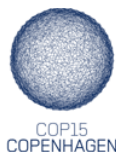


## Building a post-2012 global climate regime

### European Union COP-15 information sheet



Swedish Presidency  
of the European Union



European Commission

## A Framework for Action on Adaptation

- *Adaptation to climate change is an essential complement to mitigating GHG emissions*
- *The Copenhagen agreement should establish a Framework for Action on Adaptation*
- *The framework should foster the UNFCCC's role as a catalyst in mobilising adaptation action by all Parties and relevant organisations*
- *Increased financial support for adaptation, particularly in the most vulnerable developing countries, is needed both for a 'fast start' and beyond 2012*

Keeping global warming under 2°C above the pre-industrial temperature could prevent serious climate change impacts, but even below this level adverse effects will be felt in all countries.

Many vulnerable nations, in particular LDCs and SIDS, are already experiencing adverse climate impacts today. Their ability to cope varies considerably.

The poorest nations, and the most vulnerable sectors of society (the poor, women, children and the elderly), will be hit the hardest. Climate change is already seriously undermining efforts to reduce poverty and hunger in developing countries and posing a major threat to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

The Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and countries in Africa affected by drought, desertification and floods are recognised in the **Bali Action Plan** as being particularly vulnerable to climate change.

Adapting to present and future climate change is thus an essential complement to mitigating GHG emissions and should be

undertaken by all nations. The more mitigation action is taken, the less need there will be for adaptation.

Implementing adaptation actions that are consistent with and integrated into national policy planning – for example sectoral plans or poverty reduction strategies wherever relevant - is key to effective adaptation.

The European Union has proposed a **Framework for Action on Adaptation (FAA)** to enhance the coherence and effectiveness of adaptation action. In Copenhagen, Parties should establish the FAA, agree its guiding principles, functions and means of implementation, and commit to elaborate the details as soon as possible afterwards.

The goal of the FAA is to build a more climate-resilient society through effective adaptation actions as an integral part of sustainable development. The framework would define Parties' roles and responsibilities.

The **UNFCCC** should play a catalytic role in mobilising adaptation activities by all Parties and by relevant international,

regional and national organisations and institutions. Existing institutions at national and regional level should be built on and strengthened where necessary.

**The guiding principles of the FAA would require all Parties to:**

- Commit to undertake effective adaptation that is integrated into and consistent with sustainable development policies and strategies at national and other levels
- prioritise adaptation measures
- put in place enabling environments to ensure an effective and transparent adaptation process
- enhance capacity building efforts
- prioritise the needs and specific circumstances of the poorest and least able to adapt - including indigenous peoples, women, children and the elderly - in planning and development processes at all levels
- identify their own adaptation needs, options and priorities, including disaster risk reduction, management and prevention
- enhance the sharing of information, knowledge and data
- promote broad stakeholder participation in adaptation actions
- promote the coordination and sustainability of activities undertaken within the adaptation framework.

In addition, **developed countries** would commit to:

- Deliver on their GHG mitigation commitments
- Improve access to new, additional and predictable financial flows for adaptation by developing countries.

Financial, technical and capacity-building support for adaptation will need to be increased, particularly for the most vulnerable developing countries. Financing for the implementation of priority actions should be provided through a 'fast-start' deal for 2010-2012, while funding must also be ensured to support adaptation in the longer term (see EU information sheets *Scaling up climate finance for*

*developing countries and Effective governance of international climate finance*).

Support should be provided first for urgent needs such as those identified in **National Adaptation Plans of Action (NAPAs)** and other relevant documents, as well as to prepare for post-2012 action through investments in capacity building, knowledge, data and information systems, and risk reduction and management. Thereafter support should be based on adaptation needs defined by each country.

**Development cooperation** also has an important role to play in supporting adaptation in particularly vulnerable countries. This cooperation should build on support currently provided through bilateral and multilateral channels, including UNFCCC funds and the Adaptation Fund.

All Parties should follow up on the effectiveness of adaptation by **monitoring and reviewing** the implementation of adaptation action and the support given to it. This will allow information and lessons learned to be shared with a view to improving the effectiveness of adaptation actions. Financial support provided and received for adaptation should be reported in Parties' **National Communications**.

**The Global Climate Change Alliance**

The GCCA is an EU initiative aimed at strengthening political dialogue and cooperation on climate change with the most vulnerable and poor developing countries, in particular LDCs and SIDS. GCCA support focuses on adaptation activities, especially in the water and agricultural sectors, on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, on disaster risk reduction and on enhanced participation of LDCs in the carbon market.

**Media contacts:**

Barbara Helfferich, European Commission  
+32 496 583 829  
Lennart Bodén, Swedish EU Presidency  
+46 709 50 22 45