

# Human settlements and adaptation

## 11<sup>th</sup> Focal Point Forum of the Nairobi work programme

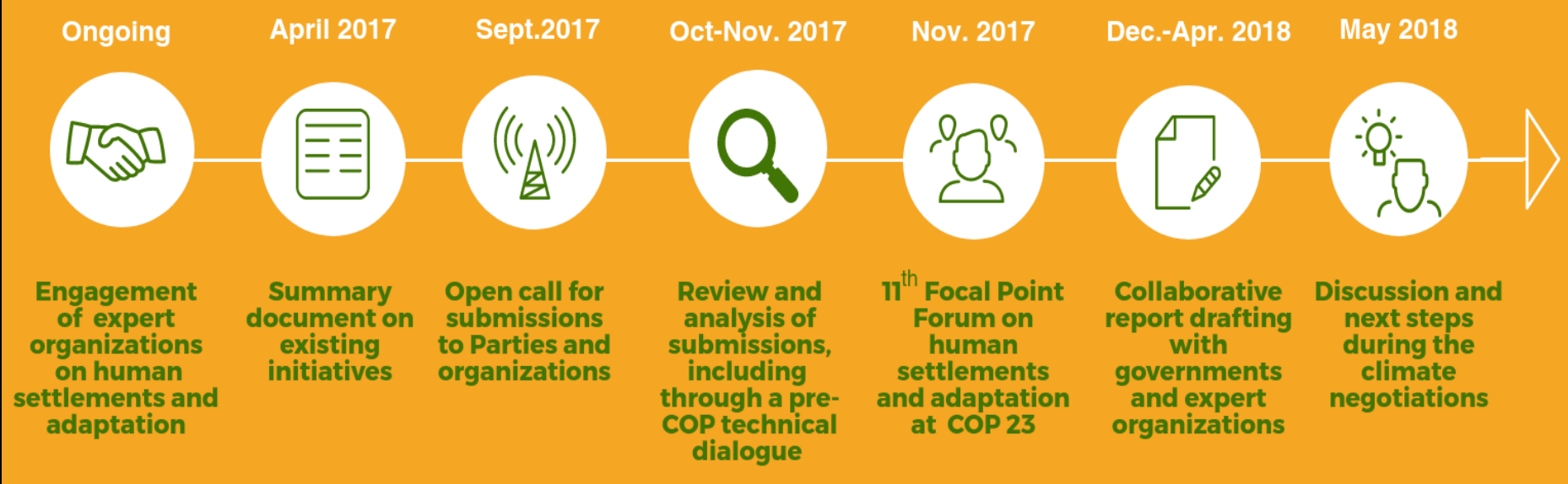
### Presentation of key findings from submissions

SBSTA 47 – Bonn (Germany)

8 November 2017 – 18.30 – 21.00



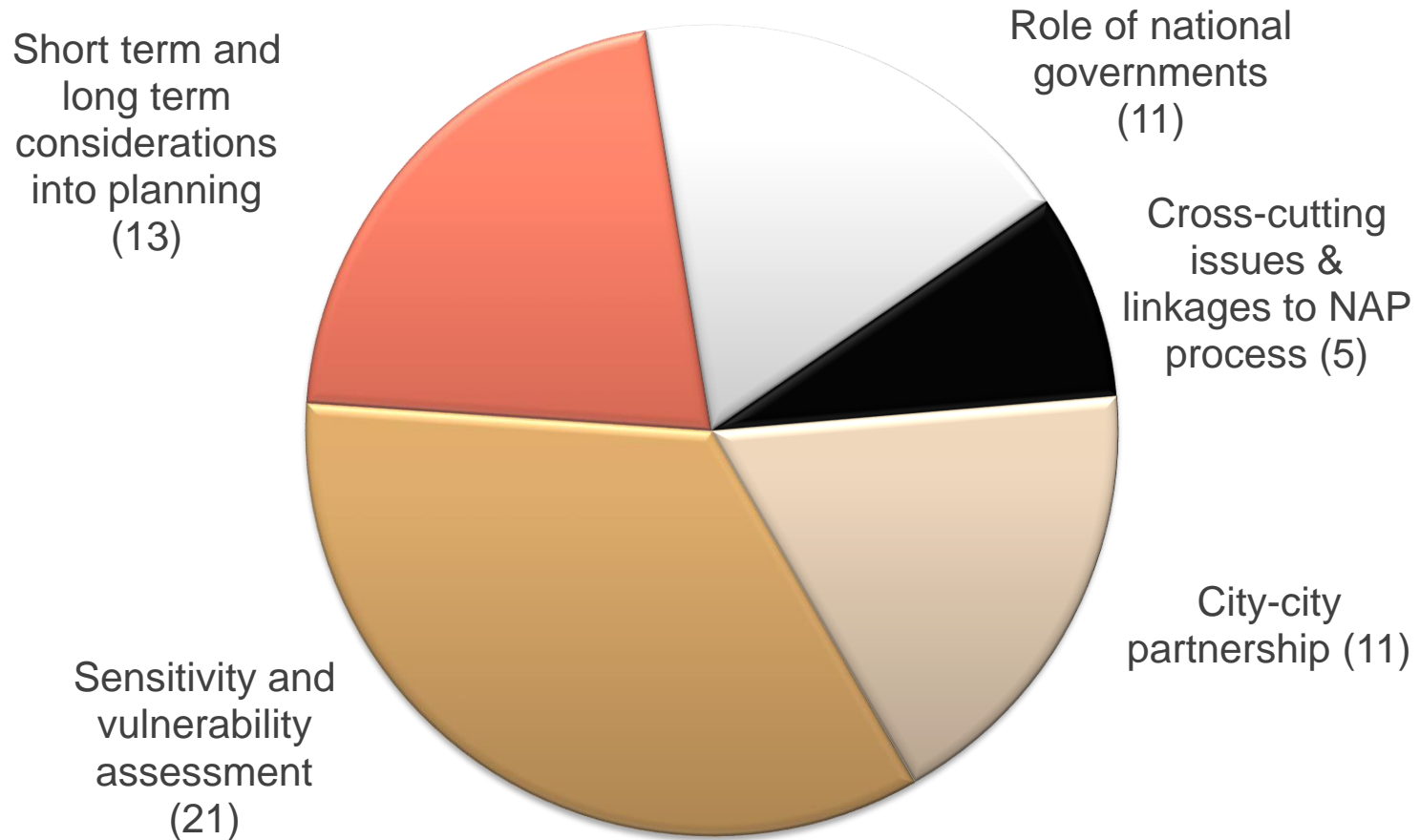
# The Nairobi work programme's 7-step approach on human settlements and adaptation



# Overview of submissions

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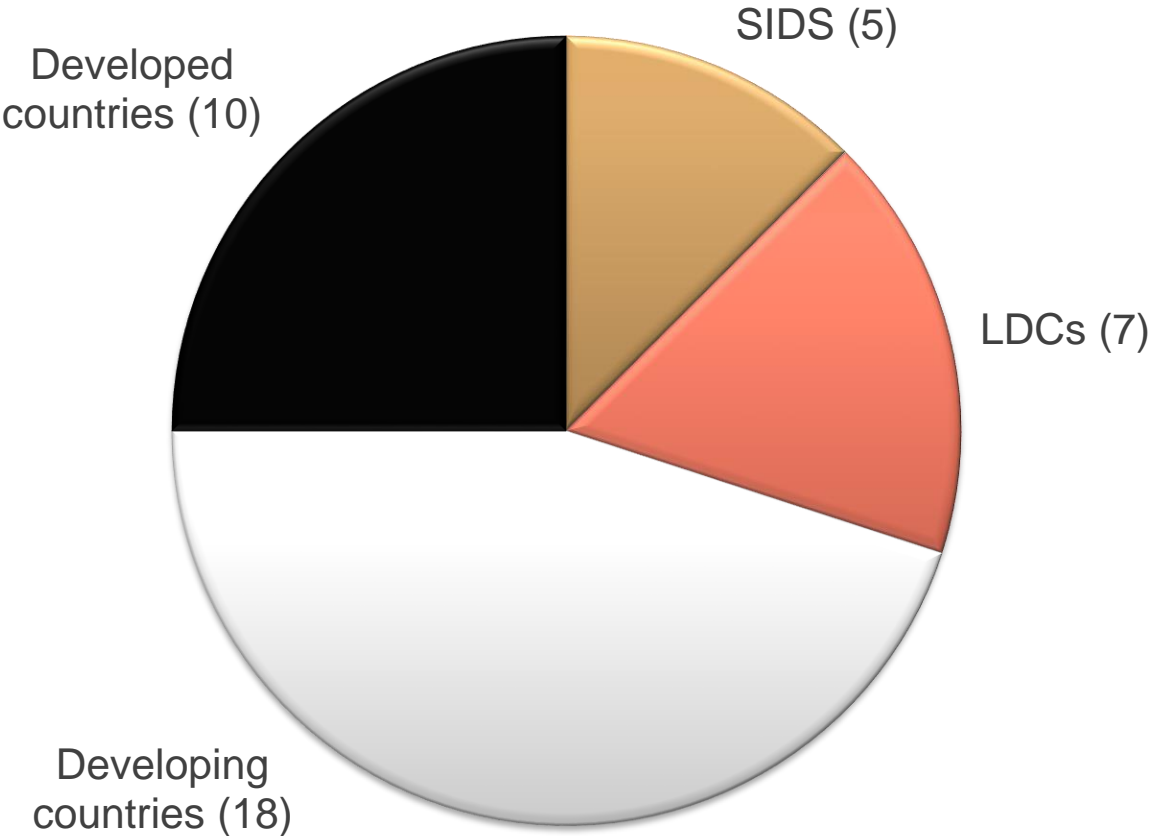
## Distribution by mandated area



# Overview of submissions

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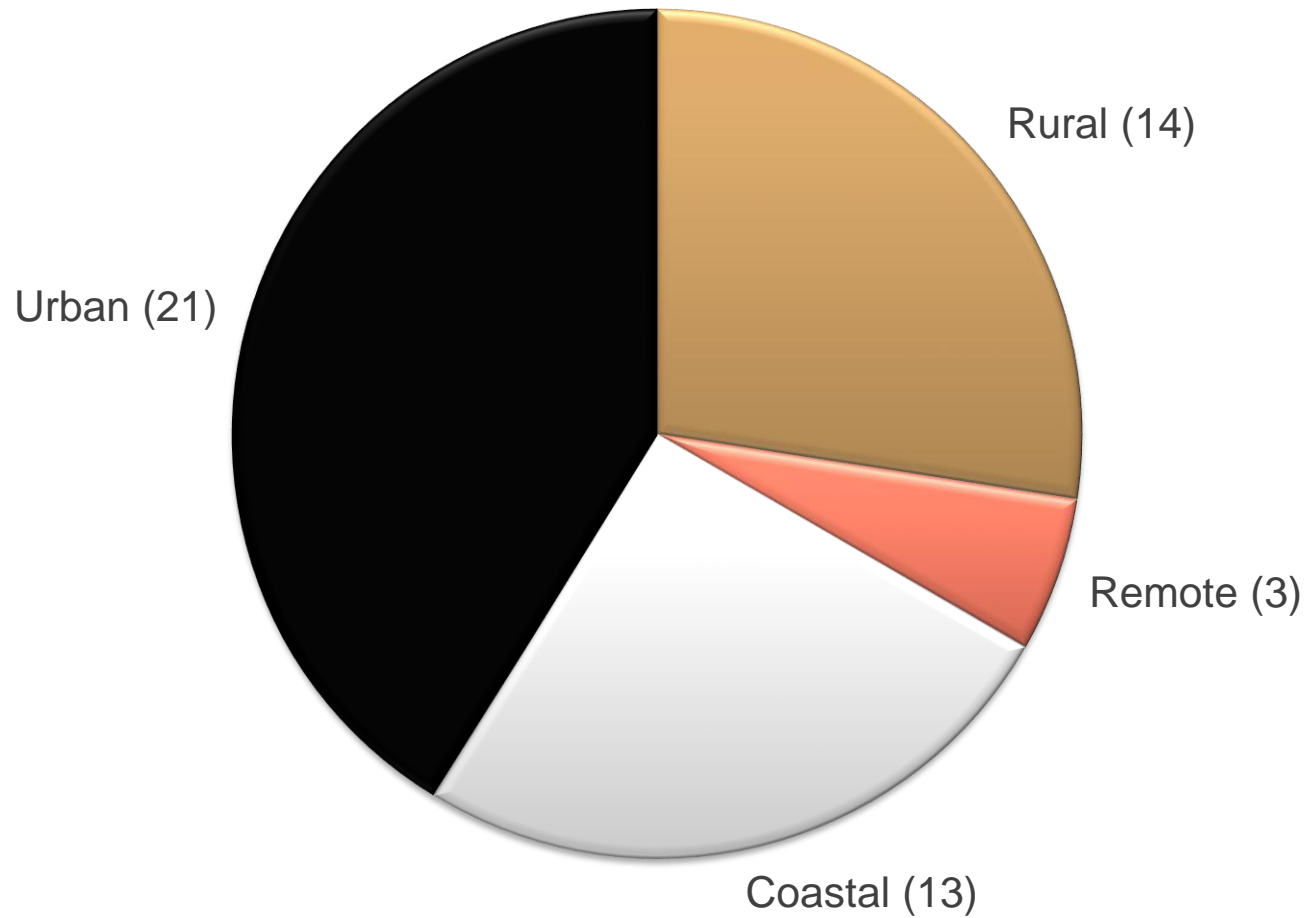
Distribution by type of country



# Overview of submissions

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## Distribution by type of settlements



# Assessing sensitivity and vulnerability to climate change



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- Climate change will exacerbate the vulnerability of the world's human settlements
- Assessment of vulnerability should be done at a sufficiently fine-grained scale to account for local drivers of vulnerability
- Gender-disaggregated data on vulnerability is needed
- Numerous vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning toolkits are available
  - addressing the full spectrum of human settlements, from villages to mega-cities, including informal settlements
  - including for those lacking human and financial resources or experience in vulnerability assessments and adaptation planning



# Assessing sensitivity and vulnerability to climate change

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- Addressing the various levels and types of climate vulnerability in human settlements is best done through inclusive assessment and planning processes
- Inclusivity means bringing together:
  - Vulnerable groups, civil society organizations, researchers and representatives of the private sector
  - Indigenous and traditional knowledge, and conventional scientific knowledge
- Inclusive processes facilitate the implementation of adaptation actions





# Integrating both short term and long term climate considerations into planning



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- Integrating both short-term and long-term consideration into adaptation planning can:
  - help avoid maladaptation,
  - build long-term adaptive capacities, and
  - minimize climate-related loss and damage
- Adopting a long-term view on adaptation involves developing land-use plans to manage the geographical expansion of human activities
- Ecosystem-based adaptation brings numerous co-benefits and can be combined with engineering-based solutions
- Gray, blue and green infrastructural solutions are not enough
- Adaptation as an iterative, cross-sectoral and open-ended planning and implementation process that requires behavioral change
- Long-term focused decision-making can be supported through the “adaptation pathways” method



# The role of national governments in supporting adaptation at the local level and linkages to the NAP process



# Addressing the challenges that hinder adaptation

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- Numerous challenges still hinder adaptation planning in human settlements, including:
  - poor access to quality data, including downscaled climate projections
  - lack of technical skills at the local government level and among civil society organizations' staff
  - access to financial resources for adaptation
  - inadequate powers at the local level
- Sufficient capacities are a prerequisite to effective adaptation planning and implementation.
  - Capacity building activities do take place, but further support is needed
  - Better access to international finance is also needed
    - Call to localizing climate finance



# The role of national governments and linkages to NAPs

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- Support local level adaptation, and the role of local governments as leaders in climate change adaptation, including through NAPs:
  - National adaptation strategies need to address adaptation in human settlements
  - Mandate for local governments to develop local adaptation plans
  - Create an enabling environment, that includes:
    - the devolution of adequate powers and resources
    - producing reliable meteorological information, climate projections and socio-economic data
    - financing national resilience and adaptation research
      - Support “mediators” between research and action at the local level
  - Support to horizontal integration
  - Strategic vertical integration in adaptation policy and actions
    - coordination and collaboration to plan, implement and monitor adaptation actions
    - includes regional/provincial governments and local communities



# City-to-city partnerships on climate change adaptation



# Key findings

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- City-to-city partnerships contribute to:
  - enhancing cities' understanding of climate risks and adaptation methods
  - accelerating the pace of innovation and implementation
- Numerous global and regional city networks on adaptation and resilience
- Other international networks for researchers, civil society organizations and urban utilities, among other stakeholders



**Thank you!**

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