

# **Co-chairs' summary of the Presidencies' first informal workshop on the Global Goal on Adaptation [LatAM RCW]**

**19 May 2021**

## **Introduction**

We held the first informal workshop on the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) on 19 May 2021. We were encouraged by the lively participation and positive discussion among panelists and participants. Participants agreed on the need to urgently accelerate action on adaptation, the context specific nature of adaptation and the need for support to facilitate action. Prior to the consultations, we worked with our panelists to create four discussion questions to structure the conversation and understand Parties' views on how progress can be made on the Global Goal on Adaptation and come to a better understanding of principles for future discussion for the Global Stocktake (GST).

These questions focused on how the assessments of progress on the GGA could contribute to the GST and what principles will need to be agreed and applied to enable this, what challenges and the lessons learned parties faced when reporting their progress on adaptation, how central is the reporting of adaptation priorities, action and needs to advancing the GGA and how progress towards meeting the GGA could capture the specific needs of vulnerable countries. These questions were put to the panel and then we encouraged interventions from Parties, organisations and other non-state actors.

## **How the assessments of progress on the GGA could contribute to the Global Stocktake and what principles will need to be agreed and applied to enable this?**

Participants discussed this question and it was widely agreed that assessment of progress on the GGA should be guided by best available science, and it was suggested that there is a need to look at article 7 and 2 in the round and take an holistic approach to understanding the GGA and how the GST will inform Parties to enhance their actions and support. It was widely agreed that outputs from the GST should focus on collective progress and participants flagged that an assessment of progress needed to be context specific and a collation of qualitative data, some spoke of approaches they had taken domestically such as annual questionnaires.

## **What are challenges and the lessons learned parties faced when reporting their progress on adaptation?**

Participants said that adaptation is highly context specific; therefore one of the key challenges is how to consider different national circumstances. It was discussed that it is important to take into account the difficulty of deciding on the right data and the difficulty of data gathering to enable both planning and action. Participants said that it would be extremely difficult to develop universal measures for adaptation comparable to mitigation. They agreed that there will be other significant challenges when attempting to measure the complexity and situation specific nature of adaptation progress was acknowledged, but this does not detract from the need to advance progress against the GGA. Identifying the current and likely future gaps and needs of countries is central and needs to be done at local and national and regional levels, this will allow parties to understand progress at a global level and countries will need to do an in depth risk assessment, including with different temperature scenarios to inform adaptation plans and to help decide on metrics that were right for them. This will require financial and technical support. Future needs will not be a fixed amount but will need to be

presented in the context of different temperature scenarios. The production of common metrics on adaptation were discussed with parties noting that a common metric would lose the essential detail needed to guide action and assess progress at a local level. A metric based on aggregate national finance needs was suggested. Participants stressed that the GST was an iterative process and that we will not necessarily have all of the data in place for the first stocktake but it can provide an opportunity to better understand what progress against the GGA might look like.

**How central is the clear identification, communication and reporting of adaptation priorities, action taken and remaining needs to advancing the GGA, and what importance do you place on the Adaptation Communications as a means for achieving this goal?**

Participants spoke about the importance of Parties understanding and communicating adaptation priorities, actions and needs in order to achieve the GGA. Adaptation Communications were raised by many participants as an important document to advance the GGA and inform the Global Stocktake. AdComms were also favoured because they can be used to communicate gaps and needs clearly and will contribute relevant and up to date information towards the Global Stocktake. It was raised that AdComms are not the only document that should feed into the Global Stocktake and some parties do not have the resources or capacity to produce them. It is important that reporting instruments do not create additional burdens on developing countries. Participants raised that existing initiatives such as the Sendai Framework, the Nairobi Work Programme and the Sustainable Development Goals should be built on and linked to ensure a holistic approach.

**How will assessing overall progress toward meeting the global goal on adaptation capture progress towards meeting the specific needs of climate vulnerable countries?**

The challenge of coming to an overall view was thoroughly acknowledged. Participants discussed that while current understanding of the GGA and how it can be understood and measured is a work in progress, it is understood that it is an iterative process that needs to inform a holistic understanding of progress and future need. This is likely to be a qualitative measure but will be able to illustrate the kinds of action that are needed and help illustrate the scale of future challenges. The act of bringing together the practical national and local measures of risk and progress are essential to be able to inform actions to address the needs of vulnerable countries.

**Future workshops and next steps**

The COP25 and incoming COP26 presidencies will be hosting two further Informal Workshops at the Africa and Asia-Pacific Regional Climate Weeks. Details related to these upcoming workshops will be made available shortly on the UNFCCC website.

Recognizing the clear 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.