

**Paris Agreement Alignment
(PA-ALIGN)**

**Supporting the effective and efficient participation
of the LDCs in the Paris Agreement**

Webinar

**14 October 2021
Virtual Workshop**



Introduction to the Webinar on PA-Align tool

The range of issues to be addressed by the least developed countries (LDCs) under the UNFCCC process, 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.



Understanding the Convention and the Paris Agreement

The Paris Agreement in brief

- ❑ 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:
 - ❖ 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;
 - ❖ 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).



Understanding the Convention and the Paris Agreement

Key elements of the Paris Agreement



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.



Understanding the Convention and the Paris Agreement

The Convention in brief

- ❑ 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.



Understanding the Convention and the Paris Agreement

Action areas of the Convention



GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY

Parties must develop and periodically update national **greenhouse gases Inventory** of anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks (Article 4 paragraph 1(a)).



MITIGATION

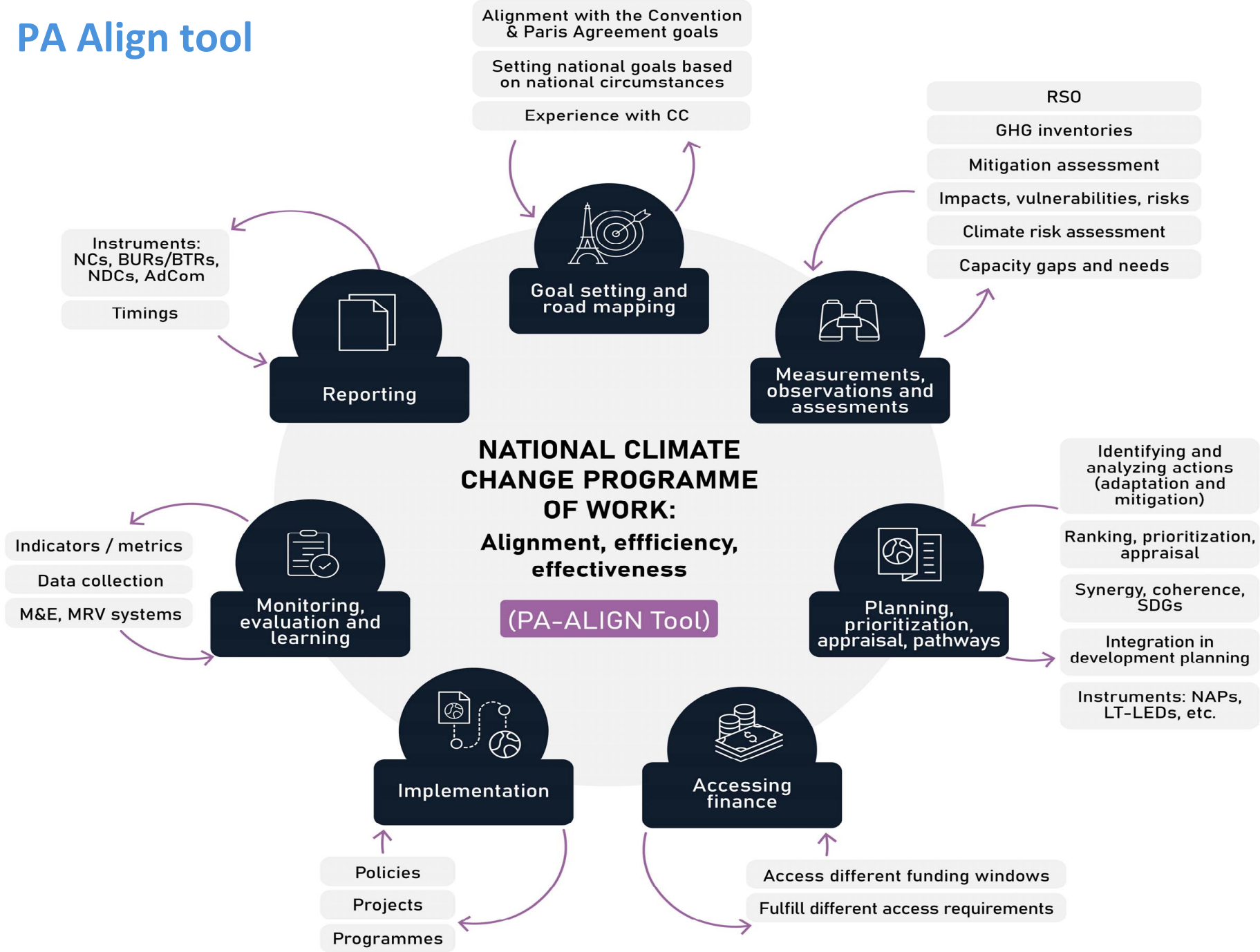
All Parties to formulate, implement, publish and regularly update programmes containing measures to **mitigate** climate change (Article 4 paragraph 1(b)).



ADAPTATION

All Parties to cooperate in preparing for **adaptation** to the impacts of climate change (Article 4 paragraph 1(e)).

PA Align tool



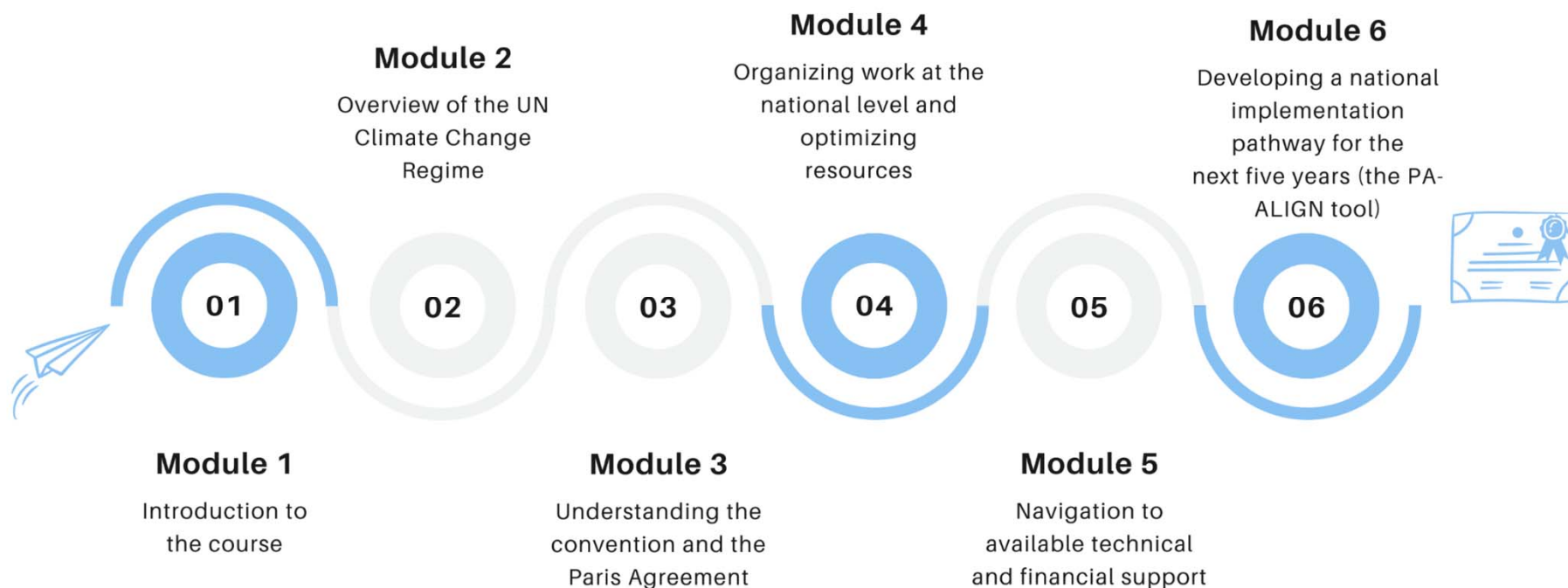
Objectives of today's webinar

The objective of today's webinar is to provide a summary of the PA-Align tool which aims for least developed countries (LDCs) to effectively and efficiently navigate and address the many elements of the Paris Agreement:

- ❖ Focus on opportunities, obligations and reporting requirements for different groups of Parties, and in particular the LDCs;
- ❖ Focus on the LDCs needs to deliver, and when, to fulfil their obligations and requirements under the Convention and the Paris Agreement;
- ❖ Data and information requirements that each of the deliverables entail in order to identify opportunities for streamlining work at the national level;
- ❖ Focus on the details on the linkages between different activities and instruments at the national level;
- ❖ Focus on technical and financial support for the LDCs for the implementation of the Convention and the Paris Agreement;
- ❖ Focus on national implementation pathway for the next five years using the PA-ALIGN.



Content of the online training course modules



- TRACK 1:** All modules. For participants with little or no knowledge of the UN Climate Change regime. Duration ~ 2.5 hours
- TRACK 2:** Modules 1, 4 and 6. For participants with appreciable knowledge about the UN Climate Change regime. Duration ~ 1 hour



OVERVIEW OF ACTIONS UNDER THE UN CC REGIME

Underpinning processes & Guiding principles

Report on actions

Robust plans

Inputs or Conditions

Processes

Report on actions + Robust plans

Actions

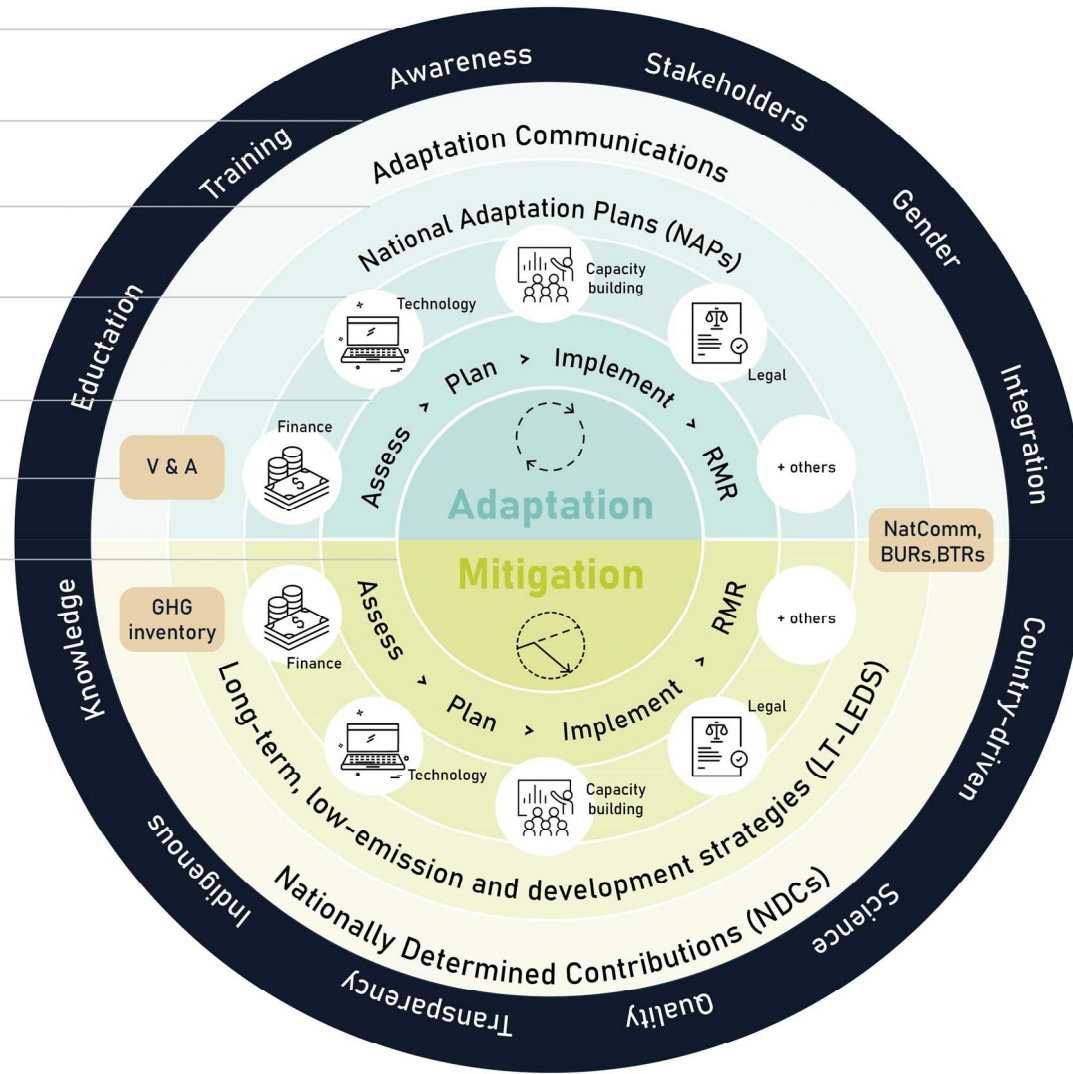
All of these can be:

Optional Obligatory

Different guidelines

Different support, where applicable

Fixed timeframes (NDCs)



Countries must understand:

Support mechanisms

Financial mechanisms

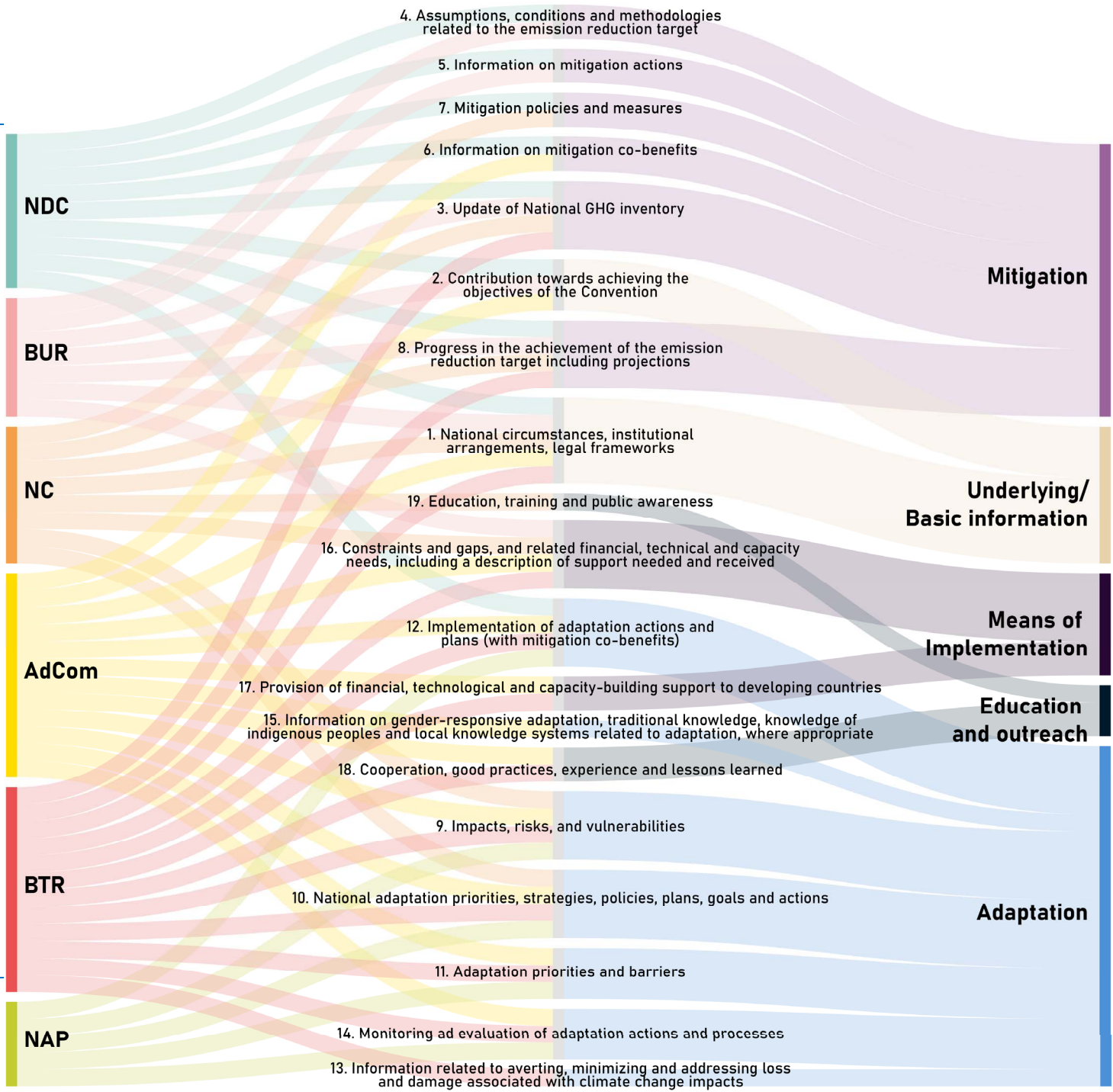
- GREEN CLIMATE FUND
- gef | LDCF
- ADAPTATION FUND
- + other support

Intergovernmental Processes

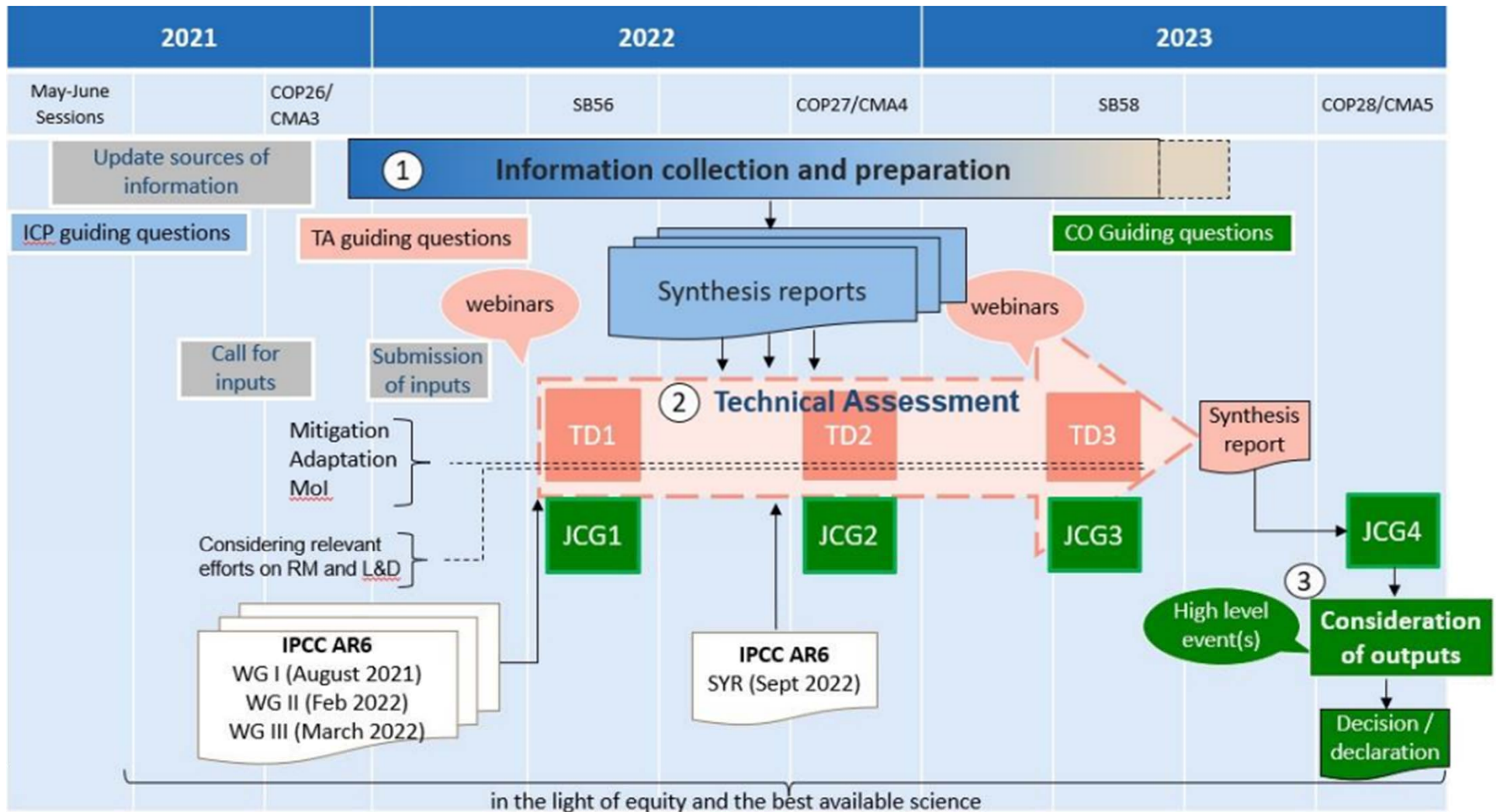
- COP & Negotiations, etc.
- Transparency
- Global Stocktake (GST)
- + others

Wider landscape of global & regional frameworks

- SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
- SENDAI FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 2015-2030
- + others



Timeline of the first global stocktake as of 6 September 2021



How countries fulfil their responsibilities

Climate change work at national level

- ❑ The primary actions to address climate change are (1) **adaptation** and (2) **mitigation**;
- ❑ In order to achieve these, each country continuously undertakes **9 key activities**:
 1. **Develop and implement mitigation and adaptation actions** to meet the goals and objectives of the Convention and the Paris Agreement (in a nationally determined manner);
 2. **Mobilizing and accessing finance** (GCF, LDCF, SCCF, AF and other sources), technology and capacity-building to implement mitigation and adaptation actions;
 3. Putting in place national **institutional, legal and procedural arrangements, policies, strategies and plans** for mitigation and adaptation.



Climate change work at national level cont.

4. **Assessing climate risks** at the national level, including in development context, to underpin the development and implementation of the frameworks, policies, strategies and plans;
5. **Assessing anthropogenic GHG emissions** by sources and removals by sinks, to underpin the development and implementation of the frameworks, policies, strategies and plans;
6. Collecting, analyzing and utilizing **climate and socio-economic data and information**, to underpin assessments and implementation;
7. Implementing activities on **capacity development; education, training and public awareness; promoting multi-stakeholder participation; gender considerations; synergy** with national, regional and international policies and frameworks; etc.;
8. **Monitoring, evaluation and learning;**
9. **Reporting** to the UNFCCC and nationally.



Information required to performed the activities under the Convention and the Paris Agreement

- ❑ Generally, there are **15 main types** of information a country required to undertake activities under the PA and the Convention.
- ❑ These include:
 1. **National circumstances, institutional arrangements, legal frameworks:** to ensure continued and effective actions;
 2. **National vision, goals, and objectives:** to guide the identification and implementation of adaptation and mitigation;
 3. **National GGH inventory:** to guide national mitigation actions, and to service reporting under the Convention and the Paris Agreement;
 4. **Impacts, vulnerabilities and risks:** to underpin the design and implementation of adaptation actions;
 5. **Mitigation actions, policies and measures:** to guide national policies and communicate priorities and service reporting to the UNFCCC;
 6. **Adaptation priorities, strategies, policies, plans, goals, actions:** through projects seeking funding from the Financial Mechanism and other sources to address climate risks;
 7. **Information related to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with climate;**



Information required to performed the activities under the Convention and the Paris Agreement

8. **Change impacts:** to be reflected in the NDC and the BTR;
9. **Adaptation-related economic diversification / mitigation co-benefits of adaptation:** to guide national actions, and be reflected in the NDC, adaptation communication and the BTR;
10. **Alignment / linkages with other frameworks (national, regional, international);**
11. **Implementation strategies (adaptation, mitigation);**
12. **Support needs (financial, technology, capacity-building):** support needs for implementing climate actions at the national level;
13. **Gender-responsive adaptation and traditional, indigenous, local knowledge;**
14. **Education, training, public awareness;**
15. **Monitoring, evaluation and learning (progress, results, effectiveness, gaps, cooperation, good practices, lessons learned, challenges, opportunities).**

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			✓				✓

Activities and instruments at the national level and related information requirements (cont.)

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.

Sequencing activities to optimize resources and enhance efficiency

- ❑ Currently, the timing for most of the requirements/activities under the Convention and the PA 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.



1. Underpinning processes (ongoing)

Underpinning processes (ongoing)



Research and systematic observation



Education, training, awareness



Capacity development



Synergy coherence, SDGs



Guiding principles: gender, etc.



Monitoring and evaluation

2. Implementation of climate actions (ongoing)

Underpinning processes (ongoing)



Research and systematic observation



Education, training, awareness



Capacity development



Synergy coherence, SDGs



Guiding principles: gender, etc.



Monitoring and evaluation

Implementation of climate actions (ongoing)

Continuous implementation of climate change **policies, projects, and programmes** on:



Adaptation

to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthened resilience and reduced vulnerability to climate change



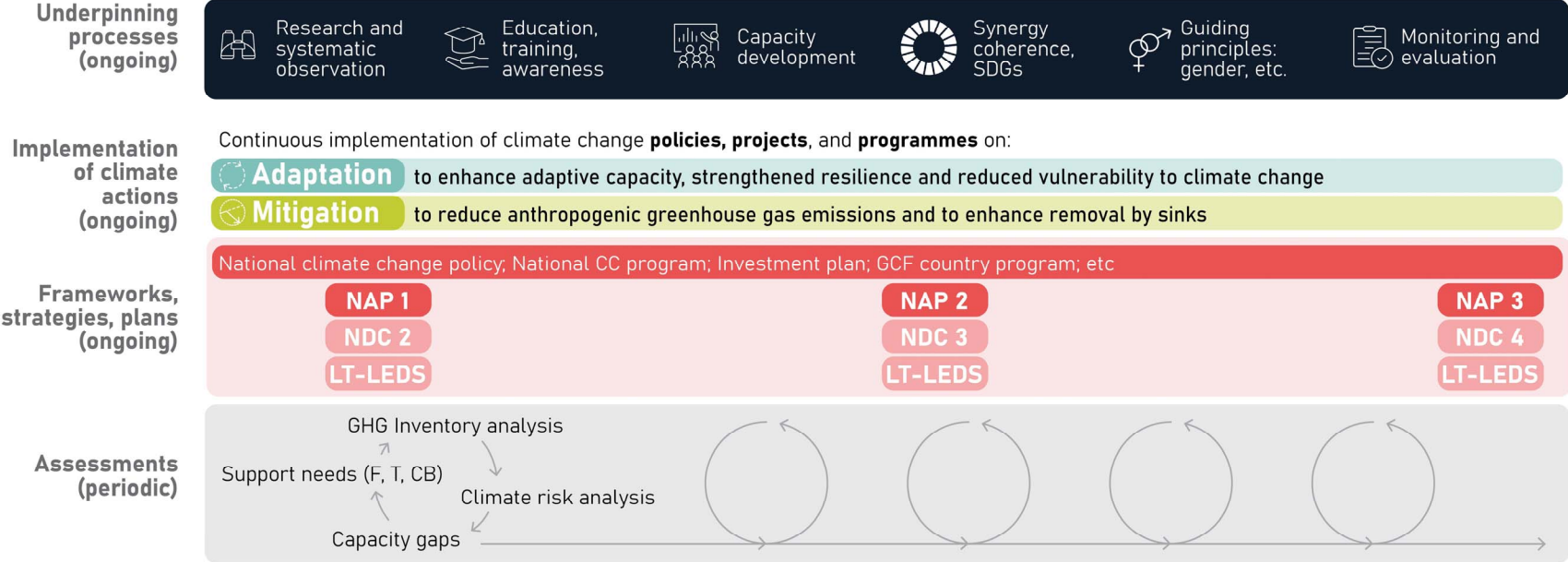
Mitigation

to reduce anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and to enhance removal by sinks

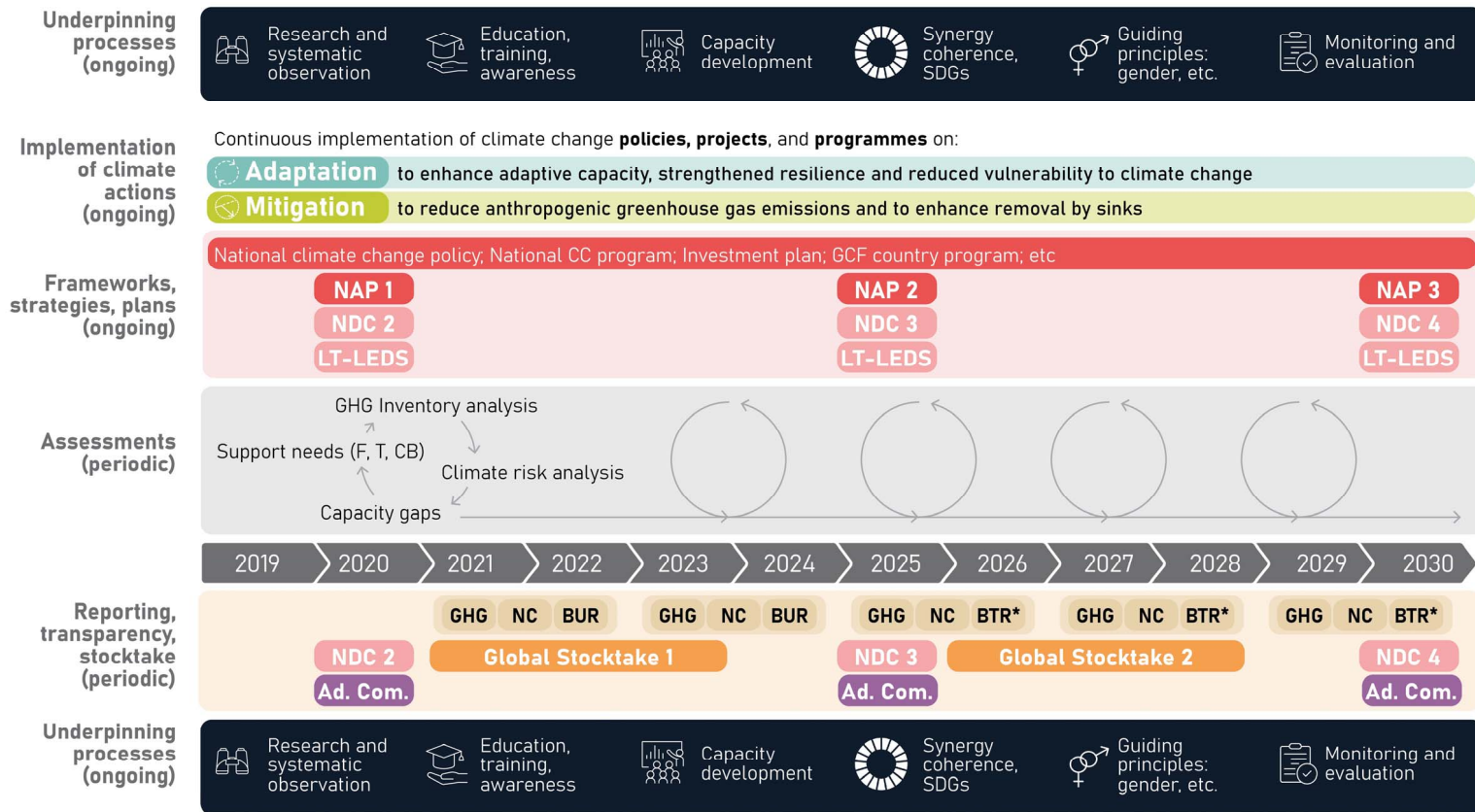
3. Frameworks, strategies, plans (ongoing)



4. Assessments (periodic)

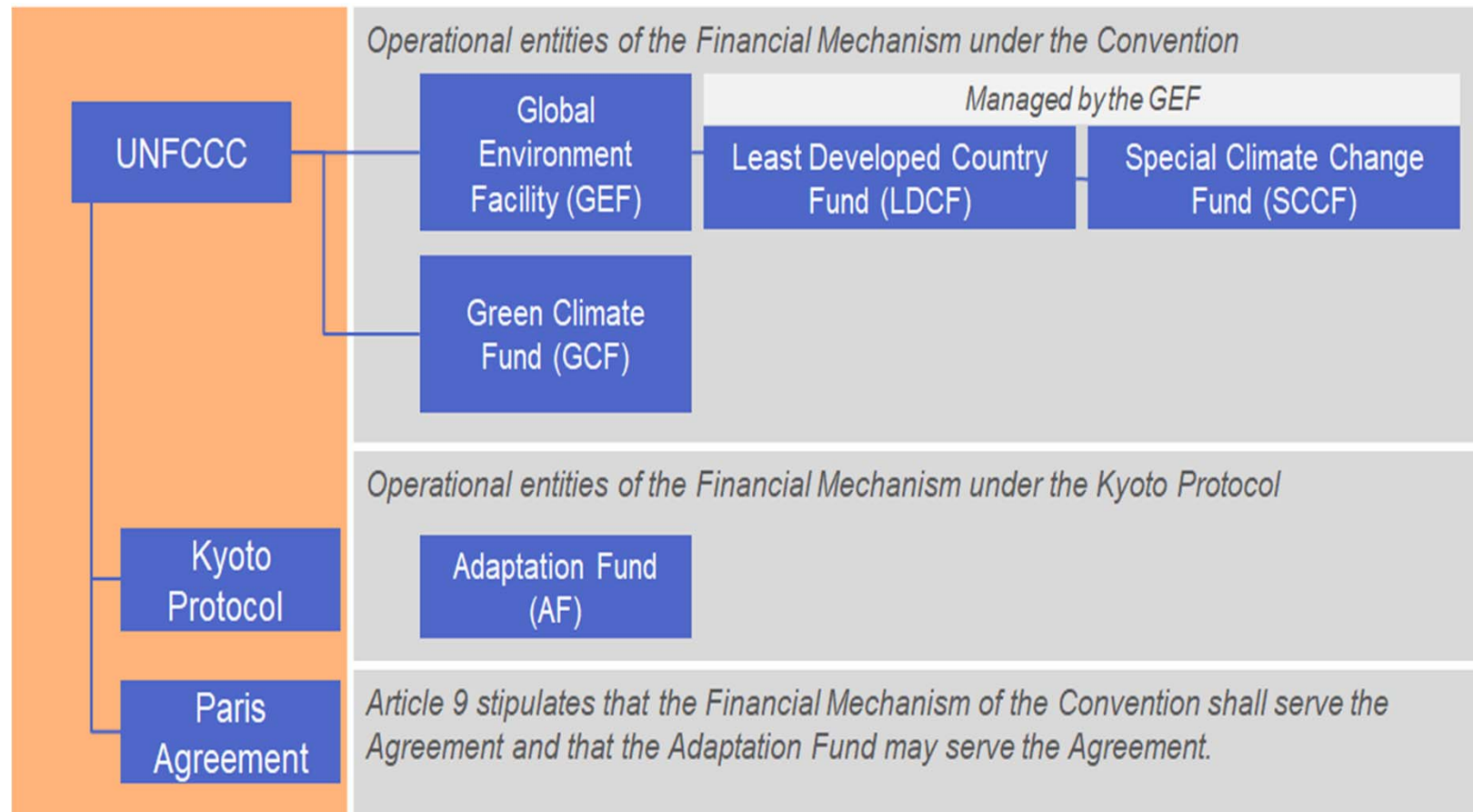


5. Reporting, transparency, stocktake (periodic)



Support mechanisms under the Convention

The Convention has a **financial mechanism, including for the transfer of technology**: to provide financial resources to developing country Parties to assist them in their climate change actions (Article 11 of the Convention).



Support mechanisms under the PA

- ❑ **Enhanced provisions on Finance:** developed country Parties shall provide financial resources to developing country Parties for adaptation and mitigation, in continuation of their existing obligations under the Convention (Article 9);
- ❑ **Enhanced provisions on Technology:** establishes a technology framework to provide overarching guidance to the work of the Technology Mechanism in promoting and facilitating enhanced action on technology development and transfer (Article 10);
- ❑ **Enhanced provisions on Capacity-building:** to enhance the ability of individuals, organizations and institutions in the developing countries and in countries with economies in transition to identify, plan and implement climate change mitigate and adaption actions (Article 11).



Opportunities for the LDCs

SUPPORT



LDC Work programme



Financial support (LDCF;
Prioritization in GCF; AF)



Technical support (LEG)

FLEXIBILITY



Reporting



Contribution to the budget

Technical support

Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG)

Areas of support to the LDCs

- LDC work programme
- NAPAs
- NAPs
- Access to funding
- Gender
- Vulnerable Countries
- Regional Approaches

Modalities

- Technical guidance and support
- Technical guidelines and supplements
- Open NAPs and Case studies
- NAP Central and the NAP tracking tool
- Training workshops
- NAP Expos
- Technical papers
- Collaboration with others

LEG vision

- Each LDC to have a NAP by 2021
- Well-structured adaptation process
- Implementation through GCF and others
- Demonstrable results in adaptation

Membership

- 10 LDCs expert
- 3 Annex I experts



LDC Expert Group support modalities

Modalities	Details
Open NAPs and case studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To mobilize the widest inputs from all interested and available actors and stakeholders to support the LDCs in their work on NAPs To test different approaches and dig deeper on various aspects and sectors
Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To build the capacity of LDCs in formulating and implementing their NAPs Focus varies depending on the training/capacity needs expressed by the LDCs
Technical guidelines and supplements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop technical guidelines to the LDCs on adaptation To provide in-depth coverage of sectoral issues – food, water, health, agriculture, settlements, gender, etc.
Technical papers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To expand on or provide technical details on specific topics related to the needs of the LDCs Examples of topics are: accessing funding; regional approaches; gender sensitivity; vulnerable groups; communities and ecosystems; monitoring and evaluation
NAP Expos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flagship events bringing together all actors and players from governments, local communities, private sectors, etc., on advancing NAPs Held at global and regional levels
NAP Central (https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/napc/Pages/Home.aspx)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central repository on NAPs and related outputs from countries; national policies; projects and programs; technical guidelines and supplements; NAP support; NAP events pages; and global progress in NAPs Includes specific tools: NAP tracking tool, NAP Blogger and the Global NAP Calendar
Collaboration with other bodies and organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure synergy and coherence of action on NAPs and on providing support to LDCs Through the NAP technical working group



Other constituted bodies

Constituted body, programme or network	Support	Website
Adaptation Committee (AC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The AC produces various publications that can serve as good resources for LDCs on their work on adaptation Topics recently covered include: gender; private sector; adaptation finance; institutional arrangements; monitoring and evaluation; coherence with SDGs and Sendai Framework 	https://unfccc.int/Adaptation-Committee
Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) under the Technology Mechanism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CTNC Incubator Programme offers specific support to the LDCs to develop technology roadmaps to facilitate deployment of climate technologies; and with capacity-building to develop GCF concept notes 	https://www.ctcn.org/capacity-building/incubator-programme
Consultative Group Experts (CGE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical support on reporting national communications and biennial update reports (BURs) 	https://unfccc.int/CGE
Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism on loss and damage (WIM Excom)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Excom has established a task force on displacement and its work will support countries in addressing displacement in their work on adaptation The Excom has also created an expert group on comprehensive risk management, and its work will help expand the scope of risk analysis to better inform adaptation 	https://unfccc.int/wim-excom
Facilitative Working Group (FWG) of the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LCIPP enhances the engagement of local communities and indigenous people in the UNFCCC process The FWG is undertaking capacity building activities in 2020 and 2021 through a series of training webinars and workshops aimed specifically at building the capacities of Parties (how governments can better engage with Ips and indigenous knowledge on climate change) 	https://unfccc.int/LCIPP-FWG
Paris Committee on Capacity-Building (PCCB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PCCB addresses current and emerging gaps and needs in implementing and further enhancing capacity-building in developing countries The PCCB actively engages with LDC stakeholders as partners in the Capacity-building Hubs or as contributors to technical papers and events 	https://unfccc.int/pccb
Nairobi Work Programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change (NWP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NWP is a knowledge to action hub involving diverse organizations committed to closing knowledge gaps to scale up climate adaptation action The NWP focuses its activities on vulnerable developing countries such as the LDCs, SIDS and African States The NWP also supports the LEG in NAPs through the mobilization of NWP partners 	https://unfccc.int/mwp



United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

