



**United Nations**

Framework Convention on  
Climate Change

PA-ALIGN

# PA-ALIGN

Supporting the LDCs in the effective and  
efficient implementation of the UNFCCC and  
Paris Agreement

LEG Technical Brief August 2021

# Background

The range of issues to be addressed by the least developed countries (LDCs), as well as all other Parties, has significantly widened over the years. These include the need for effective implementation of the many elements of the Paris Agreement, in addition to existing responsibilities under the Convention; the growing number of reporting requirements under the UNFCCC; kickstart of the processes towards the first global stocktake; and the ever-expanding landscape of global and regional frameworks; among others.

The Paris Agreement was adopted by the Conference of the Parties in December 2015 and entered into force on 4 November 2016. The central aims of the agreement are to: (i) strengthen the global response to limit a global temperature rise below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit it even further to 1.5 °C; (ii) increase the ability of countries to deal with the impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development; and (iii) make finance flows consistent with a low greenhouse emissions and climate-resilient development pathway (Art. 2). The Paris Agreement requires all Parties to put forward their best efforts, in a nationally determined manner, to enhance action on climate change: mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation. The agreement also provides for an enhanced transparency framework for action and support, which includes requirements that all Parties report regularly on their emissions and on their implementation efforts. There is a global stocktake every 5 years to assess the collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the agreement and to inform further individual actions by Parties.

## KEY ELEMENTS OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT

Parties pledged their best efforts in nationally determined contributions and agreed to report on progress regularly, as well as increased ambition overtime. A global stocktake every five years, beginning in 2023, will assess collective progress.



### Temperature goal

Limit the global rise to as close as possible to 1.5°C.



### Pre-2020 action and support

Encourage action between now and 2020 by all actors, including non-party stakeholders.



### Transparency and the global stocktake

Robust transparency and accounting supported by international review and global stocktakes.



### Finance, technology, and capacity building

International cooperation to support a low-carbon and climate-resilient future.



### Mitigation and voluntary cooperation

All parties must prepare nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and work to achieve them, reporting on progress, and regularly enhancing ambition.



### Adaptation and loss and damage

Strengthen national adaptation efforts and support vulnerable countries to cope with climate change effects.

In addition to requirements under the Paris Agreement, countries must continue to fulfil their activities under the Convention. These include implementing actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change; assess level of greenhouse gas emissions, climate risks, capacity gaps and needs; report on the greenhouse gases and on national measures to the UNFCCC; and a suite of peripheral activities to underpin effective climate change policy and response.

Furthermore, countries must work within the widened landscape of global and regional frameworks, and to achieve coordination and coherence across the different frameworks and agenda.

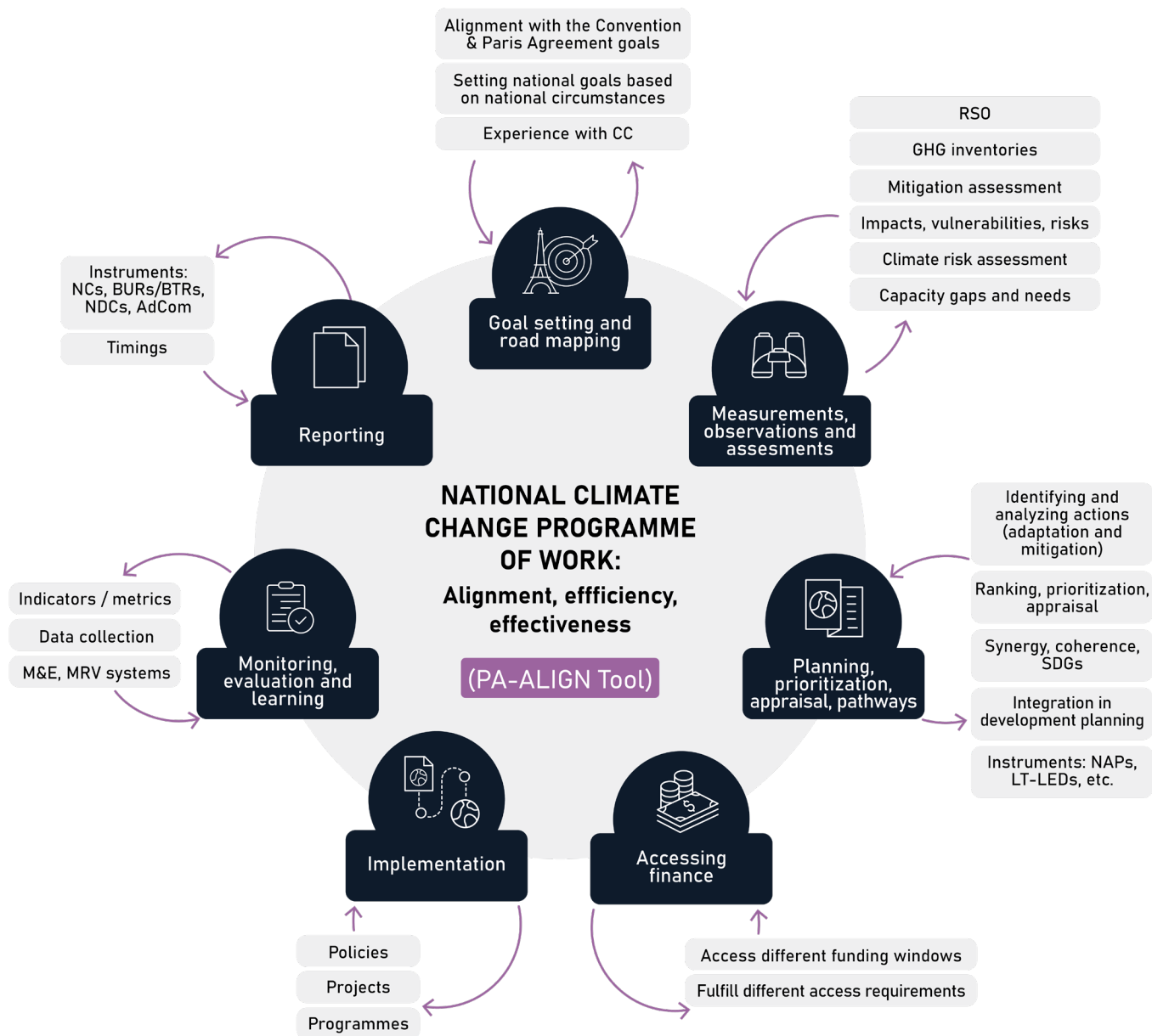
As part of its work in supporting the LDCs in implementing the Convention and the Paris Agreement, the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) decided to conduct a training for the LDCs on how to effectively and efficiently navigate and address the many elements of the Paris Agreement. The course is part of the LEG activities on implementing the LDC work programme. Established in 2001, the LDC work programme is based on Article 4, paragraph 9 of the Convention, requiring Parties to take full account of the specific needs and special situations of the LDCs regarding funding and transfer of technology. It serves as an overarching framework for targeting and channelling support to the LDCs under the Convention and the Paris Agreement.

## Objective of the tool

The overall objective of the tool is to guide the least developed countries (LDCs) to effectively and efficiently navigate and address the many elements of the Paris Agreement.

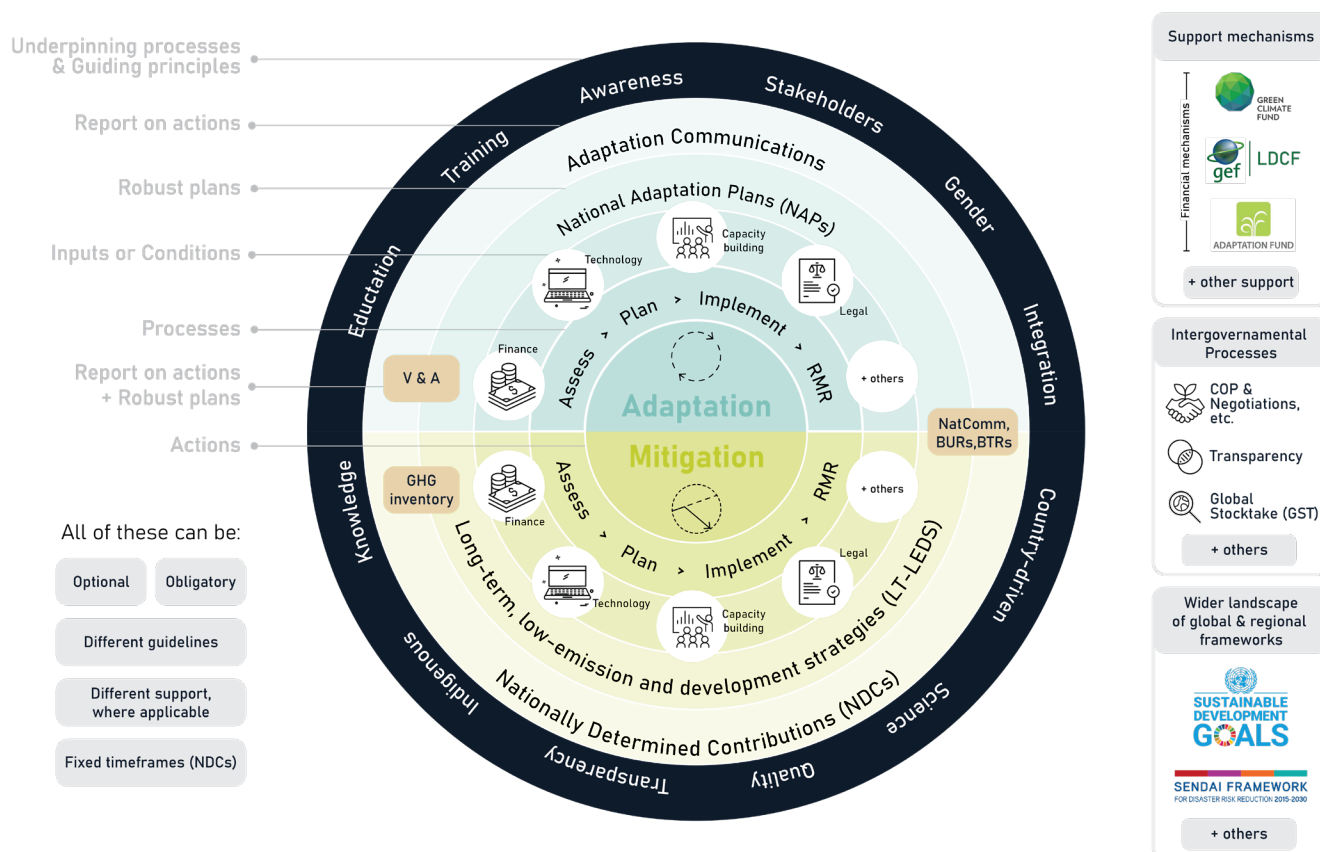
### **Specific objectives:**

- Introduce the Convention and Paris Agreement with a focus on opportunities, obligations and reporting requirements for different groups of Parties, and in particular the LDCs;
- Introduce what the LDCs need to deliver, and when, to fulfil their obligations and requirements under the Convention and the Paris Agreement;
- Introduce data and information requirements that each of the deliverables entail in order to identify opportunities for streamlining work at the national level;
- Provide details on the linkages between different activities and instruments at the national level;
- Introduce available technical and financial support for the LDCs for the implementation of the Convention and the Paris Agreement;
- Take the participants through the development of a national implementation pathway for the next five years using the Paris Agreement Alignment tool (PA-ALIGN).



## OVERVIEW OF ACTIONS UNDER THE UN CC REGIME

Countries must understand:



## Expected Outcomes

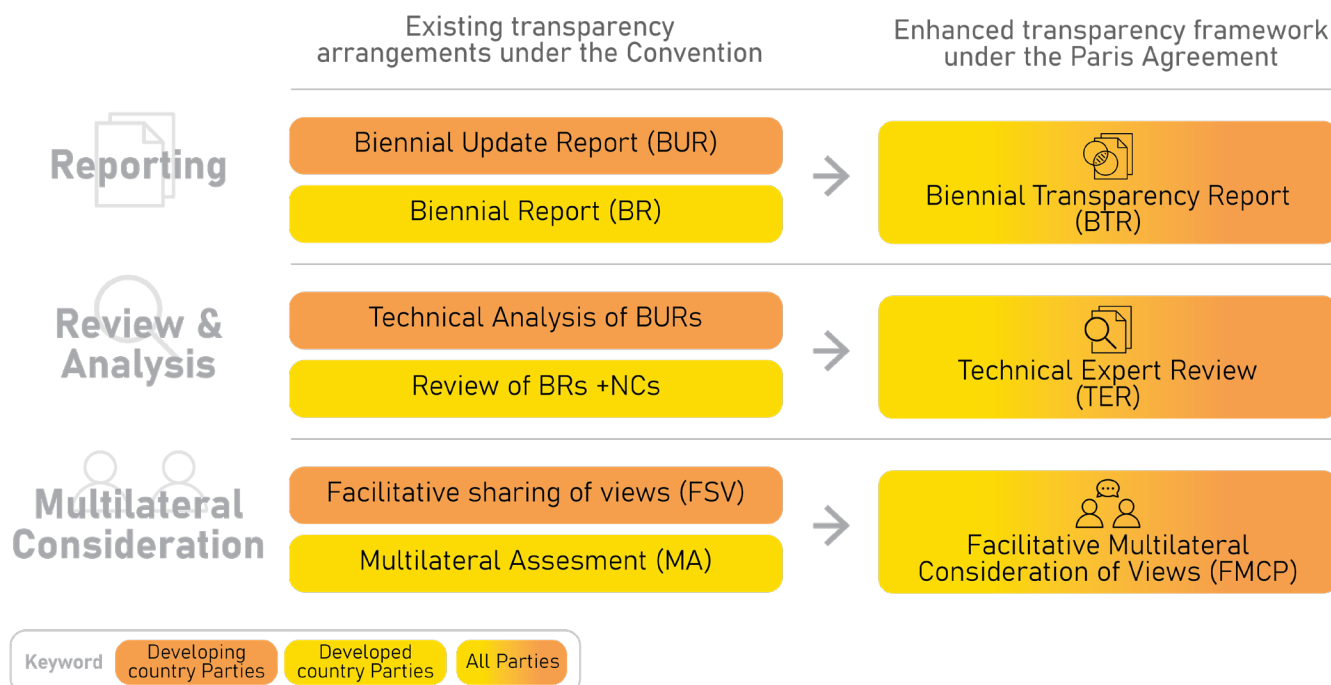
Upon successful completion of this course, participants will be able to:

- Explain the key elements of the Convention and Paris Agreement with a focus on opportunities, obligations and requirements for Parties, and in particular the LDCs;
- Communicate what the LDCs need to deliver, and when, to fulfil their obligations and requirements under the Convention and the Paris Agreement;
- Understand data and information requirements that each of the deliverables entail and thereby explore opportunities for streamlining work at the national level;
- Identify linkages and develop strategies for coordinating work at the national level including access to support (technical and financial);
- Discuss available technical and financial support for the LDCs for the implementation of the Convention and the Paris Agreement;
- Develop a national implementation pathway for the next five years using the Paris Agreement Alignment tool (PA-ALIGN).

# Target Audience

- UNFCCC national focal points and other senior policy makers in government with direct role in climate change governance;
- Regional and international organizations supporting the LDCs on climate change action.
- Active players at the national level in developing and implementing climate change policies, strategies and plans, and in preparing national reports to the UNFCCC, as well as national planning institutions. This includes players from government at all levels, local communities, civil society, private sector and academia;

## ENHANCED TRANSPARENCY



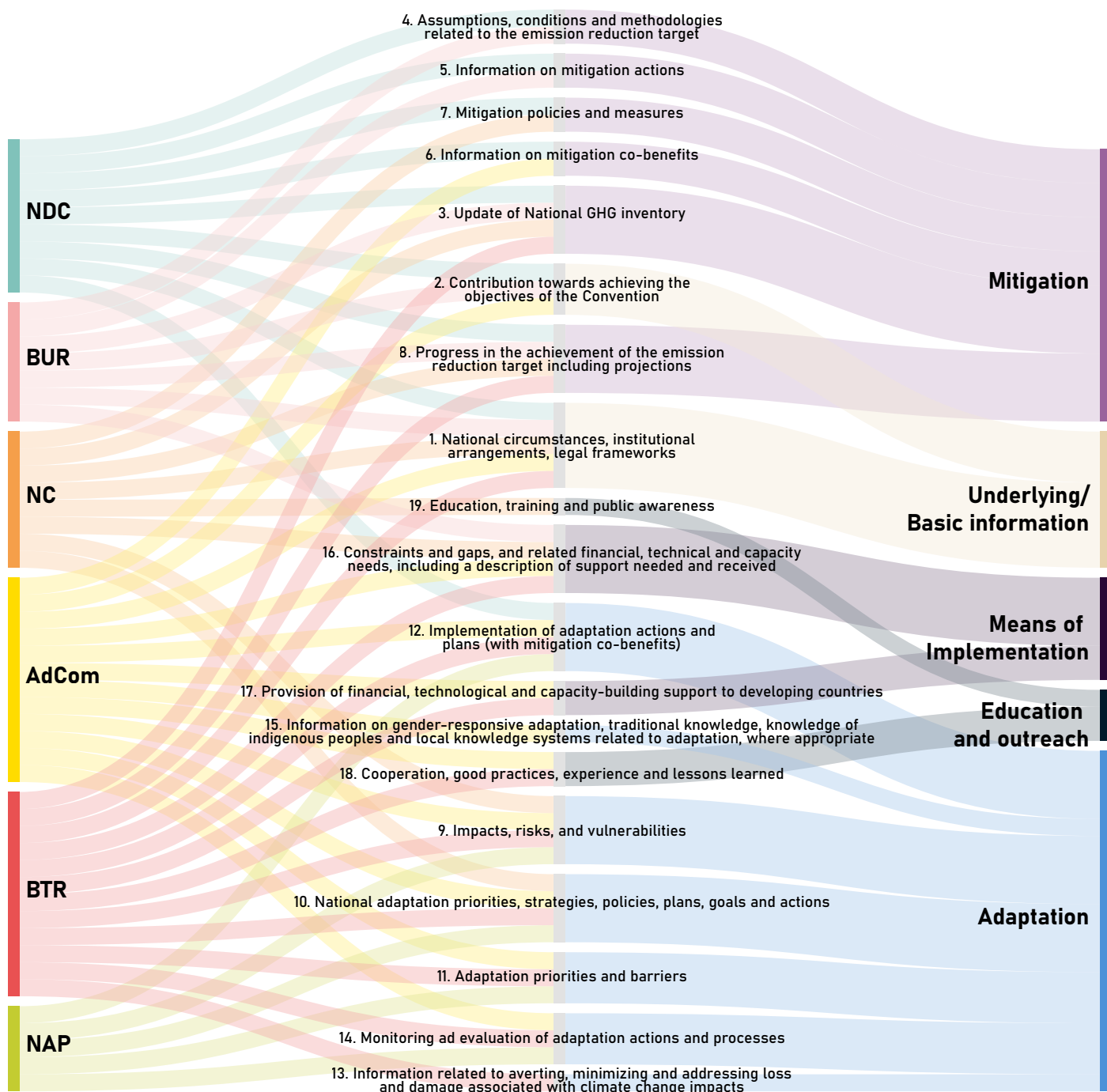
Source: UNFCCC (2020). International Consultation and Analysis: Facilitating climate action through transparency. Available at [https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/53756\\_UNFCCC\\_ICA\\_Brochure.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/53756_UNFCCC_ICA_Brochure.pdf)

# ACTIVITIES AND INSTRUMENTS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL AND RELATED INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

INFORMATION	USE IN NATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND RELATED WORK						
	NP, NS	IMPL	NDC	AC	NAP	NC (NAI)	BUR BTR
1. National circumstances, institutional arrangements, legal frameworks	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2. National vision, goals, and goals; contribution towards the goals and objectives of the Convention and the Paris Agreement	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
3. National GHG inventory	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
4. Impacts, vulnerabilities, and risks	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5. Mitigation actions, policies, and measures	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
6. Adaptation priorities, strategies, policies, plans, goals, actions	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7. Information related to averting, minimizing, and addressing loss and damage associated with climate change impacts			✓				✓
8. Adaptation-related economic diversification / mitigation co-benefits of adaptation	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
9. Alignment / linkages with other frameworks (national, regional, international)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
10. Implementation strategies (adaptation, mitigation)	✓	✓	✓		✓		
11. Support needs (financial, technology, capacity-building)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
12. Gender-responsive adaptation and traditional, indigenous, local knowledge	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
13. Education, training, public awareness			✓		✓	✓	✓
14. Monitoring, evaluation and learning (progress, results, effectiveness, gaps, cooperation, good practices, lessons learned, challenges, opportunities)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

**Abbreviations:** NP = national planning; NS = national strategies; NDC = National Determined Contribution; AC = Adaptation Communication; NAP = National Adaptation Plan; NC = national communication; BUR = biennial update report; BTR = biennial transparency report.

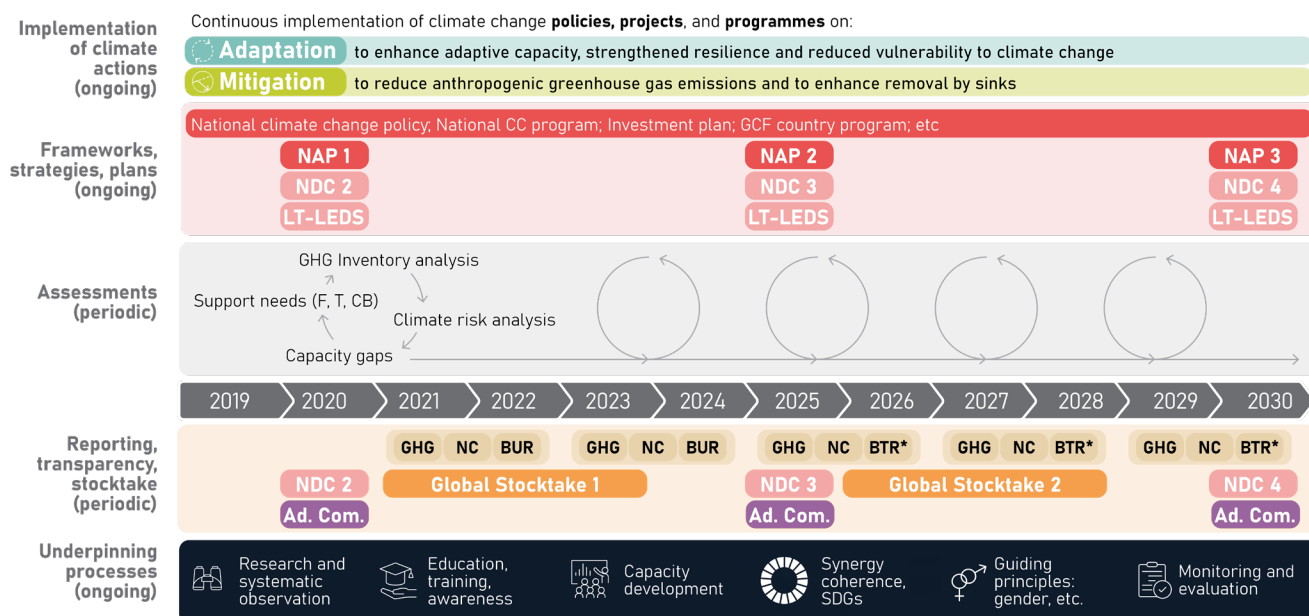
# Interconnections in the information requirements



# Sequencing activities to optimize resources and enhance efficiency

Currently, the timing for most of these activities is driven by the availability and nature of support (financial and technical) and deadlines for submission of reports to the UNFCCC. Consequently, climate change activities at the national level are undertaken in fragmented stages, with heavy implications on resources, efficiency, synergies and coherence. Aligning the execution of activities will enhance efficiency, optimize coordination, promote coherence and effectively contribute towards national vision and goals.

## INDICATIVE SET OF ACTIVITIES AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION AND THE PARIS AGREEMENT





**United Nations**

Framework Convention on  
Climate Change

PA-ALIGN

## PA-ALIGN

Supporting the LDCs in the effective and  
efficient implementation of the UNFCCC and  
Paris Agreement

LEG Technical Brief August 2021

More information: [leghelp@unfccc.int](mailto:leghelp@unfccc.int)