



1st meeting of the Methodology Panel to support the work of the interim Adaptation Benefits Mechanism Executive Committee

13 July 2021

The meeting took place remotely from 12:00-14:30 GMT

Report

I. Opening of the meeting.

1. The first meeting of the Methodology Panel (ABM MP) to support the work of the interim Adaptation Benefits Mechanism Executive Committee (ABM EC) was conducted remotely. The ABM MP Chair, Mr. Daouda Ndiaye, and the ABM MP Vice-Chair, Mr. Axel Michaelowa, opened and presided over the meeting. The ABM Vice-Chair informed that he will recuse himself from the discussion under agenda item IV on consideration of a new ABM methodology, due to conflict of interest, as the methodology subject to discussion was prepared by the Perspectives Climate Group, of which he is a founding partner. The ABM MP requested the ABM secretariat to circulate the methodology to the ABM MP. The ABM MP adopted the agenda as proposed.

II. Tasks of the ABM Methodology Panel.

2. The ABM Vice-Chair explained the key roles of the ABM MP concerning the process for approval of a new ABM methodology and the critical activities of ABM MP members in supporting the ABM MP Chair and Vice-Chair with selecting experts for the Roster of Experts and for forming Activity Specific Methodology Panels (AMPs of at least five experts), as well as with preparing documents for consideration by the ABM EC, such as on principles, criteria and indicators, what is new and additional, etc. He informed that a draft document regarding typologies/adaptation areas is available and emphasized that it is important that the ABM MP continuously reviews approaches of other institutions and literature and provides recommendations to the ABM EC. He concluded that the overall goal is to have in place a credible and robust approach to generate adaptation benefits and alerted about the need to learn from other processes and try not to repeat earlier mistakes that can lead to conflicts or very long approval processes. He called on ABM MP members to consider the ABM process as a lighthouse exercise and work towards operationalizing it in a way that can become an example to others.

3. The ABM secretariat presented the key elements of the Terms of Reference for the ABM Methodology Panel¹ and for the members of the Roster of Experts², as well as of the procedure for approval of new ABM methodologies³ with the view to clarify further the organization of work of the ABM MP, the procedures, the tasks of the ABM MP members and the differences between the ABM MP and the Activity-specific Methodology Panel (AMP). After the presentation, the ABM MP engaged in a discussion on the following topics:

- (a) How to ensure that the ABM MP selects the right people from the roster for an AMP, given the characteristics of a submitted ABM methodology, tool, etc.? How shall we deal with methodology submissions for activity types for which there is no dedicated expertise in the roster?
- (b) What should be the generic criteria for allocation of an MP member to an AMP?
- (c) How to ensure that the process works within the agreed timeline, including through adequate facilitation by the ABM secretariat?
- (d) How to we ensure that we apply robust and stable generic principles to our work given the wide range of possible adaptation benefits for which methodologies may be proposed? This relates both to the methodology-specific work as well as the generic work like the Guideline on Activity Types that is to be developed.

4. The ABM MP took note of the explanation of the ABM MP Vice-Chair and of the presentation by the ABM secretariat and agreed that the Roster of Experts of 21 experts is well-balanced and in terms of expertise.

5. The ABM MP acknowledged the need to recruit more Francophone and female members in the future, subject to the availability of resources. The ABM Chair noted that in the past, there were bad experiences with the Clean Development Mechanism, where materials were not provided in French and that in the case of the ABM, especially, because it is being piloted in Africa, it is crucial to ensure access to information of Francophone Africans, which account for about half of the African population.

6. The ABM MP also acknowledged that there might be gaps in the Roster regarding areas of expertise or technologies for adaptation that may become evident in time and noted the need to examine the current areas of expertise in the Roster before defining selection criteria for AMPs.

¹ Document ABM EC/2020/7/5 - Terms of Reference for an interim Methodology Panel to support the work of the interim Adaptation Benefits Mechanism Executive Committee.

² Excerpt of the Request for Expressions of Interest - Terms of Reference for members of the Roster of Experts for the Methodology Panel of the interim Adaptation Benefits Mechanism Executive Committee.

³ Document ABM EC/2020/6/4 - Procedure for approval of a new, revision of an existing, or request for clarification concerning an Adaptation Benefit Mechanism Methodology or a Methodological Tool.

7. The ABM MP noted that the Guidelines on the approval of new ABM methodologies states that only approved submissions will be published, while in the case of the Clean Development Mechanism also rejected methodologies were published and that they were also an important source for learning.
8. The ABM MP also noted the importance of raising awareness on the ABM during COP26, both in the negotiations as at side-events and in the media.
9. The ABM MP exchanged information about on-going work of other organizations on adaptation indicators and metrics, such as of the IFAM, ISO, AAA and Agnes and noted that the ABM MP could bring all information together. The ABM secretariat offered to make a training of the African Development Bank on the Theory of Change and the results-based framework, which are important elements of adaptation proposals, to the ABM MP and its Roster of Experts.
10. The ABM MP agreed to ask all members of the Roster of Experts to look in their network and suggest proactively qualified Francophone and female candidates, preferably covering also any yet to be identified gaps in expertise.
11. The ABM MP also agreed to consider recruiting more experts on a case-by-case basis, while considering the submissions of new ABM methodologies.
12. The ABM MP further agreed to recommend to the ABM EC to request support for French translations with the view to making more information related to the ABM available in French.
13. The ABM MP decided to propose to the ABM EC to revise the guidelines on the process for approval of new ABM methodologies to publish also rejected submissions with the view to enhance transparency and facilitate learning.
14. The ABM MP also decided to have at least two ABM MP members on each ABM AMP, in addition to the Chair or Vice-Chair.
15. The ABM MP requested the secretariat to share the list with the Roster of Experts with the MP members for information.

III. Organization of work.

16. The ABM secretariat presented a summary of the Strategic Plan for the ABM Pilot Phase⁴; the internal document comprising a monitoring tool for work plan for the ABM EC for 2021⁵, the tasks already identified for the ABM MP and the likely inflow of new ABM methodologies submissions in 2021. The ABM MP Chair and Vice-Chair introduce the generic topics to be dealt with by the ABM MP. After the presentation,

⁴ Document ABM EC/2020/7/3 – Adaptation Benefits Mechanism Pilot Phase Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

⁵ ABM EC/2021/11/4 – Monitoring tool for the work plan of the ABM EC for 2021

the ABM MP engaged in a discussion on a work plan for the ABM MP for 2021, including on:

- (a) Key strategic documents to be developed in the course of 2021. These documents include:
 - (i) A note on principles, criteria and indicators regarding the determination of adaptation benefits, building on the work of international, multilateral and bilateral institutions funding adaptation activities as well as the scientific literature. This note should inform the Guidelines on activity types;
 - (ii) Guidelines on activity types;
 - (iii) Guidelines on demonstrating that an ABM activity is new and not business-as-usual;
 - (iv) Guidelines on environmental and social safeguards, including on gender and youth;
- (b) Allocation of work to ABM MP members in the run-up to next meeting.

17. The ABM MP took note of the presentation by the ABM secretariat and undertook to publish for public inputs relevant documents and tools to be prepared by the ABM MP.

18. The ABM MP agreed to undertake the proposed work, while prioritizing the development of templates for the submission of new ABM methodologies and the note on principles, criteria and indicators regarding the determination of adaptation benefits.

19. The ABM MP also agreed on how to divide tasks among ABM MP members.

20. The ABM MP requested the ABM secretariat to share the draft document on activity types with the ABM MP for consideration. The ABM MP also requested the ABM secretariat share the already adopted ABM Social and Environmental Safeguards with the Roster of Experts for information and comments.

IV. Consideration of proposed new methodologies.

21. The ABM MP Vice-Chair recused himself from the discussion under this agenda item, as announced during the opening of the meeting. The ABM secretariat presented a summary of the first submitted new ABM methodology concerning potato storage using green cooling technology as a measure against climate-induced raising temperatures, which is developed for a GIZ-funded project in Kenya.

22. The ABM MP appointed the ABM MP Chair, Mr. Daouda Ndiaye and the ABM MP members, Mr. Randall Spalding-Fecher and Mr. Gibson Kiragou to represent the ABM MP in the AMP for this methodology. The ABM MP decided to launch the work of the ABM MP per Friday, 16 July 2021, by inviting the ABM secretariat to complete the completeness check and initiating the formation of the first AMP.

V. Date and place for the next meeting.

23. The ABM MP agreed to hold its next remote meeting indicatively in the third week of September 2021, taking into account other African events, and to decide on the date and priority issues for discussion per e-mail after the meeting.

24. The ABM MP requested the ABM secretariat and OneWorld to assist with organizing the next meeting.

VI. AOB and closure.

25. The ABM MP agreed requested the ABM secretariat in consultation with the ABM MP Chair and Vice-Chair to share a draft agenda at least three weeks in advance. The ABM MP Chair and Vice-Chair commended the ABM MP with launching the work on the formation of the first AMP and thanked the ABM MP members for the very constructive first meeting, as well as the ABM secretariat and OneWorld for their assistance. The first meeting of the ABM MP closed on Tuesday, 13 July 2021, at 14:30 GMT.

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