UNIDO Speaking Contribution — 2026 Adaptation Forum

Session 4 — Future Pathways for Adaptation

Event: Climate Week 4 (CW4), Heydar Aliyev Center, Baku, Azerbaijan /Thursday 10 September 2026, 09:30–13:00 (AZT/UTC+4)

Executive Summary

- UNIDO's distinctive value. UNIDO brings the industrial and productive-capacity lens to adaptation, with turning it from a recurring, aid-dependent cost into country-led, locally owned and investable economic activity. This is an angle still under-represented in GGA implementation.
- The gap UNIDO addresses. Especially escalating water and heat hazards increasingly disrupt supply and value chains and halt industrial activity, which is an industrial dimension of climate risk that adaptation has under-addressed. The priority is ex-ante investment for industrial resilience, coupled with risk identification.
- Three core messages.
  - Protect — "Enhance **Resilience** for Business": safeguard industry, infrastructure and value chains so economies keep running through climate shocks, moving beyond early warning for life safety to business continuity.
  - Create — "Enhance **Business** for Resilience": grow adaptation itself into local industries and livelihoods (cooling, water reuse, insurance, disaster-information services) that communities sustain after projects close.
  - Enable — "**Climate Intelligence** for Industrial Resilience": a shared data foundation (climate data + hazard data+ industry data) that unlocks industrial planning, private solutions and adaptation finance.
- Riding the data frontier. As the frontier shifts from LiDAR/drones toward AI-enabled, high-resolution & frequency satellite analysis, UNIDO's Climate Intelligence Ecosystem integrates climate, hazard, geospatial and industrial data inclusively and sustainably, and solves the impact-data bottleneck that makes parametric insurance and impact investment viable.
- Built to last, nationally led. Locally fit technology and solution that can be produced, operated and maintained locally, and locally led innovation with business models that sustain solutions beyond project end. Partnerships start from nationally identified needs and connect them to public and private finance at scale.
- As proven delivery, ASIF (~USD 10 million Adaptation SME Innovation Facility) demonstrates "Business for Resilience" through local MSMEs; KUUA (Kenya–Uganda) pilots catalytic finance helping early-growth adaptation SMEs cross the "missing-middle" gap — a live demonstration of connecting national needs to finance and scale.
- **Offer to the AC from UNIDO**: Fill the industrial / productive-capacity and private-sector gap in GGA implementation; help close adaptation data and economic-impact metrics gaps; and serve as a technical resource on industrial resilience and adaptation financial readiness to inform the AC's knowledge products and peer learning.

A. Context — the invitation and what the AC is asking

On behalf of the Adaptation Committee (AC), UNIDO has been invited to speak at Session 4 – **Future pathways for adaptation**. The AC has specifically asked UNIDO to address:

Q1) What is future priorities, emerging risks, technologies and long-term pathways to inform the next generation of adaptation action and the future work of the AC

Q2) What is the role of innovation, technology and strengthened productive capacities in translating adaptation priorities into practical solutions; and

Q3) How partnerships and enabling conditions can connect nationally identified needs with implementation and support adaptation action at scale.

The session will also consider how adaptation systems must evolve as risks change, how longer-term pathways strengthen implementation, and where emerging tools add practical value.

B. UNIDO's proposition — three core messages

UNIDO's distinctive contribution is to bring the **industrial and productive-capacity lens to adaptation** — turning it from a recurring, aid-dependent cost into **country-led, locally owned and investable economic activity.** We propose a short intervention built on three messages:

1. **"Enhance Resilience for Business."** Safeguard industry, infrastructure and value chains so economies keep running through climate shocks — moving from early warning for life safety to business continuity.
2. **"Enhance Business for Resilience."** Grow adaptation itself into local industries and livelihoods (cooling, water reuse, insurance, disaster-information services) that communities sustain after projects close.
3. **"Climate Intelligence for Industrial Resilience."** A shared data foundation (Climate + Hazard + Industry) that unlocks industrial planning, private solutions and adaptation finance.

C. Substantive contribution — mapped to the session's guiding questions

Q1-1. Future priorities & emerging risks — the industrial dimension

- **Water:** scarcity and transboundary stress in LLDCs, river depletion and glacial-lake outburst floods; in SIDS, sea-level rise and salinization; in LDCs frequent erratic rain and severe flooding that overwhelms even advanced economies year after year.
- **Heat:** While the 2025 European heatwaves show that even well-resourced systems are exposed, peripheral regions of middle-income countries and LDCs, with weaker infrastructure, face far greater risk.
- **Point to be addressed by UNIDO:** These hazards increasingly disrupt supply and value chains and halt industrial activity
  - an economic/ Industrial dimension of climate risk that adaptation has under-addressed.
  - The priority is ex-ante investment for resilience, coupled with risk identification (where, and at what magnitude).

Q1-2. Emerging technologies & tools

- **The data frontier is shifting:** from LiDAR/geospatial and drones toward high-resolution, high-frequency satellite analysis (including abundant date from SAR Satellite), enabled by AI — making Hazard, Climate, Disaster and industrial data more inclusive and sustainably available.
- **Climate Intelligence for Industrial Resilience:** riding this frontier shift, UNIDO leads a data platform that integrates climate, hazard, geo-spatial and industrial data to collect and analyze it inclusively and sustainably (including CRVA).

Q1-3. Long-term pathways — UNIDO's two approaches

- **Enhance Resilience for Business ("protect"):** with Climate Intelligence Ecosystem, UNIDO apply data for resilient industrial infrastructure and value chains and secure business continuity, beyond EWS for life safety. Solving the impact/damage-data bottleneck is what makes parametric insurance and impact investment viable.
- **Enhance Business for Resilience ("create"):** with Climate Intelligence Ecosystem, develop adaptation markets as local livelihoods (e.g. cooling supply/value chains (AC demand from heatwaves; active and passive cooling to extend the shelf life of crops and catch), water-reuse filtration, agricultural and parametric insurance, and local disaster-information services) supported by standards and quality criteria, technology transfer and capacity building, and finance mobilization.

Q2. Innovation, technology & productive capacities → practical solutions

- **Locally Fit Technology:** solutions and Technology that can be produced, replicated, operated and maintained locally, recognizing adaptation as a medium-to-long-term endeavor that must stay economically sustainable in local hands.
- **Locally led Innovation:** use initial Technology Transfer and capacity building scheme as foundation, then build mechanisms and business models that keep the incentive to sustain the solution alive beyond project end.

Q3. Partnerships & enabling conditions → nationally identified needs to scale

- **Nationally identified needs first:** partner with local NGOs, CSOs and accredited entities to surface genuine local needs, inclusive of women, youth and remote/island communities.
- **Connect needs to implementation and scale:** contribute UNIDO's global knowledge, experience and networks with adding the credibility and structuring that unlock further public and private finance and investment.

D. Track record of UNIDO to deliver above

UNIDO gives it direct delivery experience the AC can draw on with two examples make the proposition concrete:

- **ASIF — Adaptation SME Innovation Facility:** a ~USD 10 million initiative integrating innovative adaptation technologies to strengthen community resilience through local micro, small and medium enterprises — a working vehicle for "Business for Resilience."
- **KUUA — Kenya–Uganda adaptation-SME investment:** pilots a catalytic finance network for early-growth adaptation SMEs, helping them cross the "missing-middle" finance gap and building local financial institutions' capacity to finance adaptation. This is a live demonstration of how enabling conditions connect national needs to finance and scale.

E. How this can serve the future work of the Adaptation Committee

- **Fill a gap:** bring the under-represented industrial / productive-capacity and private-sector dimension into GGA implementation and help close adaptation data and metrics gaps (especially economic impact).
- **Offer a technical resource:** make UNIDO available on industrial resilience solution and adaptation financial readiness to inform AC knowledge products and peer learning.