

AC thematic dialogue 2025/2026

Draft concept note

Recommended action by the Adaptation Committee

The Adaptation Committee, at its 28th meeting, will be invited to consider the information and next steps contained in this note and provide further guidance, as appropriate.

I. Background

1. In the context of its joint mandate with the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) to continue identifying and addressing priority gaps and needs of developing countries related to the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans¹ and its overall mandate to promote the implementation of enhanced action on adaptation in a coherent manner under the Convention, the Adaptation Committee (AC) conducted in 2023 and 2024 a virtual thematic dialogue on addressing developing countries' capacity gaps in accessing adaptation funding, in collaboration with the members of its NAP task force.²
2. Taking into account the success of the dialogue and the considerable interest that it provoked, the AC, at its 26th meeting, decided to conduct new thematic dialogues in conjunction with existing adaptation-related meetings as part of its 2025–2027 workplan and in collaboration with constituted bodies and United Nations agencies, as appropriate.
3. At AC 27, the AC considered an options paper for conducting the 2025 thematic dialogue and agreed to focus it on the topic of “Opportunities for accessing adaptation finance from the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism”. It also agreed to continue considering themes for future thematic dialogues at AC 28.
4. At the mid-term call, held on 22 July 2025, AC members considered possible dates for the 2025 dialogue and discussed that it could be held either in late 2025 or in 2026, not clashing with any mandated event, and possibly back-to-back with a finance-related event to enhance coherence and visibility. It requested the secretariat to provide options for the timing of the dialogue and a draft agenda at AC 28.

II. Sub-topics and draft agenda

1. Sub-topics

5. CMA 6 agreed on the new collective quantified goal on climate finance³ and decided that significantly more finance should be delivered through the operating entities of the

¹ Decision 9/CP.27, paras. 7–8.

² More information on the first part of the dialogue is available at <https://unfccc.int/event/ac-dialoguecapacity-gaps-access-adap-fund-part1> and on the second part of the dialogue at <https://unfccc.int/event/ac-dialogue-gaps-accessing-adaptation-funding-part2>.

³ Decision 1/CMA.6, paras. 7–8.

Financial Mechanism, the Adaptation Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) and the Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF).⁴ Under the overall theme “Opportunities for accessing adaptation finance from the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism”, the 2025/2026 thematic dialogue will explore how the operating entities are preparing for these increasing flows and how these can be channelled efficiently and effectively to developing countries with a view to meeting their needs.

6. The following sub-topics may be considered:

<i>Sub-topic</i>	<i>Further details</i>
Updates from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) ⁵	Overview of support available for adaptation planning and implementation through the readiness programme, the project preparation facility, the adaptation funding window and the private sector facility Efforts to improve access and efficiency - Reducing project review and disbursement time - Reformed accreditation package Enhancing country ownership - Dedicated regional departments and dialogues Building and supplementing national capacity - Revised Readiness Strategy 2024-2027, including extended programming cycle, readiness delivery partners, GCF Expert Placement Scheme, support to country and regional platforms Expanding the use of innovative financing instruments - Information on new instruments such as debt swaps, local currency financing and results-based payments Regional presence - Regional offices and an outpost of the Fund
Updates from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) ⁶	Overview of support available for adaptation planning, implementation and reporting from the LDCF, SCCF, and the GEF Trust Fund through GEF project financing, project preparation grants, the Small Grants Programme or the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) GEF-8 streamlining agenda - Increasing efficiency and flexibility Support for nationally determined coordination mechanisms, such as country platforms - Whole-of government priorities and coordination of funders Country Engagement Strategy - Support for country focal points and government institutions to ensure effective programming and access Challenge Program for Adaptation Innovation - Catalyzing innovation and private sector engagement
Joint efforts by multilateral climate funds to support countries’ access to climate (adaptation) finance	Coordinated investments Complementary NAP support Coordinated country platform programming, including sequential programming Innovative partnership approaches

⁴ Decision 1/CMA.6, para. 16.

⁵ See the 14th report of the GCF to the COP.

⁶ See the GEF report to COP 30.

2. Draft agenda

7. The draft agenda for the 2025/2026 thematic dialogue includes the following items:

<i>Timing</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Speaker</i>
10 min	Welcome and introduction	AC Co-Chair
30 min	Updates from the GCF, including Q&A	Representative of the GCF
30 min	Updates from the GEF, including Q&A	Representative of the GEF
20 min	Joint efforts to support countries' access to adaptation finance, including Q&A	Representatives of the GCF and the GEF
25 min	Option 1: Country experiences in establishing country platforms, including Q&A	Option 1: Country representatives from either Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Madagascar, or Seychelles which have advanced on this approach
	Option 2: Support brokers to facilitate countries' access to adaptation finance	Option 2: Providers of hands-on country support at different levels
5 min	Wrap-up and closing	AC Co-Chair

III. Possible timing

8. The following table provides a provisional list of finance-related events in late 2025 and the first half of 2026 that the dialogue could be linked to. Events highlighted in grey are mandated or other events which do not allow for overlap with the planned dialogue.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Organizer</i>	<i>Location</i>
1–3 October 2025	Workshop under the UAE–Belém work programme on indicators	UNFCCC	Bonn
13–14 October 2025	Pre-COP 30	UNFCCC	Belém
10–21 November 2025	COP 30	UNFCCC	Belém
27–30 October 2025	43rd meeting of the Board of the GCF	GCF	Songdo
15–19 December 2025	70th GEF Council meeting and 39th LDCF/SCCF Council meeting	GEF	Virtual
20–28 June 2026	2026 London Climate Action Week	E3G and Mayor of London	London
Dates to be confirmed	UNFCCC Regional climate weeks		
Dates to be confirmed	Events by the RCCs		
Dates to be confirmed	GCF regional dialogues		
Dates to be confirmed	Events by other multilateral climate funds or development banks		
Dates to be confirmed	Events by the Climate Policy Initiative		
Dates to be confirmed	Events by the NDC partnership		

IV. Engagement of external experts and stakeholders

9. In addition to representatives of the GEF and the GCF, the 2025/2026 thematic dialogue may engage the following external experts and stakeholders, subject to the final agenda as will be agreed by the AC:

- (a) Representatives from additional multilateral climate funds to join the discussion on “Joint efforts to support countries’ access to adaptation finance”;
- (b) Country representatives to share experiences on the establishment of country platforms for coordinating support;
- (c) Support brokers from different government levels that provide hands-on support to facilitate countries’ access to adaptation finance, e.g. UNFCCC regional collaboration centres, NDC partnership, GCF readiness delivery partners, regional centres and networks, national designated authorities.

V. Themes for future thematic dialogues

10. As discussed at AC 27, the AC may wish to consider the following non-exhaustive list of possible themes for future thematic dialogues:
- (a) Exchanging (regional) experience on developing strategies for implementing national adaptation plans;
 - (b) Impact, vulnerability, and risk assessments;
 - (c) Adaptive capacity assessments;
 - (d) Cross-cutting issues, including gender, Indigenous Peoples and local knowledge or ocean-based action;
 - (e) Adaptation effectiveness and progress;
 - (f) Adaptation reporting;
 - (g) Adaptation finance-related themes;
 - (h) Other.

VI. Next steps

11. The AC, at its 28th meeting, may wish to provide further guidance to the secretariat on the timing and agenda of the 2025/2026 thematic dialogue and agree on themes for future dialogues.

Documentation information		
Version	Date	Description
0.1.0	31 August 2025	AC 28 This concept note including its next steps is for consideration by the AC.
Keywords: National adaptation plans, Means of implementation, Adaptation, Resilience		