**Adaptation Committee Webinar** 

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

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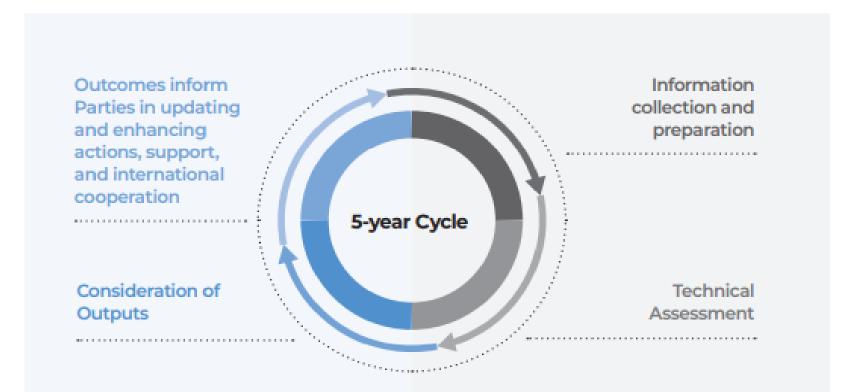


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Article 7 of the Paris Agreement established the **global goal on adaptation** of "enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change, with a view to contributing to sustainable development and ensuring an adequate response in the context of the temperature goal" of "[h]olding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels."



## Adaptation in the Global Stocktake





# 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.



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.



- 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)





- Aggregability <u>vs.</u> sensitivity to national context
- Aggregability <u>vs.</u> coherence
- Aggregability or feasibility <u>vs.</u> longitudinal assessment



- 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



- Related multilateral frameworks offer a set of indicators already tailored to the global level that can potentially be applied to review progress towards the global goal on adaptation by either borrowing, expanding, or tweaking these existing monitoring efforts
- Given the idiosyncrasies of the Paris Agreement and global stocktake, borrowing elements of other regimes can pose challenges and should be approached with caution



# SENDAI FRAMEWORK



Convention on Biological Diversity



**United Nations** Convention to Combat Desertification



- 11 national-level systems from different regions with varying approaches:
  - assessing progress towards desired adaptation outcomes
  - deploying indicator-based frameworks with complementary analyses
  - Informal knowledge-exchange
  - Questionnaires and information collection cards



# **Existing systems for reviewing adaptation progress**

### Aggregated scoreboards across countries:

## **European Union**

STEP A: PREPARING THE GROUND FOR ADAPTATION 1a: Central or federal body for adaptation policy-making 1b: Horizontal (i.e. sectoral) coordination 1c: Vertical (i.e. across levels of administration) coordination 2a: Process for involving stakeholders in preparing policies 2b: Transboundary cooperation planned STEP B: ASSESSING RISKS AND VULNERABILITIES 3a: Monitoring climate change, extreme events and impacts 3b: Scenarios and projections used to assess impacts 3c: Risk/vulnerability assessments to support decisions 3d: Risk/vulnerability assessments consider transboundary risks 4a: Work to identify and address knowledge gaps 5a: Information available to all (e.g. through a website) 5b: Capacity building activities and associated materials STEP C: IDENTIFYING ADAPTATION OPTIONS 6a: Adaptation options defined based on risk assessments 6b: Robust prioritisation of adaptation options 6c: Coordination of disaster risk management and adaptation 7a: Funding available to increase resilience STEP D: IMPLEMENTING ADAPTATION ACTION 8a: Adaptation included in national EIA framework 8b: Disaster risk management plans consider projections 8c: Key planning policies consider climate impacts 8d: National policy instruments promote sectoral adaptation 8e: Adaptation is mainstreamed in insurance 9a: Adaptation action plans and policies are implemented 9b: Cooperation mechanisms foster subnational adaptation 9c: Guidelines to assess climate impacts on projects/programmes 9d: Processes for involving stakeholders in policy implementation STEP E: MONITORING AND EVALUATION 10a: Monitoring and reporting: NAS/NAP implementation 10b: Monitoring and reporting: sectoral integration 10c: Monitoring and reporting: sub-national 11a: Periodic planned review of NAS/NAP 11b: Stakeholders involved in review of national adaptation policy



# UNEP Adaptation Gap Report

#### Criteria for adequate and effective adaptation planning Number of countries 1. Comprehensiveness 1.1 Options address assessed risks 2. Inclusiveness 2.1 Stakeholder engagement 2.2 Dedicated process in place 2.3 Gender 3. Implementability 3.1 Central administration in charge 3.2 Regulatory instruments 3.3 Incentive-based instruments 3.4 Direct investment/funding 4. Integration 4.1 Horizontal integration 4.2 Vertical integration 5. Monitoring and evaluation 5.1 M&E system in place 5.2 Monitoring undertaken 5.3 Evaluation planned/undertaken 50 100 150196 In progress/Partial Unknown

■ Yes ■ In progress ■ No



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)









- Using a voluntary questionnaire or selfscoring 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 changerelated risks and assessing changes against this baseline over time



- The paper makes clear both the importance and value of reviewing progress towards the global goal on adaptation and the enduring challenges and trade-offs that complicate this task
- Many countries, organizations, researchers, and others are proposing and piloting related systems and approaches for reviewing adaptation progress at different scales, which can offer insights into possible ways forward
- The technical paper does not point towards a single path forward, but rather attempts to spark a discussion and well-informed consideration of this topic

Thank you for your attention!

