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 adaptation component of NDC development is not mandatory. For those countries that choose to include it, there is insufficient detail on

how to monitor and report on adaptation measures and progress. At the same time, the many qualitative adaptation targets – for example, better adaptive capacity and improved resilience – are complex and require assessment across global, national, local and sectoral levels.

Unlike mitigation, adaptation cannot sensibly be measured or estimated using a single metric. So the challenge for the enhanced transparency framework is this: how can we measure adaptation actions and review progress towards the global adaptation goal? This is crucial for the Global Stocktake.

In the context of implementing the NDC adaptation targets, we must collate, assess, improve and disseminate knowledge and guidance on adaptation monitoring and evaluation methodologies, successful approaches, innovative methods and tools.

At the sessions during the 16th D&C Days, we will discuss a number of practical questions around transparency and adaptation that have emerged since Parties signed the Paris climate deal:

- 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?
- What type of support will we have to make available to enhance adaptation reporting under the enhanced transparency framework for developing countries, particularly the Least Developed Countries?
- What lessons have we learned so far from countries that are communicating their adaptation plans and reporting through national communications, Biennial Update Reports, Technology Needs Assessments and NAPs?
- What are the key information gaps for assessing progress in adaptation at national level?

Transparency negotiations in the UNFCCC cover almost all areas of the Paris Agreement, from mitigation, adaptation and climate change impacts to market mechanisms, financial support, capacity building and technology transfer. Developing

countries have large disbursements to support adaptation through bilateral support or international climate funds. But as implementation of the Paris Agreement gets under way, some technical and institutional blockages are emerging, preventing adaptation finance from having an impact on the ground.

So Parties have turned their attention to developing mechanisms, tools and approaches that can hold governments to account to ensure this finance delivers the intended benefits to vulnerable populations. And we can use the experiences gained through these initiatives to support a more robust global stocktake for adaptation, as laid out in Article 14 of the Paris Agreement and discussions on the enhanced transparency framework under Article 13.

Developing key messages and influencing strategy

D&C Days is becoming a more strategic partnership platform. The 16th D&C Days sessions on climate adaptation and transparency will examine the mechanisms, tools and approaches UNFCCC Parties have developed to hold governments to account. Over a series of events and

engagement opportunities, host partners and participants will harness their experience, the evidence and their 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 discussions around this theme will examine new, innovative ways of enhancing downward accountability and tracking how equitably the benefits arising from adaptation are shared and how the Least Developed Countries are approaching the transparency framework in the Paris Agreement, particularly with reference to transparency of adaptation.

At targeted events during the second week of COP24, we will promote key messages from the transparency and downward accountability evidenced theme, targeting different negotiating groups including the Least Developed Countries and the European Union. We will develop web-based outputs that communicate these messages so stakeholders can refer and respond to them during COP24 and beyond. Host partners will develop submissions to the UNFCCC on these key messages.

¹ See: www.wri.org/sites/default/files/mapping-linkages-between-transparency-framework-other-provisions-paris-agreement-exec-summary.pdf.