

Progress made by the AC and the LEG, in collaboration with the SCF, in addressing the mandate of continuing to compile existing methodologies for reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support

Progress update No. 1, 9 June 2022

This progress update reflects the current state of the work conducted by the AC and the LEG, in collaboration with the SCF, including through a joint working group comprising members of each of the three bodies. This work is ongoing and the outputs described in this document may further be modified and evolve as work on this topic progresses.

1. Background

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP) at its twenty-first session requested the Adaptation Committee (AC) and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) to undertake three tasks in order to assist in the implementation of the Paris Agreement, with outputs to be considered by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) at its first session.¹ One of the requests was to, jointly with the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) and other relevant institutions, develop methodologies and make recommendations on reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support referred to in Article 7, paragraph 14 (c), of the Paris Agreement.
2. In addressing this mandate, the AC and LEG collected information through a desk review, submissions from Parties and other stakeholders, including from the SCF, and events organized on the margins of United Nations climate change conferences.² Based on the information the AC and the LEG provided recommendations to the CMA through their respective reports.³
3. CMA 1 considered the recommendations, noted that the current state of knowledge was not sufficient to address the mandate and invited Parties, academia and other stakeholders to undertake further technical work, building on the existing work of the AC, LEG and SCF. It further invited the AC and the LEG, in collaboration with the SCF, and relevant experts to contribute to the technical work by continuing to compile existing methodologies.⁴

¹ Decision 1/CP.21, paragraphs 41, 45 (a) and 45 (b).

² Further information on this work is available at <https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/groups-committees/adaptation-committee/joint-ac-and-leg-mandates-in-support-of-the-paris-agreement>.

³ FCCC/SB/2017/2, FCCC/SBI/2017/14 and FCCC/SB/2017/2/Add.1– FCCC/SBI/2017/14/Add.1.

⁴ Decision 11/CMA.1, paragraphs 32–36.

2. Progress made in compiling existing methodologies

4. In response to the invitation by the CMA, the AC and the LEG, in 2020 and 2021, developed a background paper containing information on the purpose of the review of the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support in the context of the global stocktake, general considerations on the review and a compilation of existing methodologies.⁵ The compilation of existing methodologies was based on submissions received from four Parties and entities as well as other relevant documents. It included methodologies applied at the project, national or fund level and by Parties, funds and organizations. It also included related lessons learned, gaps and challenges and recommendations on the way forward by the AC, the LEG and the SCF in addressing the mandate. In preparing the background paper, the AC and the LEG also compiled detailed lists of focus areas, criteria and sources applied as part of the referenced methodologies (these lists are contained in the annexes of an earlier draft of the background paper).⁶ The two bodies decided to continue compiling existing methodologies on the Adaptation Knowledge Portal.

5. The AC and the LEG at their 19th and 39th meetings, respectively, agreed to establish a joint working group (JWG), in collaboration with the SCF, to advice on further work regarding the mandate.

3. Progress made by the joint working group

6. Since its establishment the JWG has held three meetings. It initiated its work in August 2021 with the consideration of an overall framing of adaptation under the Convention and the Paris Agreement to facilitate reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support provided for adaptation. It also discussed ways to structure the collected methodologies on the Adaptation Knowledge Portal (AKP), including possible descriptive elements to be captured, and ideas on the mobilization of external expertise to assist the joint working group in advancing its work.⁷

7. At its second meeting, held in March 2022, the JWG advanced the consideration of the overall framing and considered the context in which the review will take place and the sources of information that it may draw from. It also considered an initial set of potential review criteria and related indicators which had been developed based on the review of existing sources of information.⁸

8. At the third meeting, held in May 2022, the JWG continued the consideration of the overall framing of adaptation and support under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, a revised diagram on the context and sources of information for the review, insights from the SCF on the review of the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation support and a revised list of possible review criteria.

3.1. Framing of adaptation and support under the Convention and the Paris Agreement

9. The JWG considered the overall framing of adaptation and support under the Convention and the Paris Agreement to help guide the scope of the review of adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support. The draft diagram depicting the overall framing is contained in annex I. It provides the following information:

- a) Taking a top-down approach it shows how provisions of the COP and the CMA (element A) are responded to by different entities, such as Parties, operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, constituted bodies, and organizations, that operationalize mandates for action and support (element B);
- b) It then demonstrates how the operationalization is carried out more specifically at the country level through the iterative formulation and implementation of national adaptation plans or other adaptation planning processes, using support provided in response to COP/CMA mandates or provided outside those mandates through bilateral and domestic channels. Ultimately, the

⁵ <https://unfccc.int/documents/302837>.

⁶ AC-LEG/INFO/1 available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/262932>.

⁷ <https://unfccc.int/documents/306909>.

⁸ <https://unfccc.int/documents/461370>.

country level activities aim at realizing intended results on the part of the beneficiaries (element C);

- c) Element D of the diagram delineates how constituted bodies, organizations, regional centres and networks provide technical advice, guidance and support to national-level activities;
- d) Element E shows how feedback on the overall process is channelled back to inform the global level deliberations.

3.2. Overall context and sources of information

10. The JWG reflected on the overall context and the sources of information that are potentially relevant for reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support. This information is represented in the draft diagram contained in annex II. The diagram provides the following information:

- a) First, it points to ongoing processes at the global level which might potentially influence the review or provide relevant information for it and hence should be closely monitored by those undertaking the review: the two-year Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation (2022-2023) which has the objective of enhancing the understanding of the global goal on adaptation (GGA) and contributing to reviewing the overall progress towards it; the Sustainable Development Goal agenda and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction which have already set up global targets and related indicators to monitor progress towards them; and the long-term temperature goal which will also determine the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support, subject to the degree to which Parties will be able to meet it.
- b) Second, taking a bottom-up approach, the diagram delineates adaptation processes which are already applying monitoring and evaluation and other review processes at different levels, and the sources through which they report back their findings to the global level. The value of these processes for the global-level review of the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support is twofold: (i) the existing processes offer valuable experiences in applying methodologies to assess adequacy and effectiveness including, for example, the use of certain review criteria or indicators; (ii) the information they report through different channels to the global level can be used to directly inform the global-level review.
- c) The diagram also depicts the need for a joint consideration of the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support.

3.3. Insights from the SCF on reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation support

11. The SCF shared with the working group insights from its work related to reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of financial adaptation support which were primarily derived from two of its recent products – the fourth Biennial Assessment Report (BA)⁹ and the first report on the determination of needs of developing country Parties (NDR)¹⁰.

12. The insights primarily related to information on adaptation finance flows and adaptation needs which both are relevant in the context of reviewing the adequacy of adaptation support. They also revealed the challenges in determining adaptation finance flows as well as in costing adaptation needs and related opportunities. Similarly they pointed out several issues that so far impede the review of the effectiveness of adaptation finance.

13. The SCF also recommended additional sources which could be reviewed to derive relevant information for the review of the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation support.

⁹ https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/54307_1%20-%20UNFCCC%20BA%202020%20-%20Report%20-%20V4.pdf.

¹⁰ https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/54307_2%20-%20UNFCCC%20First%20NDR%20technical%20report%20-%20web%20%28004%29.pdf.

3.4. Potential review criteria

14. The working group also considered potential criteria for reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support provided for adaptation. The criteria are derived from existing sources and processes including the IPCC Working Group II report, the UNEP Adaptation Gap reports, the guidelines for the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans, and the review processes for the Financial Mechanism, Technology Mechanism and the Capacity-building framework as described in the background paper developed by the AC and the LEG (see paragraph 4 above).

15. The proposed criteria present broad review areas that the first global stocktake could focus on, using available data and information that have been shared by Parties in their reports thus far. They could also be framed as questions and serve to further break down the guiding questions issued by the SB Chairs for the technical assessment component of the GST.¹¹ Finally, they could assist Parties in identifying areas where there is currently a lack of collected and reported data and information but which nevertheless would be relevant areas for future reviews of the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support.

16. Work on the review criteria is under development by the group and updates will be made available to the AC, LEG and SCF once further progress is made.

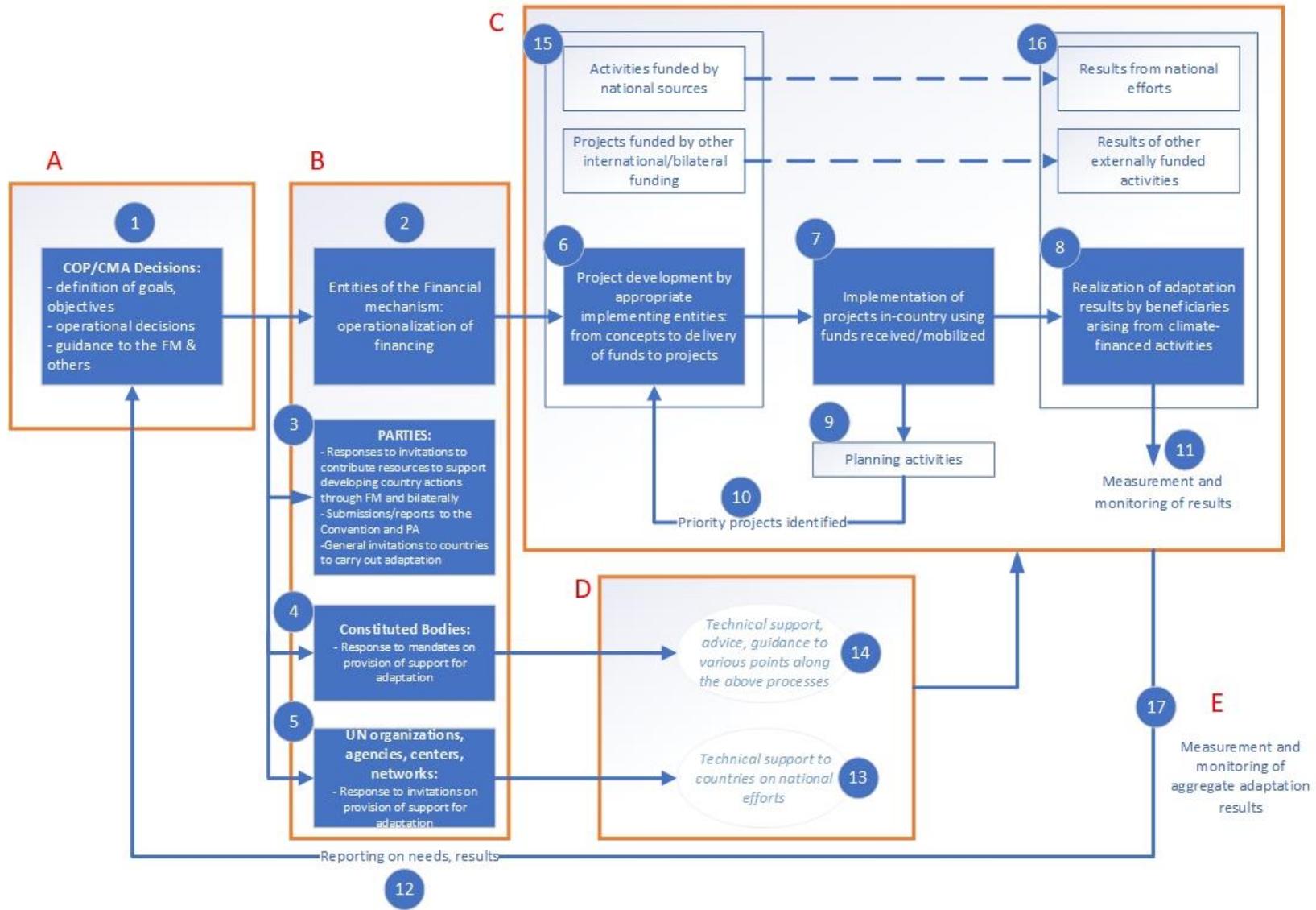
4. Next steps

17. The following activities will be undertaken including through the work of the JWG and with the support of the secretariat.

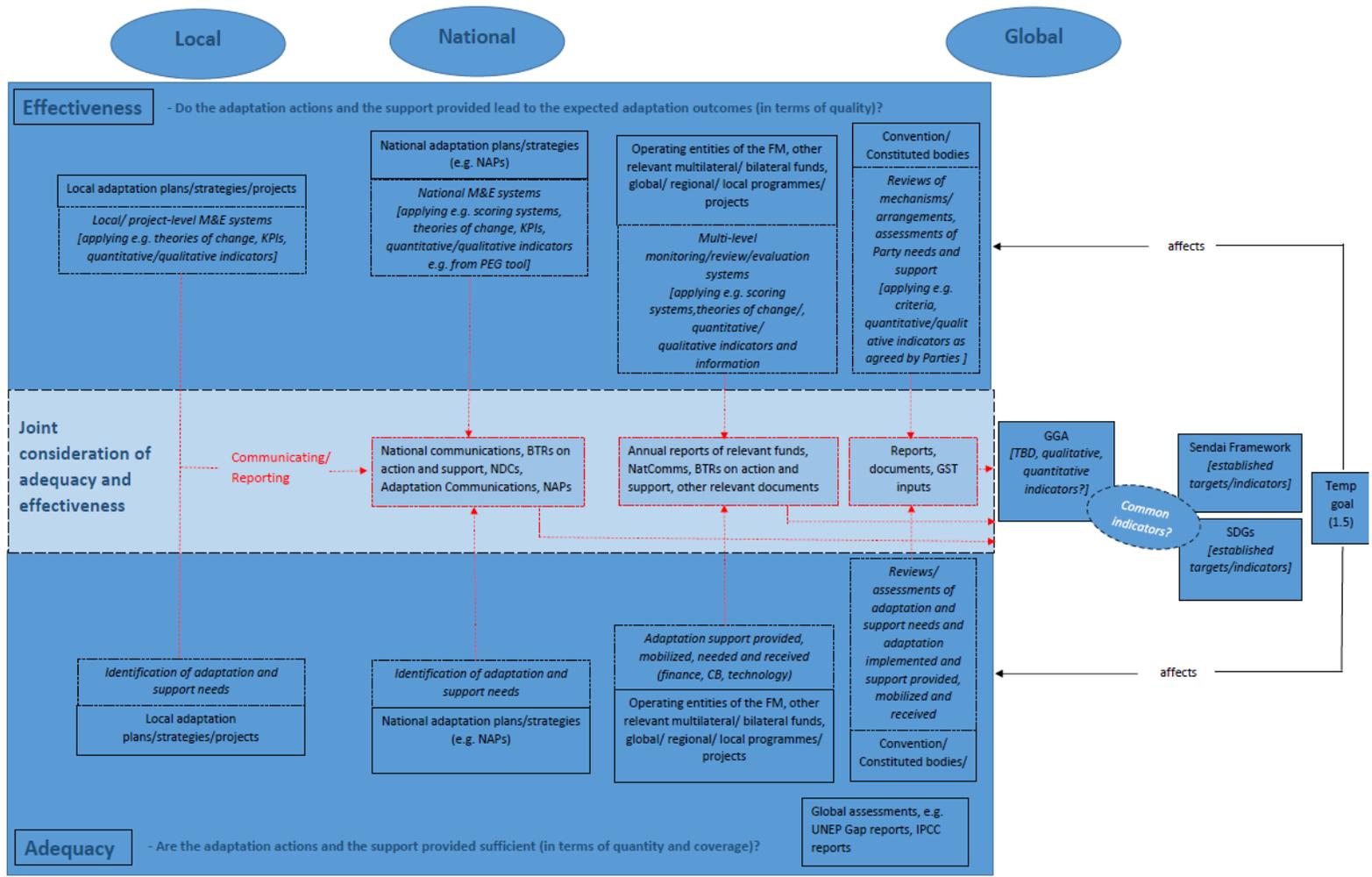
- a) Organizing a webinar to expand collection of inputs to inform the further work;
- b) Revising the elements to be used to structure and describe the collected methodologies on the Adaptation Knowledge Portal (AKP) (considering the further conceptual work under the mandate as well as expert opinions, where relevant);
- c) Determining the modalities of the review under the first GST and initiating the data and information collection process with a view to providing timely input to the technical assessment component of the first GST;
- d) Inviting relevant experts (e.g. authors under the IPCC and other relevant processes) to participate in all of the above next steps on the basis of clear terms and guiding questions.

¹¹ <https://unfccc.int/documents/307592>.

Annex I Draft framing of adaptation and support under the Convention and the Paris Agreement



Annex II Draft diagram on the overall context and potential sources of information for reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support under the global stocktake



Document information

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>
02.0	9 June 2022	AC-LEG/2022-1 Progress made by the AC and the LEG, in collaboration with the SCF, in addressing the mandate of continuing to compile existing methodologies for reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support
01.0	22 March 2022	AC21/LEG41 This note has been prepared for information and further guidance by the AC and the LEG to the joint working group as appropriate.

Keywords: Paris outcome, Adaptation, Resilience, LEG, Adaptation Committee, activities implemented jointly
