



**Subsidiary Body for Scientific and
Technological Advice**

Subsidiary Body for Implementation

Report of the Adaptation Committee

Summary

This report covers the work of the Adaptation Committee between November 2019 and November 2020. It contains organizational and procedural information, including on meetings and changes in membership and co-chairing arrangements. The report highlights progress in the implementation of the flexible workplan of the Adaptation Committee for 2019–2021 in the areas of promoting overarching coherence; providing technical support and guidance to the Parties on adaptation action and means of implementation; awareness-raising, outreach and information-sharing; and the technical examination process on adaptation.

* The advance English version of this document was made available on 7 December 2020.



Abbreviations and acronyms

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| AC | Adaptation Committee |
| BTR | biennial transparency report |
| CMA | Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement |
| CMP | Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol |
| COP | Conference of the Parties |
| COVID-19 | coronavirus disease 2019 |
| CTCN | Climate Technology Centre and Network |
| FWG | Facilitative Working Group |
| GCF | Green Climate Fund |
| GEF | Global Environment Facility |
| IGO | intergovernmental organization |
| IPCC | Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change |
| LCIPP | Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform |
| LEG | Least Developed Countries Expert Group |
| NAP | national adaptation plan |
| NAP Global Network | National Adaptation Plan Global Network |
| NWP | Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change |
| PCCB | Paris Committee on Capacity-building |
| SBI | Subsidiary Body for Implementation |
| SBSTA | Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice |
| SCF | Standing Committee on Finance |
| TEC | Technology Executive Committee |
| TEM-A | technical expert meeting on adaptation |
| TEP-A | technical examination process on adaptation |
| TEP-M | technical examination process on mitigation |
| WIM Executive Committee | Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts |

I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. COP 17 decided that the AC shall operate under the authority of, and be accountable to, the COP, which should decide on its policies in line with relevant decisions.¹
2. COP 17 requested the AC to report annually to the COP, through the subsidiary bodies, including on its activities and the performance of its functions, guidance, recommendations and other relevant information arising from its work and, as appropriate, on further action that may be required under the Convention for consideration by the COP.²
3. CMA 1 decided that the AC shall serve the Paris Agreement.³

B. Scope of the report

4. This report contains information on the work of the AC between November 2019 and November 2020. Recommendations for consideration at COP 26 and CMA 3, as appropriate, will be included in the report of the AC for 2021.
5. This summary of the work of the AC during the reporting period is complemented by a concise outreach product that makes the work tangible and information thereon accessible to a broader audience.⁴

C. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

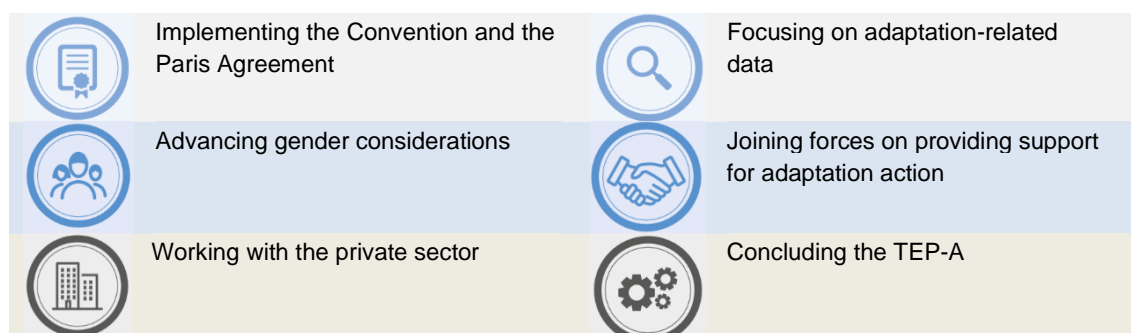
6. The SBSTA and the SBI are invited to consider the information contained in this report.

II. Highlights

7. Despite challenges and restrictions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the AC continued in the reporting period to advance its technical work and reached milestones in implementing its flexible workplan for 2019–2021 (see chap. IV below). Figure 1 shows some of the highlights at a glance.

Figure 1

Highlights of the work of the Adaptation Committee in 2020



¹ Decision 2/CP.17, para. 95.

² Decision 2/CP.17, para. 96.

³ Decision 11/CMA.1, para. 1.

⁴ Adaptation Committee. 2020. *The Adaptation Committee. Promoting enhanced, coherent action on adaptation under the UNFCCC* Bonn: UNFCCC. Available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/ac_infographic2020.JPG.

8. The first major event during the reporting period was the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Madrid, where a number of products were launched, and a range of outreach events held that demonstrated the catalytic role of the AC in joint action with constituted bodies and other stakeholders in different thematic areas.

9. At the event devoted to its 2019 flagship report, *25 Years of Adaptation under the UNFCCC*,⁵ the AC, together with other adaptation-related constituted bodies, gave an overview of how adaptation has been addressed by the international community, the strategic priorities of work on adaptation and the role of the AC and other institutions in this process.

10. The AC continued to make progress in relation to **gender considerations**, in terms of both ensuring equal representation of women and men at its events and including gender considerations in its technical work; for example by launching the gender toolkit⁶ at COP 25 and conducting further outreach in this area throughout the reporting period.

11. Building on the success of its earlier work on **private sector engagement**, the AC expanded its efforts to involve the private sector in adaptation planning and action. This included not only holding outreach events and preparing information products, but also launching the private sector toolkit,⁷ prepared in collaboration with the NAP Global Network.

12. The AC continued working to deliver on its **mandates from the COP and the CMA** and implementing its workplan. One of the highlights of the work of the AC in 2020 is the finalization of a flagship publication examining how **developing countries are addressing climate hazards**, geared towards **recognizing their adaptation efforts**, to be issued before the end of the year. Another highlight is the launch of its pilot **inventory of methodologies for assessing adaptation needs**, available on the adaptation knowledge portal.⁸ The AC also initiated work on the global goal on adaptation and the global stocktake.

13. Another important publication will be issued by the AC at the end of 2020: a technical paper on **adaptation-related data** at different spatial and temporal scales, aimed at helping stakeholders navigate the complex landscape of data sources to support adaptation.

14. Finally, the **TEP-A** was more interactive than ever during the reporting period. Given the impossibility of in-person meetings in 2020, the format of the TEP-A was adjusted to hold smaller, more targeted activities throughout the second half of the year, culminating in a joint TEP-A and TEP-M event during the UNFCCC Climate Dialogues 2020.

III. Organizational and procedural matters

A. Meetings

15. AC 17 and 18 were held as virtual meetings.⁹ AC 17 was held from 24 to 27 March and AC 18 was moved from the originally agreed dates of 24 to 26 August to 9 to 12 November 2020 to increase the chances of holding it as an in-person meeting. An internal stocktaking meeting was held from 24 to 26 August 2020 to advance work intersessionally.

⁵ Adaptation Committee. 2019. *25 Years of Adaptation under the UNFCCC: Report by the Adaptation Committee*. Bonn: UNFCCC. Available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/204710>.

⁶ NAP Global Network and UNFCCC. 2019. *Toolkit for a Gender-Responsive Process to Formulate and Implement National Adaptation Plans (NAPs)*. A Dazé and C Church (eds.). Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada: International Institute for Sustainable Development. Available at <http://www.napglobalnetwork.org/resource/toolkit-for-gender-responsive-national-adaptation-plans/>.

⁷ NAP Global Network and UNFCCC Adaptation Committee. 2020. *Toolkit for Engaging the Private Sector in National Adaptation Plans (NAPs): Supplement to the UNFCCC Technical Guidelines for the NAP process*. A Crawford, C Church, and C Ledwell (eds.). Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada: International Institute for Sustainable Development. Available at <https://napglobalnetwork.org/resource/toolkit-for-engaging-the-private-sector-in-national-adaptation-plans-naps/>.

⁸ <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWPSStaging/Pages/SearchAsses.aspx>.

⁹ Owing to the circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

16. AC 17 and 18 were open to observers and webcast live via Skype.¹⁰ At AC 18, it was agreed to hold AC 19 from 16 to 19 March 2021. The AC agreed to apply flexibility to these dates if a physical meeting is not possible in March, and if a move to a later date would make a physical meeting more likely.

B. Chairing arrangements and membership¹¹

17. Cecilia da Silva Bernardo (Angola) and Alessandra Sgobbi (Italy) were elected¹² at AC 17 for their first term as Co-Chairs of the AC, replacing Maria del Pilar Bueno (Argentina) and Marianne Karlsen (Norway). The AC thanked Ms. Bueno and Ms. Karlsen for their leadership.

18. AC members serve for a term of two years and are eligible to serve a maximum of two consecutive terms of office.¹³ Mariam Allam (Egypt), Alice Gaustad (Norway), Daniel Kandy (United States of America), Funanani Muremi (South Africa) and Ms. Sgobbi were elected at COP 25 as members for the first time. The Bureau of the COP, the CMP and the CMA agreed that, in the absence of a COP session in 2020, the terms of all members due for re-election or replacement will automatically be extended for another year.

19. In welcoming its new members, the AC recalled decision 2/CP.17, paragraph 101, which stipulates that members serve in their personal capacity. Working arrangements of the AC, specifically in the context of COVID-19, are detailed in box 1. Regarding its gender composition, the AC currently comprises nine women and seven men, and both Co-Chairs are women.

Box 1

Intersessional work and working arrangements of the Adaptation Committee

In addition to holding its regular meetings, the AC works intersessionally via electronic means through working groups dedicated to addressing a range of agreed priorities. The AC is required to dedicate time to this essential intersessional work throughout the year.

In the light of limitations imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, intersessional work has become more important than ever. A previously agreed schedule of clearly stipulated thematic focus weeks is being followed, whereby AC members who expressed interest in particular topics (issue leads) work on their respective topics before the work in progress is shared with the entire AC for review and further input. To facilitate this process, the AC first explored a joint virtual collaboration space using SharePoint and then changed to collaborating via Microsoft Teams, which allows multiple members to work on a document simultaneously. The AC requested the secretariat to take feedback from the AC into account in the further optimization of the Teams space.

Another challenge posed by COVID-19 was the need to conduct AC 17 and 18 as virtual meetings as an interim arrangement and, consequently, the reduced discussion time available due to the need to accommodate different time zones. AC members, in particular those from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention, experienced challenges with Internet connectivity. AC members noted the challenges faced through virtual meetings at AC 17 and 18, which limited discussions. The AC agreed that in-person meetings are preferable to advance its work comprehensively.

At its 18th meeting the AC considered a note by the Co-Chairs on COVID-19 and climate change adaptation and agreed to share it widely after the meeting.

¹⁰ All documents, presentations, Skype broadcasts and summary outcomes for each agenda item are available at <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/constituted-bodies/adaptation-committee-ac/workshops-meetings/17th-meeting-of-the-adaptation-committee-ac17> (for AC 17) and <https://unfccc.int/event/18th-meeting-of-the-adaptation-committee-ac18> (for AC 18).

¹¹ See <https://unfccc.int/process/bodies/constituted-bodies/adaptation-committee-ac/members> for a list of the AC members.

¹² Pursuant to decisions 2/CP.17, para. 108, and 16/CP.19, paras. 6 and 7.

¹³ Per decision 2/CP.17, para. 106.

20. The AC promotes active observer participation in its meetings. Observers provide additional experience and expertise that inform the discussions, and their engagement is critical to furthering the work of the AC and achieving its objectives of creating synergies and maintaining coherence of action on adaptation at all levels and by different stakeholder groups.

C. Rules of procedure and oath of service

21. The AC took note of the assessment of the adequacy and effectiveness of governance, risk management and control pertaining to the UNFCCC constituted bodies that the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services conducted in 2019. The assessment resulted in an audit report,¹⁴ in which it was noted that not all bodies have provisions in their rules of procedure to safeguard against potential conflict of interest. The secretariat was thus recommended to harmonize the provisions in the rules of procedure of the constituted bodies to ensure consistency in the application of its code of conduct.¹⁵

22. The recommendation from the above-mentioned audit report was accepted by the secretariat. The audit is referred to in the report of the United Nations Board of auditors on UNFCCC financial statements for 2019.¹⁶

23. The AC then considered including a provision on conflict of interest into its rules of procedure and took note of an oath of service that members of constituted bodies are invited to sign on a voluntary basis. It agreed to hold a separate video call with interested AC members and a representative of the secretariat's legal department to approve the amendment to the rules of procedure and to clarify any questions on the oath of service.

IV. Progress in implementing the workplan of the Adaptation Committee

24. AC 14 agreed on the AC workplan for 2019–2021, with the understanding that the workplan would remain flexible enough to incorporate any relevant outcomes arising from future sessions of the COP and the CMA. COP 24 welcomed the workplan¹⁷ and CMA 1 and 2 requested the AC to carry out additional tasks as described in this chapter, including in preparation for the global stocktake and in relation to the global goal on adaptation. The AC incorporated the new mandates into its workplan and streamlined some existing activities to accommodate them. The updated flexible workplan of the AC for 2019–2021 is available on the UNFCCC website in detailed¹⁸ and summarized¹⁹ versions.

A. Promoting overarching coherence

1. Coherence with other constituted bodies

25. The AC was established as the principal body for promoting implementation of enhanced action on adaptation in a coherent manner under the Convention.

26. The AC collaborates with other constituted bodies and under institutional arrangements under the Convention, including: CTCN, FWG of the LCIPP, GCF, LEG, NWP, PCCB, SCF, TEC and WIM Executive Committee. Bilateral and multilateral coordination meetings were held with other constituted bodies at COP 25, and the AC provided inputs to the bodies and participated in meetings and events organized by them throughout the reporting period.

¹⁴ Report 2019/122, available at <https://oios.un.org/audit-reports>.

¹⁵ See <https://unfccc.int/about-us/code-of-conduct-for-unfccc-conferences-meetings-and-events>.

¹⁶ FCCC/SBI/2020/INF.9, annex, chap. II, paras. 190 and 195.

¹⁷ Decision 9/CP.24, para. 1.

¹⁸ <https://unfccc.int/documents/218221>.

¹⁹ https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/2020-04/20200409_acworkplan_overview.PNG.

27. The AC organized a range of events for communicating the outcomes of its work and enhancing collaboration towards common goals. It hosted or co-hosted the following events, including at the Madrid Conference, during the reporting period:

- (a) An event to celebrate the launch of the publication *25 Years of Adaptation under the UNFCCC*, with other adaptation-related constituted bodies;
- (b) An event on integrating indigenous and local knowledge into adaptation action, hosted jointly with the FWG, the LEG and NWP partner organizations;
- (c) A meeting with the LEG to discuss the way forward in delivering on joint mandates;
- (d) An informal meeting with representatives of IPCC Working Group II on the way forward on mandated collaboration;
- (e) An event on enhancing private sector engagement in adaptation planning and implementation, followed by a second event to launch the private sector toolkit;
- (f) An event to launch the gender toolkit, with the LEG and the NAP Global Network, followed by a webinar on gender-responsive NAP processes;
- (g) Two outreach events on AC achievements in 2020 (held during AC 18 and the Climate Dialogues);
- (h) A series of events and competitions under the TEP-A, followed by a joint event on the TEP-A and TEP-M at the Climate Dialogues.

28. In addition, the AC contributed to many adaptation-related events hosted by other constituted bodies, including:

- (a) The 2nd meeting of the FWG;
- (b) A COP Presidency dialogue on the LCIPP, as well as an informal dialogue between representatives of relevant constituted bodies on the three functions of the LCIPP;
- (c) An event on the review of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts;
- (d) The 4th meeting of the task force on displacement of the WIM Executive Committee, as well as an event on the second phase of the task force;
- (e) The 4th and 5th annual meetings between the GCF and constituted bodies;
- (f) The 38th meeting of the LEG, as well as a meeting to discuss training for the least developed countries on implementing the Paris Agreement;
- (g) The 20th meeting of the TEC and 15th meeting of the CTCN Advisory Board;
- (h) The 4th meeting of the PCCB and an outreach event on the work of the PCCB;
- (i) An outreach event on the progress of the work of the SCF;
- (j) Two meetings of the SBSTA–IPCC Joint Working Group;
- (k) An informal virtual meeting hosted by the SBSTA Chair with representatives of the research and systematic observation community and constituted bodies;
- (l) The 13th NWP Focal Point Forum, on oceans;
- (m) A workshop under the Koronivia joint work on agriculture on socioeconomic and food security dimensions of climate change in the agriculture sector;
- (n) The second periodic review of the long-term global goal under the Convention and progress towards achieving it.

29. Seeking to enhance coherence and reduce duplication of tasks across bodies, the AC has engaged with the following groups and bodies, which has led to specific well-coordinated outcomes:

- (a) The NAP task force;

- (b) The TEP-A working group;
- (c) The LEG NAP Expo advisory group;
- (d) The task force on displacement;
- (e) The TEC task force on adaptation;
- (f) The CTCN Advisory Board;
- (g) The PCCB, including on collaborative work on gender.

2. Coherence with organizations

30. The AC works closely with NWP partner organizations. In response to an invitation from the SBSTA,²⁰ the AC provided advice on the delivery of relevant NWP mandates and on opportunities to align efforts, which was communicated to the SBSTA Chair and included in the NWP annual report for consideration by the SBSTA.²¹

31. The AC addressed the cross-cutting theme of gender jointly with other bodies and organizations, as summarized in box 2.

Box 2

Integrating gender considerations into the work of the Adaptation Committee

The AC has advanced its work on gender in terms of both achieving equal representation of women at its events and incorporating gender considerations across its work. For example, it encouraged all event organizers involved in the TEM-As to strive for gender-balanced participation in their events, which resulted in at least 50 per cent of speakers and moderators for all events being women. With the NAP Global Network and in collaboration with the LEG, the AC launched a gender toolkit at COP 25 and helped organize a webinar on the toolkit in October 2020. Additionally, the AC considered gender issues when preparing its technical papers, including the synthesis report on how developing countries are addressing hazards and the technical paper on adaptation-related data at different spatial and temporal scales, and included a spotlight on gender in its Adaptation Finance Bulletin issued in September 2020.

The topic of incorporating gender into all AC activities as a cross-cutting consideration is included in the workplans of the AC and the NAP task force.

32. In 2015, the AC compiled and made available a list of regional centres and networks working on adaptation²² as part of its work on strengthening the role of regional institutions and United Nations agencies in supporting enhanced adaptation action in developing countries. The AC periodically updates the database and the next revision is planned for 2021. The Regional Collaboration Centre Bangkok has already proactively provided updated information, and the AC will reach out to the other regional collaboration centres for updates in early 2021.

B. Mandates from the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement

33. Since the adoption of the Paris Agreement, the AC, in collaboration with the LEG and other constituted bodies, has been mandated to undertake a number of activities towards implementing the adaptation-related provisions of the Paris Agreement, particularly in relation to adaptation communications, the global stocktake and related mandates. A new mandate from CMA 2 pertains to the global goal on adaptation.

²⁰ FCCC/SBSTA/2018/4, para. 19.

²¹ FCCC/SBSTA/2020/INF.1.

²² See <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/constituted-bodies/adaptation-committee-ac/areas-of-work/regional-centres-and-networks#eq-2>.

34. The AC is considering the mandates in a holistic manner and work is progressing following agreed timelines presented in its report for 2019.²³

1. Draft supplementary guidance for voluntary use by Parties in communicating adaptation information

35. CMA 1 requested the AC to develop, by June 2022, draft supplementary guidance for voluntary use by Parties in communicating information in accordance with the elements listed in the annex to decision 9/CMA.1. This is to be done with the engagement of IPCC Working Group II using relevant existing guidance as a starting point, as appropriate. The AC made progress during the reporting period on an outline for the draft supplementary guidance, which will be finalized in 2021 or 2022 for consideration by the subsidiary bodies at their sessions to be held in November 2022 in the context of their consideration of the annual report of the AC.

36. In this context, a meeting was held in December 2019 between interested members of the AC, the Co-Chairs of IPCC Working Group II, the IPCC Secretary and the UNFCCC Technical Support Unit to discuss AC mandates, IPCC work and opportunities for collaboration. Collaboration was also discussed at a SBSTA–IPCC Joint Working Group meeting in September 2020, which was attended by several AC members. A Co-Chair of IPCC Working Group II, in following up on a proposal mentioned in December 2019 to hold an expert meeting on the mandates, indicated that a written proposal will have to be submitted to the IPCC secretariat for discussion by the IPCC. A Co-Chair of IPCC Working Group II welcomed the proposal from an AC member to share draft(s) of the work of the AC on the mandates for review. The AC member indicated that the second-order draft of the contribution of Working Group II to the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report will be available for government and expert review starting from early December 2020, which provides the AC an opportunity to gain an overview of the work of Working Group II on adaptation, to be potentially followed by more specific interactions between the AC and the IPCC on the mandates.

2. Methodologies for assessing adaptation needs of developing country Parties

37. CMA 1 requested the AC, in collaboration with the LEG, NWP partner organizations, and users and developers of relevant methodologies, including academia and the private sector, to develop by June 2020 and regularly update an inventory of methodologies for assessing adaptation needs of developing country Parties. This inventory is to include needs related to action, finance, capacity-building and technological support in the context of national adaptation planning and implementation, and to be made available on the adaptation knowledge portal. CMA 1 invited Parties and observer organizations to submit views and information on the development and application of such methodologies.²⁴ The AC agreed that targeted guiding questions would be useful for Parties and non-Party stakeholders to focus their submissions and to ensure the best possible input for the preparation of the mandated technical paper referred to in paragraph 38 below. The call for submissions was launched in November 2020 and the guiding questions are available on the AC web pages.²⁵

38. CMA 1 also requested the AC, with the engagement of IPCC Working Group II (see para. 36 above for progress on both mandates), as appropriate, to prepare, drawing on the inventory and submissions referred to in paragraph 37 above, a technical paper on methodologies for assessing adaptation needs and their application, as well as on related gaps, good practices, lessons learned and guidelines, for consideration and provision of further guidance by the SBSTA at its session to be held in November 2022 in the context of its consideration of the annual report of the AC.²⁶

39. In response to a call to Parties and non-Party stakeholders to communicate methodologies and case studies to be included in the inventory, the AC received more than

²³ FCCC/SB/2019/3.

²⁴ Decision 11/CMA.1, paras. 15–16.

²⁵ See <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/constituted-bodies/adaptation-committee-ac/adaptation-committee-call-for-submissions-methodologies-for-assessing-adaptation-needs>.

²⁶ Decision 11/CMA.1, para. 17.

110 responses, which were included in the pilot inventory launched in July 2020. Additional tools and case studies that are already available on the adaptation knowledge portal have also been integrated into the inventory, resulting in a collection of more than 430 case studies and over 350 tools as at 1 December 2020. The inventory can be searched and filtered by criterion, including region, scale, adaptation sector or theme, element, climate hazard and target group. These criteria are currently being refined in the context of a general overhaul of the adaptation knowledge portal with a view to making the inventory and the portal more user-friendly and refining search results. The AC noted that many of the previously included tools and case studies in the adaptation knowledge portal are no longer accessible or require updating, and that the inventory should be regularly kept up to date.

3. Modalities for recognizing the adaptation efforts of developing country Parties

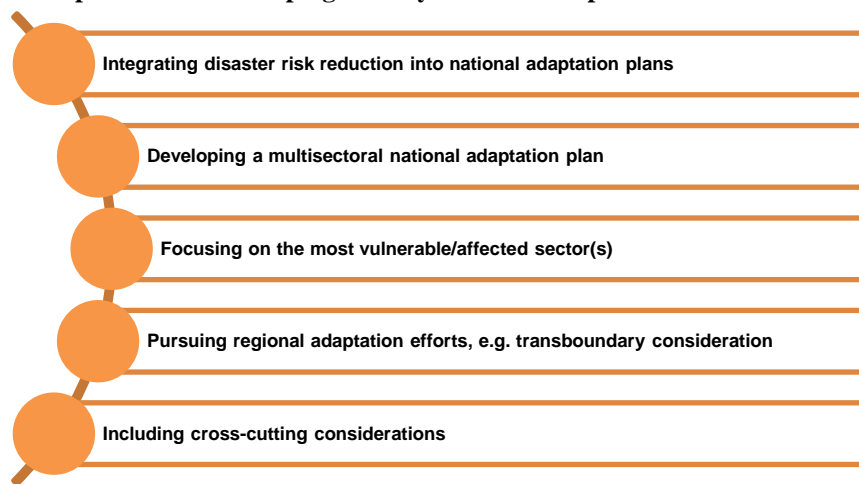
40. CMA 1 requested the secretariat, under the guidance of the AC and the LEG and in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, to prepare synthesis reports every two years, starting in 2020, on specific adaptation themes, focusing on relevant lessons learned and good practices in developing country Parties,²⁷ in the context of recognizing their adaptation efforts.

41. In late 2019, the AC agreed to focus the first synthesis report on how developing countries are addressing hazards, including lessons learned and good practices. The report was prepared and finalized in 2020²⁸ and it will also be issued as a user-friendly online publication before the end of 2020.²⁹

42. In its work on the synthesis report the AC was guided by the latest IPCC reports for a basic conceptual grounding of what adaptation efforts entail. The synthesis report explores and analyses good adaptation practices of developing countries that help to reduce their exposure and vulnerability to multiple climate hazards (see figure 2), thus strengthening their resilience and adaptive capacity and establishing an enabling environment for adaptation.

Figure 2

Good practices of developing country Parties in response to climate hazards



Source: AC document AC/2020/6.

43. A broad review of NAPs, nationally determined contributions, national communications, adaptation communications and other relevant documents, including those prepared by constituted bodies and reports resulting from the TEP-A, provided the basis for assessing the efforts of developing countries. In addition, some examples were derived from other sources to illustrate good practices in more detail.

²⁷ Decision 11/CMA.1, para. 13.

²⁸ AC document AC/2020/6. Available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/210538>.

²⁹ To be made available at <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/constituted-bodies/adaptation-committee-ac/publications-bulletin-adaptation-committee>.

4. Methodologies for reviewing adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support

44. CMA 1 requested the AC and the LEG, in collaboration with the SCF and relevant experts, to contribute to further relevant technical work by continuing to compile existing methodologies for reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support. It invited Parties, United Nations entities and other relevant organizations, as well as bilateral and multilateral agencies, to submit by April 2020 information on gaps, challenges, opportunities and options associated with such methodologies.³⁰

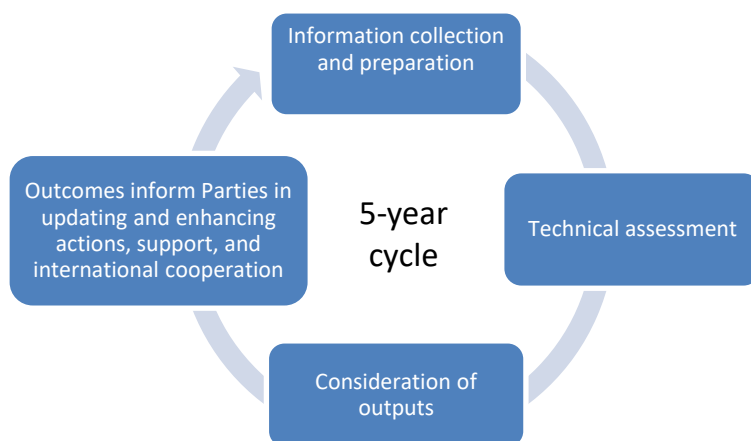
45. The AC and the LEG received four submissions³¹ and considered a draft paper with a compilation of existing methodologies at AC 18 and LEG 38. Given the low number of submissions, the AC and the LEG requested the secretariat to further advance the paper drawing on other resources. The LEG decided to consider conducting case studies of a few countries to evaluate and compare the support provided with the effectiveness of adaptation outcomes as a way of informing the selection of appropriate methodologies. The AC discussed that, pending agreement by the LEG, the AC and the LEG will produce a revised version of the joint document by the end of December 2020, in line with the mandate. Additional submissions that may be received will be taken into account in the version prepared for AC 19, and the AC Co-Chairs will invite the SCF to collaborate on the next steps.

5. Global stocktake

46. Information collection and preparation is the first component of the global stocktake, followed by a technical assessment and subsequent consideration of outputs (see figure 3). CMA 1 requested the SBSTA and SBI Chairs to issue a call for inputs to the global stocktake, including inputs relevant to adaptation. Such inputs should be submitted at least three months before their consideration in the technical assessment.³²

Figure 3

Adaptation and the global stocktake



In relation to adaptation, the global stocktake will:

- Recognize the adaptation efforts of developing countries
- Enhance the implementation of adaptation action
- Review the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation action and support
- Review overall progress made in achieving the global goal on adaptation

Sources of input include:

- Party reports and communications (e.g. adaptation communications and BTRs)
- Latest IPCC reports
- Reports from subsidiary bodies
- Reports from relevant constituted bodies and forum and other institutional arrangements
- Synthesis reports by the UNFCCC secretariat
- Relevant reports from United Nations agencies and other IGOs
- Voluntary submissions from Parties
- Relevant reports from regional groups and institutions
- Submissions from non-Party stakeholders and UNFCCC observer organizations

Source: Adapted from AC. 2019. *25 Years of Adaptation under the UNFCCC: Report by the Adaptation Committee*. Bonn: UNFCCC. Available at <https://unfccc.int/documents/204710>.

³⁰ Decision 11/CMA.1, paras. 35–36.

³¹ By 19 November 2020.

³² Decision 19/CMA.1, para. 19.

47. CMA 1 invited synthesis reports to be prepared by relevant constituted bodies (including the AC) and under forums and other institutional arrangements under or serving the Paris Agreement and/or the Convention, with the assistance of the secretariat, in their areas of expertise for the technical assessment of the global stocktake. In addition, CMA 1 decided that, for the global stocktake, information on, inter alia, the state of adaptation efforts, support, experience and priorities, including the information referred to in Article 7, paragraphs 2, 10, 11 and 14, of the Paris Agreement, and the reports referred to in Article 13, paragraph 8, of the Paris Agreement, will be considered.³³

48. The AC initiated its consideration of this mandate by discussing a document³⁴ on the various reports mandated to be prepared by the constituted bodies and forums and other institutional arrangements, with the assistance of the secretariat, and also by the secretariat, under the guidance of the co-facilitators. It also considered an initial draft annotated outline of its synthesis report,³⁵ which should be finalized no later than February 2022.

49. To ensure coherence, the AC Co-Chairs initiated communication with the presiding officers of the Consultative Group of Experts, the FWG, the Katowice Committee of Experts on the Impacts of the Implementation of Response Measures, the LEG, the PCCB, the SCF, the TEC and the WIM Executive Committee to gather information on the reports those bodies are planning to produce in response to the mandate. Representatives of the bodies were invited to attend AC 18, in particular the discussions on the input of the AC to the global stocktake. Liaising with these bodies on this work will continue.

50. The AC agreed to finalize the outline of the synthesis report before AC 19 and requested the secretariat to prepare a first draft of the report, based on the outline, before AC 20.

C. Technical examination process on adaptation

51. The TEP-A was established at COP 21 as part of its enhanced action prior to 2020.³⁶ The objective was to identify opportunities for strengthening resilience, reducing vulnerability and increasing understanding and implementation of adaptation action.

52. The TEP-A concludes in 2020 under the theme of education and training, public participation and youth to enhance adaptation action, and with reflection on the outcomes of the TEM-As in 2016–2019.

53. The 2020 TEP-A was launched at the UNFCCC June Momentum for Climate Change with a video that gave Parties and other stakeholders an overview of what was planned for the rest of 2020. Five global TEM-As took place virtually between 14 July and 18 August 2020, including three panel discussions and two workshops on subtopics of the overarching theme.

54. Additionally, in 2020 the TEP-A offered new opportunities for stakeholder engagement, such as two competitions for children and youth. In the Adaptation Youth Policy Case Competition, teams of three to five young people between the ages of 18 and 30 were invited to choose an adaptation challenge that they are passionate about and propose a solution. Finalists presented their ideas at a virtual showcase and the winners were invited to attend and share their idea at COP 26. The second competition was a visual art competition for children aged 17 and under, who were invited to share their vision for a climate-resilient future. Finalists will be featured on the UNFCCC website and in upcoming publications, and three winners will receive a prize.

55. Finally, for the first time, volunteer expert organizations were invited to submit policy briefs relevant to the 2020 theme as additional resources and to complement the other components of the TEP-A and the material shared throughout the TEM-As. The policy briefs received cover topics such as empowering youth to enhance adaptation action, integrating

³³ Decision 19/CMA.1, paras. 24 and 36.

³⁴ AC document AC/2020/7.

³⁵ AC document AC18/INFO/5F.

³⁶ Decision 1/CP.21, para. 124.

adaptation into national education processes and training for boosting workers' capacity to adapt to increased workplace temperatures.

56. The global TEMs organized by the AC were complemented by a regional technical expert meeting held under the auspices of the United Nations Children's Fund, which addressed the role of the education sector in South Asia and empowering youth and children to adapt to climate change.

57. The TEP-A concluded during the Climate Dialogues with a joint event with the TEP-M.³⁷ The winners of the competitions referred to in paragraph 54 above were announced at the concluding event on 26 November 2020. More details on all activities carried out under the TEP-A are available on the TEP-A web pages and will be summarized in the annual technical paper on the TEP-A. An overview of the 2020 TEP-A is provided in box 3.

58. The AC welcomed the useful discussions and outcomes of the TEP-A, in particular in informing the work of the AC. It emphasized the important role that the TEP-A has played in identifying concrete opportunities for strengthening resilience, reducing vulnerability and increasing understanding and implementation of adaptation action.

Box 3

The 2020 technical examination process on adaptation in numbers

- A record **17** expert organizations volunteered to contribute to the TEP-A by dedicating their time and expertise to advancing the process;
- **Seven** policy briefs were submitted by these volunteer expert organizations;
- **Five** TEM-As were held in July and August;
- As at 20 October, the TEM-As had **5,612** online views;
- **Over 300** children and young people from around the world participated in the competitions under the TEP-A by sharing their vision for a resilient future or their ideas for advancing adaptation action.

D. Providing technical support and guidance to the Parties

59. The AC continues to provide technical support and guidance to the Parties in the two main areas of adaptation action and means of implementation, including finance, technology and capacity-building. The focus of this work is on NAPs as the main vehicle for planning and implementing pre-emptive adaptation at the national level, in close collaboration with the LEG and supported by the NAP task force.

1. Adaptation action

60. During the reporting period, the AC progressed on a range of activities for enhancing adaptation, including relating to linkages between mitigation and adaptation, and data for adaptation at different spatial and temporal scales.

61. In the context of enhancing its provision of technical support to developing country Parties for increasing coherence of adaptation action, in early 2020 the AC completed a draft of a technical paper on linkages between mitigation and adaptation.³⁸ The AC will share the paper with other constituted bodies and stakeholders for them to provide input, so as to ensure that all perspectives are reflected in a balanced manner. The final version will be published in early 2021.

62. Having agreed to prepare a technical paper on countries' needs and solutions in relation to accessing, developing and using data systems for planning and implementing adaptation action, the AC agreed to focus the paper on data, taking into account short-, medium- and long-term perspectives on adaptation planning and implementation, and data needs at various stages of the adaptation process. The technical paper, entitled "Data for

³⁷ Available at <https://unfccc.int/event/achievements-of-the-technical-examination-processes-on-adaptation-and-mitigation-2016-2020>.

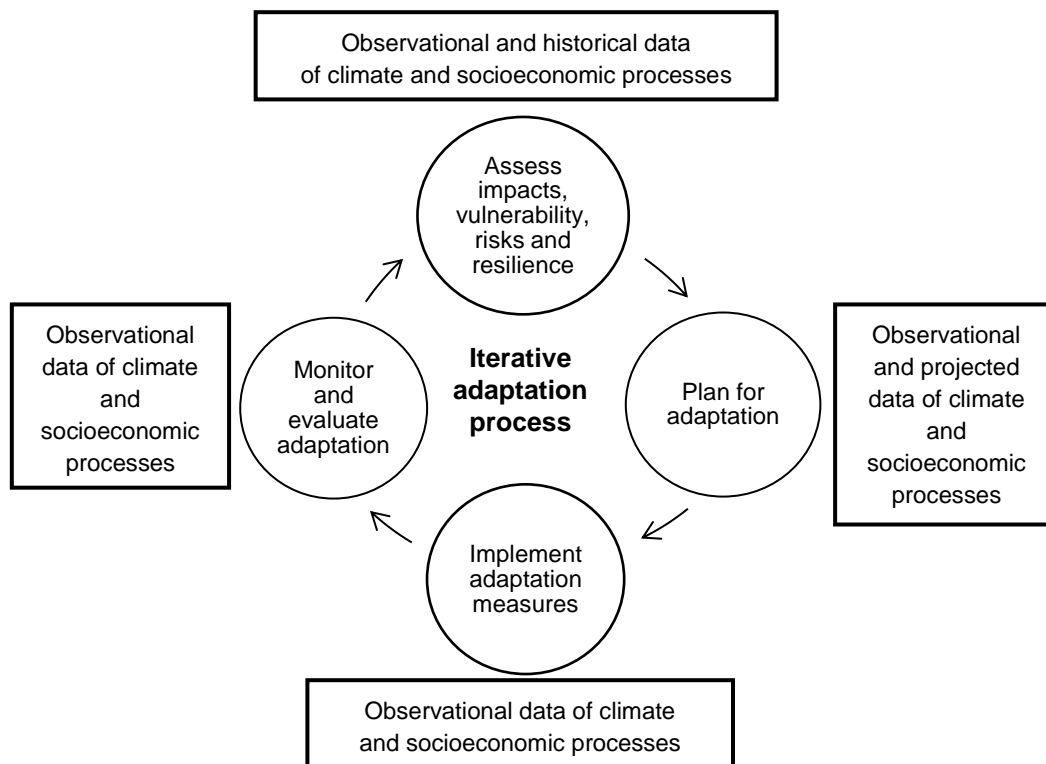
³⁸ AC document AC/2020/9.

adaptation at different spatial and temporal scales”, will be issued and broadly disseminated before the end of the year as one of two flagship publications of the AC in 2020.

63. The technical paper highlights that the demand for data on adaptation is growing due to different political and practical needs at various levels. At the global level, the Paris Agreement includes several provisions that point to the increasing need for adaptation-relevant data. At the national, regional and subnational level, some adaptation planning and implementation processes, such as the NAP process, have been established, which require data for them to be planned, implemented, monitored and scaled up on the basis of evidence of their efficiency and effectiveness. The paper provides an overview of adaptation-related data required and provided at the iterative stages of the adaptation process (see figure 4), details remaining gaps and challenges, and describes opportunities for enhancing data provision and use.

Figure 4

The iterative adaptation process and respective data needs



64. The NAP task force is a useful means for the AC to share its work on NAPs with other constituted bodies and to invite input and feedback on its work directly addressing national adaptation planning and implementation.

65. The lead of the NAP task force delivers at each AC meeting an oral report on collaborative work undertaken by the task force in accordance with its three-year workplan. Due to the time constraints mentioned in box 1, updates to AC 17 and 18 have been shared in writing. The workplan is in line with the AC flexible workplan and responds to the invitation of SBI 47 for the AC and the LEG to consider how to assist the implementation of NAPs in their future work programmes and to include information thereon in their reports, as appropriate.³⁹

66. In 2020, the NAP task force:

- (a) Contributed to the AC work on mainstreaming gender considerations in the NAP process (see box 2);
- (b) Reviewed, promoted and provided input to the AC pilot inventory of methodologies for assessing adaptation needs (see paras. 37–39 above);

³⁹ FCCC/SBI/2017/19, para. 73.

(c) Contributed to and helped disseminate and promote the private sector toolkit (see para. 70 below);

(d) Provided input to the information document prepared by the AC on Parties' capacity gaps in accessing adaptation funding and their successes and challenges in building in-country capacity (see para. 71 below).

67. Furthermore, the NAP task force continued addressing two specific COP mandates. Firstly, the AC and the task force took into account the COP request to consider gaps and needs related to the NAP process identified through relevant work of the AC and the LEG and how to address them.⁴⁰ COP 25 reiterated this request⁴¹ with an additional invitation to constituted bodies and other organizations to provide information to the AC and the LEG on activities undertaken to address gaps and needs related to the NAP process. The AC and the LEG worked on responding to this request in a coordinated manner throughout 2019 and 2020. The evolving online compilation of gaps and needs is available on the UNFCCC website.⁴²

68. The AC and the NAP task force noted the invitation from COP 24 to assist developing country Parties in integrating approaches to avert, minimize and address displacement related to the adverse impacts of climate change into relevant national planning processes, including NAPs, as appropriate, in collaboration with the WIM Executive Committee and in accordance with the AC mandate and workplan.⁴³ A member has represented the AC in the task force on displacement since its inception.⁴⁴ The AC contributed to the background material for the 4th meeting of the task force on displacement and participated in the meeting.

2. Means of implementation

69. One of the objectives of the AC is to provide guidance on enhancing support for adaptation, including finance, technology and capacity-building support, including for the NAP process, and the AC undertook various related activities throughout 2020.

70. One of the focus areas of the AC flexible workplan for 2019–2021 is engaging the private sector in adaptation. The AC conducted a series of activities on that theme in 2018 and 2019, which led to a range of outcomes that were reported in previous annual reports of the AC. Building on this work, the AC and the NAP Global Network finalized the private sector toolkit, which is a supplement to the UNFCCC technical guidelines for the NAP process.⁴⁵ A side event at COP 25 offered a preview of the toolkit, and the official launch took place at an interactive online event in May 2020.

71. In 2019, the AC invited Parties and non-Party stakeholders to submit information on their capacity gaps in accessing adaptation funding, including their experience, success and remaining challenges.⁴⁶ The submissions were synthesized in an information document that the AC considered in late 2019 and, owing to additional submissions being received, again in early 2020. The document is currently being refined and as a next step the AC is planning to consult with the LEG, the PCCB and the SCF on follow-up activities with a focus on sustained, long-term, in-country capacity-building for accessing adaptation funding. The workplan of the FWG includes a focus on capacity-building and the FWG has offered to collaborate in this regard.

72. Regarding adaptation technologies, in 2021 the AC plans to prepare a technical paper on the application of such technologies. The AC Co-Chairs requested the secretariat to review

⁴⁰ Decision 8/CP.24, para. 18.

⁴¹ Decision 7/CP.25, paras. 3–4.

⁴² <https://unfccc.int/node/210550>.

⁴³ Decision 10/CP.24, para. 3, and annex, para. 1(e).

⁴⁴ See <https://unfccc.int/wim-excom/sub-groups/TFD>.

⁴⁵ LEG. 2012. *National adaptation plans: technical guidelines for the national adaptation plan process*. Bonn: UNFCCC. Available at <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NAPC/Guidelines/Pages/Technical-guidelines.aspx>.

⁴⁶ See <https://unfccc.int/topics/adaptation-and-resilience/groups-committees/adaptation-committee/adaptation-committee-call-for-submissions-on-parties-capacity-gaps-in-accessing-adaptation-funding>.

relevant technical information, including from the TEC and the CTCN, and to prepare a background note suggesting possible topics and scope for the paper.

73. At its 18th meeting the AC considered a background note prepared by the secretariat, including a suggested topic. It agreed to refine the first broad proposal of the topic, which was priorities and needs – technologies for adaptation for agriculture, water resources and coastal zones, focusing on stakeholder engagement and regulatory issues pertaining to the development, transfer and uptake of technologies. Upon agreement on the topic, a first draft will be prepared for consideration at AC 19.

74. In a letter dated 15 July 2020, the SCF Co-Chairs invited the AC to provide inputs on the draft guidance for the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism. However, the SCF has since communicated that no guidance will be provided to the GCF and the GEF in 2020, as COP 26 has been postponed to 2021. The annual reports of the GCF and the GEF for 2020 will be sent to the constituted bodies once they become available and the bodies can submit their inputs on the draft guidance in 2020 and/or in 2021. The SCF will compile any submissions available prior to its first meeting of 2021 and discuss at the meeting how it will prepare the draft guidance.

75. Given the information received from the SCF and the agreement by the AC not to finalize any recommendations for consideration by the COP or the CMA at its virtual meetings, the AC further agreed to submit one combined set of inputs on the draft guidance in the third quarter of 2021 on the basis of the 2020 and 2021 reports of the GCF and the GEF.

E. Awareness-raising, outreach and information-sharing

76. In line with its communications strategy, revised in 2019, the AC has increased its efforts to share its work with the public. To this end, it has sought to produce more user-friendly publications and enhance its presence on social media (see box 4).

Box 4

Awareness-raising, outreach and information-sharing efforts of the Adaptation Committee in numbers during the reporting period

- Seven publications;
- 9,766 downloads;
- 5,639 views of the Adaptation Finance Bulletins;
- Three in-person events;
- Nine online events;
- More than 600 participants in the online events;
- 16,299 followers of the Adaptation Exchange Facebook page;
- 153 posts on the Adaptation Exchange Facebook page reached by 227,227 people;
- 2,554 Twitter followers on @AdaptXChange.

77. To extend its scope and make information on its efforts more accessible to a broader audience, the AC prepared, for the second time, a concise outreach product to supplement its annual report, which highlights its key achievements in 2020 and provides an overview of the main outcomes of its work.

78. In addition, the AC report *25 Years of Adaptation under the UNFCCC*, launched at COP 25, clearly and concisely describes the history and evolution of work on adaptation under the Convention. The report is designed to help a wide audience better understand the concept of adaptation to a changing climate and the history of adaptation being addressed by the international community.

79. Other outreach products that were broadly disseminated in the first half of 2020 are the toolkits on gender and the private sector. The technical paper on adaptation-related data and the technical paper on how developing countries are addressing climate hazards will be issued by the end of the year. The 2020 TEP-A provided additional outreach activities, and

reached a new type of audience. The artwork from the competition described in paragraph 54 above will be featured in future publications.

80. Finally, the AC continued to contribute to the NWP eUpdate⁴⁷ and published issues 4–6 of the Adaptation Finance Bulletin, in collaboration with the Adaptation Fund, the GCF, the GEF, the LEG and the SCF, to inform a broad range of stakeholders of recent developments in the context of international adaptation finance.⁴⁸

81. Two AC events had to be postponed to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, namely the Adaptation Forum on monitoring and evaluating adaptation, and a workshop on gender and adaptation, which was planned to be held at the 2020 NAP Expo.

82. All information products of the AC are available on the AC web pages⁴⁹ and are disseminated broadly, including via the adaptation knowledge portal and the Adaptation Exchange Facebook page,⁵⁰ which is maintained by the secretariat's Adaptation division.

⁴⁷ See <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/NEW--Nairobi-Work-Programme-eUpdate---June-2020.html?soid=1117347475566&aid=wumBF2k6FBg>.

⁴⁸ See <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/constituted-bodies/adaptation-committee-ac/publications-bulletin-adaptation-committee>.

⁴⁹ <https://unfccc.int/Adaptation-Committee>.

⁵⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/The.Adaptation.Exchange>.