
**Thirteenth meeting of the Adaptation Committee
Bonn, Germany, 27 February to 2 March 2018**

2018 Adaptation Forum “Integrating climate change adaptation with the SDGs and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction”

Concept note

Recommended action by the Adaptation Committee

The Adaptation Committee (AC), at its 13th meeting, will be invited to consider the concept note for the 2018 Adaptation Forum and provide additional guidance to the working group and the secretariat on the organization of the Adaptation Forum.

1. Introduction

1. At its 12th meeting the AC agreed to hold its next Forum in 2018 to further discuss the topic of “Integrating climate change adaptation with the SDGs and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)”, noting that this topic is broad enough to accommodate additional focus areas, such as the perspective of small islands and long-term adaptation planning.
2. It requested the secretariat to explore the possibility of holding the Forum as a session of the 2018 Adaptation Futures conference and requested its working group on this matter to provide guidance to the secretariat on the organization of the Forum. In the meantime, the organizers of Adaptation Futures have confirmed an AC session during their conference, which is planned to take place from 18-21 June 2018 in Cape Town, South Africa.

2. Background

3. When deciding on the topic for its 2018 Adaptation Forum, the AC agreed to build on the discussions from the 2017 Technical Examination Process on Adaptation (TEP-A), which also focused on the topic “Integrating climate change adaptation with the SDGs and the Sendai Framework for DRR.”
4. On the basis of the technical expert meetings (TEMs) that the AC conducted in the context of the TEP-A in May 2017, a technical paper was issued that summarized the discussions in the following six key messages:
 - a) Integrating adaptation with the SDGs and the Sendai Framework can be very beneficial for building resilience comprehensively across societies. While maintaining the autonomy of each of the post-2015 frameworks, improved coherence of action to implement the three

frameworks can save money and time, enhance efficiency and further enable adaptation action;

- b) There are many opportunities to support further policy integration between adaptation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction, owing in part to the common themes, scopes and objectives of the three global agendas. Both “resilience” and “ecosystems” can act as core concepts for motivating such integration. Actors, including state and non-state, operating across multiple sectors and scales ranging from local to global, can facilitate policy coherence, and vulnerable people and communities can benefit from and initiate effective bottom-up, locally driven solutions that contribute to multiple policy outcomes simultaneously;
- c) Unprecedented levels of coordination and coherence will be needed. Building the capacity for it will help to clarify roles and responsibilities and to encourage partnerships among a wide range of actors;
- d) The availability of data, including climate and socioeconomic data, and their resolution remain a challenge, especially in Africa. Better data management, more informed policymaking and capacity-building are also needed;
- e) Adequate, sustainable support for adaptation efforts from sources public, private, international and national alike is crucial. Accessing finance and technology development and transfer and capacity-building support is also critical, particularly for developing countries;
- f) The process to formulate and implement NAPs can effectively support the implementation of enhanced adaptation action and the development of integrated approaches to adaptation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction, thanks in part to its demonstrated success as a planning instrument, the resources available for its support, and its iterative nature and flexible, nationally driven format.

3. Objective

5. The AC may wish to use the Adaptation Forum to further elaborate on some of the key messages noted above, adding an additional perspective from the audience of the Adaptation Futures conference. While the TEM-A is mainly visited by Party and non-Party delegates of the UN climate conferences, Adaptation Futures predominantly targets the research, science and practitioners’ communities.

4. Guiding questions

6. The session could be guided by some targeted questions extracted from the messages, also keeping in mind the AC’s interest in accommodating additional focus areas, such as the perspective of small islands and long-term adaptation planning, and the location of the session (South Africa). Possible questions could include, for example:

- a) In your experience, how can coherence be improved in the long term between the three post-2015 frameworks?
- b) Both “resilience” or “resilient ecosystems” can act as core concepts for motivating integration between adaptation, sustainable development and DRR. What is your experience with this and are there other concepts that could be the motivators for integration?
- c) Significantly enhanced levels of coordination and coherence will be needed. Building the capacity for it will help to clarify roles and responsibilities and to encourage partnerships among a wide range of actors. What would effective capacity building look like, in particular for vulnerable groups and regions such as small islands and Africa?

- d) The availability of data, including climate and socioeconomic data, and their resolution remain a challenge, especially in Africa small island developing states. How could better data management, more informed policymaking and capacity-building be stimulated?
- e) The process to formulate and implement NAPs can effectively support the implementation of enhanced adaptation action and the development of integrated approaches to adaptation, sustainable development and disaster risk reduction. What are your experiences?

5. Contributors

7. As the AC noted in its workplan the desirability to involve representatives of United Nations agencies, relevant multilateral and bilateral organizations and NGOs supporting the NAP process, the panellists could be selected from these groups. Due to the limited availability of funds the AC may wish to draw from organizations that are planning to attend the Adaptation Futures conferences and that would thus not require additional funding.

8. Furthermore, the organizers of the Adaptation Futures conference informed session organizers of the possibility to invite abstracts on relevant work undertaken by conference participants who would be interested in presenting during the session. The secretariat welcomed this opportunity and, upon screening the abstracts received for their relevance to the topic of the Adaptation Forum, expressed interest in contacting two organizations. One, from the Philippines, is working on the topic of “The Nexus of Energy and Education Towards Adaptation” which would provide an island perspective and showcase concretely how private and public entities can be brought together to address multiple SDGs. The second one, by a German climate service centre, focuses on “Integrating climate knowledge into decision-making and policy-planning for climate change adaptation and SDG 13”, noting that decision-makers and policy-planners are under pressure to integrate climate knowledge for effective implementation of climate change adaptation, as well as for achieving the SDGs, and recognizing that although a large wealth of climate knowledge is produced at the global and regional scale, only a limited amount of climate knowledge is actually integrated by decision-makers and policy-planners at the local level.

6. Format and agenda

9. The forum will have a duration of 90 minutes and could be conducted in the form of a moderated panel discussion, followed by questions and answers, and the presentation of case studies, followed by a discussion among the audience. Each panellist could be asked to focus on one particular question. Due to the limited time of the event, it would be best to have no more than three panellists and one moderator who could ideally also contribute substantively to the discussion and very briefly summarize key points at the end.

10. The agenda could look as follows:

Time	What	Who
5 min	Opening and framing of the Adaptation Forum	Moderator
5 min	Overview of AC work and key messages on the topic of integrating adaptation with the SDGs and the Sendai framework	Adaptation Committee
30 min	Panel discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panellist 1 - international/UN perspective • Panellist 2 – bilateral/multilateral perspective • Panellist 3 – research/private sector or 	Moderator Panellists

	environment NGO perspective	
10 min	Questions and answers	Audience, panellists and moderator
10 min	Case study presentation	Organization 1 identified through abstract selection
10 min	Case study presentation	Organization 2 identified through abstract selection
15 min	Discussion	Audience, panellists and moderator
5 min	Closing	Moderator

7. Outcomes

11. Outcomes would be captured in the annual report of the AC to the COP and, possibly, through outreach material such as a policy brief, a blog or a video.

8. Possible next steps for the Adaptation Committee

12. The AC may wish to agree on 2-3 guiding questions for the session and provide further guidance to its working group and the secretariat on the suggested objective, format and contributors.
