

**Progress made by the joint AC-LEG-SCF working group on methodologies for reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support**

**Recommended action by the Adaptation Committee**

At its 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting, the AC will be invited to take note of the information contained in this document and provide further guidance to the joint working group as appropriate.

## **1. Background**

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP) at its twenty-first session requested the Adaptation Committee (AC) and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) to undertake three tasks in order to assist in the implementation of the Paris Agreement, with outputs to be considered by the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) at its first session.<sup>1</sup> One of the requests was to, jointly with the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) and other relevant institutions, develop methodologies and make recommendations on reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support referred to in Article 7, paragraph 14 (c), of the Paris Agreement.
2. In addressing this mandate, the AC and LEG collected information through a desk review, submissions from Parties and other stakeholders, including from the SCF, and events organized on the margins of United Nations climate change conferences.<sup>2</sup> Based on the information the AC and the LEG provided recommendations to the CMA through their respective reports.<sup>3</sup>
3. CMA 1 considered the recommendations, noted that the current state of knowledge was not sufficient to address the mandate and invited Parties, academia and other stakeholders to undertake further technical work, building on the existing work of the AC, LEG and SCF. It further invited the AC and the LEG, in collaboration with the SCF, and relevant experts to contribute to the technical work by continuing to compile existing methodologies.<sup>4</sup>
4. The AC and the LEG at their 20<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> meetings, respectively, agreed to establish a joint working group, in collaboration with the SCF, to advise on further work regarding the mandate.
5. In June 2022, the AC and the LEG, in collaboration with the SCF, published the first overall progress update on their work in addressing the mandate.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Decision 1/CP.21, paragraphs 41, 45 (a) and 45 (b).

<sup>2</sup> Further information on this work is available at <https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/groups-committees/adaptation-committee/joint-ac-and-leg-mandates-in-support-of-the-paris-agreement>.

<sup>3</sup> FCCC/SB/2017/2, FCCC/SBI/2017/14 and FCCC/SB/2017/2/Add.1– FCCC/SBI/2017/14/Add.1.

<sup>4</sup> Decision 11/CMA.1, paragraphs 32–36.

<sup>5</sup> <https://unfccc.int/documents/510067>.

## 2. Progress made by the joint working group since AC 21

6. Since the last progress update which was shared with the AC at its 21<sup>st</sup> meeting, the joint working group has held two meetings, one on 5 and 9 of May 2022 (third meeting) and the other on 26 July 2022 (fourth meeting).

7. During these meetings it has made progress in considering the overall framing of adaptation and its support under the Convention and the Paris Agreement to facilitate defining the scope of the review and in considering the overall context and potential sources of information for reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support under the GST. It has also considered possible review criteria and was informed by the SCF on its experience on reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation support. Finally, based on a stocktake of the work accomplished so far by the AC, the LEG and the SCF, in addressing the current mandate, including through the joint working group, the group considered how the work to date could best be channelled into the GST process and how it could be taken forward.

### 2.1. Framing, overall context and potential sources of information

8. Building on the framing diagram that had been discussed by the group at its first and second meeting (annex 1), the group made progress in considering a second diagram which shows the overall context and potential sources of information for reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support under the GST (annex 2).

9. The diagram provides the following information:

- a) First, it points to ongoing processes and existing goals at the global level which might potentially influence the review or provide relevant information for it and hence should be closely monitored by those undertaking the review: the two-year Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation (2022-2023) which has the objective of enhancing the understanding of the global goal on adaptation (GGA) and contributing to reviewing the overall progress towards it; the Sustainable Development Goal agenda and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction which have already set up global targets and related indicators to monitor progress towards them; and the long-term temperature goal which will also determine the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support, subject to the degree to which Parties will be able to meet it.
- b) Second, taking a bottom-up approach, the diagram delineates adaptation and support processes which are already applying monitoring and evaluation and other review processes at different levels, and the sources through which they report back their findings to the global level. The value of these processes for the global-level review of the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support is twofold: (i) the existing processes offer valuable experiences in applying methodologies to assess adequacy and effectiveness including, for example, the triangulation of different methods; (ii) the information they report through different channels to the global level can be used to directly inform the global-level review.
- c) The diagram also depicts the need for a joint consideration of the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support.

10. The working group is close to finalizing the consideration of the two diagrams which slight changes that might need to be incorporated based on further input from members.

### 2.2. Initial set of potential review criteria and related indicators

11. At its third meeting, the working group also considered a revised set of potential criteria and related indicators for reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support provided for adaptation. The criteria are derived from existing sources and processes including the IPCC Working Group II report, the UNEP Adaptation Gap reports, the guidelines for the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans, and the review processes for the Financial Mechanism, Technology Mechanism and the Capacity-building framework as described in the background paper developed by the AC and the LEG. The

proposed criteria present broad review areas that the first global stocktake could focus on, using available data and information that have been shared by Parties in their reports thus far.

12. Working group members appreciated the revisions made on the criteria since its last meeting. However, the group could not yet agree on a final set of indicators and agreed to continue the work at a later stage.

### **2.3. Insights from the SCF on reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation support**

13. The joint working group was informed by its member from the SCF on experiences in reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of financial adaptation support. These insights were primarily derived from two recent SCF products – the fourth Biennial Assessment Report (BA) and the first report on the determination of needs of developing country Parties (NDR).

14. The member informed on ways in which both products and their findings could contribute to the review of the adequacy and effectiveness of financial adaptation support, but also to a range of challenges that exists in the context of identifying adaptation finance needs and determining the effectiveness of such finance. These challenges mainly relate to a lack of data and capacity as well as a lack of harmonized sets of methodologies and indicators for costing adaptation needs and estimating available finance.

15. The member also pointed to a range of additional sources of information which might be relevant for the review of the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support.

### **2.4. Stocktake of the work to date and proposals on the way forward**

16. Based on a stocktake of the work of the AC, the LEG and the SCF in addressing the current mandate to date, including through the joint working group, the group considered ways to take the work forward and to channel relevant outputs into the GST process.

17. The group agreed, as one of the next steps, to finalize the revision of the background paper which would include the following:

- a) Incorporating the framing of adaptation under the Convention and the Paris Agreement as well as the context and possible sources of information as developed and identified by the joint working group;
- b) Updating the section on definitions, including with e.g. definitions of the recently published IPCC reports;
- c) Structuring the compilation of existing methodologies according to the different levels at which these are (mainly) applied (linking to the diagram on the overall context and sources of information) and updating the previous compilation;
- d) Including a section on observations and a possible approach for undertaking the review of the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support under the first GST.

18. The group agreed that the revised background paper could be structured as outlined in annex III and serve as a reference paper for the further work on this mandate. The revised structure could also be used to present the compilation of existing and potential future methodologies on the Adaptation Knowledge Portal, as previously agreed by the AC, the LEG and the SCF.

19. As another next step the group agreed to organize a webinar to present the work of the three bodies and receive feedback and inputs on the way forward from Parties and non-Party stakeholders. It provided feedback on a draft concept for the webinar (annex IV) and decided to continue with the planning of the webinar which shall take place prior to the second part of the first technical dialogue in November 2022.

20. The group also considered a set of possible observations from its work to date and, based on that, a possible approach to the global review which the AC, the LEG and the SCF could provide as an input to the GST (annex V). The group agreed that the observations and suggested approach could feature in the final section of the updated reference paper and also be referenced in the reports of the AC and the LEG in the

form that each body considers adequate. The group also concurred in that, in addition to the AC and LEG reports, other means of channelling the outputs and findings of the group into the GST include presentations or other types of specific inputs into the next round of the technical dialogue. Members of the group viewed that these kind of concrete inputs on specific topics could enrich and focus the GST discussions.

21. Finally, the group discussed whether the AC and the LEG, in collaboration with the SCF, should become engaged in the proposed approach to the review as outlined in annex V. Members were unsure whether this would require a new mandate to the three bodies or whether this could be interpreted as additional required steps to meet the current mandate. Members felt that this discussion warranted the engagement of the wider AC and LEG.

### 3. Next steps

22. The joint working group will hold its next meeting in October to take stock of the planned webinar and to prepare inputs to the next meetings of the technical dialogue, if required.

23. Further next steps as agreed by the group include:

- a) Revising the draft background paper as agreed and uploading the compiled methodologies to the Adaptation Knowledge Portal;
- b) Organizing the webinar based on the draft concept contained in Annex IV and incorporating the feedback received from members.

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### Document information

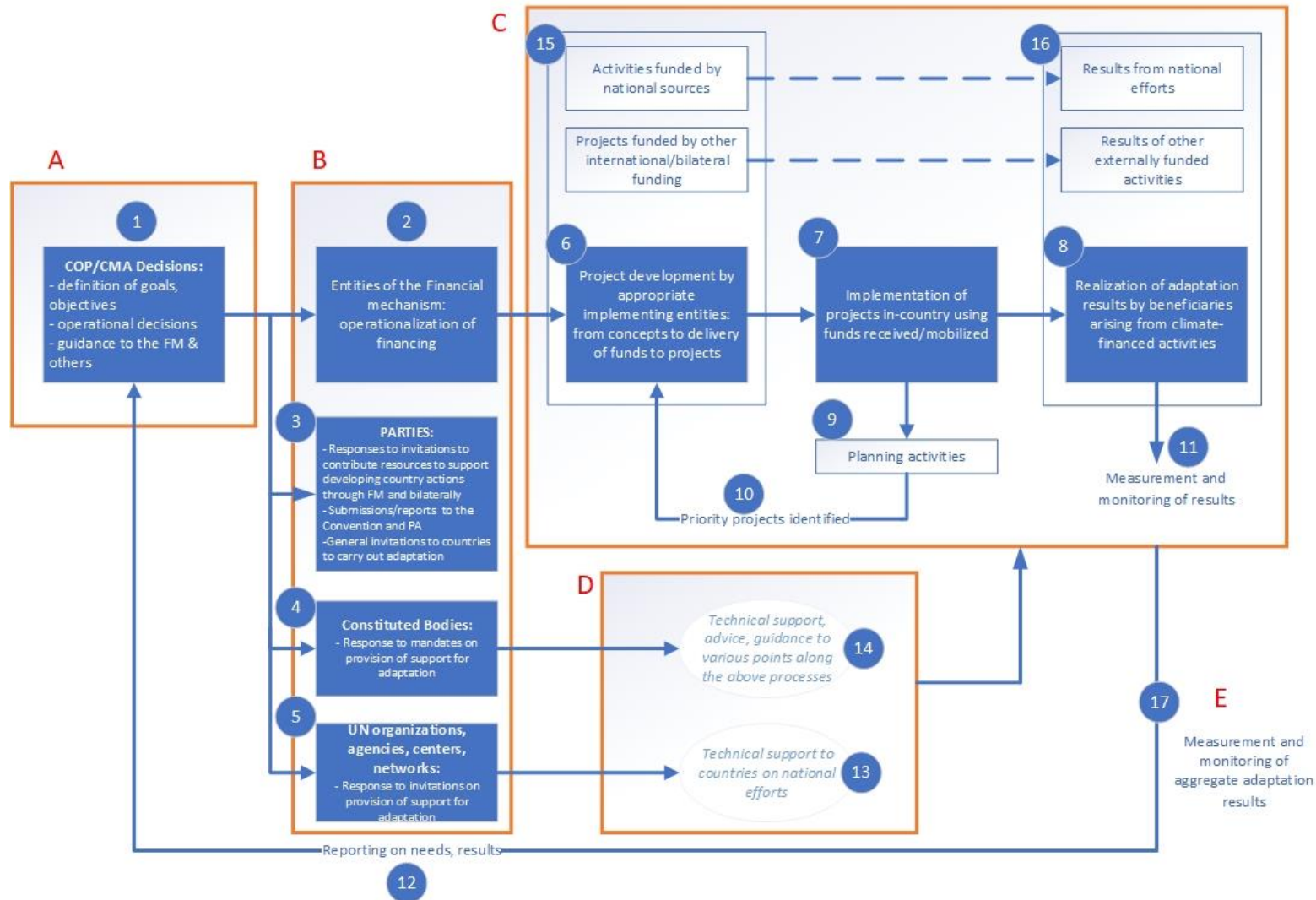
<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>
01.0	1 September 2022	AC22/Post LEG42 The AC is invited to take note of the information contained in this document and provide further guidance to the joint working group as appropriate.

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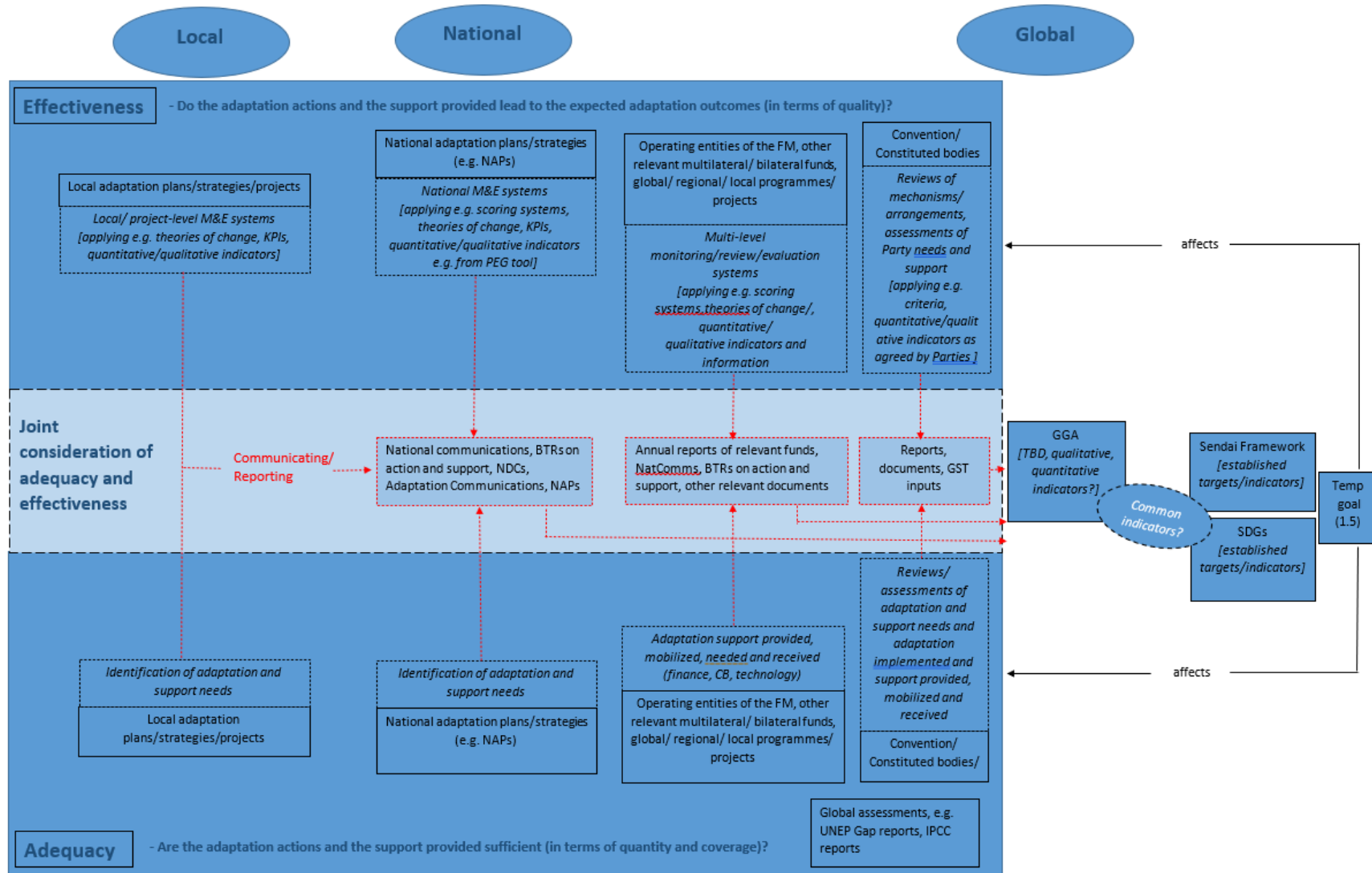
Keywords: Paris outcome, Adaptation, Resilience, LEG, Adaptation Committee, activities implemented jointly

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# Annex 1: Draft framing of adaptation and support under the Convention and the Paris Agreement



## Annex II: Draft diagram on the overall context and potential sources of information for reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support under the global stocktake



## **Annex III: Proposed revised structure of the background/reference paper**

1. Introduction and background
2. General considerations regarding the review
  - 2.1 Purpose and principles
  - 2.2 Definitions of adequacy and effectiveness in the context of adaptation and its support
  - 2.3 Scope, context and possible sources of information
3. Methodologies for reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support
  - 3.1 Methodologies applied at the sub-national or project level
  - 3.2 Methodologies applied at the national level
  - 3.3. Methodologies applied by international funds and support programmes
  - 3.4 Methodologies applied at the level of the Convention
  - 3.5 Other relevant methodologies
4. Lessons learned, gaps and challenges
5. Observations and outlook

## Annex IV: Draft concept note for the planned webinar

**Methodologies for reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation  
and support provided for adaptation**  
**Webinar by the Adaptation Committee and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group, in  
collaboration with the Standing Committee on Finance**  
**Draft Concept Note**

**Date and Duration:** October 2022, 1.5 hours

**Description:** This webinar, hosted by the Adaptation Committee (AC) and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), in collaboration with the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF), will focus on the work of the three constituted bodies in response to the mandate contained in decision 11/CMA.1, paragraph 35. It will invite reflections on specific technical aspects of the review of the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support and on how to take the work on the mandate forward.

The AC, LEG and SCF, including through their joint working group, have so far developed a draft framing to assist in defining the scope of the global review; identified the global context and possible sources of information; compiled methodologies applied as part of these ongoing processes and related lessons learned, gaps and challenges; and decided to continue compiling relevant methodologies as part of the Adaptation Knowledge Portal.

**Objective:** The objective of the meeting is to receive feedback and inputs on specific technical aspects of the review of adequacy and effectiveness and ideas for taking the work on the mandate forward.

**Target audience:** the event is open to all Parties and non-Party stakeholders.

**Background information and reference paper:** Will be made available [here](#)

**Agenda:**

Moderation: Representatives of the AC, the LEG and the SCF

**Total duration:** 1 hour and 30 minutes.

Part I: Introduction and overview (30 min)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction and welcome</li> <li>• Presentation by the AC, LEG and SCF on the findings and outputs of their work to date and on their recommendations for the approach to the review under GST 1</li> </ul>
Part II: Supplementary inputs (20 min)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short inputs by 2-3 external experts in response to the AC/LEG/SCF presentation and based on their own technical work (TBD – IPCC, other?)</li> </ul>
Part III: Discussion (35 min)	Open discussion on the following draft guiding questions:



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What are your reflections on the way the assessment of adaptation outcomes (as opposed to outputs) could be facilitated at the country level (e.g. via proxies in case of data gaps, adequate resources, etc.)?</li><li>• What further work could be undertaken by the three bodies in order to facilitate the global review?</li><li>• How could the work best feed into the GST process, also recognizing its linkage with some of the other inputs and topics?</li></ul>
Part IV: Closing and next steps (5 min)	

## **Annex V: Possible observations based on the work to date and a possible approach to the global review**

1. The global review of the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support will need to be informed by a triangulation of assessments across various scales and contexts.
  2. A possible approach to the review under GST 1 could include the following steps:
    - a) Collect empirical evidence from across the existing assessments of the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support as described in the reference paper;
    - b) Based on the empirical evidence, start a collection of attributes of adaptation and/or support which commonly contribute to adequate and effective adaptation, and which could inform further action and reviews;
    - c) Outline challenges and limitations of the existing methodologies applied for the assessments and recommend ways to overcome them to improve the information basis for future reviews.
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