

Co-chairs' summary of the Presidencies' second informal workshop on the Global Goal on Adaptation [Asia-Pacific RCW]

9 July 2021

Introduction

The UK and Chile held our second joint informal workshop on the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) on Friday 9 July 2021. We were encouraged by the fruitful discussion between panelists, experts and the audience which consisted of parties, groups and non-governmental organisations. Prior to the consultation, we shared three questions to help stimulate and organise the discussion. These were aimed at understanding what needs to be agreed at COP26 and how progress on the GGA might be assessed at the Global Stocktake (GST).

During the session the presidencies introduced two further questions via an online tool for the audience and panelists to discuss. This was to encourage an organic and engaging discussion between the audience, experts and panel. These looked at:

1. how new and existing national systems for monitoring and evaluating adaptation progress can be used to assess overall international progress on the GGA; and
2. what the main areas are that need to be agreed in order to assess progress against the GGA at the GST.

The results of this mentimeter are posted on the Presidencies' consultation page, [here](#), with the surrounding discussion captured below.

What will need to be agreed at COP26 to enable an assessment of progress on the GGA at the Global Stocktake?

Participants identified a range of areas where they believed agreement needed to be found at COP26. Suggestions included agreement on: a definition of the GGA with clear guidance to parties on what will need to be tracked, including on data collection, reporting and monitoring, timelines, measurements and targets; baselines including a suggestion of the establishment of an alliance or taskforce which would consider national baselines; and improved access to finance particularly through the GCF.

It was recognised by participants that there was a need to put in place a workplan or roadmap at COP26 which would set out how discussions on the GGA could be progressed going forward, including how finance would be provided.

Participants emphasised the need for more space and time for discussions with some suggesting an agenda item or workshops to ensure sufficient space for discussions at both technical and political level. Others argued that the focus should be on progressing the substance rather than revisiting the architecture and wanted the AC to continue to take forward work on the GGA.

What information is needed to understand progress against the GGA? and what role do Adaptation Communications play? How can we avoid burdening developing countries?

Participants agreed that more work and time was needed to understand how progress against the GGA can be assessed. Many participants flagged the need for a whole-of-system approach which builds risk and resilience into decisions, policies and investments. They said that a holistic approach was needed which brought in other international frameworks such as Sendai or the Sustainable Development Goals.

As with the previous workshop, we heard from participants about the need to take into account local perspectives and circumstances and the challenges of translating local, indigenous, context specific information to the global level. Participants voiced the need for context specific indicators which capture progress at the local and national level and would be sustainable and robust over the long term. Many participants suggested that a standardised model at a global level would not be sufficient to capture or incentivise individual needs and action. There were suggestions that a global picture could be captured through the number of NAPs submitted or vulnerability assessments undertaken. Others suggested that although there was a need for local indicators, qualitative and quantitative metrics for global aggregation are needed. It was suggested that this could be done by looking at the support needed and identified in reporting tools. Some reflected on the necessity to have an approach which ensures that the Global Goal incentivises progress at all levels, tying together the need for local-level progress on adaptation and directing long-term finance to where it is needed.

On reporting, many participants raised the need to capture specific country contexts and for flexibility in approaches. We heard that Adaptation Communications are useful to communicate countries' actions and needs, both internationally and domestically, but are not the only tool available to Parties. Participants also flagged Biennial Transparency Reports as a useful tool for reporting on adaptation. Many participants argued that indicators should be simple so as not to overburden developing countries, with some saying that the financial mechanism should support developing countries to produce information.

How will assessing overall progress toward meeting the global goal on adaptation catalyse more action and support the specific needs of climate vulnerable countries?

Some participants highlighted the impact that COVID has had, limiting countries' ability to finance adaptation measures or respond to impacts. All participants agreed that support for developing countries is needed. Some participants suggested that assessing progress on adaptation will support progress through increasing: the awareness of best practices and lessons learned; capacity building and knowledge exchange both internationally and sub-nationally; and the opportunity to highlight local voices, the empowerment of women, youth, the disabled, and leverage indigenous knowledge systems.

Participants said the focus should be on support to undertake adaptation at a practical level and identified areas where further support was needed, including: reporting on adaptation; developing national metrics for adaptation; identifying needs and priorities; education at a national and local level to enable the integration of adaptation into planning; and to ensure that finance reaches the local level. Many participants also spoke of the importance of improving access to adaptation and climate finance and the need for an improved balance between adaptation and mitigation finance.

Future workshops and next steps

The COP25 and incoming COP26 presidencies will be hosting a further Informal Workshop on the

Global Goal on Adaptation. Details related to these upcoming workshops will be made available shortly on the UNFCCC website.

Recognising the appetite for further substantive discussion and intersessional work on adaptation, we remain committed to working with Parties, as well as the UNFCCC secretariat and the Chairs of the Subsidiary Bodies, to make available time and space as appropriate for continuing this critical work.