Countries have delayed effective action to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions. This increases the risk of a global temperature rise beyond 2°C, which increases the risks related to the negative impacts of climate change, especially in the poorest countries which will also be the most affected countries. The IPCC has now proven with certainty the link between climate change and natural disasters: flooding in Asia, heat waves—the climate is showing its upsets and calling for urgent action by the international community. Reactive and anticipatory adaptation is an indispensable condition to eradicate poverty worldwide, and its financing is a priority investment for current and future generations. While the Cancun Agreements were an important step with the creation of the adaptation framework, the Durban Conference must send a strong signal in favor of climate justice and propose new forms of international cooperation.

The framework for adaptation must foster an integrated climate-development vision.
Beyond distinctions between adaptation and mitigation and between adaptation and development, the aim is to unite the fight against climate change with the fight against poverty in an optic of development accessible for all in the coming decade. We will not be able to attain the Millennium Development Goals unless climate change is integrated into development strategies. This is accomplished through a democratic process and greater interdisciplinary expertise.

**Our Priorities for Adaptation**
- The Adaptation Committee’s composition and operating modalities should reflect the requirement of equity and transparency.
- The national adaptation plans must be made more operational.
- Coherence must be built from the local to the global level: integrate local and territorial realities, skills and knowledge.
- Prevent losses and damages rather than repair them.

**The adaptation framework must take into account the realities in the field,** in all their diversity and complexity. To fulfill this requirement, governance of the framework must foster dialogue with the representatives of major groups, and define and strengthen their role: women, NGOs, employees and unions, local authorities, scientific and technical communities, children and youths, farmers, indigenous peoples and communities, businesses and industries.
1. Ensure transparency and equity in the composition and operating modalities of the Adaptation Committee

- **Give the Committee a technical and coordinating role.**

The Adaptation Framework should not only help people understand climate change adaptation challenges at the global level, but it should also help them adapt at the regional, national and local level. The role of the Adaptation Committee should lie between science and policy. It is the central body in a vast, multi-thematic system. It should be linked to other institutions and it should connect realities on the ground global challenges.

- **Guarantee the representativeness of its components, the legitimacy of its (elected) members, transparent communication, and a shared assessment process.**

The equity principle will only be ensured if the diversity of geographic areas and States as well as various development situations are represented. In particular, countries that are especially vulnerable to climate change—Aosis, LDCs, Africa Group and mountainous countries—should be represented. The Adaptation Committee will rely on multidisciplinary expertise for an integrated vision of adaptation challenges, mitigation, development and poverty alleviation.

- **Recognize and strengthen the role of observers.**

Representatives of Major Groups, notably women, should be able to contribute to the debate and submit proposals on the definition of the Adaptation Committees specific functions and/or priorities.

- **Establish a direct connection between the Adaptation Committee and the Green Climate Fund:**

The alignment of the adaptation and finance components of the international negotiations is a pressing demand by developing countries. The Adaptation Committee should be able to provide the Green Climate Fund with advice on the allocation of financial support. This would help to deliver suitable and sustainable financial resources to support the implementation of action plans, and favor direct access to adaptation finance by local actors (local governments, NGOs) to promote coherence—not competition—between different levels of intervention (regional, national, and territorial).

2. Make the national adaptation plans more operational

- **Define flexible orientations for national adaptation plans:**

The National Adaptation Programs of Action (NAPAs) aimed to identify and prioritize urgent adaptation needs, while the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) are supposed to be more general and inter-sectoral, covering medium- and long-term needs and integrated into countries’ development plans. Guidelines should not be imposed on States; they must instead offer cooperation, financial and technological modalities and tools to allow States to determine suitable integrated development strategies focusing on action. The recommended roadmaps and tools should allow for flexibility and be adapted to territorial realities.
Favor the emergence of democratic processes.
The elaboration of national adaptation plans must arise from a democratic process and must not in any way be imposed. The NAPs will in this way be elaborated through public participation and open the way to democratic processes for the elaboration and implementation of territorial strategies. The involvement of socioeconomic actors, including the private sector, and the consideration of indigenous and traditional knowledge are crucial.

Coordinate national adaptation plans with other planning documents.
The proliferation of planning documents and strategies dilutes efforts and financial resources, and fuels contradictions. Poverty alleviation, disaster risk reduction, economic development, agricultural development, emission mitigation (NAMAs), biodiversity protection, fighting desertification and soil degradation, food security, etc. Coordinating all these strategies is necessary to ensure coherence, effectiveness and efficiency.

Support the development of regional centers to coordinate research and support capacity building.

Guarantee reliable and lasting public funding in the form of grants.
The Conference of the Parties must take note of the difficulties encountered by the Parties in financing and implementing the NAPAs, and adjust institutional and operational support.

Build coherence from the local to the global level: Integrate local and territorial realities, skills and knowledge

Improve the definition and consideration of vulnerability to the impacts of climate change.
Vulnerability is a complex, multifaceted reality that is difficult to grasp at the global level because of the heterogeneity of national and territorial circumstances, the diversity of impacts, and the uncertainty of knowledge on local and/or long-term impacts. Evaluating vulnerabilities is, however, necessary when defining priorities for action and funding at the international level. The first step is therefore to determine a shared definition of vulnerability based on a bottom-up approach to adaptation.

Set up regional rankings by geographic entity rather than countries, via research centers. This would improve the understanding of vulnerabilities, foster capacity building and facilitate access to technologies and adequate financial support.

Take into account territorial criteria: socioeconomic, geographic (coastal, arid, mountainous, etc.), and institutional contexts.

Strengthen the role of the Nairobi Work Program.
This program came to an end in 2010, and COP16 was an opportunity to assess it and decide whether or not to continue it. Faced with the limitations of this program (highly technical, not adapted to country needs, little operational, failing dissemination system, etc.), new priorities need to be set:

> Establish thematic work programs on water, food and agriculture, infrastructures and human settlements, ecosystems, and energy;
> Improve consideration of gender as a cross-cutting theme in the various areas of the work program;

> Involve stakeholders and representatives of major groups through direct contributions; and

> Facilitate wide dissemination of knowledge and information so as to make it available to anyone.

4 Loss and damage: Prevent and prepare rather than repent and repair

❖ Make a potential Loss and Damage Mechanism conditional on global action to reduce emissions in accordance with scientific information.

The search for a world insurance system is a last-ditch solution in response to the delays in taking action to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. It must not replace these efforts.

❖ Disaster risks Prevention: Apply the Hyogo Framework for Action.

Risk reduction should be considered a national priority by States and territories, and should be addressed accordingly:

> Prepare communities by creating a culture of safety and resilience at all levels through information, awareness and training; and

> Step up Research and Development, and observation and warning systems. To this aim, new forms of technical cooperation, backed by international institutional and financial support, should be proposed.

❖ Reduce vulnerabilities upstream.

The aim is to adapt or shift development plans to steer them towards low carbon strategies that are resilient to the impacts of climate change. This implies:

> Improving policy coherence: development and urban planning, energy and environment policies, etc. Territorial stakeholders have a key role to play in this respect, and must be involved in setting international priorities; and

> Identifying technical solutions to adapt agricultural, industrial and energy production techniques, construction techniques, etc. to new climate adaptation challenges.

Coordination SUD (Solidarity, Relief, Development) is the national platform of French development and relief NGOs. Founded in 1994, it brings together more than 130 member NGOs and 6 member networks (CLONG-Volontariat, CNAJEP, Coordination d’Agen, CRID, FORIM, Groupe Initiatives) that are active in the fields of humanitarian relief, development assistance, environmental protection, and human-right defense. Member NGOs work together in specific working groups on various issues to align their positions and build shared advocacy campaigns.

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Coordination SUD’s Climate and Development Working Group (CDWG) works on the links between development and climate change. It brings together approximately thirty development and environmental NGOs that are members of Coordination SUD and/or Climate Action Network France (CAN-F). CDWG is lead by Gret. Its objectives are: to facilitate experience and information sharing among member organizations; to raise awareness among French development and relief NGOs on climate-related issues and help them mainstream climate change issues in their projects; to help member organizations build collective positions on climate change mitigation and adaptation in developing countries; and carry out advocacy and reporting work in the international climate change negotiations.