

Adaptation Forum convened by the Adaptation Committee Draft Concept Note

Recommended action by the Adaptation Committee

The Adaptation Committee (AC) will be invited to consider the draft document intersessionally and provide guidance on the further development of the Annual Adaptation Forum.

1. Introduction and background

1. 1. The Adaptation Committee (AC) has held Annual Adaptation Forums (AFFs) 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 AFF 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. Now, the AC can 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. As discussed during the hybrid twenty-first meeting of the Adaptation Committee (AC21):
 - a) The AC agreed on the broad topic of its next AAF as “Adaptation Stocktake”, with a view to further refining the subtitle and further elements to be discussed, including transformational adaptation;
 - b) The AC requested the secretariat, under the guidance of the Co-Chairs, to develop a concept note for the Forum;
 - c) The secretariat is also requested to identify a suitable time for the forum in the second half of 2022, based on a mapping of other adaptation-related events, and explore the possibility of conducting the forum back-to-back with other relevant events such as the AC 22 or pre-COP 27 meetings.

2. Scope

3. With the work of climate change adaptation becoming more pertinent day by day, ambitious efforts are essential to create the necessary transformation towards future resilience. The AAF will inspire mindful, foresight-driven discussions on the state of adaptation between both panellists and attendees. By exercising a two-directional way of communicating, the Forum will facilitate active learning from all participants, offering a different approach than unidirectional panels.
4. As the first Global Stocktake continues until November 2023, the AC can utilize their synthesis report for the Global Stocktake (GST) and the synthesis report on the state of adaptation efforts, experiences and priorities to pinpoint present-day challenges and opportunities as a way to unveil elements, through relevant thought-leaders and examples, critical to enabling transformational adaptation in the future (e.g., economic/livelihood diversification, data for adaptation, consideration of gender aspects and vulnerable groups, engaging the private sector). The overlap between the timescales of past and future informs a possible theme of **"Learning from the past to build a resilient future."**
5. The Forum aims to identify best practices and modes of thinking relevant to adaptation, which are needed to unlock the required levels of adaptation action worldwide. Substantially, conversations will further learnings about the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and **support**, with the work of the **global goal of adaptation** front of mind.

3. Logistics of the event

6. **Timing:** The Adaptation Committee will convene the AAF in Bonn during the early months of 2023, building off the momentum of COP 27, ongoing work of the first GST, the anticipated Adaptation Flagship Report, among other key developments that will inform the context of the event. The Forum occurring in 2023 will provide enough time to engage event management agencies to help with the organization of the event, including engagement and innovation set up and outreach.

7. **Programming:** Discussions about adaptation and more, examples of transformational adaptation at even the smallest scale, and future thinking events will help the overall goal to navigate the state of adaptation in the past, present and future. The programme will be led by AC members and professionals from the global adaptation community. Still, a key criterion is that speakers must carry forward the central theme, "Learning from the past to build a resilient future." Drawing from academia, the public and private sector, relevant networks within the UNFCCC can be utilized to formulate a cohesive programme of events.

8. **Technical Format:** The overall format will be hybrid, including events that will be livestreamed via platforms such as YouTube (especially for long events), LinkedIn, and Facebook, to increase accessibility to a wider range of audiences. Physically, the venue design will take shape in a way that is accessible for live streaming and enables closer-knit roundtable discussions. A total of 5 sessions, ranging from 1 to 1.5 hours each, focused on identifying the state of adaptation today and what transformational adaptation looks like tomorrow, will serve as a starting blueprint for the programme.

4. Outcomes

9. Outcomes from the Forum include:

- a) Raising the profile of adaptation globally, building off previous AAFs' aim to engage a broad range of stakeholders from relevant institutions and organizations, media, academia and more to enhance understanding on the current and future state of adaptation, and to inspire transformational adaptation action;
- b) From a quantitative standpoint, insights on viewership, online reach and engagement on livestreaming can be generated to start off a baseline of understanding;
- c) Discussions and soundbites from the AAF can be generated into outreach material, such as videos, blogs, and can inform policy briefs and the generation of summary reports.

5. Next steps

10. The AC may wish to consider the following next steps:

- a) The AC to consider the proposed concept note intersessionally and provide further guidance to the secretariat, as appropriate, e.g., theme of the AAF, confirmation of the timing in the early half of 2023;
- b) The secretariat to provide a plan for venue, date and time for the Forum in 2023 by AC22;
- c) The secretariat to provide a draft programme, with proposed sessions and speakers by AC22;
- d) The secretariat to provide a draft promotional online outreach and streaming plan by AC22.

Documentation information

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>
Draft	26 August 2022	Post-AC21
		The AC is invited to provide further guidance to the secretariat on the next steps of this draft concept.

Keywords: Adaptation, Resilience, High-level events
