

## **Summary of the fourth workshop under the Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation: Communicating and reporting on adaptation priorities**

6 November 2022

### **I. Introduction**

#### **A. Mandate**

1. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, at its third session, decided 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 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 under the work programme, with the support of the secretariat and under the guidance of the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies.<sup>1</sup>

2. SB 56 requested the secretariat, under the guidance of their Chairs, to prepare a summary of each workshop, in the context of preparing a single annual report on the workshops,<sup>2</sup> for consideration at SB 57, capturing progress and informing subsequent considerations by Parties under the work programme.<sup>3</sup>

#### **B. Proceedings**

3. The fourth workshop under the Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme,<sup>4</sup> on communicating and reporting on adaptation priorities, was held in hybrid format on 5 November 2022 and was webcast live, with more than 200 registered in-person and virtual participants.

4. The workshop opened with welcoming remarks from the Rapporteur of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice, Zita Wilks, on behalf of the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies.

5. Participants heard a range of expert presentations and engaged in discussions in plenary and in facilitated breakout groups. The Chair of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation, Marianne Karlsen, closed the workshop with concluding remarks.

### **II. Summary of discussions**

#### **A. Reporting on adaptation under the UNFCCC and linkages with other international frameworks**

6. A representative of the secretariat provided an overview of the arrangements for communicating and reporting on adaptation under the UNFCCC and its Paris Agreement,

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

<sup>2</sup> As per decision 7/CMA.3, para. 16.

<sup>3</sup> FCCC/SBSTA/2022/6, para. 159, and FCCC/SBI/2022/10, para. 192.

<sup>4</sup> The concept note and agenda for the workshop and all presentations are available at [https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/workstreams/glasgow-sharm-el-sheikh-WP-GGA#\\_November-2022-%E2%80%93-Fourth-workshop-on-Communicating-and-reporting-on-adaptation-priorities](https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/workstreams/glasgow-sharm-el-sheikh-WP-GGA#_November-2022-%E2%80%93-Fourth-workshop-on-Communicating-and-reporting-on-adaptation-priorities).

describing their evolution, general purpose, guidelines, interlinkages, types of information and potential synergies within the reporting arrangements.

7. The Chair of the Consultative Group of Experts provided information on the transition from the existing measurement, reporting and verification arrangements under the Convention to the enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement, including timelines and challenges faced by developing countries, such as their capacity-building needs. The presentation highlighted training materials for reporting on adaptation in the biennial transparency reports (BTRs). Almost all developing country Parties have submitted a national communication, which includes a section on adaptation reporting. The Consultative Group of Experts conducts yearly assessment of existing and emerging problems and constraints for developing countries in preparation of the biennial reports and national communications.

8. A Co-Chair of the Facilitative Working Group of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform shared expertise on the inclusion of knowledge and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities in national communications and reporting. The presenter highlighted that meaningful and equitable consideration of indigenous peoples and local communities in national reporting will help to deepen the collective understanding of adaptation needs and priorities and promote strengthening of adaptation action towards realizing a global goal on adaptation that ensures the resilience and integrity of nature. The Facilitative Working Group invited the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies to consider the engagement of indigenous peoples and local communities as a thematic focus area for future workshops related to the global goal on adaptation.

9. Following the presentations, participants engaged in a question and answer session and general discussions.

10. Many participants mentioned the voluntary nature of communicating and reporting on adaptation, the importance of avoiding reporting burden and duplication of efforts, and the different nature of legal requirements such as in terms of reporting obligations under existing arrangements. Some emphasized that not all adaptation-related information (in particular on support) might be captured in the adaptation-specific sections of reporting guidelines.

11. Many participants elaborated on the trends in current reporting on adaptation, in particular in terms of the reporting instruments used, the main types of information provided and whether available information is sufficient for assessing progress towards achieving the global goal on adaptation.

12. So far adaptation information has been included in 196 national communications, 154 NDCs, 50 adaptation communications, 53 long-term low-emission development strategies and 38 national adaptation plans, indicating the large amount of such information available. It was highlighted that recent national reports contain a much higher number of quantified adaptation targets, which can provide a basis for reviewing progress towards achieving the global goal on adaptation in the future.

13. Several participants drew attention to gaps in information covered in the reporting and guidelines, such as methodological gaps related to estimating adaptation costs, conducting vulnerability assessment, understanding and articulating baselines for adaptation, and assessing needs under different climate scenarios.

14. In terms of addressing the gaps, some participants reflected on the absence of overarching guidance for reporting and communicating, as well as capacity-building for enhancing institutional capacity and for addressing reporting challenges. In this regard, the supplementary guidance for adaptation communications prepared by the Adaptation Committee was mentioned as a helpful resource. The work of the Consultative Group of Experts, including discussing adaptation aspects at the NDC-related workshop, and planned training in the African region, as well as the overall work of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group and the Adaptation Committee on providing technical resources and support to Parties, was highlighted in this regard.

15. On communicating and reporting arrangements under the UNFCCC for articulating national adaptation priorities, participants discussed their preferences, concerns, national experience and potential ways forward in the context of assessing progress towards the global

goal on adaptation. In this respect several participants emphasized the importance of the principles of the Convention and not being bound by the existing reporting guidelines. Participants reiterated that building on existing reporting arrangements is essential for avoiding extra burdens on developing countries and duplication of efforts. They highlighted that reporting arrangements and relevant sources of information should inform the global stocktake. In this regard, it was underscored by many participants that the Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme should not lead to new reporting requirements.

16. On the basis of national experience and conceptual considerations, participants identified many opportunities for benefiting from reporting synergies, including by defining complementary roles for adaptation communications, national adaptation plans and BTRs. Some participants distinguished national adaptation plans as instruments for national-level planning and implementation, adaptation communications for communicating forward-looking aspirations and goals, and BTRs for reporting on progress. The Adaptation Committee’s Draft supplementary guidance for voluntary use by Parties in communicating information in accordance with the possible elements of an adaptation communication was mentioned as a helpful source for identifying such synergies.

17. Several participants continued elaborating on existing gaps, including lack of human resources, support for implementation, data, monitoring systems and institutional capacity. They mentioned challenges related to assessing the large amount of adaptation information in such a way as to directly contribute to the review of progress towards the global goal on adaptation.

18. In terms of opportunities, some participants suggested requesting the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to develop methodologies for establishing connections between the science and reporting on progress of adaptation, including methodologies for assessing adaptation and vulnerability. Some highlighted the opportunities provided by the voluntary technical expert review of adaptation information for building capacity, and the potential for filling knowledge gaps under the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change.

19. On the role of UNFCCC arrangements for communicating and reporting on adaptation in enhancing adaptation-related implementation and collaboration at the subnational, national, regional and international level, participants discussed how existing reports are already facilitating understanding of action, barriers and needs in relation to adaptation – all of which are important factors in enhancing implementation and exploring opportunities for collaboration.

20. Participants highlighted ways in which existing reporting can be used to enhance implementation and collaboration in relation to adaptation. For example, the reporting arrangements provide opportunities for identifying available financial and other support, including private sector support for adaptation actions. The reports can serve as tools for communicating the business case for adaptation to the private sector, and their preparation facilitates integrating stakeholders into national climate efforts.

21. Several participants emphasized that, in order to strengthen the potential for existing reporting arrangements to lead to enhanced implementation and collaboration in relation to adaptation, the quality of reporting needs to be enhanced in order to leverage support. The use of repositories, databases and platforms and the identification of best practices and information at different levels were mentioned in this regard.

22. Some participants noted that expanding communicating and reporting to encompass different sectors and systems could be beneficial, and that building capacity of local institutions could lead to more effective adaptation action. Participants also noted that considering transboundary climate risks is essential for understanding the full scope of adaptation, and stakeholders should increase their understanding of how national adaptation actions can result in transboundary adaptation risks and benefits. Participants highlighted that assessing progress towards the global goal on adaptation and the global stocktake should be built on the ongoing relevant work of the UNFCCC constituted bodies. Further, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and other organizations have a potential role in filling methodological and information gaps.

## **B. Sharing of experience of current reporting on adaptation**

23. A representative of the secretariat underlined the importance of incorporating ocean- and coastal-based adaptation priorities and actions in communicating and reporting on adaptation under the UNFCCC. Linking to key messages from the 2022 ocean dialogue, the presentation highlighted how integrated ocean-based solutions can be reflected in national climate policies and strategies. It also highlighted actions already being taken by constituted bodies and under the Nairobi work programme to support this work. At the national level, there are opportunities to establish linkages with communication and reporting under other United Nations organizations, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity. Science and observations can provide indicators for reporting in adaptation communications and measuring collective progress.

24. A representative of South Africa shared experience in reporting on adaptation, describing South Africa's national climate change information system, which was designed to monitor the contribution of adaptation interventions towards achieving key goals in the national adaptation strategy. The system encompasses various tools, such as a response database, framework for climate services, vulnerability atlas and response toolkit. The system will be linked with governance at other levels.

25. A representative of Italy shared the country's perspective of communicating and reporting on adaptation and described how it contributes to the European Union's climate adaptation platform, Climate-ADAPT, which collects information from portals of all European Union member States and shares data and knowledge with interactive tools. It also provides opportunities for harmonizing tools of different regions and at different governance levels, and to enhance data availability.

26. A representative of the Adaptation Research Alliance shared experience of reporting on adaptation from an organizational perspective, specifically on the purpose, parameters and process of such reporting. It promoted a 'theory of change' approach, going from needs to inputs, actions, outputs and then to outcomes, which loop back into needs. The presenter highlighted the critical role of process outcomes, and three elements (Nature of impact, extent of impact and depth of impact) that should be measured in inputs: commitments, means of implementation and capacity-building.

27. Following the presentations, participants engaged in a fruitful discussion and question and answer session.

28. Several participants considered how the ocean dialogue might contribute to reporting and communication on adaptation. Some elaborated that Parties could enhance the consideration of ocean-based adaptation in national reports. Such work could be informed by, for example, the targets and indicators under the Convention on Biological Diversity or those for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14. Further experience could be provided by the Technology Executive Committee and the Nairobi work programme expert group on oceans. The ocean-based adaptation solutions mentioned include mangrove restoration, enhancing fisheries infrastructure and blue carbon approaches, all of which have many co-benefits but limited potential for application in landlocked countries. Opportunities for joint mitigation–adaptation actions exist in the areas of agriculture and forestry.

29. In terms of national information platforms, the importance of involving stakeholders was emphasized. This can be promoted by, for example, working with subnational governments and multi-stakeholder platforms. Sophisticated information platforms, such as South Africa's climate change information system, can require a lot of resources for operation, data collection and ensuring functionality. One way to mobilize resources is to leverage existing observation networks, weather services and disaster management systems, as well as other governance levels. In this context, data quality in national reports could be enhanced by including information that clearly identifies the specific risk-reducing impacts of adaptation policies.

30. Participants discussed indicators for reviewing progress towards achieving the goals of the GGA identified in undertaking the above activities. One suggestion was to identify high-level metric and indicators relevant to reviewing progress to achieving the goals of the

GGA.s that are connected with more specific ones at the local level. Indicators could include number of national adaptation plans and proportion of vulnerable people and/or populations with access to specific adaptation tools, while recognizing that some metrics, such as population-based metrics, might not be suitable for other countries, e.g. population-based metrics. In general terms, it was suggested to articulate quantitative dimensions of vulnerability in order to measure vulnerability reduction.

31. One participant sought clarity on the approach to and methods used for tracking non-market costs of adaptation. The representative of the Adaptation Research Alliance explained that costs can be viewed as quantitative costs of implementing adaptation and as social costs relating to well-being, cultural assets and values.

### **C. Linkages to the global stocktake**

32. Participants engaged in a general discussion on how existing options for reporting and communicating on adaptation could help in reviewing progress in achieving the global goal on adaptation, thereby contributing to the global stocktake.

33. Several participants highlighted in particular the strong interlinkages between the Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme and the assessment of progress under the global stocktake. Several emphasized the importance of achieving further clarity about the relationship between the two processes.

34. A number of participants elaborated on how existing reports are a rich source of information to serve as a basis, and how those reports channel key types of information, such as on support needs, adaptation finance and data gaps, which can inform the global stocktake. In addition, several participants highlighted many other sources of information on adaptation action at different levels of governance, for example of cities, and in different regions, while others emphasized the importance of focusing on national reporting, which also captures information on action at other governance and sectoral levels.

35. Existing communication and reporting on adaptation was seen as a source of opportunities to identify baselines and metrics for adaptation. For example, the many quantitative and qualitative targets for adaptation provided in the NDCs and other documents were described as presenting ways to consider how progress towards achieving the global goal on adaptation can be measured against a common set of elements in those documents. It was further elaborated that Parties and stakeholders could cooperate on developing new indicators and metrics, such as by drawing on the SDG framework. One participant elaborated that it would be beneficial if the experts involved in the global stocktake and work in relation to the global goal on adaptation hold joint discussions to consider linkages and identify what kind of indicators could be useful in both regards. In this context, it was suggested to clarify which methodologies could be used to assess progress and what progress would be assessed against.

36. Several participants emphasized the importance of ensuring support for communication and reporting on adaptation, and the need to pursue scientifically informed reporting, both of which are required so that existing reports contain quality information that can be used for reviewing progress.