

**Informal Presidency workshop on the Global Goal on Adaptation
[Africa RCW Session]**

Considering approaches to reviewing the overall progress
made in achieving the global goal on adaptation

17 August 2021



Mandate

In 2019, the CMA requested the Adaptation Committee to **consider approaches to reviewing the overall progress made in achieving the global goal on adaptation** and to reflect the outcome of this consideration in its 2021 annual report.



AC Webinar on the Global Goal on Adaptation

The AC's webinar on the global goal on adaptation focused on **key principles and criteria** that should guide the consideration of approaches to reviewing overall progress towards the global goal on adaptation, **which approaches are most feasible** to follow in the short and long terms, the **challenges and needs** that should be accounted for, and how these might be overcome.

We also invited participants to share **any other approaches, ideas, or factors** that the AC should consider.



AC Webinar on the Global Goal on Adaptation

On **principles and criteria**: e.g. guided by agreed principles of the GST and Paris Agreement; take advantage of existing reporting instruments; flexibility; progression over time.

On **challenges and needs**: e.g. data availability and affordability; methodological challenges; incorporating traditional knowledge. Challenges and needs cannot bring the process to a halt. Corresponding **solutions**: take a holistic and mixed-methods approach to reviewing progress; improving the approach over time; building on existing expertise.

On **other ideas, approaches, and factors**: e.g. importance of transboundary and regional-level considerations; addressing Article 7.1 as a whole.



Literature Review

Potential benefits of reviewing adaptation progress include:

- Understanding **whether/how vulnerability is changing** over time and across scales/dimensions
- Understanding **what works well in which contexts**, and developing plans and priorities accordingly
- **Raising the profile** of adaptation
- **Improving estimates of the cost** of adaptation
- Helping **better target adaptation finance** to where it is most needed

Finding **appropriate**, **acceptable**, and/or **feasible methods** for undertaking such reviews remains challenging.



Literature Review: Challenges

- **Methodological** challenges (e.g. the difficulty of attributing results to interventions, the shifting baselines and uncertainties of climate hazards, and designing a system that can aggregate results across scales and contexts)
- **Empirical** challenges (e.g. the rarity of adaptation databases)
- **Conceptual** challenges (e.g. a lack of agreement on what counts as adaptation)
- **Political** challenges (e.g. navigating divergent views and political sensitives surrounding measurement under the UNFCCC regime)



Literature Review: Proposed Approaches

- **General approaches for collecting and linking adaptation-related information** across scales (e.g. standardized metrics, context-specific metrics related to common themes, informal linkages)
- **Specific frameworks of metrics** (e.g. a combination of metrics that assess risks, global readiness to address risks, and support required and available for adaptation)
- **Proximity-to-target approaches** (assessing progress using a government's own targets and goals, or an ideal model, as benchmarks)
- **Specific proxies** for adaptation progress (e.g. Saved Wealth & Saved Health; human security)
- **Sectoral approaches** (e.g. health or agriculture specific indicator sets)
- **Proposals to first seek consensus** on what to track, how to track it, and how to address challenge related to data and other areas



Recurring themes and overarching considerations

It is important to keep in mind:

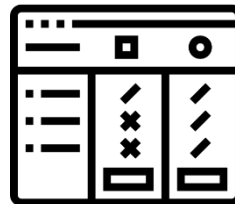
- The **resources** and **capacity** necessary to pursue each approach, and the corresponding burden that will be placed on countries with lower capacity.
- The need to **maintain flexibility** and **adjust approaches** over time.
- The **value of combining various approaches** in order to generate a more holistic picture of adaptation progress (e.g. qualitative case studies and quantitative indicators, descriptive and evaluative assessments, standard and optional indicators)



Reflections on potential methodologies



- Using a **voluntary questionnaire** or **self-scoring exercise** to generate an aggregate scoreboard



- Looking ahead, comparing **adaptation communications** and **biennial transparency reports** to follow a proximity-to-target approach



- Establishing a **baseline of climate change-related risks** and assessing changes against this baseline over time

Next Steps

The AC will now **finalize its technical paper** and **continue its consideration of approaches** this year, taking into account the input received, with a view to reflecting the outcome in its 2021 annual report.

