



Climate Change Advisory Council Adaptation Committee Meeting – MINUTES

Date: 04.05.22

Start time: 9.00

Venue: Video conference

Present: Prof. Peter Thorne (Chair); Keith Lambkin; Prof. Conor Murphy; Roger Street; Jillian Mahon; Sinéad O'Brien; Mark Adamson; Prof. Robert Devoy; Paddy Mahon; David Joyce; Dr. Julie Clarke; John Spink (alternate, Teagasc); Mary Frances Rochford (alternate, EPA)

Apologies: Dr. Ina Kelly

Secretariat: George Hussey, Seán O'Leary, Phillip O'Brien; Gemma O'Reilly; Meabh Gallagher; Gina Kelly; Ciara Hilliard, Therese Myslinski, Laura Marengo

Present for items 3 and 4: Daniela Schmidt (present for item 3 only); Justina Corcoran; Kevin McCormick

1. Opening of Meeting

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming everyone present. Apologies were noted from Dr. Ina Kelly.

1.1 Minutes from the 24.02.22 Adaptation Committee Meeting

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on the 24th February 2022 were agreed and signed electronically by the Chair, subject to the amendment of the attendance list to include David Joyce and Julie Clarke, and a correction regarding the date of the previous meeting.

1.2 Adoption of Agenda

The agenda of the meeting was adopted.

1.3 Disclosure of interest

There were no disclosures of interest to report.

2. Council Update

An update from the Council meeting of the 31st March 2022 was provided, including that the 2022 workplan proposed by the Committee was adopted. It was noted that that this year's annual adaptation workshop should ensure opportunities for more participant interaction. It was noted that the Council agreed to publish the three small scale adaptation studies, which the Committee had proposed, on the Council website.

Further updates included that following discussions regarding energy security and climate action a letter was sent to the Minister, Taoiseach and Tánaiste on the 12th April, which is now available on the Council website; that a Communications subgroup of the Council had been established; that DECC had presented to the Council regarding the European Green Deal; that the Council's draft statement of strategy was discussed; that the OECD workshop on transport was discussed and had since taken place; and that the Council had discussed how best to engage with the nascent International Climate Council Network.

3. Presentation on IPCC WGII Report

Prof. Daniela Schmidt, one of the coordinating lead authors on the Europe chapter of the IPCC WGII Sixth Assessment Report, presented an overview of the report and the chapter's key findings to the Committee, including the four key risks to Europe caused by climate change, how those differ across the regions of Europe, and the variety of methodologies and options that need to be considered in Europe's efforts to adapt to the changing climate.

Committee members were then invited to ask questions of Prof. Schmidt, and discussion topics included the importance of ecosystems, adaptation and food and agriculture, risk assessment tools, climate resilient development, just resilience, transformative adaptation, the place-dependence of actions and the need to effectively monitor any adaptation measure put in place.

Any Committee members with further questions were invited to contact Prof. Schmidt via the contact details provided.

4. Engagement with representatives of DECC

Justina Corcoran and Kevin McCormick from the Aarhus, Climate Adaptation and Citizen Engagement Division of DECC provided an update on progress with the NAF review and adaptation indicator development, a national climate change risk assessment, developments in local government and the EU Working Group on Adaptation and the EU Mission on Adaptation.

The Committee asked for clarifications in relation to the role of adaptation within the Climate Action Plan and, amongst other matters, the increased bilateral engagement with sectors in the preparation of the Climate Action Plan was discussed, along with opportunities for greater integration of adaptation across other statutory plans. It was noted that the Council's advice on the NAF review will be contained in the Annual Review 2022.

DECC will be invited to the September Committee meeting to discuss progress on the NAF public consultation and review of International adaptation topics including the Global Stocktake.

5. Annual Review and Adaptation Scorecard

The Secretariat provided an update on this year's adaptation scorecard, stating that the scorecard questionnaire had been issued on 21st April with a closing date of 13th May. A preliminary analysis will be issued to the Committee for written feedback, after which the

preliminary assessment would be sent to respondents for observations ahead of finalising the assessment in the Annual Review.

The First Order Draft of the adaptation chapters of the Annual Review was considered and a revised draft will be provided to the Committee in June. It was proposed and agreed (subject to Council approval) that the scorecard be given a chapter in its own right within the Council's Annual Review.

6. Adaptation Workshop

A discussion was had regarding the theme for this year's Adaptation Workshop to be held in September. It was agreed that a poll on the topics suggested (critical infrastructure with a focus on energy infrastructure, just resilience and ecosystem-based adaptation) would be sent out by the Secretariat and that Committee members would be given 48h to respond.

7. Terms of Reference

The Secretariat informed the Committee that the Committee's Terms of Reference would be changed to reflect the amended Climate Act and to have regard to the changes within the Council's operating guidance. Committee members were invited to return any comments on the current Terms of Reference to the Secretariat and a proposed revised Terms of Reference will be developed by the Secretariat and Chair.

8. AOB, Agreed Outcomes and Plans for Next Meeting

The Chair announced that Seán O'Leary would be leaving the Secretariat and thanked him for his work on behalf of the Committee, and wished him good luck in his new role. The Committee seconded the Chair in their thanks and best wishes for the future.

A reminder was given that the European Commission's First Forum of the Mission Adaptation to Climate Change would be taking place on 7th June 2022 in the premises of the Committee of Regions in Brussels and online, and that the Secretariat would provide further details to members.

The next Committee meeting would take place in a hybrid format on 23rd June. The in-person venue was expected to be Trinity College Dublin.

P. W. 

signed electronically on 23.06.2022