

The Adaptation Committee

Promoting enhanced, coherent action on adaptation under the UNFCCC

The Adaptation Committee (AC) is the principal body under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) providing expert guidance on adaptation and ensuring that adaptation is addressed coherently under the UNFCCC process

Since it was established, the AC has worked to fulfill five core functions:



Promoting synergy and strengthening engagement with national, regional and international organizations, centres and networks



Sharing relevant information, knowledge, experience and good practices



Providing technical support and guidance to the Parties



Providing information and recommendations, drawing on adaptation good practices, for consideration by the Conference of the Parties (COP)



Considering information communicated by Parties on their monitoring and review of adaptation actions, support provided and received

The Adaptation Committee contributes to adaptation progress globally by providing expert guidance, enhancing outreach and implementing the Paris Agreement by addressing crucial adaptation issues through a range of workstreams:

Implementing the Paris Agreement

- » Adaptation needs
- » Recognizing adaptation efforts
- » Adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support
- » Adaptation communications
- » Global goal on adaptation
- » Global stocktake

Enhancing coherence

- » Coherence and synergies across adaptation under the UNFCCC
- » Advice to the Nairobi work programme
- » Regional centres and networks
- » Mainstreaming gender

Identifying good practices and opportunities for increasing implementation of adaptation actions (TEP-A)

- » Education and youth, public engagement
- » Adaptation finance and private sector
- » Vulnerable ecosystems, communities and groups
- » Paris Agreement, SDGs and Sendai Framework
- » Enhancing adaptation actions

Guiding adaptation action

- » National Adaptation Plans
- » Economic diversification
- » Indigenous and local knowledge
- » Ecosystem- and community-based adaptation
- » Linkages mitigation - adaptation
- » Data needs for adaptation
- » Monitoring and evaluation

Guiding means to implement adaptation

- » Finance
- » Technology
- » Capacity building
- » Private sector engagement

Reaching out and enhancing awareness

- » Publications
- » Events
- » Social media
- » Expert groups



AC highlights in 2020

Despite the challenges and restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the AC has continued moving forward on its technical work and achieved milestones in implementing its 2019-2021 workplan.



Implementing the Paris Agreement

2020 saw the launch of the first two AC deliverables in support of the Paris Agreement. One is a publication examining how developing countries are addressing climate hazards, geared towards recognizing adaptation efforts by developing countries. The second one is the AC's pilot inventory for methodologies for assessing adaptation needs, designed as a centralized information hub for those looking to understand which tools are available for assessing adaptation needs in different contexts. The AC also initiated analytical work on the global goal on adaptation.



Focussing on data for adaptation

The AC is proud to announce its 2020 flagship publication on data for adaptation at different spatial and temporal scales. It is intended to help Parties and practitioners navigate the complex landscape of data sources to support adaptation.



Advancing gender considerations

The AC has further advanced gender considerations in its work. This does not only concern equal representation of women and men in its events, but also the inclusion of gender consideration in its technical work, including the launch of a Toolkit for a Gender-Responsive Process to formulate and implement NAPs together with the LDC Expert Group and the NAP Global Network.



Joining forces on support for adaptation action

The AC has worked with Parties, organizations and other constituted bodies in highlighting capacity gaps that developing countries are facing in their attempts to access the funding needed to adequately address the impacts of climate change. The AC will join forces with others to help countries address these gaps over the coming years.



Working with the private sector

The previous years' work on private sector engagement reached another milestone in the launch of the AC's Private Sector Toolkit, prepared in collaboration with the NAP Global Network. It is designed as a supplement to the UNFCCC Technical Guidelines for the NAP process, useful for all countries alike.



Concluding the Technical Examination Process on Adaptation

Contrary to many other activities of a global scale, the TEP-A benefitted from this year's absence of in-person meetings, and embraced a new format of spreading smaller, more targeted activities throughout the second half of the year. These will culminate in a joint event of the TEP-A and the TEP-M during the Climate Dialogues in November/December 2020, concluding the 5-year technical examination processes.