

Draft supplementary guidance for voluntary use by Parties in communicating information in accordance with the possible elements of an adaptation communication

Considerations for the preparation of this guidance:

- The draft supplementary guidance should:
 - Uphold consistency with agreed nature of adaptation communications, which may be submitted as component of/in conjunction with other communications or documents, and relationship with its possible “vehicles” as well as existing reporting and planning instruments;
 - Be based on provisions of decision 9/CMA.1, in particular paras. 1 (purpose) and 2, as well as elements of information in its Annex;
 - Avoid creating any additional burden for developing country Parties;
 - Be sensitive to and avoid prejudging the outcome of UNFCCC negotiations, including those related to reporting (e.g. enhanced transparency framework);
 - Clarify relationship between adaptation communication and other communicating and reporting arrangements, in particular “value added” of adaptation communication.
 - Reflect that adaptation is an iterative process with different stages that may overlap in timing and resources, and that should involve learning;
 - Ensure helpfulness to practitioners by focusing on concrete approaches that can facilitate communication on each element of information, and limited focus on context;
 - Be prepared with engagement of IPCC WGII and support from national-level practitioners;
 - Be shared with the adaptation community and made visible to practitioners.
 - Use presentational approaches such as: questions to guide users, illustrations, infographics, and overview tables to clarify complex issues, similar to the LEG technical guidelines for the NAP process;¹
 - Include examples of approaches relevant to each element of information, including references to innovative communication and reporting within UNFCCC.
- Suggested next steps: the AC could organize a webinar with practitioners or use already planned events to receive input and discuss the approach.

¹ <https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/workstreams/national-adaptation-plans-naps/guidelines-for-national-adaptation-plans-naps>

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1. Introduction

1.1. Approach

1. This supplementary guidance has been prepared in response to a request by the CMA in its decision 9/CMA.1, paragraph 15.² It provides an overview of the adaptation communications (ADCOM) and related guidelines, and suggestions for applying the guidance for the ADCOMs as well as for navigating the linkages between the ADCOMs and other adaptation arrangements under the Convention and the Paris Agreement. It should be understood as a “travel guide” for those Parties who are preparing their ADCOM and are in the process of procuring, processing and communicating elements of information outlined in annex of decision 9/CMA.1. It should help Parties to enhance the quality of information, reduce duplications and the work required to prepare that information, and help them benefit from synergies with other planning, implementation and reporting arrangements as they prepare their ADCOMs. It also aims to orient Parties towards the latest information tools that could be beneficial when procuring, processing and communicating the information.

2. This supplementary guidance has greatly benefited from [placeholder for inputs received, including, if applicable, submissions, expert inputs, and the collaboration with the IPCC WG II].

1.2. Content

3. This document has two parts:

- a) Part I provides an overview of the guidelines and linkages that are relevant in the context of the ADCOMs. This includes the existing guidance specific for the ADCOMs themselves, as well as existing guidance that becomes relevant when submitting an ADCOM as a component of or in conjunction with other communications and/or documents (referred to in this document as “vehicle” documents). By describing this information, this part also explores the linkages between the ADCOMs and other adaptation arrangements under the Convention and the Paris Agreement. The section concludes with a summary of the key considerations pertaining to the submission of the ADCOM, including with different vehicle documents.
- b) Part II focuses on the types of information that Parties may include in their ADCOMs. It is structured along the nine elements of information identified in the annex to decision 9/CMA.1. Those are the possible elements of information that Parties may include in their ADCOMs. Each subsection of section 4 elaborates what Parties might wish to consider when procuring, preparing and communication information on each element. Each section is structured as follows:
 - i) Brief description of the element of information;
 - ii) A tabular overview indicating where guidelines for other vehicle documents under the Convention and the Paris Agreement stipulate the provision of similar types of information;
 - iii) References to tools that Parties can use to prepare the particular element of information, in particular any studies, handbooks and methodologies that can enhance the quality of the element of information in question and facilitate its procurement, processing, and communication;
 - iv) Based on the above, suggestions by the AC on how to enhance the quality of the element of information under consideration and to facilitate its procurement, processing, and communication.

² In that paragraph, the CMA requested the Adaptation Committee to “develop, with the engagement of the IPCC Working Group II, using relevant existing guidance as a starting point, as appropriate, by June 2022, draft supplementary guidance for voluntary use by Parties in communicating information in accordance with the elements contained in the annex [of decision 9/CMA.1], for consideration by the subsidiary bodies at their fifty-seventh sessions (November 2022) in the context of their consideration of the report of the Adaptation Committee”.

2. Part I: guidance relevant for the adaptation communications

2.1. Existing guidance for the adaptation communications in the Paris Agreement and CMA decisions

4. The ADCOM is [defined][established] in Article 7, paragraphs 10, 11 and 12 of the Paris Agreement. After Paris, the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement, under its item 4, developed more specific operational guidance for the ADCOMs, which was adopted in decision 9/CMA.1. In addition, two further decisions specify other operational aspects of the ADCOMs: (a) decision 19/CMA.1, which guides the global stocktake, outlines how the ADCOM will be considered in the technical assessment component of the global stocktake, and (b) decision 1/CMA.2 encourages Parties to submit their ADCOM as soon as possible. Considered together, these components of existing guidance determine for the ADCOM its general purpose, role in the global stocktake, guiding principles, modalities for submission (including with other communications or documents), content, international recording, and support. Table 1 below provides an overview of the guidance contained in the four documents.

Table 1. Key elements of the guidance for ADCOMs in the Paris Agreement and relevant CMA decisions

Aspect of guidance	Provisions	Source
Overall mandate	Each Party should submit and update an ADCOM, which may include priorities, implementation and support needs, plans and actions, without a burden for developing countries.	Art 7.10
General purposes	Enhance visibility and profile of adaptation, and balance with mitigation; provide input to the GST; strengthen adaptation action and support for developing countries; enhance learning and understanding of adaptation needs and actions.	9/CMA.1, p. 1
Role in global stocktake	ADCOMs will be synthesized for GST and contribute to review of progress towards global goal on adaptation.	9/CMA.1, p. 14
	The GST shall, i.a. enhance implementation of adaptation considering the ADCOM.	Art 7.14 (b)
	The secretariat prepares for GST a synthesis of state of adaptation efforts, experiences and priorities, based on i.a. information in the ADCOMs.	19/CMA.1, p. 23 (b), 36 (c)
Principles	Country-driven, flexible (including with regard to the vehicle document), no additional burden or basis for comparison or review	9/CMA.1, p. 2
Using vehicle documents (see also under content below)	Shall be submitted and updated, as appropriate, as a component of/in conjunction with other communications or documents, including a NAP, a NDC and/or a national communication.	Art 7.11 9/CMA.1, p. 3
	May also be submitted with a biennial transparency report.	9/CMA.1, p. 4
	Encourages Parties to clearly identify the ADCOM within the vehicle document, and to number their ADCOMs sequentially.	9/CMA.1, p. 10
Content	Parties may include information on: (a) national circumstances, institutions, legal frameworks; (b) impacts, risks and vulnerabilities; (c) priorities, strategies, policies, plans, goals and actions; (d) implementation and support needs, provision of support; (e) implementation, including progress and results; adaptation efforts for recognition; cooperation; barriers, challenges and gaps; good practices, lessons and information sharing; monitoring and evaluation; (f) adaptation and economic diversification plans with mitigation co-benefits; (g) contribution of adaptation to other frameworks and conventions; (h) gender responsiveness and traditional, indigenous and local knowledge; (i) any other information	9/CMA.1, Annex
	Parties are invited to include information on elements (a-d), and additionally on (e-i) (see above)	9/CMA.1, p. 7
	Parties are invited to include ex ante information based on the elements of the annex Parties may "tailor" the information, considering the vehicle document used	9/CMA.1, p. 8 9/CMA.1, p. 9

	If submitted with an NDC, Parties are encouraged to use the guidance in this decision (9/CMA.1). ³ If NDC is in context of Art 4.7, the Party is invited to provide information on element (f) (see below).	9/CMA.1, p. 11-12
	If submitted with a national communication, Parties may provide information considering document FCCC/CP/1999/7 (for developed countries) ⁴ and decision 17/CP.8 (for developing countries).	9/CMA.1, p. 13
	If submitted with a NAP, Parties may provide information considering decision 5/CP.17.	9/CMA.1, p. 13
Timing of submission	Parties are invited to submit their ADCOM in time to inform each GST	9/CMA.1, p. 6
	Encourages Parties to submit their first ADCOM as soon as possible for timely input to first GST.	1/CMA.2, p. 12
International recording	Shall be recorded in a public registry maintained by the secretariat.	Art 7.12 9/CMA.1, p. 5
Support	Continuous and enhanced international support shall be provided to developing countries for implementation of i.a. Article 7, paragraphs 10 and 11.	Art 7.13
	Invites GEF, under existing mandates, to support preparation and submission of ADCOMs.	9/CMA.1, p. 20
	Encourages GCF, GEF, AF, CTCN and PCCB to support implementation of adaptation in accordance with priorities and needs outlined in ADCOMs.	9/CMA.1, p. 21

Figure 1. Overview of key elements of the guidance for ADCOMs

Purpose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Strengthen visibility, profile, balance, action, support, learning and understanding
Global stocktake	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Information on state of adaptation, experiences, priorities •Contribute to review of progress and enhanced implementation
Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Country-driven, flexible •No additional burden or basis for comparisons or reviews
Submission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •With "vehicle" documents (NAP, NDC, NC, BTR) or independently; clearly identified; recorded in a registry
Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Circumstances, institutions, vulnerabilities, priorities, plans, needs, progress, co-benefits, other frameworks, gender, indigenous knowledge •Ex ante information; "priority" vs "additional"; tailored to "vehicle" document
Timing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •In time to inform each GST •ASAP to inform first GST
Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •GEF: invited to support ADCOM preparation under existing mandates •Other institutions: support adaptation in accordance with ADCOM priorities

³ Similarly, decision 4/CMA.1 stipulates that Parties may provide information other than mitigation in their NDCs, in particular, an adaptation communication may be submitted with an NDCs, noting the guidance in decision 9/CMA.1.

⁴ At COP 25 in Madrid, Parties adopted revised guidelines for national communications of annex I Parties. They are contained in [decision 6/CP.25](#). They will be applicable beginning with the eighth national communications, which must be submitted latest by 31 December 2022.

5. As illustrates in the figure 1 above, the guidance for the ADCOM can be synthesized in seven points:
- a) Its **aims** to enhance visibility and profile of adaptation and balance with mitigation, strengthen action and support, and enhance learning and understanding;
 - b) It provides **input to global stocktake (GST)** by feeding information on state of adaptation, experiences and priorities to the synthesis reports, thus contributing to reviewing progress towards the global goal on adaptation and work under the GST to enhance the implementation of adaptation;
 - c) It is **country-driven** and **flexible** and should **not be an additional burden** or a **basis for comparisons** between Parties or for a **review**;
 - d) It can be **submitted with other vehicle documents**, including **NAP, NDC, NC or BTR, on independently**. If using a vehicle document, Parties should identify where the ADCOM is located. It will be recorded in a registry;
 - e) It may contain **information** on i.a. national circumstances, institutions and laws; vulnerabilities, adaptation priorities and plans, adaptation and support needs, progress in implementation, co-benefits of adaptation and economic diversification, links with other global frameworks, gender aspects and traditional/indigenous knowledge, and any other information. Parties are invited to **include ex ante information**, consider **certain types of information as priority**, take into account **existing guidance for vehicle documents** and **tailor the information** on that basis;
 - f) It should be **submitted in time to inform each GST** (as soon as possible for first GST in 2021-2023);
 - g) The GEF is invited to support ADCOMs under existing mandates, and other institutions are encouraged to support implementation of adaptation in accordance with priorities and needs identified in the ADCOMs.

2.2. Guidelines and considerations when submitting an adaptation communication as a component of, or in conjunction with, other communications and/or documents

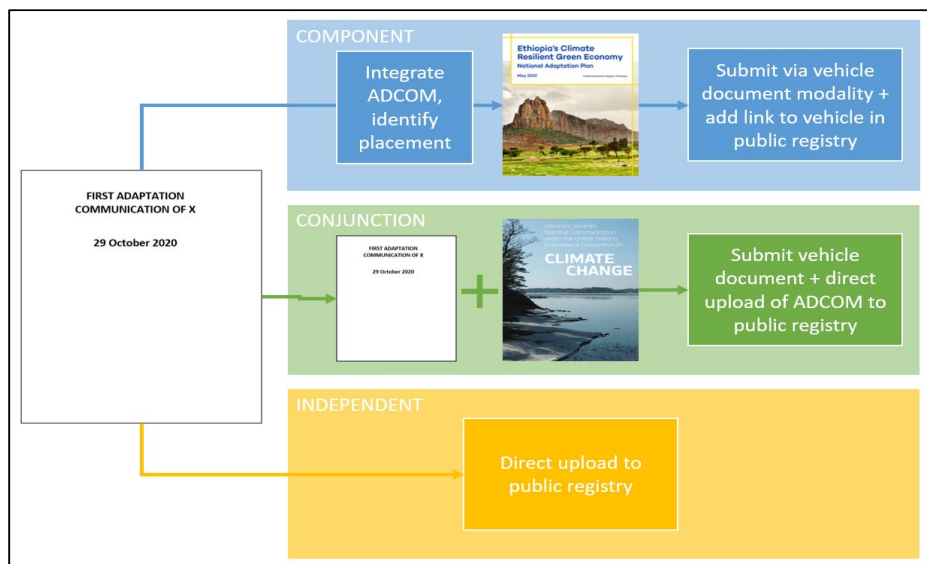
6. As indicated above, both the Paris Agreement and decision 9/CMA.1 stipulate that the ADCOM shall be submitted, as appropriate, with other vehicle documents. They also identify four possible, though not exclusive, vehicle documents: national adaptation plan (NAP), nationally determined contribution (NDC), national communication (NC), and a biennial transparency report (BTR). Parties may also submit their ADCOM as an independent document, in which case the applicable guidance is that contained in decision 9/CMA.1. However, those Parties intending to submit with a vehicle document should prepare their ADCOM while considering the existing guidance available for the vehicle document they choose. This section describes the implications of this interlinked submission modality, outlines the existing guidance for possible vehicle documents and elaborates on several specific issues that Parties may wish to consider when submitting with a specific vehicle document.

2.3. Submitting the adaptation communication „as appropriate, as a component of, or in conjunction with, other communications and/or documents“

7. This subsection outlines how the provision “submitted and updated, as appropriate, with other communications and/or documents” can be applied in practice. Essentially, the provision provides Parties with the following three broad options for submitting and updating:
- a) ADCOM as a **component** of a chosen vehicle document, meaning that the ADCOM is integrated with the vehicle document;
 - b) ADCOM in **conjunction** with a chosen vehicle document, meaning that the ADCOM is separate from the vehicle document, but submitted together;
 - c) ADCOM as an **independent** document.

8. Figure 2 below illustrates the general implications of each of these three pathways

Figure 2. Three “pathways” for submitting and updating an ADCOM



9. Submitting an ADCOM as a **component** of a vehicle document involves integrating it into the vehicle document. The nature of the integration is up to the submitting Party. Possible approaches include e.g. identifying an existing part of the vehicle document as the ADCOM⁵, integrating the ADCOM as a new section, such as an executive summary to enhance the visibility of information, or by adding the ADCOM as an annex. Whichever form of integration a Party chooses, it should clearly identify where the ADCOM is located within the vehicle document. Once prepared, Parties should submit the entire document through the submission modality of the vehicle document (such as the NDC interim registry, NAP Central, the UNFCCC portal for national communications, or a future arrangement for BTRs). Finally, the submitting Party should upload a link to the already submitted vehicle document into the public registry, accompanied by the following information: 1. Type of vehicle used; 2. Language of the document, and; 3. Page numbers of the ADCOM within the vehicle document.

10. Submitting an ADCOM in **conjunction** with a vehicle document implies that the two documents are submitted together but kept separate. In this case, the Party determines how to characterize the linkages between the ADCOM and the vehicle document. This can be done via e.g. cross-referencing between the documents, or, for instance, through a joint cover letter to the secretariat informing about the submission. In terms of processing, the two documents should be submitted separately, with the vehicle document going through its specific modality (see above), and the ADCOM uploaded as a full file into the public registry.

11. In the case of an **independent** submission, no synchronization with a vehicle document is required. In this case, the Party simply uploads the file containing the ADCOM directly into the public registry.

For the various submission pathways, the secretariat has been requested by the CMA to provide assistance to Parties, other stakeholders and the public in the use of the public registry, including via a user guide, training programmes and online support. Any queries on this regard can be directed to adaptation-communications@unfccc.int.

⁵ For example, New Zealand has identified the adaptation sections of its seventh national communication as their ADCOM, and Ecuador has done the same for the adaptation component of their first NDC.

2.4. Scope of, and synergies with, existing guidelines for the main vehicle documents

12. In addition to the general submission possibilities with a vehicle document, it is important to consider the existing guidance for the potential vehicle documents in order to enhance the coherence of the materials, to reduce duplications, and to benefit from synergies between the ADCOM and the vehicle document. This section provides an overview of such guidance and outlined linkages and potential synergies between the ADCOM and the vehicle document. Table 2 below identifies the documents in which Parties can find the guidelines for the four main vehicle documents identified by the Paris Agreement and decision 9/CMA.1. The sections that follow provide a short description of the each set of guidance and elaborate on the synergies with the ADCOM guidelines.

Table 2. Locating relevant parts of the guidance for the main ADCOM vehicle documents

Vehicle document	Guideline document(s)	Sections/paragraphs with adaptation-specific or -related provisions	Hyperlink
NAP	Decision 5/CP.17 (initial guidelines for the formulation of NAPs)	Entire document	https://unfccc.int/files/adaptation/cancun_adaptation_framework/national_adaptation_plans/application/pdf/decision_5_cp_17.pdf
	LEG Technical Guidelines for the NAP Process	Entire document	https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/workstreams/national-adaptation-plans-naps/guidelines-for-national-adaptation-plans-naps
NDC	Decision 4/CMA.1	Paragraphs 8, 10 and 16 Annex I (paras 3 (d) and 4 (d))	https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma2018_3_add1_advance.pdf
	Decision 9/CMA.1	Entire document	
NC	Decision 6/CP.25 (for developed countries)	Section VII (paras 46-47)	https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cp2019_13a01_adv.pdf
	Decision 17/CP.8 (for developing countries)	Paras 3-4 and 26, Section B (paras 28-36)	https://unfccc.int/files/meetings/workshops/other_meetings/application/pdf/dec17-cp.pdf
BTR	Decision 18/CMA.1	Annex (paras 10 (c), 13 and 14) AND chapter IV (paras 104-117)	https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/CMA2018_03a02E.pdf

2.4.1. National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)

13. NAPs are national policy instruments for coordination and driving national adaptation actions, ideally serving as an umbrella plan of action for national adaptation, and embracing all sectors, levels of governance, and geographical areas. Initial guidelines for NAPs were adopted in decision 5/CP.17, and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) developed the *Technical Guidelines for the NAP Process* in 2011. In addition, the COP has adopted further decisions to address specific aspects of NAPs⁶, and various supplementary materials are available for the work.⁷ Decision 5/CP.17 identifies four elements of the process to formulate and implement NAPs: A. Laying the groundwork and addressing gaps; B. Preparatory elements; C. Implementation Strategy; D. Reporting, Monitoring and Review. As of 5 November 2018, 49 least developed countries and 42 other developed countries have taken steps to formulate their national adaptation plans based on the LEG Technical Guidelines.

14. The COP has adopted a set of decisions related to providing information on the process to formulate and implement NAPs, in particular (see annex I for details):

- a) 5/CP.17 invited Parties to provide information on their NAPs, as part of their national communications and other channels (paras 32-33), including progress made and effectiveness

⁶ <https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/workstreams/national-adaptation-plans-naps/decisions-conclusions-national-adaptation-plans>

⁷ <http://www4.unfccc.int/nap/Guidelines/Pages/Supplements.aspx>

- (annex, para 6 (b)). The decision also invited UN United Nations and other organizations to provide information on activities to support NAPs national adaptation plans (para 35);
- b) 3/CP.20 invited Parties to forward outputs and outcomes related to NAPs to NAP Central and other means as appropriate (para 9);
 - c) 8/CP.24 invited Parties to continue providing information on progress towards the achievement of the objectives of the process to formulate and implement NAPs and on experience, best practices, lessons learned, gaps and needs, and support provided and received via an online questionnaire on NAP Central or other means as appropriate (para 23);
 - d) In addition, the LEG Technical Guidelines provide recommendations on how to report on NAPs.
[...]

2.4.1.1. NAPs as a source of information for the ADCOM

15. Given that NAPs provide a framework for holistic planning of adaptation efforts in all relevant sectors and governance levels, they generate a large body of detailed information that can be beneficial for the preparation of the ADCOM. More specifically, the four elements of the process to formulate and implement NAPs encompass a wide range of adaptation-related activities, in particular:

- a) Synthesizing available information, resources, programmes, projects, stakeholders, gaps and needs;
- b) Understanding the development context and its relevant to adaptation;
- c) Defining governance arrangements for adaptation;
- d) Analyzing climate change scenarios and risks, and assessing vulnerabilities;
- e) Identifying adaptation options as well as activities to integrate adaptation into planning, and prioritizing options;
- f) Developing an implementation strategy;
- g) Implementing the actions;
- h) Monitoring and reviewing progress and reporting.

16. Such activities are closely linked with the types of information identified as possible elements of ADCOMs identified by decision 9/CMA.1. This applies especially to the elements information on national circumstances, arrangements and frameworks (a), impacts, risks and vulnerabilities (b), adaptation priorities and plans (c), needs (d), implementation of actions, including monitoring and evaluation (e). Given such information synergies, the ADCOM can be built on the information collected and generated by the relevant government agencies during the formulation and implementation of the NAP. This provides various opportunities to tailor the information in the ADCOM to be coherent with the NAP, help reduce duplications and additional burdens and is compatible with the aim of the ADCOM to enhance the visibility and profile of adaptation. Therefore, Parties intending to submit their ADCOM with a NAP should consider the existing guidance outlined above in detail, and establish working arrangements and information sharing that enable the preparation of the ADCOM to draw on the information generated during the formulation and implementation of the NAP.

2.4.2. Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

17. Article 3 of the Paris Agreement stipulates that:

“As nationally determined contributions to the global response to climate change, all Parties are to undertake and communicate ambitious efforts as defined in Articles 4, 7, 9, 10, 11 and 13 with the view to achieving the purpose of this Agreement as set out in Article. The efforts of all Parties will represent a progression over time, while recognizing the need to support developing country Parties for the effective implementation of this Agreement.”

18. In the Paris Agreement, the provisions for NDCs are contained mainly in Article 4. NDCs are communicated by Parties every five years, in accordance with decision 1/CP.21 and any relevant decisions

of the CMA (Article 4, paragraph 9). In 2020, Parties are submitting their second or updated NDCs, which are being captured in the NDC interim registry maintained by the secretariat.⁸

19. While mitigation is a key feature of NDCs, various provisions of the Paris Agreement and related decisions elaborate how adaptation information can be provided as part of NDCs. In the Lima Call for Climate Action, COP 20 provided the opportunity to Parties to include an adaptation component in their intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs) (decision 1/CP.20, para 12). On this basis, many Parties included an adaptation component in their INDCs, which, upon ratification of the Paris Agreement, were converted into NDCs (unless a Party requested otherwise). As a result, NDCs of 132 Parties currently contained in the NDC interim registry include an adaptation component.⁹

2.4.2.1. Integrating an adaptation component into NDCs as an ADCOM

20. The tool for integrating an adaptation component in an NDC is the ADCOM. The Paris Agreement, in its Article 7, paragraph 11, identifies an “adaptation component of an NDC” as one of the vehicle documents for an ADCOM. In addition, decision 4/CMA.1, paragraph 8, and decision 9/CMA.1, paragraph 11, indicate that the guidance for the ADCOM in decision 9/CMA.1 is the guidance available for preparing adaptation components of NDCs. No other such guidance exists under the Convention or the Paris Agreement for preparing adaptation components of NDCs. Therefore, the guidance in 9/CMA.1 has a double function: it serves as the cross-cutting guidance for ADCOMs, and as the guidance for adaptation components of NDCs specifically. Consequently, if using an NDC as a vehicle document, Parties can draw mainly on the guidance in 9/CMA.1, in particular when defining the content of the ADCOM. However, the vehicle of submission does not determine the sources of information. Therefore, in this case, a Party can also benefit from considering and building on the information generated by e.g. the process to formulate and implement NAPs to develop the adaptation component of their NDC. In addition, when using the NDCs as a vehicle, Parties will need to follow the timeframes for submission of NDCs (every 5 years, in 2020, 2025, 2030, etc.).

Box 1. Providing information on mitigation co-benefits of adaptation and/or economic diversification as part of an ADCOM

An additional specific linkage exists between the ADCOM and the NDCs. This applies if a party wishes to communicate information on mitigation co-benefits of its adaptation or economic diversification efforts as part of its NDC, as stipulated by Article 4, paragraph 7, of the Paris Agreement. In this case, Parties should do the following: in their ADCOM, submitted as adaptation component of their NDC, they should include information on element (f) (“Adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans, including those that result in mitigation co-benefits”). In addition, the submitting Party must provide, as part of the ICTU of its NDC, information on the mitigation co-benefits of the specific adaptation and/or economic diversification efforts as outlined in Annex I of decision 4/CMA.1¹

¹From an adaptation perspective, this can include information on the the co-benefits themselves; specific projects, measures and initiatives; the consideration of economic and social consequences of response measures; and adaptation plans that yield mitigation co-benefits (e.g. in key sectors such as energy, resources, water, coasts, settlements, urban planning, agriculture and forestry).

2.4.3. National communications

21. National communications are regular and comprehensive reports by Parties on all aspects of their climate efforts. Annex I Parties submit their NCs every four years (the seventh national communications was due on 1 January 2018), with the purpose of enhancing transparency, consistency, and comparability of information, enable review and assessment of implementation, and monitor progress towards UNFCCC goals. The guidance for Annex I NCs was adopted in 1999 and updated at COP 25 in Madrid (decision 6/CP.25). NCs of Annex I Parties are submitted through the UNFCCC’s [National Reports Submission Portal](#), posted on the UNFCCC website, and compiled and synthesized by the secretariat on request by Parties. The guidelines specify a set of adaptation information to be included. This includes information on impacts and

⁸ <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NDCStaging/Pages/All.aspx>

⁹ A summary of the types of the adaptation information contained in the INDCs the first round of NDCs is available in sections I.E and II.F of the document *Aggregate effect of the INDCs: an update by the secretariat*.

vulnerabilities, adaptation plans and priorities, implementation, and information related to support (see table 3 below, and annex I for details).

22. The guidance for NCs was adopted in 2002 for developing countries (decision 17/CP.8)¹⁰. The purpose of the guidelines is to encourage consistency, transparency and comparability of information, facilitate policy guidance to the operating entities of the financial mechanism, and ensure that the COP has sufficient information for assessing the status of implementation. NCs of non-Annex I Parties are generally submitted every 4 years through the [National Reports Submission Portal](#), and the secretariat posts them on its website. In terms of the content, NCs of non-Annex I Parties should contain information on e.g. national circumstances, vulnerabilities, adaptation plans and priorities, implementation, challenges and gaps, monitoring and evaluation, and support (see table 3 below, and annex I for details).

2.4.3.1. Potential information synergies between ADCOMs and national communications

23. Similar to NAPs, when submitting an ADCOM with a NC, Parties can benefit from significant information synergies between the two instruments due to the similarities in the types of information. Table 3 below provides an overview of the information synergies between ADCOMs and NCs. The overlaps are particularly clear on the areas of vulnerability and impacts, adaptation plans and priorities, implementation, and information related to support. In addition, NCs of non-Annex I Parties overlap with ADCOMs in terms of information on barriers, challenges and gaps, as well as monitoring and evaluation.

Table 3. Potential information synergies between ADCOMs and national communications

Type of information	NC, Annex I Parties	NC, non-Annex I Parties	ADCOM
Adaptation-related national circumstances, development priorities, institutions, governance, laws, policies, regulations		3 4, 36	(a)
Research on vulnerabilities and adaptation	49, 63	44	
Observed and expected impacts, risks, trends and hazards	49		(b)
Vulnerability to adverse effects/vulnerability and adaptation assessments		29	(b)
		32-34	
Adaptation goals, actions, objectives, undertakings, efforts, plans, solutions, priorities	49	26, 53	(c)
		28	
Adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans, mitigation co-benefits			(f)
Implementation of adaptation	28, 49	29	(e), (i-ii)
		53	
Integrating climate change into development efforts and other policies		41, 47	
Gender-responsiveness and integration; sci./trad./indig./local knowledge			(h)
Barriers, challenges and gaps related to implementation		53	(e) (iv)
Monitoring and evaluation/relevant systems/adaptation-related indicators		35	(e) (vi)
Implementation/support needs of developing countries			(d)
Assistance/support provided to developing countries, including for adaptation	52, 53, 55		(d)
How support meets adaptation needs		53	
Cooperation, good practices, experience and lessons learned			(e) (iii), (v)
Contribution of adaptation to other international frameworks			(g)

¹⁰ Revision of the guidelines for NCs of non-Annex I Parties is being considered by the SBI, with focus on information communicated in NCs, taking into account decision 18/CMA.1 (guidelines for BTRs). However, at its session in June 2019, the SBI Subsidiary Body for Implementation continued to hold the item in abeyance.

Any other information			(i)
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24. Further benefits can be gained by the fact that all Parties have already submitted at least one NC, and thus are likely to have acquired experience, developed relevant databases, and built key capacities, which can be drawn upon to collect information for the ADCOM.

2.4.4. Biennial transparency reports

25. The purpose of the BTRs, specifically from the perspective of adaptation, is to provide a clear understanding of adaptation actions under Art. 7 of the Paris Agreement, including good practices, priorities, needs and gaps, to inform the global stocktake GST (Paris Agreement Art. 13.5). In addition, decision 18/CMA.1 stipulates that the BTR could facilitate the recognition of adaptation efforts of developing countries (para 105). BTRs will be submitted every 2 years, beginning in 2024 (18/CMA.1, para 3). The secretariat posts them on the UNFCCC website and synthesizes them (Ibid., para 6). In addition, they are considered in the synthesis reports prepared for the GST. The guidance for BTRs, which are common to all Parties with flexibilities for developing countries, was adopted at COP 24 in Katowice in decision 18/CMA.1. Generally, the guidelines define the purpose, timeframes, process and types of information to be included (see annex I for details).¹¹

26. The provision of adaptation information in BTRs is voluntary. In paragraphs 104 to 117 of 18/CMA.1, the guidelines for the BTR identify a detailed set of information that should be included on adaptation. However, Parties may also cross-reference adaptation information in other documents, and focus on updates of previous information (Ibid., para 14).

27. The BTRs will become available as a vehicle document when their submission begins in 2024. If submitting an ADCOM with a BTR, Parties will need to fit the ADCOM into the 2-year cycle for BTRs. However, since there is neither an obligation to include adaptation information in a BTR, or to submit an ADCOM every two years, Parties can adapt their ADCOM submission cycle around the BTR cycle, for instance, by submitting an ADCOM with every second BTR. Another possibility is to vary the type of information that the ADCOM contains in each BTR (e.g. ex ante information every two years, and ex post information every two years).

2.4.4.1. Potential information synergies between ADCOMs and BTRs

28. As in the case of NCs and NAPs, ADCOMs and BTRs involve similar types of information, opening further possibilities for information synergies. These are identified in table 4 below.

Table 4. Potential information synergies between ADCOMs and BTRs

Type of information	ADCOM	BTR
Adaptation-related national circumstances, development priorities, institutions, governance, laws, policies, regulations	(a)	106 (a-c), 109 (d)
Research on vulnerabilities and adaptation		116 (b)
Observed and expected impacts, risks, trends and hazards	(b)	107 (a-b)
Vulnerability to adverse effects/vulnerability and adaptation assessments	(b)	B, 107 (c)
Information on loss and damage		115
Adaptation goals, actions, objectives, undertakings, efforts, plans, solutions, priorities	(c)	108 (a) 109 (b) & (g)
Adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans, mitigation co-benefits	(f)	109 (e)
Stakeholder involvement (subnational, community, private sector)		109 (h)

¹¹ In June 2019, the SBSTA, under its agenda item 10 (d), launched work to develop outlines for the biennial transparency reports BTRs (Ibid., paras 12 (b) and 13). This can have implications on the structure of the adaptation information included in the BTRs.

Implementation of adaptation	(e), (i-ii)	108 (a), 109 (a), 110 (a-e) 113 (d)
		111
Integrating climate change into development efforts and other policies		109 (f)
Gender-responsiveness and integration; sci./trad./indigenous/local knowledge	(h)	109 (c)
Effectiveness and sustainability of adaptation		111
		114 (a-b)
Barriers, challenges and gaps related to implementation	(e) (iv)	108 (b)
Monitoring and evaluation/relevant systems/adaptation-related indicators	(e) (vi)	112-113
Implementation/support needs of developing countries	(d)	
Assistance/support provided to developing countries	(d)	
How support meets adaptation needs		113 (d) (ii)
Cooperation, good practices, experience and lessons learned (e.g. on science, policy, integration)	(e) (iii), (v)	116
Contribution of adaptation to other international frameworks	(g)	
Any other information	(i)	117

2.5. Considerations and observations on part I

29. This section has described the existing guidance for the ADCOM itself and for its various vehicle documents, outlined the general submission options for the ADCOM, and considered the implications of the different types of guidance for the preparation and submission of the ADCOM. While the guidance for the adaptation communication is simple, the provisions that link it with other communications or documents create complexity, and create some need for Parties to consider how to combine these arrangement in coherent and consistent way that meets national and international information needs, maintains the integrity of the Paris Agreement and other adaptation arrangements under the Convention, and above all helps Parties avoid duplications and additional burdens.

30. The various similarities in the types of information relevant to the various adaptation arrangements described in this section clearly illustrate possibilities to build the ADCOM on information generate for existing documents: the Paris Agreement and decision 9/CMA.1 link the adaptation communication with other communications and/or documents, and also emphasize the importance of avoiding additional burdens and duplications. Paragraph 9 of decision 9/CMA.1 stipulates that Parties may tailor the information in the adaptation communication based on the “vehicle” document. Similarly, paragraph 13 states that, when submitting their adaptation communication together with NAP-related documents, Parties should consider the guidelines for NAPs contained in decision 5/CP.17, and, when submitting together with national communication, consider the respective guidelines as well, contained in decision 17/CP.8 for developing countries, and in document FCCC/CP/1999/7¹² for developed countries. This provision implies that Parties can either use existing information to populate their adaptation communication, include a summary of that information, or make a cross-reference to it. This will help reduce the burden of preparing the adaptation communication.

31. To further pursue these ends, Parties may wish to consider what distinguishes the adaptation communication from other instruments under the Convention, and what, from their perspective, constitutes the specific value-added of the ADCOM? Based on the provisions of the Paris Agreement and the Katowice decisions, possible answers to these questions include differentiating the ADCOM by level of detail, by types of information, or by a functional differentiation vis-à-vis other instruments:

¹² The revised guidelines for national communications of Annex I Parties are contained in [decision 6/CP.25](#).

- a) **Level of detail: the adaptation communication can be understood as a high-level communication instrument:** decision 9/CMA.1 stipulates that the first purpose of the adaptation communication is to enhance the visibility and profile of adaptation, and the elements of information identified in Annex I of 9/CMA.1 are not detailed. Based on this, the adaptation communication can be understood as a document that provides a strategic overview of adaptation priorities for a broader audience, rather than a detailed technical document – NAPs, NCs or BTRs themselves could serve the purpose of complementing the ADCOM with specific technical information.
- b) **Types of information: the adaptation communication can be understood as an instrument for ex ante information:** paragraph 8 of decision 9/CMA.1 invites Parties to include ex ante information in their adaptation communications. This provides a certain, though non-obligatory, emphasis towards using the adaptation communication to communicate forward-looking information. On this basis, Parties can use their adaptation communications to provide a forward-looking vision of their adaptation efforts, while using other instruments, for instance the BTRs or NCs, to report on progress made. This will also reduce the duplication of communication and reporting.
- c) **Functional differentiation: purpose of ADCOM vis-à-vis other arrangements:** Article 7 of the Paris Agreement separates planning and implementation of adaptation from the ADCOM. Article 7, paragraph 9 of the Paris Agreement stipulates that Parties “shall” engage in planning and implementation of adaptation, and to that end can pursue efforts such as NAPs. In contrast, Article 7, paragraphs 10 and 11 focuses specifically on communication. Here a functional differentiation is made between planning and implementation on the one hand, and communication of information on the other. Parties can also follow this logic and maintain a similar “division of labor” between e.g. NAPs as an instrument for planning and implementation, and the ADCOM as an instrument for communication.

32. Based on the above provisions, the value-added of the adaptation communication can be understood as communicating internationally a high-level, forward-looking overview of adaptation priorities and needs by providing a perspective on how its national adaptation plan and other actions aim to take a country further in addressing the hazards it faces, and what are the needs to make it happen. In contrast, adaptation planning and implementation is envisaged under NAPs and other activities outlined in Article 7, paragraph 9, of the Paris Agreement. Furthermore, biennial transparency reports and national communications can provide detailed information on progress in implementation.

3. Part II: supplementary guidance to facilitate the procurement, processing and communication of information on specific elements

3.1. Communicating information on possible elements of an adaptation communication: relevant linkages, existing approaches and methodologies

3.1.1. National circumstances, institutional arrangements and legal frameworks

33. This section describes relevant linkages, as well as existing approaches in relation to element (a) of annex to decision 9/CMA.1 - providing information on national circumstances, institutional arrangements and legal frameworks, and outlines suggestions by the AC on how to enhance the quality of this element of information and to facilitate its procurement, processing, and communication. This element contains three types of information: national circumstances, institutional arrangements and legal frameworks.

- a) National circumstances can be understood as information on geography, population, political context, economic situation, and available resources of a country, which may affect ability to adapt to climate change. This information is essential for understanding the country’s vulnerability, capacity, response options, and challenges (UNFCCC 2003, 6).
- b) Institutional arrangements refer to governance and/or administrative structures relevant to adaptation in place at various levels of government.

- c) Legal frameworks are national laws, acts, regulations, or other instruments of binding legal character that guide adaptation efforts.

3.1.2. Provision of information on this element in other UNFCCC arrangements

34. Information related to this element is a common feature of various UNFCCC guidelines for communication and reporting. In addition to the adaptation communications, information on *national circumstances* specifically is part of the guidelines for national communications of non-annex I Parties, for documents related to NAPs, and for biennial transparency reports (see table 2 below). Information on *institutional arrangements* is also referred to in the guidelines for NAPs and biennial transparency reports. Information on *legal frameworks* is identified in the guidelines for biennial transparency reports.

Table 5. Provision of information related to national circumstances, institutional arrangements and legal frameworks under UNFCCC guidelines

Adaptation communications (Para (a), annex, 9/CMA.1)	NCs of annex I Parties (6/CP.25)	NCs of non-annex I Parties (17/CP.8)	Documents related to NAPs (5/CP.17, 3/CP.20, 8/CP.24 + LEG guidelines)	BTRs (Para 106 of 18/CMA.1)
(a) National circumstances	None	3: <i>should</i> provide information on national/regional development priorities/objectives/circumstances relevant for addressing climate change and impacts (e.g. relevant geography/climate/economic features, and needs/concerns arising from adverse effects and/or impact of response measures). 4: <i>encouraged</i> to provide a summary of national circumstances in tabular form.	Summary of relevant information about national circumstances (LEG, p. 115).	Each Party <i>should</i> provide information on: (a) Nat circumstances relevant to adaptation (e.g. biogeophysical characteristics, demographics, economy, infrastructure; and info on adaptive capacity);
Institutional arrangements			Description of existing institutional arrangements relevant to NAP Process (LEG, 115)	(b) Inst arrangements and governance (e.g. for assessing impacts, climate change at sectoral level, decision-making, planning, coordination, addressing cross-cutting issues, adjusting priorities and activities, consultation, participation, implementation, data governance, M&E, and reporting);
Legal frameworks				(c) Legal and policy frameworks and regulations.

3.1.3. Tools available for producing, processing and communicating information on this element [Note: this information could also be presented in an annex]

3.1.3.1. UNFCCC User Manual for the Guidelines on National Communications from Non-Annex I Parties

35. The UNFCCC's *Reporting on Climate Change: User Manual for the Guidelines on National Communications from Non-Annex I Parties*, provides a set of general recommendations related to procuring, processing and communicating information on national circumstances. In particular that:

- a) The information should be clearly linked to other chapters of the communication, and all other subject areas should refer back to the national situation;
- b) The section on national circumstances could include, more specifically, information on:
 - i) Geographical characteristics, including climate, forests, land use, and other environmental characteristics;
 - ii) Population: growth rates, distribution, density and other vital statistics;
 - iii) Economy, including energy, transport, industry, mining, tourism, agriculture, fisheries, waste, health and services sector;
 - iv) Education, including scientific and technical research institutions;
 - v) Any information considered relevant by the Party, e.g. information relating to Article 4.8, 4.9 and 4.10, of the Convention;
- c) Using a tabular format, as well as summary tables and charts, can enhance the presentation of the information (UNFCCC 2003, 6).

36. The Manual also provides suggestions of the type of information on institutional arrangements, in particular:

- a) Distribution of responsibilities within government departments, universities, research institutions;
- b) National Climate Change Committees or other relevant coordinating bodies (establishment, funding, membership);
- c) Involvement and participation of other stakeholders;
- d) Technical/expert groups or teams (e.g. for vulnerability and adaptation assessment).

[TBD: information from other guidelines]

3.1.4. Linkages and Observations

3.1.4.1. Information on national circumstances

37. The comparison outlined in table 5 above indicates that relevant information on *national circumstances* may have already been procured to some extent as part of existing processes. In particular, non-annex I Parties who have prepared a national communication are likely to have developed arrangements for procuring information on national circumstances. Similarly, given that the NAP process is designed to conform to national circumstances, the formulation of NAPs also involves developing a full understanding of national circumstances. Thus, those two processes can provide a starting point for procuring information on national circumstances. National communications of Parties illustrate how information on national circumstances can be collected from various national ministries and agencies such as national statistics agencies, meteorological institutions, financial entities, research institutes, scientific studies, and/or organizations for sectoral governance. Other possible sources are international organizations, such as the World Bank, UNDP, the IPCC, or the OECD. For the purposes of the adaptation communication, Parties may wish to include a concise overview of key aspects of national circumstances in order to ensure that the adaptation communication enhances the visibility of adaptation. More detailed information can be provided as part of NAP-related documents, national communications, or biennial transparency reports.

3.1.4.2. Information on institutional arrangements

38. This information is very different from national circumstances because it relates to the structure of governance related to adaptation, is more likely to be readily available as part of overall government operations, and ideally would not involve any additional study or extensive procurement. The presentation of this information could be enhanced by using visual tools to provide a concise overview of the arrangements and their role in the governance of adaptation efforts.

3.1.4.3. Information on legal frameworks

39. Similar to institutional arrangements, this information is likely to be readily available as part of a national legislative record. On the basis of such a record, Parties can prepare a concise overview of those frameworks most relevant to adaptation. Also, similarly, the presentation of this information could be enhanced by using visual tools, rather than a narrative description.

3.2. Impacts, risks and vulnerabilities

[TBD]

3.3. National adaptation priorities, strategies, policies, plans, goals and actions

[TBD]

3.4. Implementation and support needs of, and provision of support to, developing country Parties

[TBD]

3.5. Implementation of adaptation actions and plans, including:

3.5.1. Progress and results achieved

3.5.2. Adaptation efforts of developing countries for recognition

3.5.3. Cooperation on enhancing adaptation at the national, regional and international level

3.5.4. Barriers, challenges and gaps related to the implementation of adaptation

3.5.5. Good practices, lessons learned and information-sharing¹³

3.5.6. Monitoring and evaluation

[TBD]

3.6. Adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans, including those that result in mitigation co-benefits

[TBD]

3.7. How adaptation actions contribute to other international frameworks and/or conventions

[TBD]

3.8. Gender-responsive adaptation action and traditional knowledge, knowledge of indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems related to adaptation

- Refer to the LEG/AC Gender Toolkit

[TBD]

¹³ An AC member suggested reflecting on good practices, challenges, and lessons learned under other elements so that they are communicated not only in the context of "Implementation of adaptation actions and plans".

3.9. Any other information related to adaptation

[TBD]

4. Concluding observations

40. This chapter includes a summary of the contents of this guidance, general recommendations relating to the adaptation communications as a whole.

Annex: Table: comparison of the types of adaptation-related information to be communicated/reported under guidelines of different instruments under the Convention and the Paris Agreement

NOTE: the level of detail of the various guidelines is very different. For the purposes of readability, the language of the guidelines has been simplified to enhance accessibility of the overview. For full text of the guidelines, please refer to the original guidelines identified in the first row of the table.

Adaptation communications (9/CMA.1) (all provisions are "may include")	National communications of annex I Parties (FCCC/CP/1999/7, section II) [to be updated with information from 6/CP.25]	National communications of non-annex I Parties (17/CP.8)	Documents related to national adaptation plans (5/CP.17, 3/CP.20, 8/CP.24)	Biennial transparency reports (18/CMA.1)
(a) National circumstances, institutional arrangements and legal frameworks;		3: should provide information on national/regional development priorities/objectives/circumstances relevant for addressing climate change and impacts (e.g. relevant geography/climate/economic features, and needs/concerns arising from adverse effects and/or impact of response measures). 4: encouraged to provide a summary of national circumstances in tabular form.		106. Each Party should provide information on: (a) Nat circumstances relevant to adaptation (e.g. biogeophysical characteristics, demographics, economy, infrastructure; and info on adaptive capacity; (b) Inst arrangements and governance (e.g. for assessing impacts, climate change at sectoral level, decision-making, planning, coordination, addressing cross-cutting issues, adjusting priorities and activities, consultation, participation, implementation, data governance, M&E, and reporting); (c) Legal and policy frameworks and regulations.
(b) Impacts, risks and vulnerabilities, as appropriate;	49: shall include information on expected impacts. 49: may refer to scientific research on vulnerability assessment and adaptation. 63: should provide info on highlights, innovations and efforts on: (a) Climate process and system studies, including paleoclimatology;	29: should provide information on vulnerability to adverse effects, and on adaptation measures being taken to meet needs and concerns due to these effects. 32: encouraged to provide information on scope of vulnerability and adaptation assessment, including on most critical vulnerable areas.		107. Each Party should provide information on: (a) Current and projected climate trends and hazards; (b) Observed and potential impacts (e.g. sectoral, economic, social and/or environmental vulnerabilities); (c) Approaches, methodologies and tools, and uncertainties and challenges, in relation to para 107(a) and (b).

	<p>(b) Modelling and prediction, inc global circulation models; (c) Research on impacts; (d) Socio-economic analysis, inc of impacts of climate change and response options; (e) Research and development on mitigation and adaptation tech.</p>	<p>33: encouraged to describe approaches, methodologies and tools, including scenarios for assessment of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation, and relevant uncertainties. 34: encouraged to provide information on vulnerability and adaptation in key vulnerable areas, inc key findings and effects of climate change, allowing an integrated analysis of national vulnerability to climate change.</p>		
<p>(c) National adaptation priorities, strategies, policies, plans, goals and actions;</p>	<p>49: may refer to plans for coastal zone management, water resources and agriculture.</p>	<p>26: may provide information on programmes containing measures to facilitate adaptation. 36: may report on policy frameworks, such as adaptation programmes, plans and policies for developing and implementing adaptation strategies and measures. 53: may provide information on opportunities for implementation of adaptation, including pilot projects, being undertaken or proposed.</p>		<p>109. Each Party should provide information on: (a) Implementation of adaptation actions in accordance with the global goal on adaptation; (b) Adaptation goals, actions, objectives, undertakings, efforts, plans (e.g. NAPs and subnational plans), strategies, policies, priorities (e.g. sectors, regions or integrated plans for coastal management, water and agriculture), efforts to build resilience; (c) How best science, gender and indigenous, traditional and local knowledge are integrated; (d) Development priorities related to adaptation and impacts; (e) Adaptation actions and/or economic diversification leading to mitigation co-benefits; (f) Efforts to integrate climate into dev plans, policies and programming, including related capacity-building activities; (g) Nature-based solutions to adaptation; (h) Stakeholder involvement, including subnational, community and</p>

				private sector plans, priorities, actions and programmes.
(d) Implementation and support needs of, and provision of support to, developing country Parties;	52 and table 5: shall provide information on assistance provided for costs of adaptation to climate vulnerable developing countries. 53 and table 5: shall provide information on finance provided through bilateral/regional/multilateral channels; should complete tables 4 and 5. (Table 5: adaptation-related capacity-building, coastal zone management and vulnerability assessments.) 55: shall report technology transfer and financing for access by developing countries to technologies (including equipment to facilitate adaptation).	53: may provide information on how support from Annex II Parties meet specific needs and concerns relating to vulnerability and adaptation.	5/CP.17, 32: Invites Parties to provide information through national communications, on support provided or received, relevant to the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans 5/CP.17, 35: Invites United Nations orgs, multilateral, intergovernmental and other international and regional organizations: info on activities to support the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans	
(e) Implementation of adaptation actions and plans, including: (i) Progress and results achieved; (ii) Adaptation efforts of developing countries for recognition; (iii) Cooperation on enhancing adaptation at the national, regional and international level, as appropriate; (iv) Barriers, challenges and gaps related to the implementation of adaptation; (v) Good practices, lessons learned and information-sharing; (vi) Monitoring and evaluation;	49: shall include an outline of action taken to implement Art 4.1 (b) and (e) for adaptation.	28: shall include information on steps taken or envisaged towards national/regional programmes to facilitate adaptation, and any other information. 41: encouraged to provide information on steps taken to integrate climate change into social, economic and environmental policies and actions. 47: encouraged to provide information on national, subregional and/or regional capacity-building activities for integrating adaptation into medium and long-term planning. 53: may provide information on barriers to	5/CP.17, 32: Invited to provide information through national communications, on measures undertaken relevant to the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans 5/CP.17, Annex, 6 (b): Parties should: provide info in national communications on progress made and effectiveness of the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans. 3/CP.20, para 9: invites least developed countries	C. Adaptation priorities and barriers 108. Each Party should provide information on: (a) Domestic priorities and progress towards these; (b) Adaptation challenges and gaps and barriers. E. Progress on implementation of adaptation 110. Each Party should provide information on: (a) Implementation of actions in chapter IV.D; (b) Steps taken to formulate, implement, publish and update national/regional programmes; strategies and measures, policy frameworks (e.g. national adaptation plans) and other information; (c) Implementation of actions identified in current and past adaptation

		<p>implementation of adaptation.</p>	<p>and other developing countries to forward outcomes of the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans to NAP Central</p> <p>8/CP.24, para 23: invites Parties to provide information on progress on NAPs and on relevant experiences, best practices, lessons learned, gaps and needs, and support provided and received via an online questionnaire or other means</p>	<p>communications, including efforts to meeting adaptation needs;</p> <p>(d) Implementation of actions identified in adaptation component of NDCs;</p> <p>(e) Coordination activities and changes in regulation, policies and planning.</p> <p>111. Developing countries may include info on implementation of supported actions, and effectiveness of implemented measures.</p> <p>F. Monitoring and evaluation of actions and processes</p> <p>112. To enhance actions and facilitate reporting, each Party should report on systems to monitoring and evaluation implementation, including those in place or under development.</p> <p>113. Each Party should provide information on:</p> <p>(a) Achievements, impacts, resilience, review, effectiveness and results;</p> <p>(b) Approaches and systems used, and outputs;</p> <p>(c) Assessment of and indicators for:</p> <p>(i) How adaptation increased resilience and reduced impacts;</p> <p>(ii) When adaptation is not sufficient;</p> <p>(iii) Effectiveness of implemented measures;</p> <p>(d) Implementation, in particular:</p> <p>(i) Transparency of planning and implementation;</p> <p>(ii) How support programmes meet vulnerabilities and needs;</p> <p>(iii) How adaptation influences development goals;</p> <p>(iv) Good practices, experience and lessons learned from policy and regulatory changes, actions and coordination mechanisms.</p> <p>114. Each Party should: info on effectiveness and sustainability of adaptation, including on:</p>
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				<p>(a) Ownership, stakeholder engagement, alignment of adaptation to national and subnational policies, and replicability;</p> <p>(b) Results of adaptation and sustainability of those results.</p> <p>H. Cooperation, good practices, experience and lessons learned</p> <p>116. Each Party should provide information on:</p> <p>(a) Efforts to share info, good practices, experience and lessons learned, including on:</p> <p>(i) Science, planning and policies relevant to adaptation;</p> <p>(ii) Policy innovations and pilot and demo projects;</p> <p>(iii) Integration of adaptation into planning;</p> <p>(iv) Cooperation to share info and to strengthen science, institutions and adaptation;</p> <p>(v) Area, scale and types of cooperation and good practices;</p> <p>(vi) Improving durability and effectiveness of adaptation</p> <p>(vii) Helping developing countries identify effective practices, needs, priorities, and challenges and gaps;</p> <p>(b) Strengthening scientific research and knowledge related to:</p> <p>(i) Climate, including research and systematic observation and early warning systems, to inform climate services and decision-making;</p> <p>(ii) Vulnerability and adaptation;</p> <p>(iii) Monitoring and evaluation.</p>
(f) Adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans, including those that result in mitigation co-benefits;				
(g) How adaptation actions contribute to other international frameworks and/or conventions;				

(h) Gender-responsive adaptation action and traditional knowledge, knowledge of indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems related to adaptation, where appropriate;				
(i) Any other information related to adaptation				I. Any other info 117. Each Party may provide any other relevant information.
			3/CP.20, para 9: invites least developed countries and other developing countries to forward outputs, including national adaptation plan documents, to NAP Central	G. Info on averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage 115. Each Party may provide info on enhancing understanding, action and support, on cooperative and facilitative basis, to avert, minimize and address loss and damage considering projected changes in risks, vulnerabilities, adaptive capacities and exposure, including on: (a) Observed and potential impacts, including from extreme weather and slow onset events, drawing on best science; (b) Activities to avert, minimize and address loss and damage; (c) Institutional arrangements to facilitate implementation of activities under paragraph 115(b) above.
(a) National circumstances, institutional arrangements and legal frameworks;		3: should provide information on national/regional development priorities/objectives/circumstances relevant for addressing climate change and impacts (e.g. relevant geography/climate/economic features, and needs/concerns arising from adverse effects and/or impact of response measures). 4: encouraged to provide a summary of national circumstances in tabular form.		106. Each Party should provide information on: (a) Nat circumstances relevant to adaptation (e.g. biogeophysical characteristics, demographics, economy, infrastructure; and info on adaptive capacity; (b) Inst arrangements and governance (e.g. for assessing impacts, climate change at sectoral level, decision-making, planning, coordination, addressing cross-cutting issues, adjusting priorities and activities, consultation, participation, implementation, data governance, M&E, and reporting);

				(c) Legal and policy frameworks and regulations.
(b) Impacts, risks and vulnerabilities, as appropriate;	49: shall include information on expected impacts. 49: may refer to scientific research on vulnerability assessment and adaptation. 63: should provide info on highlights, innovations and efforts on: (a) Climate process and system studies, including paleoclimatology; (b) Modelling and prediction, inc global circulation models; (c) Research on impacts; (d) Socio-economic analysis, inc of impacts of climate change and response options; (e) Research and development on mitigation and adaptation tech.	29: should provide information on vulnerability to adverse effects, and on adaptation measures being taken to meet needs and concerns due to these effects. 32: encouraged to provide information on scope of vulnerability and adaptation assessment, including on most critical vulnerable areas. 33: encouraged to describe approaches, methodologies and tools, including scenarios for assessment of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation, and relevant uncertainties. 34: encouraged to provide information on vulnerability and adaptation in key vulnerable areas, inc key findings and effects of climate change, allowing an integrated analysis of national vulnerability to climate change.		107. Each Party should provide information on: (a) Current and projected climate trends and hazards; (b) Observed and potential impacts (e.g. sectoral, economic, social and/or environmental vulnerabilities); (c) Approaches, methodologies and tools, and uncertainties and challenges, in relation to para 107(a) and (b).
(c) National adaptation priorities, strategies, policies, plans, goals and actions;	49: may refer to plans for coastal zone management, water resources and agriculture.	26: may provide information on programmes containing measures to facilitate adaptation. 36: may report on policy frameworks, such as adaptation programmes, plans and policies for developing and implementing adaptation strategies and measures. 53: may provide information on opportunities for implementation of adaptation, including pilot projects, being undertaken or proposed.		109. Each Party should provide information on: (a) Implementation of adaptation actions in accordance with the global goal on adaptation; (b) Adaptation goals, actions, objectives, undertakings, efforts, plans (e.g. NAPs and subnational plans), strategies, policies, priorities (e.g. sectors, regions or integrated plans for coastal management, water and agriculture), efforts to build resilience; (c) How best science, gender and indigenous, traditional and local knowledge are integrated;

				<p>(d) Development priorities related to adaptation and impacts;</p> <p>(e) Adaptation actions and/or economic diversification leading to mitigation co-benefits;</p> <p>(f) Efforts to integrate climate into dev plans, policies and programming, including related capacity-building activities;</p> <p>(g) Nature-based solutions to adaptation;</p> <p>(h) Stakeholder involvement, including subnational, community and private sector plans, priorities, actions and programmes.</p>
<p>(d) Implementation and support needs of, and provision of support to, developing country Parties;</p>	<p>52 and table 5: shall provide information on assistance provided for costs of adaptation to climate vulnerable developing countries.</p> <p>53 and table 5: shall provide information on finance provided through bilateral/regional/multilateral channels; should complete tables 4 and 5. (Table 5: adaptation-related capacity-building, coastal zone management and vulnerability assessments.)</p> <p>55: shall report technology transfer and financing for access by developing countries to technologies (including equipment to facilitate adaptation).</p>	<p>53: may provide information on how support from Annex II Parties meet specific needs and concerns relating to vulnerability and adaptation.</p>	<p>5/CP.17, 32: Invites Parties to provide information through national communications, on support provided or received, relevant to the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans</p> <p>5/CP.17, 35: Invites United Nations orgs, multilateral, intergovernmental and other international and regional organizations: info on activities to support the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans</p>	
<p>(e) Implementation of adaptation actions and plans, including:</p> <p>(i) Progress and results achieved;</p> <p>(ii) Adaptation efforts of developing countries for recognition;</p> <p>(iii) Cooperation on enhancing adaptation at the national,</p>	<p>49: shall include an outline of action taken to implement Art 4.1 (b) and (e) for adaptation.</p>	<p>28: shall include information on steps taken or envisaged towards national/regional programmes to facilitate adaptation, and any other information.</p> <p>41: encouraged to provide information on steps taken to</p>	<p>5/CP.17, 32: Invited to provide information through national communications, on measures undertaken relevant to the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans</p>	<p>C. Adaptation priorities and barriers 108. Each Party should provide information on:</p> <p>(a) Domestic priorities and progress towards these;</p> <p>(b) Adaptation challenges and gaps and barriers.</p>

<p>regional and international level, as appropriate;</p> <p>(iv) Barriers, challenges and gaps related to the implementation of adaptation;</p> <p>(v) Good practices, lessons learned and information-sharing;</p> <p>(vi) Monitoring and evaluation;</p>		<p>integrate climate change into social, economic and environmental policies and actions.</p> <p>47: encouraged to provide information on national, subregional and/or regional capacity-building activities for integrating adaptation into medium and long-term planning.</p> <p>53: may provide information on barriers to implementation of adaptation.</p>	<p>5/CP.17, Annex, 6 (b): Parties should: provide info in national communications on progress made and effectiveness of the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans.</p> <p>3/CP.20, para 9: invites least developed countries and other developing countries to forward outcomes of the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans to NAP Central</p> <p>8/CP.24, para 23: invites Parties to provide information on progress on NAPs and on relevant experiences, best practices, lessons learned, gaps and needs, and support provided and received via an online questionnaire or other means</p>	<p>E. Progress on implementation of adaptation</p> <p>110. Each Party should provide information on:</p> <p>(a) Implementation of actions in chapter IV.D;</p> <p>(b) Steps taken to formulate, implement, publish and update national/regional programmes; strategies and measures, policy frameworks (e.g. national adaptation plans) and other information;</p> <p>(c) Implementation of actions identified in current and past adaptation communications, including efforts to meeting adaptation needs;</p> <p>(d) Implementation of actions identified in adaptation component of NDCs;</p> <p>(e) Coordination activities and changes in regulation, policies and planning.</p> <p>111. Developing countries may include info on implementation of supported actions, and effectiveness of implemented measures.</p> <p>F. Monitoring and evaluation of actions and processes</p> <p>112. To enhance actions and facilitate reporting, each Party should report on systems to monitoring and evaluation implementation, including those in place or under development.</p> <p>113. Each Party should provide information on:</p> <p>(a) Achievements, impacts, resilience, review, effectiveness and results;</p> <p>(b) Approaches and systems used, and outputs;</p> <p>(c) Assessment of and indicators for:</p> <p>(i) How adaptation increased resilience and reduced impacts;</p> <p>(ii) When adaptation is not sufficient;</p> <p>(iii) Effectiveness of implemented measures;</p> <p>(d) Implementation, in particular:</p>
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				<p>(i) Transparency of planning and implementation;</p> <p>(ii) How support programmes meet vulnerabilities and needs;</p> <p>(iii) How adaptation influences development goals;</p> <p>(iv) Good practices, experience and lessons learned from policy and regulatory changes, actions and coordination mechanisms.</p> <p>114. Each Party should: info on effectiveness and sustainability of adaptation, including on:</p> <p>(a) Ownership, stakeholder engagement, alignment of adaptation to national and subnational policies, and replicability;</p> <p>(b) Results of adaptation and sustainability of those results.</p> <p>H. Cooperation, good practices, experience and lessons learned</p> <p>116. Each Party should provide information on:</p> <p>(a) Efforts to share info, good practices, experience and lessons learned, including on:</p> <p>(i) Science, planning and policies relevant to adaptation;</p> <p>(ii) Policy innovations and pilot and demo projects;</p> <p>(iii) Integration of adaptation into planning;</p> <p>(iv) Cooperation to share info and to strengthen science, institutions and adaptation;</p> <p>(v) Area, scale and types of cooperation and good practices;</p> <p>(vi) Improving durability and effectiveness of adaptation</p> <p>(vii) Helping developing countries identify effective practices, needs, priorities, and challenges and gaps;</p> <p>(b) Strengthening scientific research and knowledge related to:</p>
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				(i) Climate, including research and systematic observation and early warning systems, to inform climate services and decision-making; (ii) Vulnerability and adaptation; (iii) Monitoring and evaluation.
(f) Adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans, including those that result in mitigation co-benefits;				
(g) How adaptation actions contribute to other international frameworks and/or conventions;				
(h) Gender-responsive adaptation action and traditional knowledge, knowledge of indigenous peoples and local knowledge systems related to adaptation, where appropriate;				
(i) Any other information related to adaptation				I. Any other info 117. Each Party may provide any other relevant information.
			3/CP.20, para 9: invites least developed countries and other developing countries to forward outputs, including national adaptation plan documents, to NAP Central	G. Info on averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage 115. Each Party may provide info on enhancing understanding, action and support, on cooperative and facilitative basis, to avert, minimize and address loss and damage considering projected changes in risks, vulnerabilities, adaptive capacities and exposure, including on: (a) Observed and potential impacts, including from extreme weather and slow onset events, drawing on best science; (b) Activities to avert, minimize and address loss and damage; (c) Institutional arrangements to facilitate implementation of activities under paragraph 115(b) above.

Document information

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>
Updated revised draft	6 November 2020	AC 18 This updated revised draft (AC18/GUID/5B) was prepared for further consideration by the AC.
Revised draft	19 August 2020	Post AC 17 A revised draft initial outline (AC17/GUID/6B) was prepared for further consideration by the AC.
n/a	20 February 2020	AC 17 The AC agreed to continue work inter-sessionally on the draft presented in document AC/2020/4 .
n/a	16 August 2019	AC 16 The AC requested the secretariat to prepare a first outline onf the draft supplementary guidance (AC/2019/19) for further consideration.

Keywords: Adaptation communications, technical guidance, information dissemination, Resilience, Adaptation Committee
