

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

“Communicating and reporting on adaptation priorities”

2 November 2022

I. Introduction

1. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement 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 to start immediately after that session and to be carried out jointly by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation. It also 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.¹

2. At SB 56 (June 2022), the SBs took note of the sequence and themes of the workshops under the work programme outlined in the compilation and synthesis of submissions on the Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme,² and that the themes and areas of work could require further elaboration as the process progresses. The SBs invited Parties and observers to submit via the submission portal views on the subsequent workshops, including on general considerations, the topics for discussion under the themes identified in the compilation and synthesis of submissions, areas of work, expected outcomes, examples, case studies and modalities, for each workshop to be conducted in 2022, at least three weeks in advance of the workshop.

3. The SBSTA and the SBI requested their Chairs, with the support of the secretariat, to make available a concept note and guiding questions relating to the theme and areas of work of each workshop, well in advance of the workshop, on the basis of the submissions referred to in paragraph 2 above.

4. The fourth workshop under the Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme will take place on 5 November in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt at the Sharm el-Sheikh International Convention Centre from 09:00 EET to 17:00 EET. Active participation is reserved for UNFCCC Parties, observer States, admitted observer organizations and UN organizations, registered by their respective focal points in the Official Registration System, as well as for invited speakers.

5. As of 29 October 2022, a total of five submissions from groups of Parties, Parties and observers have been made for the fourth workshop. Four submissions are from Parties (AOSIS, European Union, Japan, United Kingdom) and one from observers (Rare on behalf of The Nature Conservancy, Ocean & Climate Platform, Plymouth Marine Laboratory, Conservation International, Ocean Risk and Resilience Action Alliance (ORRAA) and World Resources Institute). This concept note summarizes these submissions, takes account of the submissions from previous workshops and lays out the approach and agenda for the fourth workshop.

¹ Decision 7/CMA.3, paras. 2–4 and 12.

² [FCCC/SB/2022/L.7](https://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol/kyoto_protocol/items/2830).

II. Themes and topics, expected outcomes and participation and modalities

A. Overview

6. The Paris Agreement, in its Article 7.1, 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.

7. Based on the submissions received from Parties and observers in early 2022, the SB Chairs agreed on the themes for the workshops, with the fourth workshop being on "Communicating and reporting on adaptation priorities". The fourth workshop will build upon the previous workshops to achieve the objectives for the work programme as outlined at CMA.3, including objectives (e) and (h):

(e) *Enable Parties to better communicate their adaptation priorities, implementation, and support needs, plans, and actions, including through adaptation communications and nationally determined contributions;*

(h) *Enhance understanding of how communication and reporting instruments established under the Convention and the Paris Agreement related to adaptation can complement each other to avoid duplication of efforts;*

8. The summaries of the four workshops will contribute to a single annual report for consideration at the sessions of the subsidiary bodies coinciding with the sessions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement.

9. Several submissions highlighted that reporting instruments such as the Adaptation Communications, Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) coming into effect in 2024, National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and National Communications should be the main instruments to convey information on countries' adaptation priorities, needs, plans and progress and to inform progress towards achieving the GGA, including in the context of the global stocktake (GST).

10. Some also emphasized that building coherence and strengthening consistency across the different reporting vehicles is important in building a more integrated, coherent and streamlined approach to communicating and reporting on adaptation action, support and progress. In this regard, the upcoming supplementary guidelines by the Adaptation Committee (AC) on Adaptation Communications are expected to help bridge inconsistencies across the different vehicles.

11. One submission suggested that the workshop should address adaptation priorities, needs and experiences with regard to coastal and ocean-based adaptation options, needs, experiences and opportunities. It was also recommended to strengthen and apply information or projections related to coastal manifestations of ocean warming, acidification, and deoxygenation within existing UNFCCC arrangements, such as the Nairobi Work Programme's (NWP) Thematic Expert Group on the Ocean and the Ocean and Climate Dialogue, as it relates to the communication and reporting of adaptation priorities.

12. At the same time, submissions also underlined that the reporting burden in developing countries, especially those that are capacity-constrained, should be minimized. Synchronizing and harmonizing the various reporting instruments was considered to avoid duplication of effort and to reduce the reporting burden.

B. Themes and topics

13. Throughout the submissions, Parties suggested a number of themes which should frame the discussions and breakout groups during the workshop.

1. An overview of the existing reporting options under the UNFCCC

14. Some submissions suggested a discussion on the existing reporting requirements and processes under the UNFCCC. This discussion should provide a status on the current reporting requirements, mandatory and voluntary, and include a compilation of supplementary materials e.g. guidelines related to reporting requirements.

15. Some referred to the relevance of and contribution from the AC work on the supplementary guidelines to the workshop. It was also highlighted that the work programme could also help identify best practices in reporting adaptation goals, planning, implementation, challenges, and needs with a view to strengthening the adaptation section of the upcoming BTRs and improving linkages with the Adaptation Communications.

16. One submission proposed that these communication reporting instruments are key to ensuring that all voices (including indigenous people, women, and youth) are heard, both within and outside the UNFCCC, and the work programme could explore the full breadth of communication tools.

2. Sharing of experiences of current communication and reporting on adaptation priorities

17. A discussion on this theme could include a sharing of experiences of current reporting on adaptation with a view to learning from examples and identifying possible gaps and challenges.

18. One submission proposed sharing experiences of how communications on adaptation have been beneficial to the provision of financial support to adaptation by developed countries, and to securing such support by developing countries, particularly vulnerable developing countries, such as small island developing States (SIDS) and the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). More specifically, there was a suggestion to include country experience and methodologies on reporting on adaptation support in biennial reports under the UNFCCC, in particular for SIDS and LDCs.

19. Some submissions suggested sharing experiences of adaptation reporting within national adaptation processes, including ways of integrating information from non-state and sub-national actors, and consideration of transboundary issues. One submission suggested that the discussions may benefit from interventions/presentations from adaptation projects and programmes on the ground, such as the Building Resilience and Adapting to Climate Change (BRACC) programme in Malawi and the Adaptation Research Alliance (ARA) which was launched at COP26.

20. Some submissions suggested that the Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme could facilitate early initial submissions of adaptation communications by sharing good practice and demonstrating the advantages of Adaptation Communications.

21. One submission proposed a discussion under the theme of coastal and marine nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation priorities to enable participants to identify opportunities specific to the technical information needs and priorities of regions, coastal communities and related ocean resources and habitats.

3. Linkage with reporting under other international frameworks

22. Some submissions suggested learning, in the fourth workshop, from adaptation-relevant approaches and tools from other international forums, such as the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction, UNCBD, UNCCD, and some noted reporting overlaps between reporting requirements under the UNFCCC (Adaptation communications, NDCs, BTRs and NAPs) and other reporting requirements under the Sustainable Development Goals, the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction and others. They noted an urgent need to find synergies with these reporting requirements to reduce the growing reporting burdens.

4. Linkage to the Global Stocktake

23. Some submissions suggested that a session of the workshop should be dedicated to the contribution of the Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme to the Global Stocktake (GST). For example, the workshop could explore the possible contributions of the existing reporting options towards assessing collective progress and reviewing the overall progress made in achieving the global goal on adaptation as part of the global stocktake and identifying reporting gaps.

C. Expected Outcomes

24. According to the submissions from Parties, the workshop should:

(a) Establish a way forward for effective communications and reporting for adaptation priorities;

(b) Identify capacity needs of countries to improve existing adaptation communications and reporting systems;

(c) Share of good practices and suggestions by the Parties on how to promote early initial submission of the adaptation communications and NDCs;

(d) Gather proposals for what further work is required that could be addressed by constituted bodies, such as the AC and the PCCB, including methodologies for synthesising adaptation-related communications and reports;

(e) Generate outcomes that take into consideration the special circumstances of SIDS and LDCs;

(f) Explore possibilities and suggestions for linking the reporting formats of assessing the progress on adaptation actions and efforts in each country toward achieving the GGA.

D. Participation and modalities

25. The workshop will be open to all participants registered for COP 27 and will be livestreamed on the COP 27 virtual platform and to the public webcast.

26. The workshop should be interactive and should invite contributions from practitioners and experts from relevant organizations, and from UNFCCC constituted bodies, ensuring equitable geographical representation, as appropriate.

27. Some submissions further requested to invite speakers from non-state civil society, including those from vulnerable and marginalised groups, the private sector, development partner organisations and multilateral development banks and international finance institutions who have experience in adaptation communications and reporting.

28. Some submissions suggested that breakout groups could follow an effective structure that includes scene setting and/or guiding questions to facilitate discussions.

III. Guiding questions

29. How could the reporting arrangements under the UNFCCC enable countries in articulating their adaptation priority objectives?

30. How to reduce overlaps and enhance efficiency between reporting requirements under the UNFCCC and reporting requirements under other international forums?

31. How could the reporting arrangements under the UNFCCC facilitate enhanced adaptation implementation and collaboration at sub-national, national, regional and international levels?

32. How have communications on adaptation been, and can be, helpful in enhancing support for adaptation in vulnerable developing countries, such as SIDS and the LDCs?

33. How can existing reporting arrangements help assess progress towards the GGA, thereby contributing to the GST?

IV. Draft Agenda

9:15–9:30	Opening by SBI Chair
Reporting under the UNFCCC and linkage with reporting under other international frameworks	
9:30–10:45 Plenary	<p>Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNFCCC secretariat: mapping and comparison of UNFCCC arrangements for communicating and reporting on adaptation CGE: experiences of Parties in their transition to the ETF and preparation of biennial transparency reports (BTRs) (in particular on reporting on adaptation actions in BTRs) LCIPP: Inclusion of knowledge and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities in reporting under the UNFCCC <p>Q&A and General discussion</p>
10:45–11:00	Coffee break
11:00–12:00 Breakout group discussions	<p>BOG1: Role of UNFCCC reporting arrangements in the articulation of national adaptation priorities</p> <p>BOG2: Role of UNFCCC reporting arrangements in enhancing adaptation implementation and collaboration at sub-national, national, regional and international levels</p>
12:00–12:30	Reporting back
12:30–13:30	Lunch
Sharing of experiences of current reporting on adaptation: Successful stories and gaps & challenges	
13:30–15:30 Plenary	<p>Experiences from organizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Options and opportunities for integration of ocean and coastal based adaptation priorities and actions in reporting procedures under the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement (TBC) The Adaptation Research Alliance (TBC) <p>Country experiences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tlou Emmanuel Ramaru, South Africa, national reporting on adaptation (TBC) Marianna Ronchini, Italy, reporting experience (TBC) <p>Q&A and general discussion</p>
15:30–15:45	Coffee break
15:45–16:45 Plenary	Linkage to the Global Stocktake How can existing reporting options help assess progress towards the GGA, thereby contributing to the GST
16:45–17:00	Wrapping up and closing remarks by SBSTA Chair