

Co-chairs' summary of the Presidencies' third informal workshop on the Global Goal on Adaptation [Africa Session]

17 August 2021

Introduction

The UK and Chile held our third joint informal workshop on the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) on Tuesday 17 August 2021. 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).

The conversation focused around the idea of a roadmap or workplan that could be agreed at COP26 and set out how progress on the GGA would be achieved. The meeting built on previous workshops convened by the presidencies on the GGA and the outcomes of the July Ministerial meeting in London.

What should the review of overall progress made in achieving the GGA, as part of the Global Stocktake, accomplish? What will make it a success?

The meeting noted that assessing change would need some kind of baseline to measure from but the multifaceted nature of adaptation makes this complex. Taking account of local circumstances was essential and important inputs would be existing documents such as National Adaptation Plans, Nationally Determined Contributions and Adaptation Communications, recognising existing adaptation efforts. The process should not represent an extra burden to countries, and should be useful in helping to direct action. Assessing change from current trends, or an increase in resilience were suggested as possible measures. Ultimately the GGA must both showcase progress and highlight what more needs to be done. One participant suggested that agreeing a definition of the GGA and progress on it would benefit from a dedicated agenda item at COP.

Participants mentioned the importance of considering the best available science to measure progress, especially in light of the IPCC WG I Sixth Assessment Report.

What process should be put in place to enable a stocktake of adaptation progress and needs, both in terms of information needed and process to collect and evaluate the information? What outcomes at COP26 could support this?

The idea of agreeing a roadmap or workplan at COP26 to set out how to assess progress on the GGA received broad approval. While the specific requirements of the roadmap have still to be worked out, participants noted that a wide range of methodologies, both quantitative and qualitative, would be needed to take account of the different circumstances of parties. Mixed methods have adaptive and evolutionary capacity to better fit circumstances over time as situations change. In assessing progress, the existing knowledge and expertise of the UN and other international bodies to assist parties will be useful.

We heard from some participants that a common, easy methodology to assess needs is desirable.

What support is needed for Africa and LDCs to enable them to contribute to the GGA? What support is available?

In setting out progress and enabling adaptation assessments, increased finance and technical assistance is needed, particularly to LDCs. This includes agreeing on a better balance between adaptation and mitigation finance. Pre 2020 commitments must be honoured and new finance goals must include accessible and adequate climate finance that must be provided in fair and equitable terms.

The importance of National Adaptation Plans was emphasised as a key source of information but that there is a need to avoid extra burden being put on developing countries and a way to alleviate this is to increase the quantity and quality of support. As well as greater amounts of finance, improved access to adaptation and climate finance was emphasised.

Next steps

The COP25 and incoming COP26 presidencies have now hosted three Informal Workshops on the Global Goal on Adaptation. Co-Chairs summaries for each of the previous workshops are available on the UNFCCC website.

We remain committed to working with Parties, as well as the UNFCCC secretariat and the Chairs of the Subsidiary Bodies on this critical work.