The NAP Global Network Submission on the Belém Mission to 1.5

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Mandate

The NAP Global Network welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to help jointly shape the Belém Mission to 1.5, at the invitation from the COP 29, COP 30, and COP 31 Presidencies.

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High-impact action areas and solutions for the ambition and implementation of NDCs and NAPs

The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process remains the main vehicle for countries to identify and address their medium- and long-term priorities for adapting to climate change and establish the systems and capacities needed to make adaptation an integral part of their development planning, decision making, and budgeting. The NAP process also provides a domestic process that can set out 'how' the adaptation commitments countries include in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are implemented and delivered.

The NAP Global Network is a global authority on the NAP process. Over the last 10 years, over 75 developing countries have relied on the NAP Global Network's expertise and direct technical support for their adaptation planning. The NAP Global Network will continue to support developing countries in strengthening the human and institutional capacities needed to drive effective, sustainable adaptation actions.

1. Accelerate the transition from planning to implementation in the NAP process

Adaptation planning and implementation are essential for safeguarding lives and livelihoods, protecting vulnerable ecosystems, and strengthening economies.

- **Good planning is good governance.** Planning helps governments and partners systematically integrate climate change adaptation considerations and evidence into policies, decisions, and budgets at all levels.
- **Good planning puts people first.** The impacts of climate change affect different people in different ways. Effective planning starts with asking the right questions, so interventions truly help those who need them most.
- **Good planning can help mobilize and access finance.** Building resilience to climate risk requires resources. Planning helps countries articulate priorities, identify opportunities, and work out how to pay for them.

- **Good planning does not happen in a silo.** Adaptation is crosscutting, intersecting with everything from development to biodiversity protection. Planning reduces duplication and supports synergies with other national and multilateral processes.

Accelerating the shift from adaptation planning to implementation, and building the systems that sustain it, represent one of the highest-impact contributions the Mission can make to keeping communities safe in a warming world. Translating identified priorities into concrete measures and accelerating the transition from NAP planning to implementation rests on three mutually reinforcing approaches:

- **Building the right systems.** Critical foundations need to be strengthened to accelerate and sustain adaptation action over time. These include frameworks that establish and reinforce the rules that guide investment and implementation, coordination mechanisms that align adaptation action across sectors and levels of government, and systems that assess progress, inform decisions, and demonstrate results.
- **Using the right levers.** Governments need to activate and align technical, financial, economic, and market approaches needed to develop implementation-ready adaptation measures, mobilize resources, create incentives, and define delivery pathways.
- **Engaging the right actors.** The decisions and actions of a wide set of actors shape how adaptation priorities will be translated into concrete measures. Ministries of finance and sectoral ministries, as well as subnational governments, the private sector, and civil society, all play a vital role in shaping priorities, strengthening accountability, and ensuring that decisions reflect the needs of those most vulnerable to climate impacts.

2. Strengthen the institutionalization of effective adaptation to deliver on the global goal on adaptation

Delivering the Global Goal on Adaptation requires adaptation to be institutionalized through mainstreaming across decision-making, the adoption of a gender-responsive and socially inclusive approach, strong institutional arrangements, and sustained technical capacity.

- **Countries should put adaptation at the heard of their policymaking** and integrating climate risks and adaptation considerations in decision making across policy sectors, levels of government, budgeting, and throughout. Mainstreaming climate adaptation into all sectors and levels of decision-making leads to more resilient communities, livelihoods, and economies. It provides a more efficient use of often limited financial and human resources.
- **Countries should pursue a gender-responsive NAP process, integrating gender and social considerations throughout the iterative adaptation cycle.** Vulnerability to climate change impacts is linked to social, economic, and political inequities. Discrimination and marginalization based on factors such as socio-economic status, livelihood, gender, age, minority status, displacement, or disability place some segments of the population in situations of higher vulnerability. Adaptation efforts that ignore these factors are likely to be ineffective, or at worst, risk reinforcing or exacerbating existing inequities, leading to maladaptation and further marginalization.
- **Countries should also seek to build inclusive governance mechanisms** that promote multilevel governance and enable the meaningful participation of diverse actors and knowledge types—including Indigenous and Traditional Knowledge—in adaptation decision making. Inclusive governance requires effective coordination with actors within government, including sector ministries, agencies responsible for gender and social services, and sub-

national authorities. Importantly, it also engages non-governmental actors, including civil society organizations—particularly those who advocate for underrepresented groups, private sector actors, and the research community.

- **Countries need effective institutional arrangements and strong technical capacity underpin effective NAP process.** Adaptation is inherently cross-cutting, and delivery depends on clear mandates, coordination across ministries and between national and subnational levels of government, and arrangements that endure beyond individual planning cycles or political terms. Well-defined institutional arrangements enable coherent prioritisation, reduce fragmentation, and create the continuity that long-term resilience requires. Countries also need the capacity to assess climate risk, appraise and cost adaptation options, design and operate monitoring, evaluation, and learning systems, and develop investment-ready pipelines. Sustained capacity, supported by international cooperation, is what allows enabling conditions to be built and maintained rather than depending on external support for each successive cycle.

3. Develop and strengthen comprehensive and inclusive monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) systems for adaptation

Comprehensive MEL systems are foundational to effective NAP processes. They enable governments to assess whether strategies are achieving their intended outcomes, understand how and for whom they are working, and make evidence-informed adjustments over time. MEL systems also generate the information needed for international climate reporting, supporting accountability to the Global Goal on Adaptation and feeding into Biennial Transparency Reports, Adaptation Communications, and the global stocktake.

- **Institutional and financial foundations remain the critical gap.** MEL is acknowledged across national adaptation plans, but dedicated financing and staffing for MEL remain rare. Strengthening the institutional base for MEL — including through dedicated focal points, cross-sectoral coordination, and sustained budget allocations — is among the most consequential investments countries and partners can make.
- **Inclusive MEL systems produce better evidence.** Gender-responsive and socially differentiated approaches — including gender-specific indicators, disaggregated data and participatory data collection — ensure that evidence reflects the experiences of those most exposed to climate risks. This remains a key area for strengthening.
- **MEL systems are essential for transparency and scaling what works.** Robust MEL builds the evidence base needed to identify effective solutions, demonstrate results to decision-makers and financiers, and accelerate their uptake. Without it, successful adaptation approaches remain invisible and are rarely replicated.

4. Provide and mobilize sufficient, predictable, long-term, grant-based adaptation finance

Sufficient and high-quality adaptation finance must be mobilized to close the adaptation implementation gap, especially in the least developed countries and small island developing states. It is crucial to ensure that developing countries, especially those highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, have access to sufficient and adequate finance for adaptation and resilience-building, through mechanisms that do not exacerbate the debt burdens of vulnerable nations.

The NAP process should be at the heart of initiatives for mobilizing adaptation finance. Leveraging the NAP process can increase the efficiency of processes for adaptation finance mobilization and ensure that finance is used well and targeted towards where it is needed the most. It not only identifies a country's adaptation priorities but also provides an enabling environment for investing in adaptation including data availability, skills and capacities in climate change adaptation and finance, engagement and mobilization processes, and institutional arrangements.

A tailored approach is needed to support vulnerable developing countries in mobilizing adaptation finance. Countries will have to look across a diversity of domestic, international, public and private options, as relying solely on public international funding is likely to be insufficient to ensure the implementation of their adaptation investment plans. Yet, it is important to recognize that some developing countries may not be in a position now to prioritize efforts to increase domestic resources for adaptation finance or to attract private sector investments. A phased approach may be necessary, especially in LDCs, for increasing domestic resources for adaptation and enhancing private sector investment in adaptation. This approach should initially focus on building the foundational elements needed for the mobilization of adaptation finance, such as enhancing legal and regulatory systems, ensuring strict enforcement, developing robust governance and transparency standards, and establishing transparent and robust reporting frameworks. Higher income / less indebted developing countries where these conditions are already in place should explore opportunities to increase domestic resources for climate change purposes and mobilise private sector investments for adaptation.

A careful selection of financial instruments and mechanisms for mobilizing adaptation finance is key. Attention should be paid when choosing financial instruments and mechanisms to mobilize adaptation finance, especially in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Some instruments, such as debt-for-climate swaps, may be more attractive to LDCs. However, high levels of debt and institutional weaknesses can make it difficult for LDCs to issue catastrophe bonds, green bonds, and sustainability-linked bonds. Additionally, the absence of appropriate regulatory frameworks and market infrastructure hinders the implementation of biodiversity credits. Innovative instruments and processes could be further explored by higher income/less indebted developing countries. The NAP Global Network has created an Inventory of Innovative Financial Instruments for Climate Change Adaptation which provides information on various innovative financial instruments that have been or could be used to finance the implementation of climate change adaptation measures, including the national priorities outlined in the NAPs.

Climate change adaptation investment planning is a structured approach for accessing different sources of finance and closing the adaptation gap. It includes selecting a set of priority adaptation investments to be implemented first and identifying various potential sources of adaptation finance, including domestic (where possible), international, public, and private finance sources. A Frequently Asked Questions about Climate Change Adaptation Investment Planning has been published by the NAP Global Network.

Costing priority adaptation investments is a crucial step in mobilizing adaptation finance. It enables efficient resource allocation, informed decision-making and strategic financial planning. Accurate cost estimates help appraise adaptation options, ensure transparency, and build trust among key actors. The NAP Global Network has developed the NAP Costing Tool, an Excel-based resource designed to help countries estimate the costs of their priority adaptation options. Some countries—such as Fiji, Pakistan, and Albania—are using the NAP costing tool to conduct detailed costing exercises.