

Concept note by the Chairs of the Subsidiary Bodies on the first workshop under the Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation

27 May 2022

I. Introduction

1. The Paris Agreement, in its Article 7.2, established the global goal on adaptation (GGA) of enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change, with a view to contributing to sustainable development and ensuring an adequate adaptation response in the context of the temperature goal referred to in Article 2 of the Agreement. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) decided, at its third session, to establish and launch a comprehensive two-year Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation (GGA work programme) to start immediately after CMA 3 and be carried out jointly by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) (decision 7/CMA.3).¹
2. The CMA further decided that four workshops should be conducted per year, with the support of the secretariat and under the guidance of the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies (SBs), under the work programme, namely two virtual intersessional workshops and two workshops in conjunction with the sessions of the SBs, starting at their fifty-sixth sessions and Parties were invited to submit via the submission portal, by 30 April 2022, views on how to achieve the objectives under the work programme.² The Chairs of the SBs were invited to select themes for the workshops on the basis of these submissions. Finally, the secretariat was requested to prepare, under the guidance of the Chairs of the SBs, a compilation and synthesis of those submissions for consideration at the workshops.
3. Taking into account the submissions of Parties, this note introduces the general approach by the Chairs of the SBs to the workshops and the theme for the first workshop.

II. Overall approach to the workshops of the GGA work programme

4. As of 26 May 2022, a total of 21 submissions from Groups of Parties and Parties have been made on how to achieve the objectives of the work programme. Many Parties have put forward proposed clusters of the objectives included in decision 7/CMA.3, para 7 and the sequence in which they would like to see them being addressed. Clusters relate to enhancing the understanding of the global goal on adaptation and how to review progress towards achieving it; enhancing the implementation of adaptation action and support; communicating and reporting on adaptation needs and action; and methodologies, metrics, indicators and monitoring and evaluation.
5. Many Parties see the enabling of the “full and sustained implementation of the Paris Agreement, towards achieving the global goal on adaptation, with a view to enhancing adaptation action and support” as an overarching objective to guide the workshops throughout the two-year work programme. Some also provided views on how to best organize the workshops, stressing the need for openness, transparency and inclusivity and engaging a

¹ <https://unfccc.int/documents/460952>

² <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/submissionsstaging/Pages/Home.aspx> enter “global goal on adaptation” in the search field.

wide range of stakeholders but also to give enough time and space for Parties and other stakeholders to consider all the issues under consideration.

III. First workshop under the GGA work programme

A. Overview

6. The first workshop under the GGA work programme will take place on 8 and 9 June 2022 from 11 am to 2 pm each day. The theme of the first workshop will be “Enhancing understanding of the global goal on adaptation and reviewing progress towards it” (objectives b and c of the work programme). It will explore the different levels of adaptation or targets to which we aspire, and how we assess or measure progress towards them, whether qualitatively or quantitatively. The workshop is also expected to discuss ways of assessing or measuring progress, noting that current progress indicators generally benchmark the past and measure progress from there, rather than benchmarking the future, i.e. desired levels of adaptation, and assessing progress thereto. Finally, the workshop will also consider the underlying complexities in setting targets and measuring progress, including as they relate to uncertainties, linkages and principles.

7. The discussions at the workshop will be facilitated by two co-moderators and will be structured around guiding questions prepared by the SB Chairs based on the submissions from Parties. Presentations and other relevant materials from the workshop will be archived on the [GGA work programme page](#). The SB Chairs will take account of the views exchanged during the first workshop in guiding arrangements for subsequent workshops and informing the annual report.

8. As mandated by CMA 3, the workshop will be preceded by an event by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), informing the work programme by presenting to SB 56 the findings of the contribution of Working Group II of the IPCC to its Sixth Assessment Report, that may be relevant to reviewing overall progress made in achieving the global goal on adaptation. The event will take place on June 7 from 11 am to 1 pm.

B. Guiding questions

9. Taking into account the theme of the workshop and the submissions, the following guiding questions are put forward to facilitate discussions:

(a) Which of the following cascading thresholds would best characterize the adaptation goal at global, regional, national and local levels under climate-changed conditions (e.g. a 2-degree world):

(i) Survival of human, economic and ecosystems?

(ii) Retaining the status quo?

(iii) Climate-proofing the SDGs?

(iv) Transforming human and economic systems and securing ecosystems with a view to attaining scaled-up levels of sustainability and resilience; and what would such transformative adaptation entail?

(b) Based on our aspirations, what kind of quantitative and qualitative targets do we set at global (e.g. no climate induced famine), regional (e.g. coverage of climate data and information), national (e.g. coverage of early warning systems) and local level (e.g. self-sufficiency for a set duration following extreme events and locally tailored resilience plans) and how do we review progress towards them?

(c) How do we address uncertainties, linkages with mitigation, development and support and different national complexities and circumstances?

(d) Which overarching principles and considerations (e.g. equity or maximising capacity for autonomous adaptation) can be learned from existing frameworks for measuring progress towards aspirational goals, and which can be of relevance to the deliberations on the global goal on adaptation at global, regional, national and local levels?

10. While the first workshop is designed to set the scene and enhance an understanding of the global goal on adaptation and of reviewing progress towards it, subsequent workshops will focus on other objectives of the GGA work programme, including enhancing implementation of adaptation and support, and go more in depth regarding methodologies, qualitative and quantitative metrics and indicators, and national monitoring, evaluation and learning systems.

C. Participants

11. The workshop will be open to all participants registered for SB 56 and will be live-streamed.

D. Draft agenda

Date and Time	Session	Room
Wednesday 8 June		
11:00–11:30	Session I. Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening remarks by the Chairs of the SBs, Mr. Tosi Mpanu-Mpanu and Ms. Marianne Karlsen • Opening remarks by the Executive Secretary, Ms. Patricia Espinosa • Scene-setting presentation by the secretariat (on the submissions and relevant previous work under the Convention and Paris Agreement) • Introduction to the first workshop by the co-moderators 	Plenary, Chamber Hall
11:30–14:00	Session II. Enhancing understanding of the global goal on adaptation, and relevance to the GST Facilitated discussions among Parties and observers	Plenary, Chamber Hall
Thursday 9 June		
11:00–13:30	Session III. Insights from existing experience in reviewing progress Facilitated discussions among Parties and observers	Plenary, room Genf
13:30–14:00	Session IV. Closing Summary of the discussions by the two moderators Closing remarks by the Chairs of the SBs, Mr. Tosi Mpanu-Mpanu and Ms. Marianne Karlsen	Plenary, room Genf