

Climate change adaptation and associated policy challenges: an international and national perspective

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Presentation Outline

1. Description of challenges to developing policy approaches for adaptation.
2. Overview of capacities of governments and international community to take action.
3. Update on international negotiations on adaptation policy.
4. Update on national adaptation policies.
5. Noting of significant non-government policy development.

Common challenges in policy development around climate change adaptation

- Uncertainty of nature, severity and timing of impacts.
- Likely scale of impacts unclear.
- Balancing risk among diverse ecosystems, sectors and communities.
- Only rudimentary tools available for analysing adaptation actions.
- Rationale for targeting resources is consistently politically loaded.



What tools do governments have?

Provide information

Deliver incentives

Compel action

I'M FROM THE
GOVERNMENT,
I'M HERE
TO HELP



Key issue for governments & the international community



Governments have limited budgets and attention – they can only intervene where absolutely needed.

Governments need citizens and organisations to take autonomous action.

There remains uncertainty about whether, when and how the impacts of climate change will require direct government action.

Climate change adaptation policy in 2010

The feedback from Copenhagen:

The **good news** – significant monies are available and a deal was close.

The **bad news** is that issues being considered are preliminary.

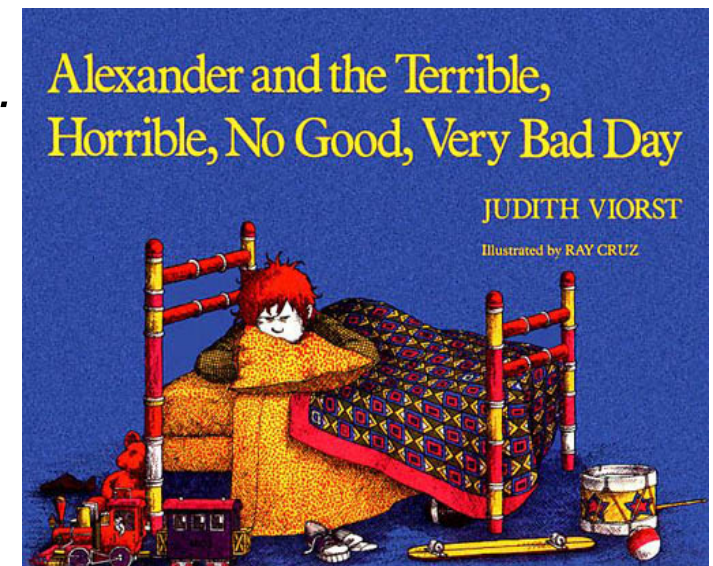
Questions for 5 June 2010 contact group meeting

1) . . . should it only encompass the adverse effects of climate change or also the impact of . . . response measures?

2) What should be the functions of any institutional arrangements for adaptation under the Convention?

3) How should loss and damage associated with climate change impacts in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable be addressed?

4) How should adaptation action be matched with support?



Adaptation policies in developed countries: quick review of Australia, Canada and the UK

- Countries can make decisions if they have effective governance arrangements.
- Current focus on information provision (collection of data and dissemination).
- Main focus of interventionist policies is on coastal planning issues around sea level rise, storm surge and flooding.



Other drivers to underpin action are emerging – the financial and insurance industry

United States Security and Exchange Commission: taking account of climate change (27 January 2010)



- Impact of Legislation and Regulation.
- Indirect Consequences of Regulation or Business Trends.
- Impact of International Accords.
- **Physical Impact of Climate Change.**

Summary of progress made on adaptation policy

- Increasing recognition of size of problem
- Devilishly complex issue with significant policy challenges.
- Action has commenced and deepened in the last year.
- Responses by governments and international community remain superficial and haphazard.
- The financial and insurance industry may provide a non-governmental impetus for action.

Thank You

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