

Enhanced collaboration with external experts and organizations

Concept note

Recommended action by the Adaptation Committee

The Adaptation Committee, at its 28th meeting, will be invited to consider the information contained in this concept note and provide further guidance to the secretariat, as appropriate.

I. Background

1. The Adaptation Committee (AC) is mandated to promote the implementation of enhanced action on adaptation in a coherent manner under the Convention, inter alia, through “Promoting synergy and strengthening engagement with national, regional and international organizations, centres and networks, in order to enhance the implementation of adaptation actions, in particular in developing country Parties”.¹ The CMA also requested the AC, “as necessary and in consultation with relevant adaptation-related institutions, to continue to make recommendations in its annual report on enhancing collaboration and promoting coherence and synergies with a view to addressing Parties’ evolving adaptation-related needs.”²

2. With the adoption of the United Arab Emirates Framework for Global Climate Resilience and its targets, the need for enhanced collaboration is growing. This collaboration is essential to ensure that a diverse array of perspectives and expertise is incorporated into the activities and outputs of the AC, thereby ensuring they respond to the mandate received by the AC, in collaboration with the Consultative Group of Experts (CGE) and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), to support the implementation of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience with technical guidance and training materials thereon³ and reflect the AC’s efforts in enhancing coherence.

3. According to its revised Rules of Procedure (RoP),⁴ the AC may establish subcommittees, panels, thematic advisory groups or task-focused ad hoc working groups, if required, to provide, inter alia, expert advice in different sectors and areas, in order to assist the AC in performing its functions and achieving its objectives.⁵ Any subcommittee, panel, or advisory or working group shall be composed of an appropriate number of members as determined by the AC. Members of such subcommittees, panels, or advisory or working groups shall have demonstrated and recognized technical expertise in the relevant field of work.⁶

¹ Decision 1/CP.16, para. 20 (c).

² Decision 11/CMA.1, para. 6.

³ Decision 2/CMA.5, para. 44.

⁴ Available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/271498>.

⁵ Para. 18 of its revised RoP, based on decision 2/CP.17, para. 113.

⁶ Para. 19 of its revised RoP.

4. The revised RoP further determine that the AC will engage with, and draw on the expertise of, relevant institutions, organizations, frameworks, networks and centres outside of the Convention, including those at the intergovernmental, regional, national and, through them, subnational levels, where appropriate.⁷ In addition, the AC should seek input from intergovernmental, international, regional, national and subnational organizations, centres and networks, the private sector and civil society, in undertaking its work; and invite advisers drawn from them to participate in its meetings as expert advisers on specific issues as they arise.⁸

5. To date, the AC has made use of the following collaborations with external experts and stakeholders:

(a) Established the NAP task force, composed of representatives of adaptation-related constituted bodies, operating entities of the financial mechanism and the Adaptation Fund;

(b) Engaged with intergovernmental, regional, and national institutions, organizations, frameworks, networks and centres in its workshops, forums and other events, including through the Nairobi work programme and its partner organizations;

(c) Established a list of regional centres and networks working on adaptation;⁹

(d) Engaged with the IPCC Working Group II and representatives of the Working Group II Technical Support Unit on various COP and CMA mandates, including on a technical paper on methodologies for assessing adaptation needs and their application (published in 2022), the draft supplementary guidance for adaptation communications (published in 2022) and in its 2023 regional engagement workshops;

(e) Collaborated with the NAP Global Network on the development of specific products, including the Toolkit for a gender-responsive process to formulate and implement National Adaptation Plans (2019), the Toolkit for engaging the private sector in National Adaptation Plans (2020),¹⁰ and the Toolkit for Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning for National Adaptation Plan Processes (2024);

(f) Invited advisers drawn from national organizations to its meetings as expert advisers, including on the topic of monitoring and evaluation, and to draft or peer review some of its technical products, e.g. the technical paper on “Data for adaptation at different spatial and temporal scales”;

(g) Worked with relevant UN agencies and other organizations who took on the organization of technical expert meetings under the technical examination process on adaptation.

6. At AC 26, the AC agreed to further determine how to enhance its collaboration with external experts and organizations, including for the activities related to the mandate referred to in paragraph 44 of decision 2/CMA.5, and requested the secretariat to prepare an options paper for consideration by AC 27.

7. At AC 27, the AC considered the options paper and agreed to request the secretariat to include a section on options for collaborating with external experts and organizations in concept notes for relevant workplan activities. It also agreed to request the secretariat to develop a note including criteria for such external collaboration for the AC’s consideration at its 28th meeting.

⁷ Para. 36 of the revised RoP, based on decision 2/CP.17, para. 100.

⁸ Para. 37 of the revised RoP, based on decision 2/CP.17, para. 105.

⁹ <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/constituted-bodies/adaptation-committee-ac/areas-of-work/regional-centres-and-networks>.

¹⁰ <https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/workstreams/technical-examination-process-on-adaptation-tep-a>.

II. Preliminary list of activities and types of external contributions

8. At its 27th meeting, the AC considered the following non-exhaustive list of activities of its 2025–2027 flexible workplan to potentially benefit from enhanced collaboration with external experts and organizations:

(a) Activities in the context of supporting the implementation of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience with technical guidance and training materials (decision 2/CMA.5, paragraph 44), particularly activities in relation to impact, vulnerability and risk as well as adaptive capacity assessments;

(b) Update of the online resource on the landscape of support for the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans;

(c) Thematic dialogues;

(d) Monitoring, evaluation and learning;

(e) Adaptation Forum;

(f) Communication.

9. At the same meeting, the AC further discussed the following potential types of contributions from external experts and organizations:

(a) Contributing to specific technical discussions of the AC;

(b) Designing and developing products and/or activities;

(c) Peer reviewing products;

(d) Serving as panelists and speakers.

III. Modalities and criteria for the engagement

10. The annex to this concept note outlines the draft modalities and criteria for collaborating with external experts and organizations, which, once endorsed by the AC, will be taken into account by the secretariat when initiating such future engagements. The main purpose of the criteria is to enhance the transparency of all steps of future collaboration.

IV. Next steps

11. Based on the information provided in this concept note, including in its annex, the AC, at its 28th meeting, is invited to:

(a) Endorse criteria for collaboration with external experts and organizations, as outlined in the annex, or provide further guidance to the secretariat on their refinement with a view to endorsing them intersessionally;

(b) Consider making the note on criteria, as contained in the annex, available on the AC's website;

(c) Agree on an initial list of activities contained in its 2025–2027 flexible workplan which may benefit from collaboration and engagement with external experts and organizations;

(d) Request the secretariat to initiate the collaboration or engagement with external experts and organizations for these activities, taking into account the agreed modalities and criteria, and provide further guidance, as appropriate.

Annex

Modalities of AC work and criteria for collaborating with external experts and organizations

1. Purpose

1. The Adaptation Committee (AC) collaborates and engages with and seeks inputs from external experts and organizations in order to perform its functions and to achieve its objectives. In enhancing collaboration and engagement with a broader range of stakeholders, it seeks to ensure the full and effective implementation of the workplan and to increase the reach and impact of its work on policies and practices on the ground.

2. Modalities

2. The AC's revised Rules of Procedure include the following modalities of engaging external experts and organizations:¹¹

(a) Establishing subcommittees, panels, thematic advisory groups or task-focused ad hoc working groups;

(b) Drawing on the expertise of relevant institutions, organizations, frameworks, networks and centres outside of the Convention, including those at the intergovernmental, regional, national and, through them, subnational levels;

(c) Seeking input from intergovernmental, international, regional, national and subnational organizations, centres and networks, the private sector and civil society;

(d) Inviting advisers drawn from them to participate in its meetings as expert advisers on specific issues as they arise.

3. The AC decides on the appropriate modality of engagement for each individual activity or product of its flexible workplan, where applicable.

3. Selection process

4. The AC uses external collaboration for the following activities:

(a) Contributing to specific technical discussions of the AC;

(b) Designing and developing products and/or activities;

(c) Peer reviewing products;

(d) Serving as panelists and speakers.

5. To mobilise external expertise, the AC makes use of one or a combination of the following steps to identify suitable external experts or organizations for collaboration or engagement:

(a) Screening of existing experts and/or organizations as available in adaptation-related constituted bodies or entities under the Convention or the Paris Agreement or in dedicated rosters of experts and/or networks established by them;

(b) Open calls for inputs published on the AC's website, social media and through relevant networks;

(c) Proactive outreach to experts or organizations proposed by AC members, other adaptation-related constituted bodies, UNFCCC regional collaboration centres, Adaptation Contact Points, nominated adaptation champions, the secretariat, as appropriate;

(d) Consideration of expressions of interest for collaboration received during meetings, events or via the AC's official contacts and social media channels.

¹¹ Revised Rules of Procedure (RoP) of the Adaptation Committee, available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/271498>.

6. For each engagement, the secretariat compiles a shortlist of suitable candidate experts or organizations for the AC's sessional or intersessional consideration and endorsement.

4. Selection criteria

7. The shortlisting and decision on the final experts and organizations for engagement are based on the following criteria:

(i) *Technical or regional expertise*

8. External experts and organizations must possess internationally or regionally recognized expertise on climate change adaptation and/or the specific topic under consideration, which can include transdisciplinary or regional expertise. This expertise may be demonstrated via e.g. publications in white literature, high-level speaking engagements in relevant international or regional events, previous engagement under the UNFCCC process, among others.

(ii) *Balanced representation*

9. In engaging with external experts and organizations the AC ensures balanced representation with regard to regions, gender, administrative level, and developed vs. developing country Parties.

5. Ownership and branding

10. Products and activities developed in collaboration with external experts and/or organizations remain under the ownership of the AC and are subject to its guidance, unless otherwise decided by the AC. Co-ownership may be sought in cases where this would be mutually beneficial and would require the AC's endorsement of the respective arrangements.

11. The appropriate branding and disclaimers must be applied, as appropriate, on the basis of guidance from the AC and within the broader guidelines of the UNFCCC process, for example as it refers to the use of the UNFCCC name and logo (section F of the guidelines).¹²

¹² The [UNFCCC Partnership Guidelines](#) may serve as a reference.

Documentation information

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>
0.1.0	9 September 2025	AC 28 This concept note including its next steps is for consideration by the AC.
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