



Climate Change Advisory Council Adaptation Committee Meeting - MINUTES

Date: 23.06.2022

Start time: 09:30

Venue: TCD FEMS Conference Room, 27-29 Westland Row, Dublin 2 and on MS Teams

Present: Prof. Peter Thorne (Chair); Keith Lambkin; Prof. Conor Murphy; Roger Street; Jillian Mahon; Sinéad O'Brien (present for items 2,3 and 4); Mark Adamson (abstained from Item 4 scorecard discussion); Prof. Robert Devoy; Dr. Ina Kelly; David Joyce; Dr. Julie Clarke; John Spink (alternate, Teagasc); Mary Frances Rochford (alternate, EPA)

Apologies: Paddy Mahon

Secretariat: George Hussey, Phillip O'Brien, Ciara Hilliard, Laura Marengo.

1. Opening of Meeting

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming everyone present. Apologies were noted for Paddy Mahon.

a. Minutes for the Adaptation Committee

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on the 4th May 2022 were agreed and signed electronically by the Chair.

b. Adoption of agenda

The agenda for the meeting was adopted.

c. Disclosure of interests

It was noted that Prof. Peter Thorne had been invited to join the Central Bank fiscal group.

Mark Adamson noted that, for reasons of conflicting interest, he would not participate in the adaptation scorecard discussions regarding flood risk management.

2. Council update

An update from the Council meeting of the 26th May 2022 was provided. It was noted that the Council's Statement of Strategy 2022-2026 was agreed and subsequently published on

the Council website. The Council's second revision of the Operational Guidance Document was not finalised and therefore the Committee's Terms of Reference could not be progressed in this Committee meeting. Council also approved a high-level work programme, beginning in 2022, to plan the analytical process of developing the second programme of Carbon Budgets by 2024. The budgets for 2022 and 2023 were also discussed, and it was determined that the 2022 Annual Review would be submitted to the Minister by late July in order to best inform the new Climate Action Plan and new National Adaptation Framework.

Following a discussion from the Council meeting of 26th May, the Committee Chair suggested that the Committee might consider inviting the Department of Foreign Affairs to discuss Ireland's contribution to international adaptation in developing countries.

The Committee was also reminded that over the past few months a number of sectoral engagement meetings have been held by the Council with the electricity, built environment, transport, enterprise, agriculture and land use sectors, as well as with the Department of the Taoiseach and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform to inform the writing of the Annual Review. With the exception of the meeting with the enterprise sector, all of these meetings also covered the topic of adaptation.

3. Annual Review

The Committee was reminded that the three chapters of the Annual Review for which the Committee is responsible had been revised according to the Committee's comments during and following the previous Committee meeting. The Chair informed the Committee that Chapter 4 will be published as part of the Annual Review but might also be sent to the Minister separately with a cover letter to underline its contribution to the National Adaptation Framework.

There was discussion regarding the number and order of recommendations, possible overlap between recommendations, and length of wording of recommendations within Chapter 4. It was agreed that all notes for the Secretariat would be sent in writing by the 30th June.

JBA Consulting presented their report commissioned by the Committee on the 2022 Adaptation Scorecard. It was noted that two sectors did not engage fully with the process, partly due to the quick turnaround times required, and that it could be advantageous to begin next year's process earlier. The Committee considered options to improve sectoral engagement with the scorecard process going forward.

The Secretariat proposed a possible format for Chapter 3 of the Annual Review based on the findings of the JBA report and that it would present a draft for comment to the Committee by close of business on Monday 27th June.

4. Adaptation Workshop

The Committee was reminded that the theme for this year's Adaptation Workshop, decided by a voting process subsequent to the previous Committee meeting, would be "resilience of critical energy infrastructure". A subgroup of Committee members was established, to continue logistics discussions for the workshop, composed of the Chair, Julie Clarke, Jillian Mahon, Keith Lamkin and Conor Murphy.

5. Discussion on climate projections

Dr Fai Fung of the UK Met Office presented an overview of the UK Climate Projections developed to provide the most up to date assessment of how the UK climate may change in the future, and what these tools provide by way of information regarding Ireland. Committee members were then invited to ask questions and discussion topics included the market demand for city-specific future climate projections, the handling of uncertainties within the models, the use of storylines as a public engagement tool, the variability of engagement between sectors, and the data resolution of the sea level predictions. Dr Fai Fung said that he would be happy to send on links to where the data discussed could be found, and that he would be happy to answer any further questions Committee members might have by email. The Secretariat undertook to pass on his contact details.

6. AOB, agreed outcomes and plans for next meeting

The Committee was reminded that the Minister launched the public consultation for the review of the National Adaptation Framework on the 25th May, and any interested Committee members would be invited to attend the progress report meeting for the study on International Adaptation Lessons for Ireland being undertaken by Dr Pius Yanda, the date of which would be communicated by the Secretariat in the coming weeks. Marc Adamson provided an update on the National Coastal Change Management Strategy Steering Group. Conor Murphy suggested that it might be of use to hear from Fisheries Ireland regarding the vulnerability of Irish inland fisheries to climate change and adaptation actions in other sectors. Keith Lambkin told the Committee that Cabinet had recently approved the establishment of an Irish National Framework for Climate Services, the coordination of the development of which is to be led by Met Éireann, and that this framework will put the ongoing work of the Met Éireann TRANSLATE project onto a permanent footing. Dr Ina Kelly expressed an interest in discussing the topic of migration as a Committee so as to arrive at recommendations for a coordinated and adaptation-conscious national policy on climate/emergency immigration into Ireland.

The Committee was informed that two new adaptation members of the Secretariat were in the process of being recruited. A reminder was provided regarding the deadlines for communication with the Secretariat regarding comments on the JBA Consulting report, the three chapters of the Annual Review, and details of the Adaptation Workshop.

The date and venue of the next Committee meeting would be communicated following the outcome of the poll and subgroup discussions.

P. W. 

Signed electronically on 07.09.2022