CLIMATE WEEK 3

UN Climate Change

Concept Note

From data to decisions: How Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) systems inform policy, investment and adaptive management for climate resilience

Climate Week 3 – Yeosu, Republic of Korea, 25 April 2026
Session organized by the Adaptation Committee (AC)



United Nations
Climate Change

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Background

The Adaptation Committee (AC), as the mandated body under the Convention to promote the implementation of enhanced adaptation in a coherent manner, supports Parties through the provision of technical guidance, the sharing of knowledge and good practices, the strengthening of engagement with relevant stakeholders, and the identification of gaps and needs to inform further action.[1]

In this context, the AC has been supporting Parties in strengthening monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) systems including through its work on technical support and guidance on adaptation, information provided by Parties on adaptation action and support, and contributions to the implementation of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience.[2] In doing so, the AC contributes to bridging national adaptation practice with global processes.

Monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) systems are essential for tracking progress on adaptation action and support, improving the effectiveness of policies and measures, and informing evidence-based decision-making. They play a critical role in enabling countries to monitor and review adaptation efforts, identify gaps and needs, and support continuous improvement in adaptation planning and implementation.[3]

As Parties move into a new era of implementation under the Paris Agreement, the role of MEL is evolving from systems that primarily track activities and outputs to systems that actively inform policy, guide investments, and enable adaptive management. However, significant challenges remain in linking data to decision-making processes, ensuring MEL systems inform investment planning and finance flows, capturing locally relevant and qualitative dimensions of resilience, and aligning national systems with global reporting and accountability frameworks.

This event contributes to advancing the United Arab Emirates Framework for Global Climate Resilience and ongoing work on the global goal on adaptation (GGA), including efforts to enhance the use of indicators, strengthen reporting, and support the provision of technical guidance to Parties for implementation and monitoring of adaptation action.[4]

[1] Decision 1/CP.16, para. 20.
[2] Decision 2/CMA.5, paras. 44–45; FCCC/SB/2024/4 (AC flexible workplan 2025–2027).
[3] Decision 1/CP.16, para. 20(e); Decision 2/CMA.5, para. 45.
[4] Decisions 2/CMA.5, paras. 9–10, 44–45; 12/CMA.7, paras. 14–15

The session also responds to calls under the outcome of the first global stocktake to strengthen the use of information, knowledge and data to inform implementation and enhance adaptation action.[5]

Objective

This session aims to advance the role of MEL systems as decision-making tools that support adaptation policy, investment, and adaptive management.

Specifically, the session will:

- Facilitate exchange of practical experiences in designing and operationalizing MEL systems.
- Identify how MEL systems can inform policy, planning, and investment decisions.
- Explore barriers and enabling conditions for effective MEL systems across different national contexts.
- Generate targeted inputs to inform the AC's ongoing work in providing technical support and guidance on adaptation, identifying gaps and needs, and supporting Parties in the implementation and monitoring of adaptation action, including under the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience[6].

Expected Outputs

The session will deliver:

- A set of actionable recommendations for strengthening MEL systems to support decision-making.
- Identified priority gaps and needs related to MEL for policy and investment.
- Practical insights and country-driven experiences to inform the Adaptation Committee's technical work on MEL systems and GGA indicators, including the provision of guidance to Parties.
- Targeted inputs to support the Adaptation Committee in identifying gaps and needs and formulating recommendations to enhance adaptation action and support, including in relation to finance, capacity-building and data systems.[7]
- Key messages to strengthen linkages between MEL systems and climate finance.

Duration 4 hours (incl. break) **Format** Hybrid plenary + participatory modalities **Language** English	**Format** This session is designed as a highly interactive, practice-oriented exchange convened by the AC to facilitate peer learning, capture country experiences, and generate inputs to its ongoing work. It combines: • High-level framing inputs • Facilitated World Café discussions • Structured synthesis and reflection • Collective identification of priority actions

[5] Decision 1/CMA.5, para. 186.
[6] Decision 1/CP.16, para. 20(a), (d), (e).
[7] Decision 1/CP.16, para. 20(d)–(e); Decision 9/CP.27, paras. 7–8.

Proposed agenda and guiding questions

Time	Segment / Format	Content & Details
09:00 – 09:20	**Opening and scene setting** **(Plenary)**	• Welcome and framing by Adaptation Committee (AC) (moderator) • Opening remarks by UNFCCC Deputy Executive Secretary • Framing input: "From data systems to decision systems: why MEL matters now" (AC)
09:20 – 09:50	**Strategic Inputs** **(2–3 speakers)**	• Country perspective: MEL informing national policy or investment • Finance perspective: MEL as a basis for investment decisions • Technical perspective: innovations in MEL systems
09:50 – 11:10	**World Café Round 1 (Deep dive discussions)**	Participants split into **4 thematic tables:** 1. Data quality, gaps & financing MEL 2. Closing the loop: MEL and adaptive management 3. MEL for vulnerable communities and locally led adaptation 4. From national systems to global accountability (BTRs, reporting on GGA targets and indicators) • Facilitated discussions • Rapporteurs capture key insights • Use of visual tools (flipcharts/digital boards)
11:10 – 11:25	**Break**	

11:25 – 12:25	**World Café Round 2 (Rotation and refinement)**	Focus on solutions, enabling conditions, and priority actions
		• Participants rotate to a second table
		• Build on previous discussions
		• Focus on:
		  ○ Solutions
		  ○ Enabling conditions

		○ Priority actions
12:25 – 12:50	**Synthesis and interactive plenary's**	• Rapporteurs present key insights (2–3 min each) • Moderated discussion: ○ What are the cross-cutting priorities? ○ What should change at policy, finance, and system levels?
12:50 – 13:00	**Closing and next steps**	• Synthesis of key messages and priority actions by the AC, including how these will inform its future technical work and contributions to the global goal on adaptation • Closing remarks

Guiding questions

A. Data quality, gaps and financing MEL

1. What are the most critical data gaps limiting decision-making?
2. How can MEL systems be designed to be fit-for-purpose and cost-effective?
3. What financing models can sustainably support MEL systems?

B. Closing the loop: MEL and iterative adaptation cycle

1. How has MEL influenced real decisions in policy or investment?
2. What governance mechanisms ensure MEL informs iterative action?
3. How can MEL better inform global processes (e.g. GST, GGA)?

C. MEL for climate-vulnerable communities and equity

1. How can MEL systems integrate local and Indigenous knowledge?
2. How can MEL reflect locally defined resilience outcomes?
3. What support is needed for inclusive participation?

D. From national MEL to global accountability: transparency, BTRs and the GGA

1. How are MEL systems informing BTRs and ETF reporting?
2. What is needed to support reporting on GGA targets and indicators?
3. How can the AC help bridge national systems and global frameworks?