

Definitions for adaptation and mitigation used by international organizations

	<i>Adaptation</i>	<i>Mitigation</i>
OECD	An activity that intends to reduce the vulnerability of human or natural systems to the current and expected impacts of climate change, including climate variability, by maintaining or increasing resilience, through increased ability to adapt to, or absorb, climate change stresses, shocks and variability and/or by helping reduce exposure to them	It is mitigation if it contributes to the objective of stabilization of GHG concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system by promoting efforts to reduce or limit GHG emissions or to enhance GHG sequestration
IDFC and MDBs	An activity will be classified as related to climate change adaptation if it intends to reduce the vulnerability of human or natural systems to the impacts of climate change and climate-related risks, by maintaining or increasing adaptive capacity and resilience	An activity will be classified as related to climate change mitigation if it promotes efforts to reduce or limit GHG emissions or enhance GHG sequestration
CPI	Adaptation finance is defined as resources directed to activities aimed at reducing the vulnerability of human or natural systems to the impacts of climate change and climate-related risks, by maintaining or increasing adaptive capacity and resilience	Mitigation finance is defined as resources directed to activities contributing to reducing or avoiding GHG emissions, including gases regulated by the Montreal Protocol; or maintaining or enhancing GHG sinks and reservoirs
IPCC	The process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects. In human systems, adaptation seeks to moderate or avoid harm or exploit beneficial opportunities. In some natural systems, human intervention may facilitate adjustment to expected climate and its effects	A human intervention to reduce the sources or enhance the sinks of GHGs. This report also assesses human interventions to reduce the sources of other substances that may contribute directly or indirectly to limiting climate change

Abbreviations: CPI = Climate Policy Initiative, GHG = greenhouse gas, IDFC = International Development Finance Club, IPCC = International Panel on Climate Change, MDBs = multilateral development banks, OECD = Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

Source: UNFCCC Standing Committee on Finance. 2016. *2016 Biennial Assessment and Overview of Climate Finance Flows Report*. Bonn: UNFCCC.