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Climate Change

29th meeting of the Adaptation Committee

Agenda item 6:

Potential activities in the area of adaptive capacity assessment

Bonn, Germany

14–17 April 2026



I. Background: Adaptive Capacity Assessment (AC26–AC28)



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AC Work Evolution (AC26-AC28)

AC26 (December 2025) **Completed**

Discussed need to strengthen adaptive capacity assessment as foundational to planning, implementation, and monitoring. Under flexible workplan 2025-2027 Workstream 1, agreed to continue consideration of draft proposals at AC27

Intersessional Call (8 April 2025) **Completed**

AC members reaffirmed support for this activity and emphasized need to clarify conceptual basis of adaptive capacity, map existing assessment methodologies, and propose feasible and resource-efficient modalities for future work

AC27 (May 2025) **Completed**

Agreed to continue consideration of this agenda item at next meeting

AC28 (September 2025)

Requested secretariat to develop concise concept note clarifying concept, role, and application of adaptive capacity assessments as a starting point at AC29

New Analytical Foundation: SoA Portal

The completion of the **State of Adaptation Action (SoA) portal** provides, for the first time, a comprehensive and validated dataset based on Party-reported information across the adaptation cycle.

This may offer a potential analytical foundation for advancing work on adaptive capacity assessment, including through the identification of patterns, gaps and emerging practices across regions and sectors.

II. Purpose

1. Facilitate Common Understanding

Facilitate a common understanding of adaptive capacity and its key dimensions across different contexts

2. Illustrate Practical Approaches

Illustrate possible ways in which adaptive capacity assessment could be approached in practice

3. Highlight Technical Work Areas

Highlight potential areas where further technical work could be undertaken

4. Support AC Decision-making

Support the AC in identifying possible next steps for adaptive capacity assessment



Conceptual Framing

From concept to application



Key Dimensions of Adaptive Capacity

Institutional & Governance

Coordination, mandates, and processes for adaptive capacity

Technical & Analytical

Tools, data, and skills for assessment

Financial Resources

Availability, access, and allocation of funding

Human & Social Capital

Skills, networks, and participation

Indigenous Knowledge

Local Knowledge



Application Approach

Evidence-based Assessment

Drawing on observed adaptation processes and system performance

Operational Indicators

Focusing on institutional arrangements, progression of actions, and MEL systems



III. Five Key Dimensions of Adaptive Capacity

Comprehensive framework for assessing adaptive capacity across multiple dimensions



Institutional & Governance

Coordination mechanisms, institutional arrangements, governance structures, and policy frameworks that enable effective adaptation planning and implementation.

Coordination

Governance

Policy



Technical & Analytical

Tools, data, and skills for climate analysis, risk assessment, and adaptation planning including geospatial tools and modeling capabilities.

Data

Tools

Skills



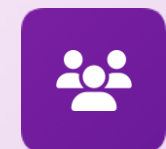
Financial Resources

Availability, access, and allocation of financial resources for adaptation activities, including funding mechanisms and budget planning.

Funding

Budget

Access



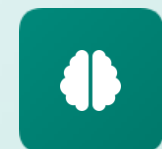
Human & Social Capital

Skills, networks, and participation including community engagement, stakeholder involvement, and social resilience.

Skills

Networks

Participation



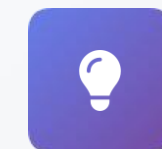
Knowledge Systems

Scientific, Indigenous, and local knowledge including learning practices and knowledge exchange mechanisms.

Science

Indigenous

Local



Key Insight

Adaptive capacity assessment requires **integrated approaches** across all five dimensions, with **context-specific methodologies** tailored to local needs.

IV. Roles of Adaptive Capacity Assessment



Application in adaptation cycle and global processes



1. Understanding System Readiness

Assessing enabling environments, including coordination arrangements, governance structures and institutional mechanisms

Enabling Environment

Governance



2. Exploring Implementation Dynamics

Identifying factors that influence the progression of adaptation from planning to implementation

Planning

Implementation



3. Supporting MEL Systems

Contributing to the tracking of progress over time and informing iterative learning

MEL

Progress Tracking



4. Informing Reporting

Drawing on available data sources to support broader analysis and enhance evidence base

Reporting

Evidence Base



5. Global Stocktake

Supporting global-level processes and informing the global stocktake

GST

Global Processes



Reporting & Global Processes

Integration with national and global systems

National Reporting

NAPs, BTRs, Adaptation Communications

Adaptive capacity assessment contributes to national reporting mechanisms and enhances the quality of adaptation-related information submitted by Parties.

- ✓ NAPs - National Adaptation Plans
- ✓ BTRs - Biennial Transparency Reports
- ✓ Adaptation Communications

Global Stocktake

Evidence base for GST

Adaptive capacity assessment provides critical inputs to the global stocktake process, informing the assessment of collective progress.

- ☰ Data from SoA portal
- ☰ Progress indicators

V. Potential Areas for Future Work

Near-term, medium-term, and longer-term activities for adaptive capacity assessment



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Near-term

Analytical

- Analyze patterns/trends using SoA portal and other sources
Focus on regional and sectoral perspectives
- Develop flexible conceptual/methodological framing
Applicable across different contexts
- Identify common patterns and gaps
Using available data sources



Medium-term

Practical

- Identify indicative metrics/indicators
As appropriate for different contexts
- Prepare practical guidance for integration
Into NAPs and MEL systems
- Compile existing methodologies and tools
Build on work by relevant bodies



Longer-term

Capacity

- Design capacity-building activities
Through AC workstreams and events
- Develop training and learning materials
For practitioners and stakeholders
- Facilitate knowledge exchange
Across regions and sectors

VI. Guiding Questions for AC Consideration



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🎯 Scope and Focus

Active

To what extent should future work focus on **conceptual clarification**, **methodological development**, or **practical application** of adaptive capacity assessment?

Priority: High - Core framework needed

⚖️ Level of Standardization

Pending

What level of **standardization** may be appropriate, taking into account the need for flexibility across different national, regional and sectoral contexts?

Priority: Medium - Balance needed

🔗 Linkages to Existing Processes

Active

How can adaptive capacity assessment be **meaningfully integrated** into existing processes, including NAPs, MEL systems and reporting under the Paris Agreement?

Priority: High - Implementation critical

📊 Use of Available Data

Pending

What role could **existing data sources**, including the SoA portal, play in supporting analysis and informing future guidance?

Priority: Medium - Data foundation

📍 Climate Context

Pending

How can adaptive capacity be assessed in a way that reflects **different warming scenarios**, including temperature increments between 1.5°C and 2°C?

Priority: Low - Future focus

👥 Collaboration

Pending

What opportunities exist to **collaborate** with other constituted bodies and relevant organizations, including the LEG, CGE and PCCB?

Priority: Medium - Partnerships



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Thank you