



Climate Change Advisory Council Adaptation Committee Meeting - MINUTES

Date: 27.06.2024

Start time: 09:30

Venue: MS Teams

Present: Prof. Peter Thorne (Chair); Robert Burns (representing Liam Conneally); Dr Julie Clarke; Prof. Robert Devoy; David Joyce; Keith Lambkin; Jillian Mahon; John Spink; Prof. Conor Murphy; Dr Conor Quinlan (alternate, EPA); Roger Street.

Secretariat: George Hussey; Dr Stephen Flood; Bryn Canniffe; Claire Camilleri, Phillip O' Brien, Katherine Dooley.

Apologies: Mark Adamson; Liam Conneally; Ina Kelly.

Agenda Item 5: Mary-Frances Rochford (EPA)

1. Opening of Meeting (09:30)

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming everyone present.

a. Minutes for the Adaptation Committee

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on the 23rd May 2024 were approved.

b. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted without amendments.

c. Disclosures of Interest

Keith Lambkin disclosed that he is a member of the steering committee for the national climate change risk assessment in terms of agenda item 5. This was not considered a conflict of interest.

2. Council Update (09:35)

The Chair briefed the Committee on the key outcomes from the Climate Change Advisory Council meeting that took place on 13th June 2024. The developments around the establishment of the just transition commission were discussed. It was suggested that the issue of just adaptation and resilience should be referenced in the memorandum of understanding being developed between the Council and DECC with respect to the just transition commission and that this aspect should feature in the work of the commission. These suggestions were noted.

The launch date for the changing climate chapter of the annual review in 2025 was discussed and it was suggested for this chapter to be published in January in future and that it should cover the preceding calendar year.

3. Secretariat Update (09:45)

The Secretariat provided a verbal update of the main events that took place since the previous Adaptation Committee meeting.

- **National Adaptation Framework and Sectoral Adaptation Guidelines**

It was noted that the new National Adaptation Framework was published on 5th June and that the Secretariat made a submission on behalf of the Committee on the draft sectoral adaptation plan guidelines.

- **New Economy and Recovery Authority (NewERA) workshop**

It was noted that a workshop was taking place with NewERA NTMA on the topic of climate change resilience with the 26 commercial semi-state bodies on 10th September 2024 at the NTMA's Dublin office. The Committee members emphasized the importance of this workshop as several commercial semi-states were considered to be lacking knowledge of adaptation and that issues of adaptation and resilience are not well reflected in NewERA's climate action plan.

- **New Adaptation Committee Member**

The secretariat informed the meeting that the shortlisting process was completed for the vacancy on the committee for a person with expertise on biodiversity and adaptation. It was stated that a

recommendation is planned to be submitted to the July meeting of the Council for its consideration.

- **Stakeholder engagement event to launch the adaptation annual review**

The secretariat informed the meeting that a stakeholder engagement event was being planned to take place on 10th September to launch the adaptation preparedness annual review at a venue to be confirmed in Dublin. It was indicated that the secretariat would provide an invitation and further information to the committee members shortly.

- **Policy Forum for Ireland Seminar**

The Secretariat reported that a Policy Forum for Ireland Seminar on the next steps for climate adaptation in Ireland had taken place the previous day. It was noted that Prof. Conor Murphy had provided the keynote address on the main findings of the Irish Climate Change Assessment and that Dr. Stephen Flood also presented on priorities for fair and just adaptation.

- **Biodiversity Webinar**

The Secretariat reported that it is in the process of preparing a webinar on the linkages between biodiversity and climate action to take place during the week of 16-22 September. It was suggested to give greater attention to the issue of agriculture and biodiversity in the webinar.

- **Research Projects**

The secretariat gave a status update to the committee on progress being made in each of the research studies that have been commissioned through the committee.

4. Annual Review 2024 (10.00)

The secretariat presented the draft recommendations of the sectoral reviews for changing climate and adaptation preparedness. The Committee discussed the draft recommendations and were also invited to provide inputs in writing on the recommendations and content the draft chapters that were circulated. The draft resilience recommendations from the agriculture, forestry and land use chapter were also presented and members were invited to submit any comments via email to the secretariat.

5. National Climate Change Risk Assessment (11.10)

Ms. Mary-Frances Rochford and Dr Conor Quinlan (both EPA) provided an overview presentation of the National Climate Change Risk Assessment. The committee members discussed the methodology of the assessment and its role in ensuring policy coherency and adaptive capacity. The committee members commended the EPA for the substantive work that had been undertaken and thanked Ms. Rochford and Dr. Quinlan for the presentation.

6. Adaptation Scorecard Assessment (11:55)

The secretariat provided an overview of the 2024 adaptation scorecard assessment report. The committee members provided inputs and suggestions to improve the report and were also invited to provide comments on the draft that was circulated.

7. Scorecard reflections and plan for 2025 (12.25)

The secretariat provided reflections on the 2024 scorecard and committee members also provided inputs on the strengths and weaknesses of the scorecard and possibilities for improvement. The secretariat was requested to come up with a proposal for the scorecard in 2025 for discussion at the December meeting bearing in mind the reflections and suggestions made by the committee members.

8. AOB, agreed outcomes and plans for next meeting

a) Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting was scheduled for the 12th September 2024 and would be held in-person at Cork City Council.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P.W.' followed by a stylized flourish.

Signed electronically on 13.09.2024