

GST Technical Dialogue 1.3
Adaptation and Loss & Damage Roundtable
USA Intervention

- We share the concern with others that others have mentioned that there remain urgent and important gaps in adaptation. The impacts of the climate crisis are being felt all around the world and we know that we face unavoidable hazards even as we strive to keep a 1.5°C warming future alive.
- Adaptation is the responsibility of all governments, at all levels, and each has a role in promoting approaches to enable adaptation action.
- Parties and other stakeholders have made **progress towards enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience, and reducing vulnerability since the adoption of the Paris Agreement.**
- Looking at progress to date and how to orient ourselves going forward through the lens of the adaptation policy cycle provides a clearer picture of gaps as well as best practices. Addressing the gap between planning and implementation requires assessments, plans, implementation, and monitoring, evaluating, and learning.
- Good adaptation starts with assessing risk and vulnerability, based on good climate information.
- One-third of the world – including 60 percent of people in Africa – do not currently have access to or the ability to use climate information services to make informed decisions about how to address the risks posed by a changing climate.
- One important way to address climate impacts as well as enhance efforts to avert, minimize and address loss and damage is to **deepen global understanding of climate risks, vulnerabilities, and adaptation solutions through the provision of climate information services.**
- Having better quality observations, monitoring, and forecasting systems will foster the development of decision-support tools for decision makers and facilitate longer term planning in key development sectors. Equipping the next generation of practitioners to understand and plan for climate risks will be a crucial workforce development strategy to support comprehensive, longer term adaptation action.
- With a good understanding of risk and access to climate information, countries can undertake robust adaptation planning processes through the development and implementation of national adaptation plans, adaptation communications, and other strategies.
- NAPs, adaptation communications, and the adaptation components of NDCs provide a helpful basis for articulating adaptation priorities and needs, implementation actions, and evaluation of progress
 - For example, according to the 2022 UNEP Adaptation Gap Report, at least 84 percent of Parties have established national adaptation plans, strategies, laws and policies, while 50 percent of Parties have two or more planning instruments in place.

- Countries are also strengthening their adaptation policies by outlining clear visions, goals, and objectives to guide actions; strengthening the climate science basis of adaptation interventions; and developing the partnerships needed to ensure effective implementation.
- Moreover, local communities are often on the frontlines of climate impacts, and integrating locally-led approaches to adaptation planning and implementation can help bring context-specific and inclusive solutions forward.
- This includes integrating climate risk and impacts into the design of different systems, such as sustainably and inclusively planning, designing, implementing, and operating climate resilient infrastructure recognizing that climate change will prevent costly damages from climate impacts in the future.
- Moving to implementation, by **integrating more stakeholders in adaptation decisions, outlining actions that benefit from adaptation- mitigation synergies, and better aligning adaptation efforts with a national vision for climate resilience and development, as well as in the context of achieving sustainable development goals, countries are mainstreaming adaptation and ensuring** sustained adaptation results.
- We recognize the need to scale up support for adaptation and meeting these needs will require a mix of finance solutions from diverse sources. This includes public resources and engaging the private sector.
- Understanding progress and enhancing adaptation action between now and the second global stocktake depends on countries and non-party stakeholders getting serious about robust monitoring, evaluating, and learning systems.
- We can only assess the effectiveness of adaptation if we understand what kinds of interventions are working and which are not.
- One concrete outcome of the first GST could be to encourage countries to submit or update their voluntary adaptation communications by 2025 and update them regularly thereafter. This will allow for improving the assessment of progress on adaptation between the first and second GST and beyond.
- As with adaptation, parties and other stakeholders have made **progress in averting, minimizing, and addressing loss and damage.**
- Under the Paris Agreement:
 - The Warsaw International Mechanism has made progress on all three of its functions and in its new five-year rolling work plan is emphasizing delivering technical knowledge relevant to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage;
 - The Santiago Network established in Madrid, promises to catalyze technical assistance for activities relevant to averting, minimizing, and address loss and damage when it is fully operationalized;
 - Decision from Sharm established funding arrangements, including a fund, to assist particularly vulnerable developing countries in responding to loss and damage.

- Progress under the Paris Agreement has catalyzed action beyond, including for example on early warning and pre-arranged finance that can help respond to and limit loss and damage following events.
- Progress has also been made at the national scale in developing plans and policies to respond to loss and damage and can help channel funding to local communities. International cooperation should support and build on this national progress. Likewise we must build on the foundation of adaptation.
- We have learned the critical importance of coordination and coherence across the range of actors and communities of practice in building climate resilience. For example, humanitarian assistance is more effective when it is linked with early recovery and risk reduction that can help build long term resilience. Adaptation and efforts to avert, minimize, and address loss and damage should be complementary and linked.
- But it is also clear that action needs to be accelerated. Given the urgency and scale of action needed, we need all hands on deck that includes expansive and innovative sources of support.