

State of Adaptation: Interactive portal of country profiles

Draft concept note on the further development of the portal

Recommended action by the Adaptation Committee

The Adaptation Committee (AC), at its 25th meeting, will be invited to consider the information contained in this document and provide further guidance to the secretariat, as appropriate.

1. Background

1. In its workplan for 2022-2024 the AC agreed to prepare annual “flagship publications”, starting in 2022, to inform Parties and other stakeholders of recent adaptation-related developments, and summarizing adaptation-related facts and figures from national reports submitted to the secretariat.
2. During AC 23, the AC took note of a presentation by the secretariat on the evolution and progress made on the information series and provided further guidance on the preparation of online country profiles containing information provided by Parties under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. Intersessionally, it considered and approved the template to be used for the information collection.
3. At AC 24, the AC took note of a presentation by the secretariat on the progress made in collecting the information for the country profiles and in developing an interactive portal for their presentation. It provided further guidance on the process to validate the information contained in the profiles with the respective countries and agreed to establish a working group to work with the secretariat on finalizing the country profiles in line with the guidance received by the AC.

2. Objectives of this note

4. The draft concept note for consideration by AC25 aims to outline the progress made since AC 24 and the way forward towards the finalization of the first iteration of the country profiles and the related interactive portal, taking into consideration the discussions that took place during the working group meeting on this matter held on 1 February 2024.

3. Progress made since AC 24

5. The AC working group on this matter held a meeting on 1 February 2024. During this meeting, it was informed on the following progress that the secretariat has made since AC 24 in further developing the country profiles and the related interactive portal:
 - a) The country profile template has been revised according to the guidance received from the AC at its 24th meeting (i.e. the information on adaptation finance received or provided has been removed);
 - b) A further set of country profiles has been finalized, raising the number of completed profiles to 179;
 - c) 92 country profiles have been reviewed to ensure consistency among the collected information and in preparation for the validation process;

- d) On 14 November 2023 the secretariat circulated a notification to UNFCCC adaptation contact points and national focal points containing information on the AC's work on the profiles and related interactive portal and the modalities for validation as agreed at AC 24;¹
 - e) A mock-up of the interactive portal has been developed. It contains the landing pages as well as two tabs of the individual country pages in a desktop and mobile version. A preview of the desktop version and an introduction to the new portal has been made available to the public on a dedicated AC website.² The preview showcases all filtering options as well as the range of modalities through which the country profile information will be displayed.
6. The secretariat informed the working group that it had reviewed the outcomes of COP 28/CMA.5, particularly the targets defined as part of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience, to ensure the relevance of the country profiles to the new requirements and that it considered the current version of the template to meet the requirements of the outcomes. It further informed the working group on the current budgetary constraints faced by the secretariat which might impact the full implementation of the planned web portal.
7. The group discussed options of including other adaptation-relevant portals as part of the interactive portal with a view to complementing the information contained in the country profiles and options for updating the country profiles on a regular basis. It requested the secretariat to prepare a concept note for consideration by the AC at its 25th meeting containing a draft description of the methodological approach used for the development of the profiles, examples of other adaptation-relevant portals which could be linked to the interactive portal, options for updating the profiles on a regular basis and options for the finalization of the first live version of the portal, including a timeline and budget considerations.

4. Draft description of the methodological approach

8. The secretariat prepared a draft description of the methodological approach which has been applied when developing the country profiles (see annex I). It outlines the scope of the information that the profiles contain, the principles and guidelines used when developing the elements of the country profile template and the sources of information used for the collection of information. It also describes the approach to the collection of information for specific entries of the template, the way adaptation action has been classified into varying degrees of availability/implementation and the special case of the European Union Member States.
9. The methodological approach will be shared with countries when requesting their validation of the profiles and included in the interactive portal as reference for the users.

5. Inclusion of other adaptation-relevant portals

10. In view of complementing the information contained in the country profiles and contributing to a holistic presentation of the State of Adaptation Action by Parties, the following non-exhaustive list of adaptation-relevant information portals could be linked to the interactive portal:
- a) Portals that inform on adaptation-related legal and policy frameworks and regulations (e.g. [Climate Change Laws of the world](#))
 - b) Portals that inform on institutional arrangements for adaptation (e.g. [CGE toolbox on institutional arrangements](#))
 - c) Portals that inform on efforts to establish climate services (e.g. [Global Framework for Climate Services \(GFCS\)](#))
 - d) Portals that inform on adaptation finance received or provided (e.g. [UNFCCC climate finance data portal](#), [OECD statistics on climate-related development finance](#); [Climate Policy Initiative](#);)
 - e) Portals that inform on capacity-building efforts (e.g. [UNFCCC Capacity-building portal](#))

¹ <https://unfccc.int/documents/633207>.

² https://unfccc.int/adapatation_actions_parties.

- f) Portals that inform on countries' efforts to adopt adaptation technologies (e.g. [CTCN](#))
- g) Portals which showcase different aspects or subsets of adaptation action by (a selection of) countries (e.g. [Adaptation Action Coalition](#), [Adaptation Map by Climate Analytics](#), [Race to Resilience](#); [EU Climate ADAPT country profiles](#))

11. In going forward, the AC may wish to define the medium-to long-term function of the interactive portal and, subject to that decision, decide on the complementary information it wishes to display (see also section 8 below).

6. Options for updating the country profiles

12. The AC may wish to consider the following options, or combinations thereof, for updating the country profiles on a regular basis:

Option	Benefit	Required effort
1. Defining regular periods for updating, e.g. annually at the beginning of each year or twice a year	Updated profiles at the beginning of each year would capture the information from submitted reports (the number of which tends to be highest before COPs and towards the end of the year) and serve as a basis for the work of the CBs and other stakeholders throughout each year/ updating twice a year would increase level of up-to-dateness (e.g. beginning of the year and before SB sessions in May/June)	Concentrated staff effort required during a short period of time
2. Updating each profile whenever a new report or communication is submitted by the respective country	Would yield highest level of up-to-dateness	Dedicated staff effort throughout the year
3. On-demand updating	All profiles would be updated in cases where latest information is required for a specific activity/product, e.g. a report or in response to a specific decision/mandate	Concentrated staff effort required during a short period of time

7. Timeline for finalization of first live version of the interactive portal

13. The indicative timeline for the finalization of the first live version of the interactive portal is envisioned as follows:

- a) Finalization of first iteration of all remaining country profiles (April - May)
- b) Finalization of the review of first iteration of all remaining country profiles (April - May)
- c) Validation of finalized and reviewed profiles and upon the AC's approval of the description of the methodological approach (April - May)
- d) Finalization of the full version of the interactive portal (timeline subject to the availability of resources, indicative time required: three - five months)

8. Outlook towards long-term use and development of the portal

14. The AC may wish to start a discussion on the long-term use and development of the portal. For this it may wish to take into account the following options and considerations, including its linkages with other mandates and workstreams.

Options	Potential/limitation of the current version of the portal	Long-term use and development
1. Tool to showcase adaptation action as reported by Parties and to facilitate learning and information sharing on specific aspects of the adaptation cycle, including in relation to the UAE framework's targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitates learning and inspiration by showcasing adaptation action detailed along the different elements of the adaptation cycle • Allows for the extraction of information and statistics on specific adaptation elements and themes by way of the filtering options, including on the UAE framework's thematic areas • Does not allow for the monitoring of progress towards the UAE framework's targets due to limitations of current country reporting (e.g. very limited reporting on quantitative information, progress and outcomes within the different themes) 	In addition to facilitating learning and information sharing, the tool could eventually inform on progress towards the UAE framework's targets if countries enhanced their reporting on quantitative aspects as well as progress and outcomes within the thematic areas (=> link to 2/CMA.5, paras 16, 39, 44, 45, 47)
2. Tool to contribute towards a comprehensive understanding of the global state of adaptation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offers most comprehensive information on adaptation action detailed by country • Limited to adaptation action reported by Parties while the reporting itself faces limitations in terms of comprehensiveness (voluntary nature of adaptation reporting) and timeliness (low frequency of reporting leads to low levels of up-to-dateness) 	The tool would need to be expanded and include information from or links to sources beyond national reports, such as research, international and other organizations, the private sector and other stakeholders to allow for a triangulation of information (=> link to 2/CMA.5, paras 16, 39, 44, 45, 47; work on adequacy and effectiveness)

9. Next steps

15. The AC may wish to consider the following next steps to facilitate the further development of the country profiles and interactive portal:

- a) Approve the draft description of the methodological approach;
- b) Advise on additional adaptation-relevant portals to be included in the interactive portal;
- c) Decide on one or a combination of options for updating the profiles on a regular basis;

- d) Start considering options for the long-term use and development of the portal and related linkages to other mandates and workstreams.

Annex I

Draft description of the methodological approach used for the development of the “State of Adaptation Action by Parties” (SoA) country profiles

1. Scope

The SoA country profiles include information on the adaptation actions taken by each country that is a Party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. It is unique in that it provides detailed and comprehensive information by country, including developed and developing, along the dimensions of the iterative adaptation cycle and not on the basis of case studies. The country profiles include information on adaptation action as reported in all adaptation-relevant national reports and communications submitted to the UNFCCC secretariat. They exclude information on adaptation needs or adaptation gaps as this information is covered by other global reports and portals.

2. Elements of the country profile template

The elements of the country profile template reflect the dimensions of the iterative adaptation cycle: climate risk and impact assessments, adaptation planning, adaptation implementation and monitoring and evaluation. In addition, the template contains an element on means of implementation, including information on adaptation finance, technology development and transfer and capacity-building. The information entries within the different elements reflect the principles for adaptation as well as the recommended elements of adaptation action and reporting as contained in relevant decisions and guidelines such as decisions 1/CP.16, paragraphs 14; 5/CP.17, paragraphs 2, 3 and annex; 6/CP.25, paragraphs 46, 47, 48; 17/CP.8, paragraphs 3, 5, 28- 35, 44, 47, 53; 18/CMA.1, paragraphs 106-114, 116-117; 9/CMA.1; 3/CMA.4, paragraph 10 and the technical guidelines for the NAP process³.

3. Sources of information

The SoA country profiles draw information exclusively from national reports and communications submitted to the UNFCCC secretariat. These include national communications, nationally determined contributions, adaptation communications, national adaptation plans, and biennial transparency reports.

4. Approach to the collection of information for specific entries of the country profile template

- a) World region: the classification of countries into the six world regions replicates the classification from the [NDC registry](#) for consistency purposes
- b) Special climate-relevant geographic characteristics: the listed geographical characteristics are those classified as making a country particularly vulnerable to the

³ Available at https://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/cancun_adaptation_framework/application/pdf/naptechguidelines_eng_high_res.pdf.

effects of climate change. The following sources have been used to determine the belonging of a country to any of the categories:

- i. Small island developing state: [List of SIDS | Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States](#);
 - ii. Low-lying coast: [Global distribution of low-lying islands and coasts. The map shows Low... | Download Scientific Diagram \(researchgate.net\)](#);
 - iii. High mountains: [Hock, R., G. Rasul, C. Adler, B. Cáceres, S. Gruber, Y. Hirabayashi, M. Jackson, A. Käb, S. Kang, S. Kutuzov, Al. Milner, U. Molau, S. Morin, B. Orlove, and H. Steltzer, 2019: High Mountain Areas. In: IPCC Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate \[H.-O. Pörtner, D.C. Roberts, V. Masson-Delmotte, P. Zhai, M. Tignor, E. Poloczanska, K. Mintenbeck, A. Alegría, M. Nicolai, A. Okem, J. Petzold, B. Rama, N.M. Weyer \(eds.\)\]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK and New York, NY, USA, pp. 131–202., particularly figures 2.1 and 2.3](#)
 - iv. Arid/semi-arid areas: [Mirzabaev, A., L.C. Stringer, T.A. Benjaminsen, P. Gonzalez, R. Harris, M. Jafari, N. Stevens, C.M. Tirado, and S. Zakieldein, 2022: Cross-Chapter Paper 3: Deserts, Semiarid Areas and Desertification. In: Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. Contribution of Working Group II to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \[H.-O. Pörtner, D.C. Roberts, M. Tignor, E.S. Poloczanska, K. Mintenbeck, A. Alegría, M. Craig, S. Langsdorf, S. Lösche, V. Möller, A. Okem, B. Rama \(eds.\)\]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK and New York, NY, USA, pp. 2195–2231.](#)
- c) **Key climate hazards:** [IPCC 6th Assessment Report](#)
- d) **Means of implementation:** The information contained in this section speaks to the actions taken by a country or the support received to develop strategies, plans and other enabling factors to attract adaptation finance and technology. It also provides information on sample cases of technology transfer and capacity-building activities. It does not provide quantitative information on adaptation finance flows since the way information on this is provided in national reports differs significantly in scope and quality.

5. Classification of adaptation action according to the degree of availability/implementation

For many of the information entries, the country profiles classify an adaptation activity or a product/service as either being “available”, “in progress” or “planned” in the respective country. The following definitions have been applied for each category:

- “Available” = Activities/ services that have been implemented/completed; plans/strategies that are publicly available in the form of official documents
- “In progress” = Activities/plans that are under advanced development/implementation, but have not yet been completed
- “Planned” = Activities towards which significant planning and preparatory work has been completed, but which have not yet started. Activities which are classified

as “needed” or “desired” by a country, but towards which no planning action has been started are not included in this category.

6. Special case: Member states of the European Union

The Member States of the European Union represent a special case in that they not only submit national reports as individual Parties to the UNFCCC but also joint reports as the European Union. Therefore, the interactive portal contains country profiles for each individual EU Member State as well as a profile for the European Union. Cross-references are included where information overlaps or in cases in which a country takes on duties as part of an overarching EU effort, such as the EU adaptation strategy and related monitoring and reporting processes.

Annex II

Report/communication	Mandate/Guidance	Reporting period/timeline
Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs)	PA Art. 13.8 18/CMA.1, paras 3-4	First BTR due 31 December 2024, and every two years thereafter; LDCs and SIDS at their discretion
Adaptation Communications	PA Art. 7. Paras 10-11. 9/CMA.1, paras 3-4 and 6	Periodically, as a component of or in conjunction with other communications or documents, including a NAP, a NDC and/or a NC; OR as a component of or in conjunction with the reports on impacts and adaptation as stipulated in Article 13, paragraph 8; Parties are invited to submit in time to inform each global stocktake.
National Adaptation Plans	5/CP.17, paras 32-33	No timeline for the submission of NAPs Parties invited to provide information, through their NCs, on what measures they have undertaken and on support provided or received relevant to the NAP process; LDCs encouraged, to the extent possible, to provide information on their NAP process through their NCs, as well as other channels;
AI National Communications	2/CP.17, para 14	AI Parties shall submit a full NC every four years, next one due in 2026
NAI National Communications	10/CP.2; 17/CP.8,	First NC within three years of entering the Convention, and every four years thereafter; LDCs at their discretion
Nationally Determined Contributions	1/CP.21, para 23 and 24	2020 and every five years thereafter (e.g. by 2020, 2025, 2030), regardless of their respective implementation time frames

Document information

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>
01.0	4 March 2024	AC 25 The AC is invited to take note of the information contained in this information note and to provide guidance on the proposed next steps.

Keywords: adaptation to climate change, Resilience, implementation, developing country Parties.
