

Enhanced collaboration with external experts and organizations**Draft options paper****Recommended action by the Adaptation Committee**

The Adaptation Committee (AC), at its 27th meeting, will be invited to take note of the information contained in this options paper and provide further guidance to the secretariat, as appropriate.

1. Background

1. The AC is mandated to promote the implementation of enhanced action on adaptation in a coherent manner under the Convention, inter alia, through “Promoting synergy and strengthening engagement with national, regional and international organizations, centres and networks, in order to enhance the implementation of adaptation actions, in particular in developing country Parties” (decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 20 (c)).

2. According to its revised Rules of Procedure (RoP)¹, the AC may establish subcommittees, panels, thematic advisory groups or task-focused ad hoc working groups, if required, to provide, inter alia, expert advice in different sectors and areas, in order to assist the Adaptation Committee in performing its functions and achieving its objectives (paragraph 18 of its revised RoP, based on decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 113). Any subcommittee, panel, or advisory or working group shall be composed of an appropriate number of members as determined by the Committee. Members of such subcommittees, panels, or advisory or working groups shall have demonstrated and recognized technical expertise in the relevant field of work (paragraph 19 of its revised RoP).

3. The revised RoP further determine that the AC will engage with, and draw on the expertise of, relevant institutions, organizations, frameworks, networks and centres outside of the Convention, including those at the intergovernmental, regional, national and, through them, subnational levels, where appropriate (paragraph 36 of the revised RoP, based on decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 100). In addition, the AC should seek input from intergovernmental, international, regional, national and subnational organizations, centres and networks, the private sector and civil society, in undertaking its work; and invite advisers drawn from them to participate in its meetings as expert advisers on specific issues as they arise (paragraph 37 of the revised RoP, based on decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 105).

4. To date, the AC has made use of the following modalities to collaborate with external experts and stakeholders:

- a) Established the NAP task force, composed of representatives of adaptation-related constituted bodies, operating entities of the financial mechanism and the Adaptation Fund;
- b) Engaged with intergovernmental, regional, and national institutions, organizations, frameworks, networks and centres in its workshop, forums and other events;
- c) Engaged with the IPCC Working Group II and representatives of the Working Group II Technical Support Unit on various COP and CMA mandates, including on a technical paper on methodologies for assessing adaptation needs and their application (published in 2022), the

¹ Available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/271498>.

draft supplementary guidance for adaptation communications (published in 2022) and in its 2023 regional engagement workshops;

- d) Collaborated with the NAP Global Network on the development of specific products, including the Toolkit for a gender-responsive process to formulate and implement National Adaptation Plans (2019), the Toolkit for engaging the private sector in National Adaptation Plans (2020), and the Toolkit for Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning for National Adaptation Plan Processes (2024);
- e) Invited advisers drawn from national organizations to its meetings as expert advisers, including on the topic of monitoring and evaluation, and to draft or peer review some of its technical products, e.g. the technical paper on “Data for adaptation at different spatial and temporal scales”.

5. At AC 26, the AC agreed to further determine how to enhance its collaboration with external experts and organizations, including for the activities related to the mandate referred to in paragraph 44 of decision 2/CMA.5.

2. Options and considerations

6. When considering options for enhancing collaboration with external experts and organizations, the AC may wish to take into account the following guiding questions, its past practices as outlined in paragraph 4 above and current practices of other constituted bodies as included in table 1.

- a) **Which activities of the AC’s 2025–2027 flexible workplan would benefit from external expertise and contributions?**
- b) **Which form of collaboration would be most appropriate for the respective activities?**
 - i) Longer-term (e.g. establishment of subcommittees, panels, thematic advisory groups);
 - ii) Ad-hoc (e.g. task-focused ad hoc working groups; engagement with individual organizations and/or experts on specific products or activities; or invitation of expert advisors to its meetings);
 - iii) Combination of the above.
- c) **How should the engagement be initiated?**
 - i) Via the AC’s website (e.g. permanent roster of experts as in the case of the LEG and WIM ExCom or open call for inputs on specific products as in the case of the SCF);
 - ii) Proactive outreach by the AC, including with the support of the UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centres and/or Adaptation Contact Points;
 - iii) Combination of the above.
- d) **Which criteria should be applied for the selection of experts and organizations?**
 - i) Criteria for technical expertise (sample criteria are contained in the terms of reference of the WIM ExCom thematic expert groups and the TEC strategy for collaborative partnerships and engagement);
 - ii) Criteria for representation (e.g. geographic region/ administrative level/ type of organizations, centres and networks/ gender) (sample criteria are contained in the terms of reference of the WIM ExCom thematic expert groups and the TEC strategy for collaborative partnerships and engagement);
- e) **Which other considerations will need to be taken into account?**

- i) Ownership issues and co-branding (e.g. see [UNFCCC Partnership Guidelines](#), ToRs of the WIM ExCom thematic expert groups);
- ii) Other?

Table 1

Practices of other constituted bodies in collaborating with external experts and stakeholders

Constituted body	Purpose and focus of external collaboration	Organizational aspects	Form of collaboration
LEG	<p>NAP Technical working group</p> <p>Following a range of ad-hoc arrangements for collaboration with external experts and organizations on technical guidance and support for NAPs, the LEG and the organizations proposed the formation of a NAP technical working group in order to maintain continuity and consistency of the work, especially in developing technical methods and tools.</p> <p>The purpose of the group is to promote coherence and to support the work of the LEG in advancing technical guidance on NAPs in the following areas:</p> <p>(a) Pooling together the latest and most appropriate approaches, tools and methods for the different elements of the process to formulate and implement NAPs;</p> <p>(b) Designing an integrating framework for the NAP process that would elaborate key avenues for integrated approaches for the formulation and implementation of the NAPs, including through working on a country case studies;</p> <p>(c) Elaborating how the formulation and implementation of NAPs can serve to address climate change concerns across all applicable SDGs.</p> <p>The group is also involved in the planning for the annual NAP Expo.</p>	<p>The NAP technical working group is composed of experts and representatives from bodies, organizations, regional centres and networks that provide technical support to developing countries on the process to formulate and implement NAPs, as well individual experts.</p> <p>The working group meets at the margins of the sessions of the subsidiary bodies and the Conference of the Parties. It also meets on a need basis such as during the preparations for NAP Expos and other relevant events.</p>	Long-term/ advisory role
	<p>LDC Roster of experts on NAPs</p> <p>Roster of national and regional experts from the LDCs to support the formulation and iterative review of NAPs, and the implementation of policies, projects and programmes identified in them.</p> <p>The roster contains information on experts with relevant skills and professional expertise in the field of climate change adaptation to contribute to activities related to the formulation and implementation of NAPs.</p>	Experts may express their interest in joining the roster on a continuous basis via an application form which is available on the LEG's website and must be submitted to the LEG's official email address together with a curriculum vitae.	Ad-hoc/short-term on specific products/activities

WIM Excom	<p><u>Thematic expert groups</u></p> <p>The WIM ExCom has established five thematic expert groups to support the strategic workstreams of its workplan - slow onset events, non-economic losses and comprehensive risk management, displacement and action and support. The expert groups help execute the work of the WIM ExCom in guiding the implementation of the Warsaw International Mechanism in an advisory role.</p> <p>The groups catalyse technical contributions and resources from over 50 organizations.</p>	<p>The thematic expert groups are composed of a balanced number of members of the WIM ExCom, technical experts (drawn, inter alia, from the roster of experts as referred to below) and representatives of relevant constituted bodies under the Convention and/or the Paris Agreement. The groups are facilitated by WIM ExCom members, guided by individual terms of reference and a rolling plan of action (endorsed by the WIM ExCom) and conduct their own regular meetings. They report back to the WIM ExCom</p> <p>In selecting the technical experts, the WIM ExCom takes into account the needs for expertise from multiple regions and for regional balance as well as other criteria as identified in the terms of reference of the groups. The experts serve for a term of two years with the possibility of extension.</p> <p>Outputs of the thematic expert groups are presented for consideration by the ExCom and the groups regularly report to the ExCom at its meetings and via written reports.</p> <p>Branding and disclaimers for knowledge products, outputs and other deliverables of the expert groups must be applied, as appropriate, on the basis of guidance from the ExCom and within the broader guidelines of the UNFCCC process.</p>	Long-term/ advisory role
	<p><u>Roster of experts</u></p> <p>The Roster of Experts of the Warsaw International Mechanism, established in March 2018, serves as a repository of information on individuals who bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise in advancing the relevant work on loss and damage. The Roster aids the Executive Committee in identifying experts who are keen to contribute to specific and targeted activities on a pro bono basis,</p>	<p>Experts may express their interest in joining the roster on a continuous basis via an application form which is available on the WIM ExCom's website</p>	Ad-hoc/short-term on specific products/activities or as potential members of the thematic expert groups

	thereby enhancing the effectiveness of the Mechanism.		
TEC	<p><u>TEC strategy for collaborative partnerships and engagement</u></p> <p>At its 26th meeting (2023), the TEC endorsed its strategy for collaborative partnerships and engagement as a living document, and agreed to adjust it as needed over the course of the implementation of the TEC rolling workplan for 2023-2027.</p> <p>The strategy outlines the objectives of the partnerships and engagements, guiding principles and recommended steps and approaches, building on previous experiences and lessons.</p>		Long-term and ad-hoc
SCF	<p><u>Biennial assessment and overview of climate finance flows with the inputs of external experts</u></p> <p>While the SCF drafts the summary and recommendations of each biennial assessment (BA), the technical report of the BA is prepared by external experts under the guidance of the SCF. The technical reports are also subject to extensive stakeholder input and expert review, but remain a product of the external experts.</p>	For the BA and other SCF products, the SCF usually extends open calls for inputs and ensures regional balance in the inputs it takes into account. It may opt for active outreach to external experts in case of unsatisfactory response rates to the open calls.	

3. Next steps

7. The AC may wish to take note of the following possible next steps and provide further guidance to the secretariat at AC 27:

- a) Secretariat to initiate any steps towards the collaborations if agreed by the AC at AC 27 (e.g. initiating the creation of a roster of experts on the AC's website);
- b) Alternatively or additionally, secretariat to draft an "AC strategy, including guidelines and criteria, for collaborative partnerships and engagement", following the example of the TEC as included in table 1, for consideration at AC 28;
- c) Alternatively or additionally, secretariat to organize a meeting among constituted bodies for an informal exchange of experience on the collaboration with external experts and organizations and the coordination of future approaches.

Documentation information

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>
01.0	29 April 2025	AC27 This options paper including its next steps is for consideration by the AC.
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