

# Elevating the Mandate of the CC Working Group on Adaptation to Climate Change

## *Final Presidency Paper*

### Introduction

A mountain range such as the Carpathians encompasses transboundary ecosystems, which play a critical role for providing essential goods and services, including water supply, biodiversity, leisure and landscape, and are important income sources for communities through agriculture, tourism, health and the use of natural resources. Agricultural and forest ecosystem services also provide a crucial component for carbon sequestration which stresses the importance of sustainable practices for protection and management towards their essential contribution for climate regulation. While climate change and variability in mountain systems have had impacts on lowland communities throughout human history, the needs and ability to track and manage these impacts has majorly emerged in recent decades.

The transboundary dimension of climate change and its corresponding risks needs to be better understood to ensure effective collaboration towards achieving global goals on climate change (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Paris Agreement) and disaster risk reduction (Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction) as well as the Sustainable Development Goals. Climate impacts in one country will create risks and opportunities – and therefore may require adaptation – in other countries, due to cross-border connectivity within regions and globally.

As mountains are particularly vulnerable to climate change, protecting important sites for mountain biodiversity is vital for ensuring long term and sustainable use of mountain natural resources and their services especially in the Carpathians with their large number of protected ecosystems and species.

In order to steer progress towards building resilience and supporting collaborative action on climate change in the Carpathians, a structured approach for setting priorities, defining strategic goals and finding solutions in response to accelerating tendencies of climate risks and impacts is needed.

Elaborating a strategic approach to cope with climate change in the Carpathians can build, inter alia, on:

- the predecessor projects CARPIVIA, CARPATCLIM and CARPATCC;
- the synthesis report “*Future Imperfect – Climate Change and Adaptation in the Carpathians*”<sup>1</sup> (2014);
- the “*Strategic Agenda on Adaptation to Climate Change in the Carpathian region*”<sup>2</sup> (developed 2014 by the Working Group on Adaptation to Climate Change as a Carpathian-wide, strategic policy guidance with suggestions for future policy, programming and institutional directions to move the Carpathian Space towards a climate-proofed future);
- the “*Outlook on climate change adaptation in the Carpathian mountains*”<sup>3</sup> (published 2017 by the Carpathian Convention together with GRID-Arendal and Eurac Research in the context of the Mountain Adaptation Outlook Series);
- ongoing work to improve high resolution projections of climate change effects on the local level in the Carpathian region.

## Policy frameworks

### Global level

The main global agreements linked to climate change mitigation and adaptation are presented by the **UN Framework Convention on Climate Change** (ratified by all Carpathian countries), the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030** and the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**.

The **2015 Paris Agreement** builds upon the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and for the first time brings almost all nations into a common cause to undertake ambitious efforts to combat climate change and adapt to its effects. The Carpathian countries have all ratified the Paris Agreement, which – inter alia - recognizes with its long-term goals specified in its Article 2 the aim to strengthen the global response to the threat to climate change and requires all Parties to put forward their best efforts through nationally determined contributions (NDCs) as well as through the engagement in national adaptation planning processes and to strengthen these efforts in the years ahead. NDCs shall be submitted every five years to

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<https://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/adaptation/pdf/Climate%20change%20and%20adaptation%20in%20the%20Carpathians.pdf>

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[http://www.carpathianconvention.org/tl\\_files/carpathiancon/Downloads/03%20Meetings%20and%20Events/COP/2014\\_COP4\\_Mikulov/Follow%20Up/DOC12\\_Climate%20Change%20Strategic%20Agenda\\_FINAL\\_26Sep.pdf](http://www.carpathianconvention.org/tl_files/carpathiancon/Downloads/03%20Meetings%20and%20Events/COP/2014_COP4_Mikulov/Follow%20Up/DOC12_Climate%20Change%20Strategic%20Agenda_FINAL_26Sep.pdf)

<sup>3</sup>[http://www.carpathianconvention.org/tl\\_files/carpathiancon/Downloads/02%20Activities/Climate%20Change/MP\\_Carpathians\\_lores.pdf](http://www.carpathianconvention.org/tl_files/carpathiancon/Downloads/02%20Activities/Climate%20Change/MP_Carpathians_lores.pdf)

the UNFCCC NDC registry. In order to enhance the ambition over time the Paris Agreement provides that successive NDCs will represent a progression compared to the previous NDC and reflect its highest possible ambition. All Parties are requested to submit the next round of NDCs (new NDCs or updated NDCs) by 2020 and every five years thereafter (e.g. by 2025, 2030), regardless of their respective implementation time frames. With Article 7 of the Paris Agreement Parties further established the global goal on adaptation of enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change, with a view to contributing to sustainable development and ensuring an adequate adaptation response. Adaptation-related activities within the UN climate change regime are carried out in a number of workstreams and processes (e.g. The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process as a means of identifying medium- and long-term adaptation needs and developing and implementing strategies and programmes to address those needs; the Adaptation Committee (AC) for promoting the implementation of enhanced action on adaptation in a coherent manner under the Convention; the Nairobi work programme (NWP) to facilitate and catalyze the development and dissemination of information and knowledge that would inform and support adaptation policies and practices). Adaptation communication on priorities, implementation and support needs, plans and actions shall be submitted and periodically updated as a component of or in conjunction with other communications, such as NAP, NDC and/or National Communication (NC). As an accompanying mechanism to periodically take stock of the Paris Agreement's implementation towards achieving its long-term goals, the Global Stocktake (as established under Article 14) shall consider and assess collaborative progress for climate action beyond borders considering mitigation, adaptation and the means of implementation and support, and in the light of equity and the best available science.

Working hand in hand with the Paris Agreement and ultimately with the Agenda 2030, the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030** was the first major agreement of the post-2015 development agenda and provides UN Member States with concrete actions to protect development gains from the risk of disaster. It was endorsed by the UN General Assembly following the 2015 Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (WCDRR), and advocates for a substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries. It further recognizes that the State has the primary role to reduce disaster risk, but that responsibility should be shared with other stakeholders including local governments, the private sector and other stakeholders.

In the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, Member States express their commitment to protect the planet from degradation and take urgent action on climate change. Sustainable Development **Goal 13 aims to “take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts”**, while acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change. More specifically, the associated targets of SDG 13 focus on the integration of climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning, the

improvement of education, awareness-raising and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warnings.

Intrinsically linked with the progress towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) in its Global Assessment lists climate change as one of the direct drivers of biodiversity loss and, therefore, aligning efforts in addressing climate change among relevant processes is of the utmost importance in order to achieve a major global transformation for living in harmony with nature. Decision 14/5<sup>4</sup> adopted by the fourteenth Meeting of the COP to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) specifically encourages Parties to further strengthen their efforts, inter alia, to identify regions, ecosystems and components of biodiversity that are or will become vulnerable to climate change at a geographic scale and assess the current and future risks and impacts on biodiversity and biodiversity-based livelihoods. It also encourages Parties and other Governments to foster a coherent, integrated and co-beneficial implementation of the actions under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Paris Agreement, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Convention on Biological Diversity, including the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the future post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and other relevant international frameworks, such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, where appropriate. In this respect, the **Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework**, being currently developed under the auspices of the Convention on Biological Diversity and under the leadership of UN Environment and FAO, will seek synergies with other relevant multilateral environmental agreements and processes, on global, regional and national level.

## European level

Regarding the **European policy framework**, political guidelines for the next European Commission 2019-°2024 have been presented which put forward “*A European Green Deal*”<sup>5</sup> as one of six headline ambitions for Europe in the coming years and well beyond. The “Green Deal” strives for Europe to becoming the first climate-neutral continent by 2050 with several ambitious pathways. These include, inter alia:

- introducing a **Green Deal Investment Plan**<sup>6</sup> to mobilize EU funding and create an enabling framework to facilitate and stimulate the public and private investments needed for the transition to a climate-neutral, green, competitive and inclusive economy. The Just Transition Mechanism

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-14/cop-14-dec-05-en.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en);  
[https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/european-green-deal-communication_en.pdf)

<sup>6</sup>

[https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/api/files/attachment/860462/Commission%20Communication%20on%20the%20European%20Green%20Deal%20Investment%20Plan\\_EN.pdf.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/api/files/attachment/860462/Commission%20Communication%20on%20the%20European%20Green%20Deal%20Investment%20Plan_EN.pdf.pdf)

therein is a key tool to ensure that the transition towards a climate-neutral economy happens in a fair way, leaving no one behind. While all regions will require funding and the European Green Deal Investment Plan caters for that, the Mechanism provides targeted support to help mobilize at least €100 billion over the period 2021-2027 in the most affected regions through establishing a new Just Transition Fund. It will also strive to protect the citizens and workers most vulnerable to the transition, providing access to re-skilling programmes, jobs in new economic sectors;

- presenting a first **‘European Climate Law’**<sup>7</sup> aiming to establish the regulatory framework for achieving EU climate neutrality through setting in legislation the EU’s 2050 climate-neutrality objective, in line with scientific findings reported by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the IPBES, and to contribute to the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The proposal aims to complement the existing policy framework by setting the long-term direction of travel and enshrining the 2050 climate-neutrality objective in EU law, ensuring continuous progress with adaptation efforts by requesting Member States to develop and implement adaptation strategies and plans that include comprehensive risk management frameworks, establishing a process to set out and review a trajectory until 2050, regular assessment and a process in case of insufficient progress or inconsistencies. It also tasks the European Commission to review existing policies and EU legislation in view of their consistency with the climate-neutrality objective as well as with the trajectory identified. By September 2020, the Commission will present an impact assessed plan to increase the EU’s greenhouse gas emission reduction target for 2030 to at least 50% and towards 55% compared with 1990 levels in a responsible way. The Commission will propose to amend this Regulation accordingly and, by June 2021, review and propose to revise where necessary, all relevant related policy instruments.

Several initiatives are under preparation and will support achieving the objectives of this Regulation. This includes the new, more ambitious EU Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change which will be presented early 2021, an EU industrial strategy to address the twin challenge of the green and digital transformation and a new circular economy action plan, the Farm to Fork Strategy for sustainable food and proposals for pollution-free Europe and a sustainable finance strategy including to further embed sustainability into the corporate governance framework;

- proposing a **European Climate Pact**<sup>8</sup> aiming to inform, inspire and foster cooperation between people and organizations ranging from national, regional and local authorities to businesses, unions, civil society organizations, educational institutions, research and innovation organizations, consumer groups and individuals. The Pact will provide opportunities for communication, learning and networking and will help to bring together people and organizations to share ideas and experience, and to work together as a key part of the just transition for all;

<sup>7</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/commission-proposal-regulation-european-climate-law-march-2020\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/commission-proposal-regulation-european-climate-law-march-2020_en.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/eu-climate-action/pact\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/eu-climate-action/pact_en)

- preserving Europe's natural environment through setting new standards for production, consumption and trade.

## Carpathian level

The Framework Convention on the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Carpathians (Carpathian Convention) was adopted and signed by the seven Parties (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Ukraine) in May 2003 in Kyiv, Ukraine, and entered into force in January 2006.

The Carpathian Convention unites seven Carpathian countries in a unique partnership, providing a transnational framework for cooperation and multisectoral policy integration, an open forum for participation by stakeholders and the public, and a platform for developing and implementing transnational strategies, programmes and projects for protection and sustainable development of the region.

Thematic intergovernmental Working Groups are subsidiary bodies of the Carpathian Convention, involving experts and representatives of Ministries concerned, from all seven Parties to the Convention, which are established in order to assist and support implementation of the Carpathian Convention providing technical assistance, information and advice on specific issues related to the protection and sustainable development of the Carpathians.

Eight thematic Working Groups currently support the implementation of the Carpathian Convention:

- Working Group on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological and Landscape Diversity
- Working Group on Spatial Development
- Working Group on Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD)
- Working Group on Sustainable Forest Management
- Working Group on Sustainable Industry, Energy, Transport and Infrastructure
- Working Group on Sustainable Tourism
- Working Group on Cultural Heritage and Traditional Knowledge
- Working Group on Adaptation to Climate Change.

## Background

In May 2011 the European Commission – DG Environment, requested the Carpathian Convention Secretariat during Third Conference of the Parties to the Carpathian Convention (COP3) to consult with the Parties and Observers a possible proposal for the **establishment of a Working Group (WG) on Adaptation to Climate Change** under the Carpathian Convention supported by the project CARPIVIA (Carpathian integrated

assessment of vulnerability to climate change and ecosystem-based adaptation measures, [www.carpivia.eu](http://www.carpivia.eu)) that is funded by the European Commission under the above mentioned preparatory action.

In October 2011 Parties and Observers were asked for nominations for the Working Group and interviews have been subsequently conducted with the nominees to assess their expectations and opinions. At the first meeting of the WG on Adaptation to Climate Change, which took place in February 2012 in Brussels, Terms of References (ToR) have been agreed which defined as overall task for the WG to aim at supporting the Parties to the Carpathian Convention in their cooperation for the implementation of relevant articles of the Convention, including Article 12 on environmental assessment/information system, monitoring and early warning . The following field of activities are listed in the ToR:

- The WG will collect information on vulnerability to climate change impacts in the Carpathian Region, will analyze the available information and identify gaps requiring further research;
- The WG will elaborate a proposal on how the results of CARPIVIA project can benefit national and regional authorities of the Carpathian Region;
- The WG shall in particular provide guidance and actions with regard to the contribution to the EU Information System on Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation;
- The WG will provide guidance and recommendations for the development of policy proposals in line with the Commission White Paper on Adapting to Climate Change and the objectives of the Carpathian Convention;
- The WG can provide guidance and recommendations for the development of follow-up projects in the area of vulnerability to climate change and ecosystem-based adaptation measures;
- The WG shall explore ways of cooperation with other relevant institutions such as the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) and ICPDR (International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River).

The WG on Adaptation to Climate Change met six times in total since its establishment, however the Mandate and ToR have not been reviewed, updated or further elaborated to reflect developments in the policy and science areas.

Inter alia, the WG has been successfully developed and contributed to:

- the predecessor projects CARPIVIA, CARPATCLIM and CARPATCC;

- the synthesis report “*Future Imperfect – Climate Change and Adaptation in the Carpathians*”<sup>9</sup> (2014);
- the “*Strategic Agenda on Adaptation to Climate Change in the Carpathian region*”<sup>10</sup> (2014);
- the “*Outlook on climate change adaptation in the Carpathian mountains*”<sup>11</sup> (2017).

Apart from the adoption of the 2013 EU strategy on adaptation to climate change<sup>12</sup> (with an evaluation of its implementation by 2018), the 2015 Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC, the 2015 Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction<sup>13</sup> and the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals<sup>14</sup>, the Conference of Parties to the Carpathian Convention, at its Fifth meeting (COP5 - Lillafüred, Hungary, 10-12 October 2017) adopted an amendment to the Carpathian Convention, the **new Article 12bis on Climate Change** in order to emphasize the importance of the climate change issues in the Region. Most of the Parties are currently undergoing the ratification process of this amendment.

Article 12bis on Climate Change addresses both climate change mitigation and adaptation. It requests Parties to pursue policies aiming at climate change mitigation in all sectors relevant to the Convention as well as policies aiming at climate change adaptation. For adaptation, it highlights in lit.b that Parties to the Convention shall, inter alia, promote transnational cooperation and, and foster local adaptation planning processes and the implementation of actions, especially in the most vulnerable areas and sectors. Article 12bis also addresses disaster risk reduction by particularly promoting to take integrated measures for risk reduction, especially of extreme weather events.

Further, with reference to the global process and the required synergies between the relevant multilateral environmental agreements, the Carpathian Convention has been recognized as a sub-regional framework for the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity for many years. Currently, in light of the coming Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, the Carpathian Convention shall become a regional instrument for implementation of the new framework translating global targets and goals to the regional level, and, in doing so, reflecting and addressing more precisely the needs, challenges and opportunities of the region. At the same time, the Convention, as a multi-sectoral agreement on protection and sustainable

<sup>9</sup>

<https://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/adaptation/pdf/Climate%20change%20and%20adaptation%20in%20the%20Carpathians.pdf>

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[http://www.carpathianconvention.org/tl\\_files/carpathiancon/Downloads/03%20Meetings%20and%20Events/COP/2014\\_COP4\\_Mikulov/Follow%20Up/DOC12\\_Climate%20Change%20Strategic%20Agenda\\_FINAL\\_26Sep.pdf](http://www.carpathianconvention.org/tl_files/carpathiancon/Downloads/03%20Meetings%20and%20Events/COP/2014_COP4_Mikulov/Follow%20Up/DOC12_Climate%20Change%20Strategic%20Agenda_FINAL_26Sep.pdf)

<sup>11</sup>[http://www.carpathianconvention.org/tl\\_files/carpathiancon/Downloads/02%20Activities/Climate%20Change/MP\\_Carpathians\\_lores.pdf](http://www.carpathianconvention.org/tl_files/carpathiancon/Downloads/02%20Activities/Climate%20Change/MP_Carpathians_lores.pdf)

<sup>12</sup>[https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/adaptation/what\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/clima/policies/adaptation/what_en)

<sup>13</sup><https://www.preventionweb.net/sendai-framework/sendai-framework-for-drr>

<sup>14</sup><https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>

development with an underpinning priority of safeguarding a strategic biodiversity hotspot in Europe, represents a model for mainstreaming biodiversity into other sectors.

Considering the above-mentioned policy developments over the past years and the increasing urgency for lifting the level of ambition for exponential climate action, it is suggested to reinforce the WG on Adaptation to Climate Change with a stronger mandate especially for defining implementation needs and pathways for Article 12bis of the Carpathian Convention. On this occasion, a proposal for discussion at the last Meeting of the Working Group<sup>15</sup> has been put forward by the Secretariat, focusing - inter alia - on strengthening the networking of Parties to the Carpathian Convention through exploring new mechanisms of cooperation and sharing experiences and joining forces on funding opportunities while drawing the attention of donors towards the benefits of greater regional cooperation. As a result of the discussion, it was proposed the Presidency will prepare a short note on a structured step-by-step approach for strengthening networking and collaboration on climate change in the Carpathians, including proposals for the structure, timeline, role and concrete tasks of the Working Group, in particular with regard to the implementation of Article 12bis.

## Strategic objectives

Revising and strengthening the Mandate of the WG on Adaptation to Climate Change should be geared towards the implementation of the dedicated Article on climate change in order to achieve **the following objectives**:

- Climate Action is given higher awareness and attention in mountain areas at Carpathian level in response to the EU and international commitments (UNFCCC, 2015 Paris Agreement, Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework) and obligations;
- Regional cooperation and interaction are strengthened through identifying common priority actions and harmonizing with national efforts on climate change in the Carpathians, and beyond;
- Possible areas of synergy between national and sub-national approaches are identified towards delivering successful outcomes coping with climate change, considering interlinked environmental and socio-economic opportunities and constraints and promoting Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA);
- Synergies and co-benefits of climate action are examined with concrete mitigation and adaptation measures and actions identified for transboundary cooperation;

<sup>15</sup> 6th Meeting of the Carpathian Convention Working Group on Climate Change; 9 October 2019 in Budapest, Hungary, <http://www.carpathianconvention.org/eventdetailwg-124/events/climate-data-store-cds-training-and-the-6th-wg-climate-change-meeting.html>

- Interlinkages between climate issues and other relevant areas of work of the Carpathian Convention, such as, biodiversity, forestry, tourism, agriculture, water/river basin management are established;
- Science-policy - practice interfaces and innovative approaches are further explored and promoted;
- Joint efforts are taken on identifying funding opportunities and drawing the attention of donors towards the benefits of greater regional cooperation;
- Climate research on both qualitative and quantitative levels is promoted, including fostering the application of its results;
- Instrumental and organizational tools for sharing experience, good practice and lessons learnt as well as scientific exchange regarding climate change in the Carpathians are improved and operational.

The WG on Adaptation to Climate Change shall form the main body for developing a concrete workplan towards accomplishing the above objectives in the next implementation period 2021-2023.

## Proposed considerations for reinforcing the Mandate of the WG on Adaptation to Climate Change

For elaborating and establishing a stronger Mandate, the WG shall first revise its Terms of Reference with a particular focus on the role for the implementation of Article 12bis of the Carpathian Convention.

The following points shall be considered:

- Draft a **long-term Vision 2030** with complementary strategic targets for climate change mitigation and adaptation, providing an overall framework for focus and direction of subsequent activities;
- Elaborate a **structured workplan** along with the strategic targets that **guides the agenda and work of the WG and possibly supporting bodies** (e.g. other thematic WGs; further relevant national institutions in each country working on climate change and disaster risk reduction; the Science for the Carpathians Initiative (S4C); Carpathian Wetland Initiative (CWI); other relevant international organizations);
- Establish close **cooperation and exchange with the other thematic Working Groups of the Carpathian Convention** (e.g. through regular meetings of the Chairs of the WGs to be possibly organized back to back with the Carpathian Convention Implementation Committee meetings) in order to:

- encourage consideration of climate actions in all the Carpathian Convention Working Groups' topics and activities in order to **ensure mainstreaming and exchange of information of relevant areas of work;**
- discuss and agree on a **timeframe for proposing and implementing activities;**
- **Collaborate with other regional frameworks/platforms/initiatives and related institutions and organizations, especially from mountain and neighboring regions,** for knowledge exchange and learning
- Collaborate on **EU and international commitments** and obligations and develop ideas to **raise the attention to climate change in mountain areas at the global level;**
- Develop approach(es) for **defining and promoting concrete climate actions as well as good practices** and identify **funding opportunities** for implementation of climate action in the Carpathians, support project development and cooperate on **resource mobilization** with relevant stakeholders and donors.

The ToR shall be evaluated and revised by the WG and together with a concrete workplan put forward for approval at the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in Poland.

## Next steps

The following steps are proposed to be taken - upon approval of the CCIC - from April/May 2020 to the COP6 - Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties:

### April 2020:

Secretariat to provide:

- an advanced presidency paper on *Elevating the Mandate of the CC Working Group on Adaptation to Climate Change*, reflecting all feedback received to the draft version sent out 12 March 2020 and including further updates regarding policy and other developments;
- a first draft for updated/new ToR for the WG.

### May 2020: Virtual 7th Meeting of the WG on Adaptation to Climate Change

The agenda of the next meeting shall foresee to:

- Present and agree on the **advanced presidency paper** on *Elevating the Mandate of the CC Working Group on Adaptation to Climate Change*;
- **Clarify a reinforced Mandate of the WG** and discuss a **first draft for updated ToR**;
- Based on clarifying the Mandate and objectives, discuss the **composition of the WG**;
- Consider **appropriate mechanisms for exchanging and collaborating with other thematic Working Groups** of the Carpathian Convention; discuss **concrete topics for cooperation** with other WGs;
- Reflect upon **approaches for collaboration with further stakeholders and other mountain and neighboring areas**.

**May 2020 to the COP6 - Sixth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties: Further preparations undertaken by the WG towards approval by the COP**

Further preparatory work shall:

- **finalize the draft ToR** considering the discussion outcomes of the 7<sup>th</sup> WG Meeting;
- draft a **long-term Vision 2030** with complementary **strategic targets on climate change mitigation and adaptation**, embedded in the existing legal framework of the Carpathian Convention with its Protocols and Decisions, and guided by the overall targets of EU and global commitments;
- draft a **table of content for a Workplan** on implementing Article 12bis **with milestones and deliverables** for the next implementation period 2021-2023;
- draft a proposal for **mechanisms to mainstream climate change in all relevant areas of activities** under the Carpathian Convention;
- **identify key actors for exchange and collaboration** regarding:
  - fulfilling EU and international commitments and obligations;
  - set the transnational dimension for collaborative action on climate change in mountainous areas to a higher agenda;
  - monitoring and research needs, including opportunities for funding.

For discussion and approval at **COP6 in Poland**, the following documents shall be finalized in due time (to be decided):

- the new **Terms of Reference** for the WG on Adaptation to Climate Change (with a new name addressing both mitigation and adaptation: **WG on Climate Change**);
- the **long-term Vision 2030**, including strategic targets for pursuing climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts in the Carpathians;



- a proposal for a **concrete Workplan** on implementing Article 12bis **with milestones and deliverables** for the next implementation period 2021-2023.