

Adaptation Forum convened by the Adaptation Committee

Concept note

Recommended action by the Adaptation Committee

The Adaptation Committee (AC), at its 21st meeting, will be invited to consider the information and options contained in this document and provide guidance to the secretariat on the organization of the 2022 Adaptation Forum.

1. Introduction

1. The Adaptation Committee (AC) has regularly held Adaptation Forums since 2013. Since their inception, the goal behind these Forums has been to convene high-level events that raise the profile of adaptation globally. The first Adaptation Forum, which took place in Warsaw, set the tone with a panel of leaders and visionaries who reflected on their visions for a resilient future; it provided the raw material for a documentary that has since been viewed over 30,000 times and translated into 8 languages. Nine years later, with the 2022 Adaptation Forum, the AC has the opportunity to once again shine a spotlight on adaptation and resilience-building at a time when adaptation is higher on the political agenda and in the public consciousness than ever before.

2. Possible topics

2. The AC may wish to select or refine one of the below topics for the 2022 Adaptation Forum or suggest alternatives:

- a) **Adaptation Stocktake: Where do we go from here?** Capitalizing on the momentum of the first global stocktake as well as the premise of COP 27 to be an “adaptation COP” the Forum could take stock of where the world stands regarding adaptation and where it should go from here. It could build on the adaptation-related inputs to the global stocktake as well as the latest IPCC report to recapitulate the evolution of adaptation up to the present and to stimulate discussions on the major challenges and opportunities for the future. It could focus on identifying the key triggers for unlocking the required levels of adaptation action worldwide and thereby contribute to the discussions around the global goal on adaptation as well as the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and its support.
- b) **Adaptation Technologies: Past, Present, and Future** – Complementing the AC’s ongoing work on its technical paper on adaptation technologies, the Forum could focus on interrogating the history, current state, and future of technologies for climate change adaptation. Looking at the past could entail highlighting indigenous technologies and long-held practices for adapting to environmental conditions, as well as the evolution of adaptation technology development and deployment over the lifetime of the climate change regime. Turning toward the present could include a survey of the current landscape of adaptation technologies, from enduring needs to emerging adaptation entrepreneurship. Finally, gazing to the future, the Forum could spark discussions on, for example, how frontier technologies can advance adaptation, how abandoned traditional technologies might be reinvigorated, and how maladaptation might be avoided. This would elevate the topic of adaptation technologies to a level that is unprecedented in the history of the AC, and create an opportunity for the AC to engage with new collaborators, such as

technology start-ups, ministers of innovation and technology, or indigenous knowledge holders. At the same time, through such an event, the AC could strengthen its existing partnerships, including with other constituted bodies under the UNFCCC.

- c) **Transformational Adaptation** – Examine what it means to integrate adaptation across governments, regions, communities and within varying disciplines and sectors. Look at what has been done on a sector-by-sector basis, and then drawing on the IPCC WGII report, imagine what transformational adaptation could look like in the future and discuss what knowledge, planning, and resources are needed to achieve this.

3. Considerations regarding potential dates and venues

- 3. The AC may wish to:
 - a) Agree on a topic for the 2022 Adaptation Forum, and possibly on a topic for the 2023 Forum;
 - b) Organize the 2022 Adaptation Forum as a one- or two-day event taking place in a hybrid format, enabling it to take advantage of the benefits of both in-person and virtual meetings;
 - c) Aim to host the Adaptation Forum following AC22, around October 2022, to allow sufficient time and opportunity for planning and developing the event;
 - d) Explore possibilities to host the Adaptation Forum alongside an existing event.

4. Outcomes

- 4. Outcomes could be captured in a summary report and in the annual report of the AC and through outreach material such as a policy briefs, blogs, or videos.

5. Next steps

- 5. The AC may wish to agree on the topic of the 2022 Adaptation Forum and provide further guidance to the secretariat on potential dates, venues, contributors, and other related elements.

Documentation information

| <i>Version</i> | <i>Date</i> | <i>Description</i> |
|----------------|---------------|---|
| 01.0 | 22 March 2022 | AC21 This concept is for consideration and further guidance by the AC. |

Keywords: Resilience, Adaptation, high-level events.
