

Adaptation Committee's 2026 Adaptation Forum**Concept note****Recommended action by the Adaptation Committee**

The Adaptation Committee (AC), at its 27th meeting, will be invited to consider the information contained in this document and provide further guidance as needed.

1. Background

1. Since 2013, the Adaptation Committee (AC), has convened Adaptation Forums to advance dialogue and learning on priority areas of adaptation under the Convention and Paris Agreement. The 2025–2027 workplan, welcomed by Parties at COP29, includes the activity to conduct an Adaptation Forum on the state of adaptation action by Parties. At AC27, the Committee is invited to consider this draft concept note, with a view to establishing the Forum's theme, timeline, and collaboration modalities. AC28 is expected to build upon these discussions, including identifying a steering committee and collaboration partners.
2. The Forum supports continued coherence with the broader adaptation efforts, including in collaboration with the LEG, SCF, TEC, PCCB, and the Financial Mechanism.
3. This concept note proposes the organization of the 2026 Adaptation Forum by AC as outlined in its 2025–2027 workplan. Building on the legacy of previous Forums and guided by decisions of the COP and CMA, the 2026 Forum aims to facilitate knowledge exchange, foster collaboration, and raise awareness on the state of adaptation action undertaken by Parties. The Forum will also serve as an expert platform to advance the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience and improve reporting on adaptation action and progress.

2. Value proposition and expected outcomes

4. The 2026 Adaptation Forum will provide a unique, expert-driven platform that:
 - a) Raises awareness on the current state and trends in adaptation action.
 - b) Facilitates exchange of good practices and lessons learned from national and subnational actors.
 - c) Strengthens technical capacity on implementation of adaptation-related frameworks, including the UAE Framework.
 - d) Catalyzes collaboration across UNFCCC bodies and external stakeholders, including financial institutions, scientific bodies, and observer organizations.
 - e) Provides input to improve adaptation-related reporting and M&E systems.
 - f) Informs future guidance of the Adaptation Committee and contributes to progress towards the Global Goal on Adaptation.
5. Expected Outcomes:
 - a) A synthesis report highlighting key takeaways (e.g., feeding into AC reports, SB sessions, or the global stocktake two).
 - b) Practical inputs for guidance and materials emerging from sessions.
 - c) Strengthened partnerships and help defragmenting efforts across the adaptation landscape.
 - d) Recommendations to Parties (through the AC Annual Report to the COP and the CMA) to enhanced transparency and effective implementation of adaptation action.

3. Priority themes

6. Based on the key outcomes and messages from the 2024 Adaptation Forum,¹ several opportunities have emerged that the AC could consider when planning the next Forum in 2026:

- a) **Transformational adaptation focus:** Showcase systemic shifts and high-impact actions to close the gap between ambition and current adaptation efforts.
- b) **Finance matchmaking:** Include a space for countries to connect directly with funders, inspired by the Adaptation Pipeline Accelerator model.
- c) **Regional spotlights:** Highlight region-specific challenges and solutions through tailored sessions, promoting peer learning.
- d) **Climate risk data and digital tools:** Feature innovations in digitizing data and centralized platforms to address data gaps and support early warning systems.
- e) **Monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL):** Share good practices and tools for tracking progress and enabling adaptive learning in implementation.
- f) **Local and youth voices:** Elevate contributions from youth, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities through storytelling and innovation showcases.
- g) **Link to Global Goal on Adaptation:** Use the Forum to track progress and support implementation of the Global Goal on Adaptation.

7. Building on these opportunities and recent developments at COP 28 and COP 29, the following priority themes are proposed for the 2026 Adaptation Forum:

Theme	Title	Description	Potential Session Topics
Theme 1	Technical support and guidance for effective adaptation action	Focus on enhancing Parties' capacity to plan, implement, and monitor adaptation through practical support and knowledge sharing towards achieving the GGA (consistent with Decision 2/CMA.5 paragraph 44)	- Operationalizing adaptation plans (NAPs, NDCs)
			- Accessing and deploying means of implementation (finance, tech, capacity)
			- Strengthening institutional and governance frameworks
Theme 2	Assessing adaptation progress: Data, information, and learning	Highlighting efforts to track adaptation progress through robust systems and reporting, building on information submitted by Parties.	- National systems for Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL)
			- Use of indicators and metrics
			- Stocktaking lessons from Adaptation Communications and BTRs
Theme 3	Enhancing coherence and collaboration in the adaptation landscape	Exploring opportunities to align efforts across sectors, scales, and stakeholders, in light of outcomes from COP29 and COP30 (future outcomes).	- Building synergies between global, regional, and local efforts
			- Institutional coordination among UNFCCC bodies
			- Partnerships with UN entities, MDBs, and observer organizations
Theme 4	Innovation and emerging frontiers in	Showcasing new approaches, tools, and partnerships that	- Nature-based solutions and agroecology

¹ See <https://unfccc.int/news/2024-adaptation-forum-highlights-opportunities-for-international-cooperation>.

	transformational adaptation	accelerate adaptation action in a changing climate context.	- Digital tools, climate risk analytics, and early warning systems
			- Role of youth, Indigenous Peoples, and local knowledge
Cross-cutting	Equity, inclusivity, and transformative adaptation: it will inform the design of all other sessions, not just be a standalone session theme.	Ensuring the Forum is inclusive and contributes to long-term resilience and climate justice, especially for vulnerable communities.	- Gender-responsive and locally led adaptation
			- Social equity in adaptation finance
			- Resilience-building through just transitions

4. Programme design and format options

8. To ensure a coherent, impactful, and inclusive Adaptation Forum in 2026, the AC may consider the following programme design models, which also inform the Forum's format:

a) Option 1: AC-curated programme

- i. Under this model, the AC would fully design and curate the Forum's agenda. Sessions would be organized either around the thematic areas proposed in Section 3 or begin with a session dedicated to raising awareness of key outcomes relevant to adaptation between COP28 and COP30. Alternatively, subsequent sessions could focus on strategic themes or critical elements of the adaptation cycle, such as impact, vulnerability, and risk assessment; planning; implementation; and monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL).
- ii. This approach ensures a focused and tightly aligned structure directly advancing the objectives of the AC.
- iii. Sessions would be predominantly technical and expert-driven, curated directly by the AC and its secretariat support.

b) Option 2: Open call for Expressions of Interest (EoI)

- iv. An open and participatory model where interested partners are invited to submit proposals to lead or co-lead sessions.
- v. The AC would provide a clear set of strategic objectives and criteria aligned with the Forum's goals, ensuring relevance and quality.
- vi. This approach fosters inclusiveness, innovation, and dynamic engagement from a wide array of stakeholders, although it may require an extended Forum (up to five days) depending on the level of interest and available resources.

c) Option 3: Hybrid model (recommended option)

- vii. The AC would curate the core thematic structure of the Forum, particularly sessions directly linked to its mandates and priority outcomes, including the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience.
- viii. In parallel, partners would be invited through a structured EoI process to curate and organize sessions on specific thematic targets. Partners could be encouraged to lead sessions aligned with the 7 thematic targets of the UAE Framework (e.g., early warning systems, resilient infrastructure, food security, water security, ecosystems and biodiversity, and human health and well-being).
- ix. This model balances the need for strategic focus with the benefits of diverse stakeholder contributions, enhancing both coherence and innovation.
- x. It also strengthens partnerships and ownership among adaptation actors beyond the UNFCCC.

9. Format considerations:

10. Depending on resource availability and strategic goals, the Forum could be organized:
- a) **In-person (preferred):** To maximize networking, engagement, and depth of discussion.
 - b) **Hybrid:** To enhance accessibility, particularly for participants from LDCs, SIDS, and remote areas.
 - c) **Virtual:** If resource constraints limit the feasibility of an in-person or hybrid event.
11. Further, to optimize efficiency and visibility, the Forum could be organized in conjunction with other high-profile events or platforms, such as Climate Weeks, an AC meeting, sessions of the Subsidiary Bodies, or COP.

5. Proposed structure

12. Indicative structure:
- a) **Day 1:** High-level plenary with keynote addresses and framing of the Forum's objectives.
 - b) **Days 2–3 (or up to 5):** Thematic breakout sessions (5–10 concurrent tracks), side events, technical trainings.
 - c) **Final Day:** Closing plenary to present key messages, synthesis report, and next steps.

6. Target audience

13. Three potential audience models:
- a) **Option 1:** Experts and practitioners in adaptation.
 - b) **Option 2:** Experts + representatives from UN agencies, national focal points, regional groups, LDCs, SIDS, and cross-cutting groups (gender, youth, LCIPs).
 - c) **Option 3:** Blended audience as determined by the AC, balancing technical depth and broad participation.

7. Plan of Action

Timeline	Milestone
AC27 (2025)	Agreement on concept note, theme, and format
AC28 (2025)	Agreement on collaboration partners, EoI criteria, and AC steering committee
Q1 2026	Launch of call for EoIs (as applicable); initial outreach
Q2 2026	Finalization of programme and logistics
Q3–Q4 2026	Implementation of the Forum
Post-Forum	Synthesis publication and dissemination

8. Next steps

14. The AC may wish to agree on one or more of the proposed options for conducting the Adaptation Forum in 2026 and provide further guidance to the secretariat on its organization. It may wish to agree on the following course of action:
- a) AC27 to:
 - i) Endorse the draft concept note with inputs.
 - ii) Decide on the preferred programme and audience model.

- iii) Mandate the secretariat to prepare a call for collaboration partners and draft EoI template (if Option 2 or 3 selected).
- b) AC28 to:
 - i) Establish a Steering Committee and finalize the programme and speakers.
 - ii) Confirm host arrangements and funding.
- c) Secretariat to:
 - i) Explore resource mobilization opportunities with partners.
 - ii) Initiate early logistical planning to ensure timely delivery.

Documentation information

Version	Date	Description
0.1.0	06 April 2025	AC 27 The AC is invited to consider the information contained in this document and provide further guidance as needed.

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