

## Recommendations on how to improve reporting on adaptation action and progress (in collaboration with the CGE and the LEG)

### Information note

#### Recommended action by the Adaptation Committee

The Adaptation Committee, at its 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, will be invited to consider next steps in the development of recommendations on how to improve reporting on adaptation action and progress on the basis of:

- a) The information contained in this document; and
- b) The information contained in document AC20/INFO/6, as appropriate (*Information on adaptation indicators reported by Parties in their national reports and communications*, which the SBSTA and the SBI invited the AC to prepare in the context of this mandate).

## 1. Background

### 1.1. Mandate

1. In 2023, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) at its fifth session (CMA 5) adopted the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Framework for Global Climate Resilience, by decision 2/CMA.5, and decided that the purpose of the Framework “is to guide the achievement of the global goal on adaptation and the review of overall progress in achieving it with a view to reducing the increasing adverse impacts, risks and vulnerabilities associated with climate change, as well as to enhance adaptation action and support”.<sup>1</sup>

2. Paragraph 16 of decision 2/CMA.5 affirms that no additional reporting burden is placed on Parties through the implementation of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience; invites Parties to voluntarily include in their adaptation communications, biennial transparency reports, national adaptation plans, national communications and nationally determined contributions quantitative and/or qualitative information related to the targets referred to in paragraphs 9– 10 of the decision and the cross-cutting considerations referred to in paragraphs 13–14; and encourages Parties to report on progress, good practices, experience and lessons learned in relation to implementing the framework in their communication and reporting under decisions 9/CMA.1, 18/CMA.1 and 19/CMA.1.

3. Paragraph 45 of the same decision invites the AC, in collaboration with the CGE and the LEG, to develop recommendations on how to improve reporting on adaptation action and progress, including with a view to informing the review and update, as appropriate, of the modalities, procedures and guidelines for the transparency framework for action and support referred to in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement contained in the annex to decision 18/CMA.1 and the review of the training course referred to in decision 9/CMA.4, paragraph 10.

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<sup>1</sup> Decision 2/CMA.5, para. 7.

## **1.2. Additional guidance from the 60<sup>th</sup> sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI)**

4. In the context of their negotiations on matters relating to the global goal on adaptation, the SBSTA and the SBI, at their 60<sup>th</sup> sessions (June 2024) requested their Chairs to prepare, with the support of the secretariat, in collaboration with relevant United Nations organizations and specialized agencies, and with contributions from relevant constituted bodies, a compilation and mapping of existing indicators relevant to measuring progress towards the targets referred to in paragraphs 9–10 of decision 2/CMA.5, including information on areas potentially not covered by existing indicators.
5. The SBSTA and the SBI invited the AC to prepare a contribution to the compilation and mapping by identifying information on indicators reported by Parties in their national reports and communications in the context of the work referred to in paragraph 45 of decision 2/CMA.5.
6. The compilation and mapping will be reviewed and refined by technical experts, and then further reviewed and refined at a workshop for Parties and technical experts in October 2024.<sup>2</sup>

## **2. Progress made so far**

### **2.1. Initial considerations**

7. As first step, the AC invited representatives of the CGE and the LEG to an initial conversation on new mandates, including this one, which took place on 27 February 2024. Observations made included that this mandate links to future deliverables, in particular the review of the guidance on adaptation communications (in 2025) and the review of the training on BTRs (by 2028). Initial steps should thus focus on leveraging existing work by the three bodies and seeing how to bolster activities to improve communication and reporting. This could include experiences drawn from workshops organized by the CGE on adaptation communications and reporting. An initial observation by the CGE in this respect was that, while reporting on adaptation actions is comparatively well understood, reporting on adaptation progress is an area where further technical assistance is needed.
8. Relevant ongoing work by the LEG highlighted during the exchange, includes an update of its Progress, Effectiveness and Gaps (PEG) monitoring and evaluation tool, the annual NAP progress reports, and efforts to align NAPs with instruments like adaptation communications and NDCs.

### **2.2. Progress made at AC 25, 12-15 March 2024**

9. Following this initial conversation, the secretariat prepared document [AC25/INFO/5A](#) for consideration at AC 25, containing a list of questions aimed at focusing the conversation, an overview of existing adaptation-related reporting requirements under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, including the periodicity of their review, and possible next steps to inform the elaboration of recommendations on how to improve reporting on adaptation action and progress.
10. The AC agreed to prepare, for consideration by AC 26, a mapping and analysis of existing adaptation reporting requirements, guidelines and practices under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, including examining how relevant elements of decision 2/CMA.5 are already addressed in any of the existing reporting guidelines, and which gaps exist.
11. Looking ahead at the next steps towards drafting recommendations, members suggested to prepare, by AC 27 (March/April 2025), an update of the mapping (and potentially also of the analysis), taking into account information contained in the first Biennial Transparency Reports which are due by the end of 2024, as well as possible other types of reporting, such as in response to the NAP guidelines, and an initial analysis of the findings that could inform the recommendations.
12. Members proposed to discuss intersessionally and/or at AC 27 the approach to solicit feedback from other constituted bodies and institutions, including the consideration of a call for submissions and/or a meeting of experts.

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<sup>2</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2024/7, paras. 39 - 51, and FCCC/SBI/2024/13, paras. 77 - 89.

## 2.3. Recent progress

13. The annex to this document presents a short overview of existing reporting requirements and practices under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, including which elements of decision 2/CMA.5, paragraphs 9 and 10 are already addressed in any of the existing reporting guidelines.

14. The overview shows that the targets contained in paragraph 10 of decision 12/CMA.5 (relating to the dimensions of the iterative adaptation cycle) are addressed by all reporting guidelines examined.

15. However, the thematic targets included in paragraph 9 have few explicit mentions in existing reporting guidelines. Moreover, these few mentions only partially cover related targets. For example, the modalities, procedures and guidelines (MPGs) state that each Party should provide information, as appropriate, on nature-based solutions, which is relevant to the target contained in para. 9d of decision 2/CMA.5 but does not encompass the target in full. Both the guidance in relation to the adaptation communication and the MPGs reference Indigenous, traditional and local knowledge, which is again relevant to the target contained in para. 9g; the other elements of the target are not referenced in any guidelines or guidance, however. Similarly, the guidelines for the preparation of national communications for Parties included in Annex I to the Convention and the MPGs make reference to integrated plans for coastal zone management, water resources and agriculture; this is relevant to the targets contained in paras. 9a and 9b, though they do not capture the nuances or all elements of these targets.

16. It may therefore be recommended that reporting on adaptation action and progress could be improved by including more explicit linkages to the targets in the respective guidelines, including the modalities, procedures and guidelines for the transparency framework for action and support referred to in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement contained in the annex to decision 18/CMA.1, and to address this accordingly while reviewing the training course referred to in decision 9/CMA.4, paragraph 10.

17. Several of the cross-cutting considerations of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience are referenced in existing guidelines. These linkages are not reflected in the annex. The AC may wish to discuss whether it wishes to include these cross-cutting considerations in the next steps on this mandate.

18. Given the revised sequencing and related prioritization of the different elements associated with this mandate, following the addition of the new request received at SB 60 as outlined in section 1.2 above, an in-depth analysis has not been undertaken. While the AC's contribution to the compilation and mapping of adaptation indicators had to be completed in time for the AC's consideration at AC 26, a meaningful analysis of reporting requirements and practices will only be possible after the receipt of a critical number of BTRs at the end of the year.

19. Additionally, the secretariat is mandated to produce two key deliverables in the future that will inform the consideration on the recommendations under this mandate:

- a) A synthesis of Parties' submissions on experience with the application of guidance contained in decision 9/CMA.1 (adaptation communications) for consideration by SBI 62 (2025);<sup>3</sup>
- b) A synthesis report on adaptation information provided by Parties in their BTRs, Adcoms and NDCs.<sup>4</sup>

20. The section below offers further elements for consideration by the AC to plan the next steps to be included in its flexible workplan for 2025-2027.

## 3. Further considerations

21. The purpose of the recommendations elaborated under this mandate will be to ensure that reporting on adaptation action and progress under the UN climate change process provides adequate information to assess progress made in achieving the global goal on adaptation of enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change.

22. During its initial considerations of the steps to be taken to inform the development of these recommendations, the AC, at its 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, raised an initial list of suggestions for possible further discussion. At its 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, the AC may wish to discuss which of the below considerations may be feasible and within the scope of the mapping and analysis:

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<sup>3</sup> 9/CMA.1, para. 18.

<sup>4</sup> 1/CMA.5, para. 60.

- a) Identify commonalities and differences between the guidance documents and reporting practices; (compare also the AC's supplementary guidance for adaptation communications which includes information in this regard);<sup>5</sup>
- b) Identify which qualitative and quantitative information on adaptation action and progress is already being reported in the existing reporting instruments;
- c) Include information of support for reporting and communicating on adaptation. This could be addressed in collaboration with, or using available information from, the SCF and the CGE;
- d) Consider in-country capacities and available support for national reporting for developing country Parties;
- e) Include disaggregated data for developing countries and potentially LDCs;
- f) Take into account outcomes of the Adaptation Forum, particularly experience shared by representatives of other global processes and Conventions on related reporting processes and opportunities for synergies;
- g) Include the linkage between the guidelines for action and reporting, including distilling information from the LEG's guidelines on NAPs.

23. Some members also suggested analyzing the need to revise current reporting requirements based on the latest findings of the IPCC and consulting with the IPCC Secretariat and other organizations on opportunities to collaborate. Some members proposed preparing an additional analytical product on systematic aspects which can lead to effective adaptation as suggested by science (e.g. the IPCC) and which may need to be reflected in future reporting guidelines. An informal first meeting between the IPCC WGII Technical Support Unit for AR7 and the AC co-chairs took place in August 2024, also touching upon the IPCC's upcoming revision its 1994 IPCC Technical Guidelines for Assessing Climate Change Impacts and Adaptations.

#### **4. Possible next steps to inform the development of recommendations on how to improve reporting on adaptation action and progress**

24. The Adaptation Committee (AC), at its 26<sup>th</sup> meeting, may wish to
- a) Take note of the revised approaches and timelines to respond to the mandate contained in paragraph 45 of decision 2/CMA.5, and agree on next steps, including on the collaboration with the CGE and the LEG. This could include:
    - i) Preparing, by AC 27 (March/April 2025), a mapping and analysis of existing adaptation reporting requirements, guidelines and practices under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, taking into account initial information contained in the first BTRs which are due by the end of 2024, as well as possible other types of reporting, such as in response to the NAP guidelines, and an initial analysis of the findings that could inform the recommendations;
    - ii) Discussing intersessionally and/or at AC 27 the approach to solicit feedback from other constituted bodies and institutions, including the consideration of a call for submissions and/or a meeting of experts.
    - iii) Preparing, by AC 28 (September/October 2025) an updated mapping and analysis, informed by the secretariat's synthesis reports on experience with the application of Adcom guidance; and adaptation information provided by Parties in their BTRs, Adcoms and NDCs, if available (see para. 19 above);
    - iv) Preparing, also by AC 28, draft recommendations on how to improve reporting on adaptation action and progress (in collaboration with the CGE and the LEG);
  - b) Agree to include next steps in its future workplan for the years 2025-2027.
  - c) Any other guidance as required.

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<sup>5</sup> Document [FCCC/SB/2022/5/Add.1](https://www.unfccc.int/documents/1362722) and Corr.1

## Documentation information

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>
0.2.0	6 September 2024	AC 26 The AC is invited to take note of the information contained in this document and provide further guidance.

Keywords: Resilience, CGE, LEG, technical guidance, training methods.

**Annex: Overview of existing reporting requirements under the Convention and the Paris Agreement,<sup>1</sup> including how relevant elements of 2/CMA.5 are already addressed<sup>2</sup>**

<i>UAE Framework target (decision 2/CMA.5)</i>	<i>Adcoms (decision 9/CMA.1, annex)</i>	<i>NCS of Annex I Parties (decision 6/CP.25, annex)</i>	<i>NCS of non-Annex I Parties (decision 17/CP.8, annex)</i>	<i>BTRs (decision 18/CMA.1, annex)</i>
9 (a) Water		46		109(b)
9 (b) Food and agriculture		46		109(b)
9 (c) Health				
9 (d) Ecosystems and biodiversity				109(g)
9 (e) Infrastructure and human settlements				
9 (f) Poverty eradication and livelihoods				
9 (g) Cultural heritage	(h)			109(c)
10 (a) Impact, vulnerability and risk assessment	(b)	46, 47(a-d)	29, 32, 33, 34, 44	107(a-c), 116(b)
10 (b) Planning	(c)	47(d)	26, 28, 53	108(a), 109(b), 109(g)
10 (c) Implementation	(e)(i-ii) (i)	46, 47(f)	29, 53	108(a,b), 109(a), 110(a-e), 111, 113(d)
10 (d) Monitoring, evaluation and learning	(e)(vi)	47(e)	35	112-113

<sup>1</sup> NDCs and LT-LEDs are not included in the table as they are self-determined. Guidance for Adcoms applies for NDCs. The NAP Technical Guidelines are not included as they relate to planning rather than reporting instruments.

<sup>2</sup> Numbers and letters in the table refer to the respective paragraphs in the decisions.