

Adaptation contact points

Concept note by the secretariat

Recommended action by the Adaptation Committee

The Adaptation Committee (AC), at its 21st meeting, will be invited to provide inputs to the information contained in the concept note prepared by the secretariat.

1. Mandate

1. The overarching mandate is included in decision 2/CP.26,¹ which invites Parties to identify one or more adaptation contact points through their United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) national focal points with a view to enhancing the dissemination of information between Parties and the Adaptation Committee (AC) and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), as well as other relevant organizations and programme partners, such as partners of the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change (NWP), including on Parties' efforts to formulate and implement national adaptation plans (NAPs).
2. The scope for the engagement of adaptation contact points is also addressed in the outcomes of SBSTA 52-55 relating to the NWP² through specific tasks including:
 - a) Providing inputs on priority knowledge gaps in relation to climate change adaptation, to inform work under the NWP;
 - b) Engaging with the secretariat to ensure that knowledge products are tailored to the needs of users and accessible to increase the usefulness of the products to users implementing adaptation action;
 - c) Engaging with the secretariat in measuring the uptake of knowledge products by users, tracking progress and using the results to enhance their accessibility and applicability in countries.

2. Expected functions of the adaptation contact points

3. Based on the above, the adaptation contact points could, among others, perform the following overall functions:
 - a) Channelling adaptation-related information generated by the constituted bodies and programmes under the UNFCCC, as well as by other relevant organizations and programme partners, to their respective Parties;
 - b) Channelling adaptation-relevant information, including knowledge, needs and priorities of indigenous peoples and local communities, from Parties to the constituted bodies and other programmes under the UNFCCC, as well as to other relevant organizations and programme partners;

¹Report of the Adaptation Committee (for 2019, 2020 and 2021).

² <https://unfccc.int/documents/309866>.

-
- c) Responding to adaptation-related invitations and requests from the constituted bodies and programmes under the UNFCCC, such as calls for submissions, surveys, and nomination of experts for events and written technical input;
 - d) Liaising with the secretariat and other focal points, as appropriate, on queries relating to the above;
 - e) Providing feedback on how information has been received in their countries, and how information flow can further be organized and improved;
 - f) Providing feedback on how the accessibility, applicability and usefulness of knowledge and information products can be further enhanced.

3. Profile of the adaptation contact points

- 4. To facilitate the identification of adaptation contact points, Parties may wish to consider the following:
 - a) Engagement in adaptation work at the national level;
 - b) Knowledge of adaptation needs, priorities and existing practices at the national and community levels;
 - c) Access to a network to channel information to governmental and non-governmental entities, including youth, private sector, indigenous peoples, local communities, and other audiences at all levels.

4. Possibilities for further engagement

- 5. While the mandated focus of the Adaptation Contact Points is the dissemination of information between countries and the UNFCCC bodies/programmes and organizations, further engagement of the focal points with the secretariat, and exchanges among each other, can be developed over time. This could potentially include newsletters, surveys, meetings and other modalities as appropriate, including such that can contribute towards overcoming language-related barriers.
- 6. This group could be expanded to become a global network of adaptation experts that is active in communicating and addressing priorities, needs and opportunities.

5. Other existing adaptation-related contact points and related mandates

- 7. The following bodies and work programmes already have national contact points:
 - a) **UNFCCC National Focal Points:** Pursuant to decisions/conclusions by the SBSTA, SBI and the COP (FCCC/SBI/1996/9, para. 29, FCCC/SBSTA/1996/8, para. 74 and decision 14/CP.2), the Convention secretariat developed a network of National Focal Points (NFP) for activities pertaining to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Further information about UNFCCC national focal points is available [here](#).
 - b) **National adaptation plan (NAP) focal points:** Some countries have appointed NAP contact points, which in turn work directly with the LEG, in coordination with their respective UNFCCC national focal points. These NAP contact points facilitate active engagement of their countries with the LEG on technical guidance and support on NAPs including through the various modalities of the LEG such as: the Open NAP initiative; training on NAPs; NAP Central; NAP Expos; and surveys on progress, challenges, gaps and needs. A list of the LDC NAP focal/contact points is maintained by the LEG and is available on demand;
 - c) **Nairobi work programme (NWP) focal points:** Each NWP partner organization has a dedicated focal point. NWP partner organizations, through their focal points, engage with the work of the NWP and relevant work under the UNFCCC process in the following ways: a) engaging in NWP thematic expert groups and LAKE to produce knowledge products and actions to close knowledge gaps for target users in response to needs of Parties; b) providing technical inputs to inform the

work of the Parties on adaptation, in the framework of the UNFCCC process, including through active participation in adaptation-related events and meetings; and c) sharing information and resources such as case studies, methods and tools, and other resources through the Adaptation Knowledge Portal. More information on NWP partners is available [here](#).

- d) **National gender and climate focal points:** Gender and climate focal points are invited by the COP "for climate negotiations, implementation and monitoring". Consequently, the secretariat informs the focal points about relevant events and calls for submission. They are encouraged to sign up to relevant newsletters issued by the secretariat and are connected through an MS Teams group to communicate with each other between sessions. Gender and climate focal points have been engaged in surveys as a tool for needs assessment, as the secretariat is mandated to facilitate networking as well as skills and capacity building. The list of gender and climate focal points is available [here](#).
- e) **National Focal Points for Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE):** The Doha work programme on Action for Climate Empowerment invites Parties to designate and provide support to a national focal point for ACE activities. These focal points can be assigned specific responsibilities, including the identification of areas for possible international cooperation and opportunities for strengthening synergies with other conventions, and the coordination of the preparation of the ACE chapter in the national communications. More information on the Action for Climate Empowerment focal points is available [here](#).

6. Expected impact

8. This two-way communication approach will benefit both, Parties and AC/LEG/other organizations and programme partners. It will facilitate a constant and timely information flow and thus inform adaptation work on both sides. Adaptation-related outputs produced under the UNFCCC will receive broader attention and uptake and benefit adaptation action in the countries.

7. Action by UNFCCC National Focal Points

9. UNFCCC National Focal Points are invited to return the nomination form contained in the annex to the secretariat (secretariat@unfccc.int) with copy to the adaptation programme (adaptation@unfccc.int) by 1 June 2022.

8. Next steps

10. The AC may wish to consider the concept note by the secretariat in response to the mandate given at COP 26 and provide further input, as needed. The secretariat will send a notification to all national focal points in early April 2022.

Documentation information

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>
01.0	7 March 2022	AC21 This concept note includes information on the nomination of adaptation contact points for consideration by the AC.

Keywords: Adaptation, Resilience, Stakeholder engagement.

Annex: Nomination form for Adaptation Contact Points, to be completed by National Focal Points

Party	
Salutation	
First Name	
Last Name	
Ministry/Organization	
Department	
Position title	
Address	
Phone (landline and mobile)	
Email	
Web address	
Brief description of adaptation-related work at the national level	
Signature by nominating National Focal Point	
Signature by nominated Adaptation Contact Point	
Please email this form by 1 June 2022 to the UNFCCC secretariat (secretariat@unfccc.int), with a copy to the Adaptation programme (adaptation@unfccc.int).	