



COP25 - SIDE EVENT

Title of the event: Subnational adaptation: Promoting vertical integration in the context of the NAP Process and NDCs

Date: Wednesday, 4 December 2019 (Room Helsinki, EU Pavilion at COP25)

Time: 10:30-12:00

Organizers: United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) in cooperation with the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), through the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Global Network, and World Resources Institute (WRI)

Background:

The negative impacts of climate change are disproportionately borne at the local level by the rural and urban poor in developing countries, where they exacerbate existing development challenges. The complex interconnectivity of climate change impacts and adaptation solutions with social and economic development, governance, and institutional capacity building requires comprehensive and integrated approaches that are likewise highly locally specific. At the same time, adaptation finance should be channeled to subnational level to enhance the resilience and adaptive capacity of communities and local economies, and to take climate action where it is most needed.

Local communities and stakeholders, e.g. local governments, have a key role to play in delivering adaptation results as they are uniquely positioned to know their vulnerabilities and needs, and because they have a stake in the outcome of any adaptation intervention, and if appropriately empowered, have strong incentives to ensure that interventions are efficient, effective and impactful. Recent OECD study estimates that, in 2017, only 19% of total climate finance flowing from the Global North to the South targeted adaptation. Of this meagre amount less than 10% reached the local level, according to some global studies. There is thus growing recognition of the need to increase climate finance flows to the local level.

As countries finalize their National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and review their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), cornerstones for any climate action at both national and sector levels, discussions around the inclusion and integration of the subnational level along these processes have gained momentum. According to the NAP Global Network, “vertical integration is the process of creating intentional and strategic linkages between national and sub-national adaptation planning, implementation and monitoring & evaluation (M&E)”. It is high time that these links are strengthened and made routine in adaptation planning exercises.

This session aims then to discuss and share experiences and lessons learned on vertical integration, focusing on innovative mechanisms that enhance the effectiveness of adaptation finance in reducing vulnerability – including strengthening transparency and responsiveness of donor funding, strengthening ownership and participation of local communities, building the capacity of local stakeholders and of local financial structures to manage finance and deliver adaptation results, addressing issues of equity, in particular the gender dimension, and incentivizing the private sector to invest in adaptation locally.

Sequence:

Setting the scene: Subnational adaptation - 60 mins

David Jackson, Director of the Local Development Finance, UNCDF – Moderator

1. Overview and status of the process to formulate and implement National Adaptation Plans in developing countries (Ms. Hana Hamadalla Mohamed, UNFCCC LEG Chair)
2. Vertical integration: promoting linkages between national and subnational adaptation processes. Examples from Latin American countries (Mr. Daniel Morchain, NAP Global Network)
3. Innovative mechanisms for vertical integration and subnational adaptation financing: Experience from LoCAL Programme in Africa, Asia and the Pacific (Mrs. Sophie De Coninck, UNCDF Programme Manager)
4. Country experience in integrating the subnational level into the NDC and in achieving direct access to GCF for increased local climate finance (representative from Government of Benin)
5. Formulating, financing and implementing local climate action: voices from the field (Representative from subnational Government from Bhutan)
6. Assessing climate change adaptation at subnational level – a standard framework to capture and evidence the additionality of subnational climate action (Mr. Arivudai Nambi Appadurai, World Resources Institute)

Panel discussion (Q&A session): 30 mins

key issues to discuss

1. What is the importance of devolving planning, decision making, and access to finance to local levels for climate action?
2. What are the barriers to channeling adaptation finance to the local level?
3. What approaches are being tested to ensure that adaptation finance responds to the needs of the most vulnerable, and what are some of the lessons learned to date?
4. How can the NAP process create an enabling environment for adaptation action at sub-national levels?

David Jackson, Director of the Local Development Finance, UNCDF – Moderator