

Session: Twentieth meeting of the Adaptation Committee

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Location: online via Microsoft Teams

Date and Time: 7-10 September 2021 between 12h30- 15h30 (CET).

Participants: Adaptation Committee, Secretariat, other Constituted Bodies, Observers.

Summary

Between 7-10 September 2021 the twentieth meeting of the Adaptation Committee was held online. This was the fourth meeting taking place on a virtual format, with the AC meeting for three hours per day. For these reasons, the AC focused the discussion on key agenda points and next steps ahead of COP26. The AC advanced several items through their internal Teams platform.

Please see [here for the AC20 landing page](#): Documentation prepared for, presentations at, and summary of outcomes from, the twentieth meeting of the Adaptation Committee (AC20) by agenda item.

A link to the provisional agenda for this session can be found here:

https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/ac20_2_agenda.pdf

- Day 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eYGRudFLZDU>
- Day 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ZVKPdmgNic>
- Day 3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5ltlah--M2k>
- Day 4: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EdM9VRMuYV8>

1. Opening and welcome.

Welcome statement from Co-Chair Alessandra Sgobbi. Summary:

- AC20 comes at a critical juncture for the work of the AC. Making progress this week is critical for making a meaningful contribution to the COP: furthering work on the Global Goal on Adaptation; Adaptation Communications; Technical Reporting on specific components of adaptation.
- Equally important is putting together a strong workplan for 2022-2024 to demonstrate the AC's centrality to the UNFCCC's work on adaptation. Need to prepare this for COP26 in Glasgow to share with the wider Convention.

2. Adoption of the agenda.

Adopted without dissent.

3. Election of the Co-Chairs:

N/A

5a. Approaches to reviewing progress made in achieving the Global Goal on Adaptation (EB)_

Time: Wednesday 8 September (Day 2)

Doc:

Presentation https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/ac20_5a_gga.pdf

Technical paper: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/ac20_5a_gga_tp.pdf

Summary note of paper:

https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/ac20_5a_gga_summary.pdf

Background:

The AC has been working on this item since early 2020, and has produced a technical paper to fulfill the work plan item and support work towards the CMA mandate.

The technical paper has been revised and refined based on feedback from AC17 to AC19, as well as input received through the AC's webinar on the global goal for adaptation (30 June 2021) and relates events by the COP25 Presidency and COP26 Incoming Presidency.

The revised summary note has been expanded to reflect these changes into the technical paper, and to include more of the information and nuance of the technical paper, as requested by AC19. It has been further revised based on AC members' input during and after a call on 24 August 2021.

The main points of discussion at AC20 were:

- Request to publish the technical paper
- Agree on how to reflect the outcomes of its work in the AC 2021 annual report

Discussion/conclusion:

- After discussions on work needed and timelines for publication, the AC agreed to release and publish the technical paper as a knowledge product, to be made available before COP26
- Work to balance and potentially shorten the summary, for example improve the presentation of results from the AC Juen webinar, will be continued and the summary will be used in the 2021 AC report to COP. Deadline for finalisation of the summary is September 23rd.
- The AC continued to discuss the aspect of presenting outcomes of this item in its 2021 report, as presented under Section 8 of the Summary note via Teams. This was to be taken up under Item 10 (2021 report to COP26) on Friday morning.
- At that stage, discussions about what to include varied along (not exclusive):

i) presenting a factual recounting of work.

ii) Offer recommendations to the CMA drawing on the technical paper, webinar, and AC discussions that do not single out any specific approach or set of approaches as the optimal solution.

iii) Offer recommendations to the CMA drawing on the technical paper, webinar, and AC discussions that propose a specific approach or set of approaches to follow for reviewing overall progress towards the GGA in the first global stocktake.

Please refer to Summary note Section 8 for more details on suggested recommendations.

5b. Adaptation Communications: Draft supplementary guidance for voluntary use by Parties in communicating adaptation information

Time: Tuesday 7 September (Day 1)

Doc: <https://unfccc.int/documents/304422>

Presentation https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/ac20_5b_adcomms_0.pdf

Background:

Discussion led by AC Member Pilar Bueno, Argentina.

Decision 9/CMA.1 asked the AC to develop, by June 2022, draft supplementary guidance for voluntary use by Parties in communicating information in accordance with the elements contained in the annex to that decision.

An early draft was prepared for AC18 and a revised version was presented at AC19, which contained an advanced Part II (description of each element, simple tables with an overview of relevant guidelines and examples of resources that can help preparing the elements).

Since AC19, the main changes to the document are:

- Part I: New section on the role of Adaptation Communications (“ADCOMS”) in the GST
- Part II: More examples of element-specific resources added; Annex I contains two initial examples of national preparation processes of ADCOMs; text has been simplified to reduce length of document and focus on essential points.

Feedback from informational webinars has not been fully integrated thus far due to time constraints.

Questions and Next Steps: AC invited to consider current progress made on the draft, in particular:

- Are we headed in the right direction?
- Are additional considerations or types of info required that would be helpful in light of discussion so far, as well as feedback received from the webinar?

AC may also wish to consider the complementarity of this document with related work, such as work on the GGA.

Finally, the AC may also wish to comment on the status of engagement with the IPCC, in particular:

- Whether / when the current or post-AC20 draft could be shared with the IPCC for their feedback?
- What other opportunities the AC should consider for this engagement.

Discussion/conclusion:

Members agreed that there has been much good progress made since AC19, in particular on the ADCOMs segments. Members stated a need for a meeting / expert workshop with the IPCC as soon as practicable and, in the interim, to share the current draft with them for comment (provisionally set for the week of 13 September). Concurrently, need to draft a set of questions for the IPCC responding to their request for clarification on what exactly the AC is asking them to do.

Members suggested to organize an event at COP26 to share with participants and demonstrate the use of this tool. Also noted that the process needs to be inclusive of practitioners including at UNEP / UNDP, as well as NAP Global Network / GIZ / etc, as well

as youth and marginalized groups. Not just scientists and experts (IPCC). Extensive discussion on this point. Some members stressed the need to engage non-experts along a parallel track, while others stated the need to prioritize informing the IPCC (i.e., the CMA mandate), while informing other groups via webinars, events and/or workshops.

Observers stressed the need to include youth and gender-diverse representatives in the formulation of the ADCOMS guidance.

5c. Methodologies for assessing adaptation needs

Time: Tuesday 7 September (Day 1)

Doc: <https://unfccc.int/documents/302829>

Background:

Discussion led by AC Member Navina Sanchez Ibrahim, Germany

Decision 11/CMA.1 asked AC, in collaboration with the LEG and NWP, to develop and update an inventory of relevant methodologies for assessing adaptation needs (including needs related to action, finance, capacity building and technical support) and to prepare a technical paper (TP) on methodologies for assessing adaptation needs and their application.

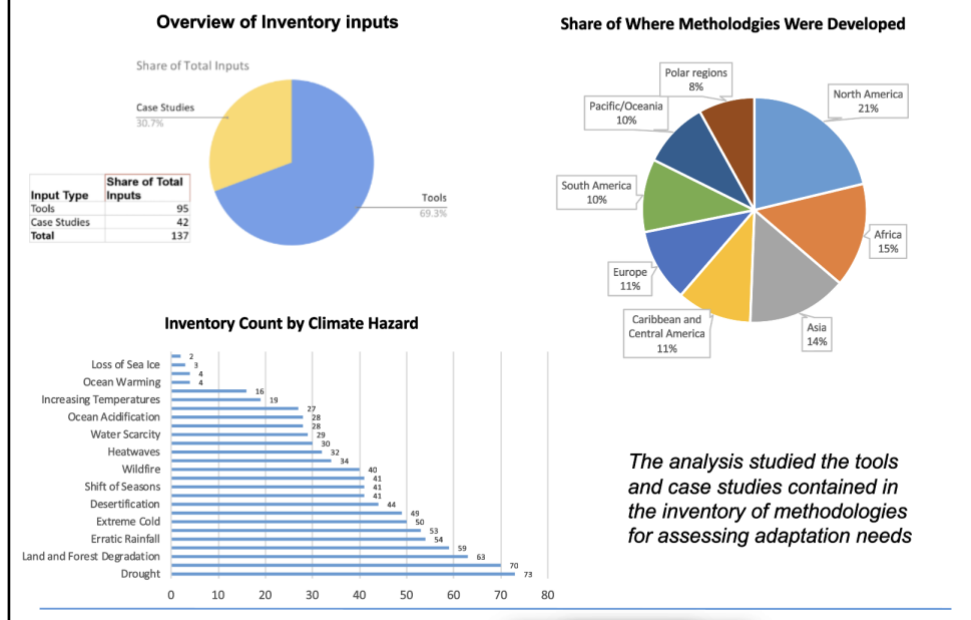
CMA invited Parties and observer organizations to submit information on the development and application of methodologies.

At AC19 there was a request for a more comprehensive analysis of the methodologies to be presented at AC20. The Secretariat will prepare a first draft of the TP for consideration at AC21, taking into account the comments on the outline to better distinguish between action and support needs, and highlighting needs by region.

The AC held a conference call with the IPCC in April 2021 to get feedback on the draft. IPCC has asked specific questions and will be limited in their ability to engage in a more robust way, due to time constraints, their own workload and capacity.

Navina then presented a slide with an overview of the inputs thus far, taking into account the requests at AC19 (see *below*).

II: Update: Comprehensive analysis of the methodologies



The AC is invited to exchange ideas on:

- Whether it would be useful to first consider a possible typology for the methodologies and further framing of the TP, beyond the text contained in the mandate “methodologies for assessing adaptation needs and their application, as well as on the related gaps, good practices, lessons learned and guidelines.”

Discussion/conclusion:

Several members noted concern that progress on this work is quite far behind where it should be at this time. Need to urgently move forward with the drafting of the TP, regardless of the level of involvement by the IPCC. Need a roadmap as soon as possible for how / when the TP will be drafted and finalized.

Typologies are important, but there is a lot of overlap between methodologies / approaches. Need to account for grey areas and overlaps in the organization of the TP.

Observers urged that the TP should include participatory methods to engage with stakeholders and grassroots organizations, as well as youth and marginalized groups.

AC requests issue leads within the Secretariat to develop a draft TP for review and consideration at AC21. Agree to share an early draft with the IPCC as soon as it is available.

5d. Recognizing the adaptation efforts of developing country Parties

Time: Thursday, 9 September 2021

Doc: AC20/INFO/5D: Recognizing the adaptation efforts of developing country Parties: Assessing and meeting the costs of adaptation Outline of the report

Background:

11/CMA.1, para 13 requested the secretariat under guidance of the AC and LEG to prepare synthesis reports every two years starting in 2020 on specific adaptation themes: relevant

lessons learned, good practices in developing countries. AC19 agreed on the topic and outline for a synthesis report on “Efforts of developing countries in assessing and meeting costs of adaptation.”

The report, in addressing meeting the costs of adaptation and domestic expenditures, could, show this information in the aggregate if enough information is collected; in the alternative, if information is sparse, the report could highlight case studies.

With regard to efforts to create enabling conditions to access and to mobilize funding, the report would look at the political level (e.g., Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action) and operational aspects (e.g., capacity building for facilitating access to public and private finance).

The AC was invited to agree on the outline for the report and request the secretariat to prepare a first draft for consideration at AC21.

Discussion/conclusion:

AC members generally agreed on the outline and approach. Discussion centred on Section 3, with suggestions to:

- Consider domestic efforts to pursue partnerships, including public-private partnerships, in meeting costs of adaptation;
- Provide case studies of innovative models of meeting adaptation costs;
- Not focus on dollars and including other metrics, such as avoid costs, or other investment measures;
- Provide further information on context, such as national circumstances, IPCC AR6, and exacerbated risks; and
- Focus on understanding risks and vulnerability, mapping and costing actions (cost-benefit analysis), prioritization of actions and aligning those actions with budget lines and financial flows overall at the domestic level to climate resilience (Article 2.1(c)).

Others emphasized that the aim of the paper is to recognize developing countries, not developed countries, and to provide a granular understanding of what countries are doing and what can inform learning opportunities for others.

The AC would provide further guidance and will ask the secretariat to provide a first draft for consideration at AC21.

5e Methodologies for reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support (EB)

Time: Wednesday September 8th (Day 2)

Doc: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/ac20_5f_gst.pdf

Presentation: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/ac20_5e_adequacy_0.pdf

Background:

CMA 1 considered initial recommendations provided by the AC and the LEG on the methodologies for reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation and support

referred to in Article 7, para. 14 (c), of the Paris Agreement, and invited further technical work and submissions.

AC and LEG, in collaboration with the SCF, were invited to continue compiling existing methodologies.

AC 19 considered a revised draft of the background paper containing the compilation of methodologies, observations thereon, considerations on the way the technical work of the AC and the LEG could be taken forward as well as possible next steps.

In response to the decisions taken at AC 19 and LEG 39 a joint working group of the AC and the LEG, in collaboration with the SCF, was formed to consider the way forward, including a work plan on the next steps:

- The first meeting of the working group took place virtually on 26 August 2021 with members from the AC, the LEG and the SCF;
- A summary note on the meeting has been shared with AC members prior to AC 20;

The background paper has been revised according to comments received at AC 19.

Discussion/conclusion:

The AC considered the outcomes of the meeting of the joint working group, and decided on next steps, in coordination with the LEG and SCF.

The AC endorsed the next steps proposed in the report and invited the joint working group to regularly report on the progress made:

- Continue discussions on the way forward in contributing to the technical work with LEG and SCF;
- Continue compiling existing methodologies
- The AC and the LEG to consider, while taking into account views from the joint AC-LEG joint working group, establishing a thematic expert group
- The AC-LEG joint working group to organize a meeting of the thematic expert group
- To publish the annex to this note as an AC-LEG knowledge product

5f. Information collection and preparation for the global stocktake

Time: Thursday, 9 September 2021

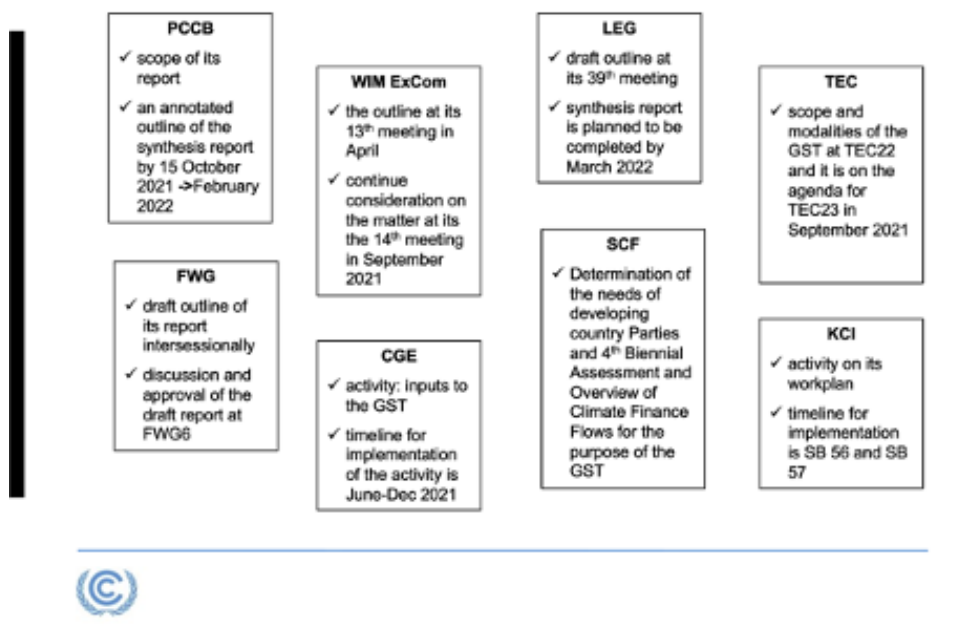
Doc: [AC20/INFO/5F](#): Synthesis report on the information identified in paragraph 36 of decision 19/CMA.1. Outline and possible ways to engage other bodies and Parties

Background:

19/CMA.1, para 24 invited relevant constituted bodies, forums, and institutional arrangements under or serving the Paris Agreement and/or the Convention to prepare for the technical assessment phase of the global stocktake, with assistance of the secretariat. Synthesis reports are to be completed in Feb/Mar 2022. The AC considered the outline of a synthesis report on the information identified in paragraph 26 of decision 19/CMA.1 and possible ways to engage other bodies and Parties, and produced an annotated outline revised to implement comments by AC19. The AC had liaised with the LEG, ExCom, SCF,

LCIPP, SCF, TEC, PCCB, CGE, KCI to gather info on what reports other bodies were planning to produce in response to the mandate.

II: Overview of other constituted bodies' reports in response to the mandate



The AC was asked to agree on and finalize an outline so that the secretariat could start drafting its report without delay; in order to be a timely input to the global stocktake, the draft would need to be finished by December 2021. The AC would also invited to request Co-Chairs to continue to liaise with other constituted bodies to ensure complementarity of efforts and to request the secretariat to prepare a first draft of the report by mid-December under the guidance of the AC Co-Chairs and the AC Working Group for consideration intersessionally.

Discussion/conclusion:

Suggested next steps included:

- The constituted bodies could all share outlines to ensure complementarity;
- Requesting secretariat to prepare first draft by mid-December and consider it intersessionally;
- An update on guiding questions for the global stocktake from the SB Co-Chairs;
- A webinar; and
- Including joint mandates/work with the LEG.

It was also noted that the SB Chairs would published a revised non-paper on the global stocktake in mid-September.

The AC agreed on the outline of the synthesis report and agreed to request the secretariat to prepare a first draft for mid-December. The Co-Chairs would continue to liaise with other constituted bodies. The AC will invite all bodies to share their respective outlines when available. It also agreed to host a webinar in February to collect further views and input.

7b. Technologies for adaptation

Time: Thursday, 9 September 2021

Doc: [AC20/TP/7B](#): Draft Technical paper: Priorities and needs: technologies for adaptation in agriculture, water resources and coastal zones; including experiences in stakeholder engagement and regulatory issues pertaining to the development, transfer and uptake of technologies in those sectors

Background:

The current draft of the technical paper (Priorities and needs: technologies for adaptation in agriculture, water resources and coastal zones; including experiences in stakeholder engagement and regulatory issues pertaining to the development, transfer and uptake of technologies in those sectors) is a work in progress, with placeholders. It's a flexible workplan item.

The next draft will:

- Integrate further research materials;
- Incorporate quantitative analyses and insights;
- Integrate further case studies, ensuring regional balance;
- Include sections on indigenous knowledge/technologies and gender-sensitive and - responsive approaches;
- Refine the figures;
- Complete sections indicated by placeholders; and
- Incorporate insights from relevant upcoming events.

A draft technical paper AC20/TP/7B has been developed based on agreed annotated outline.

Discussion/conclusion:

The AC generally agreed that the draft technical paper was a good starting point. AC members and observers also agreed that engagement with other bodies (e.g., the Nairobi Work Programme, CTCN, TEC, SCF, possibly FAO in later stages) would be beneficial to developing the technical paper. There was also agreement on highlighting the inclusion of indigenous and local knowledge in the next draft.

One member cautioned that AC may not be in a position to finalize before AC21, but it could consider the new draft at that meeting.

7c. Navigating the landscape of support for the process to formulate and implement NAPs

Time: Tuesday 7 September

Doc: N/A

Background: N/A

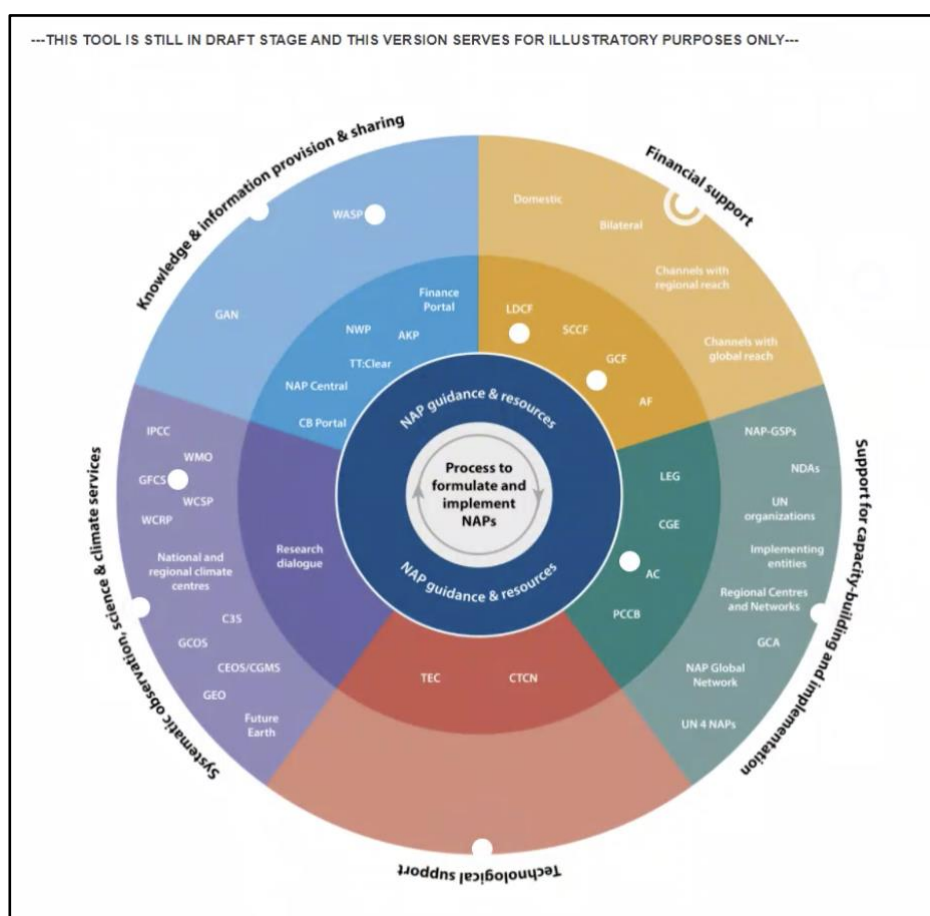
Discussion/conclusion:

The Secretariat has developed a prototype online information tool which was presented to the AC. The tool categorizes all available information and resources by type of NAP support (financial support; technological support; knowledge and information provision & sharing;

etc.). Noted that the tool will also need input from the NAP Taskforce as well as CTCN.

AC members voiced their support for the further development of the online tool, while also preparing a printable summary version for those with limited internet access. This product will need to be updated regularly to keep it up-to-date so there will need to be a clear updating schedule.

Observers voiced their support for the tool and the need for technical input in particular from developing countries. They also suggested tapping youth researchers institutions for research in climate change adaptation and policy along with increased access to funding, technical support, and publication.



7d. Input to the Standing Committee on Finance for the preparation of the draft decisions on guidance to the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism

Time: Thursday, 9 September 2021

Doc: n/a

Background:

The focus of this session was the finalization of this input. The issue leads generally agreed that the elements of the draft were a good basis for going forward. AC members have had fruitful discussions with the SCF; through those, two challenges are evident: data availability and enabling environments, which are the cornerstones to the challenge of accessing finance.

The leads considered that the suggestions contained in the draft, however, may go beyond the scope of the work of the AC or the GCF, GEF, and SCF. The advice that the AC provides to the financial mechanisms should be in alignment with the technical advice and the technical work that the AC traditionally provides, with some of the draft suggestions to the financial mechanisms going beyond that role. It was also pointed out that the GCF had mandated an independent evaluation unit report that was concluded in 2020, published in 2021, and offered findings on adaptation funding under the GCF--the input could reflect the guidance in that report to the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, as enhancing funding to adaptation and guidance to such approaches touches on the work of the AC.

Discussion/Conclusion:

AC members emphasized the importance of the input and of being clear about the AC's role in considering the recommendations and inputs to the SCF. While recognizing that the conversation last year was difficult, the bigger picture is that the gap in adaptation finance grows larger each year and that the AC has a strong role to play in working with the SCF, GCF, and Adaptation Fund. The role of the AC can include clarifying the climate rationale, or theory of change, and addressing specific gaps and lack of data on adaptation funding.

Several members agreed that the findings of the GCF independent unit evaluation report, including private sector findings, are important and useful.

It was also pointed out that many of the representatives of the Financial Mechanism were unable to attend AC20 because of a clash with the SCF.

There was a call to strengthen further coordination and liaising with the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism.

A GCF representative joined to give a brief presentation of its adaptation portfolio. Key figures included:

- 72 approved or technically cleared projects worth \$14 million in support of adaptation planning; 1/3rd for LDCs
 - 24 LDCs have NAP proposals approved
 - 8 LDCs have yet to submit proposals
- \$1.9 billion for adaptation; 74 approved projects; 65 countries
- Adaptation pipeline: exceeds \$4.3 billion for 125 projects
- Grant equivalent of projects: 47% adaptation / 53% mitigation

The GCF remains committed to the goal of balance between adaptation and mitigation, which is reflected in its updated plan 2020-2023.

The next GCF Board meeting will be 4-7 October.

The Co-Chair emphasized that the AC's role is to provide advice to Parties on adaptation. While it cannot be shy in its recommendations, it must be impartial but also sensitive to key issues and avoid putting additional burdens on Parties.

AC members were invited to include further comments to the input to the Standing Committee on Finance for the preparation of the draft decisions on guidance to the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism following AC20. The Co-Chairs will consolidate comments and produce a new iteration by 9 October 2021.

9: Flexible Workplan of the AC for 2022-2024

Time: Wednesday September 8th (Day 2)

Doc: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/ac20_9_workplan.pdf

The AC reviewed the work plan workstream by workstream. The AC members welcomed collaborative work with external stakeholders in principle. AC members also generally welcomed the focus on gender and indigenous people across the 2022-24 workstreams.

10. Report of the Adaptation Committee to the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties

Time: Friday September 10th (Day 4)

Doc: N/A

Background: The AC considered the content of its AC report to COP26.

- A draft 2021 AC Report was shared between AC members via the online Collaboration Space, but only last night or very early this morning – it was not available for Observers.
- This session was chaired by Cecilia da Silva Bernardo
- The structure of the report is similar to previous reports: description of AC mandates, elaboration of progress made with implementing the work of the Committee; recommendations to the CMA are made at the end of the report.
- The new AC Workplan will be contained as an annex to the report
- The report will be issued with a 2 page infographic on the AC work, to make it more accessible
- In order to be available in all UN languages, final version needs to be sent on 20th Sept. the Secretariat therefore needs to include comments from this meeting into the draft within two weeks.

Discussion/Conclusion:

The primary focus was on Item 5a) Global goal on adaptation. The AC had worked since Day 2 on discussing the options for presenting its considerations of approaches for the GGA. See Item 5a for the start of the discussion.

The AC had first difficulty in defining the approach to discuss this, working in small groups and altogether. It was decided to break from the main session for AC members and Secretariat to work together without external attendees and observers. The AC reconvened an hour later with a draft of recommendations for this item. The draft remained internal - not shared nor available to observer comments. Observers could comment live during the meeting however.

- Some concerns were expressed that the previous AC report (2019) has not been “considered” by the CMA (there was a discussion that clarified the report is sent for consideration and not formally “approved”) and that it is important to avoid that scenario again with this report, by ensuring it is clear and complete.
- There was some discussion about the lack of time available to AC members to digest the draft report in order to provide meaningful inputs to this discussion

- It was also made clear that there is time pressure to finalise the report and necessary to avoid putting forward a half-finished report to CMA.
- Most discussion focused on the Recommendations in the report and how to expand these to better reflect the breadth of the AC's achievements; it was decided that there would be a closed breakout session (without Observer participation) to draft text for the Recommendations in the report. The co-chair apologised to Observers from being excluded from the discussion.

This is a list of AC tasks finalised in 2020 and 2021 (direct from Co-Chair):

- Data paper
 - TEP-A
 - Hazards paper (recognising adaptation efforts)
 - Capacity gaps for adaptation funding
 - Technical paper on the GGA
 - Gender Toolkit and review of AC Gender Workplan
 - Private sector toolkit
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- The break lasted roughly 1.5 hours
 - In the open session, AC members went through the recommendations to agree the text. Text will be edited before publishing, but was accepted by AC20.
 - Final draft report text will be shared with members on Monday (20th September); Observers will not get to see the draft report (which is convention), but all of the inputs provided during AC20 will be considered in the report, the Co-Chair stated.
 - Minor linguistic edits were made during the discussion (e.g. to better align text to Paris Agreement language)

The AC agreed to offer recommendations based on i) some factual recounting of the work, and ii) Offer recommendations to the CMA drawing on the technical paper, webinar, and AC discussions that do not single out any specific approach or set of approaches as the optimal solution. See Section 8 of Summary note for the six original areas for recommendations. These were reviewed live during the Friday session.

Ath this stage it is unknown to observers if and when the 2021 AC report will be available for comments.

11. Organization of inter-sessional work

The meeting discussed various task forces and groups with AC and non-AC membership (e.g. NAP Task Force) and various issue areas (e.g. GGA, AdComms, GST, Technology) and AC liaison with other Constituted Bodies, where AC members volunteer as leads and members. Agreement for the list to be circulated by email and the co-Chairs encouraged members to assign themselves and to lead different groups.

12. Next AC Meeting

Next meeting: 28-31st March 2022, with the assumption that this will be an in-person meeting.

13. AOB

A request was made for a more careful timeline in future meetings to allow members more time to familiarise themselves with inputs to AC meetings. Co-chairs agreed and will request Secretariat to publish a new timeline for forthcoming work, suggesting an option for more frequent calls between working groups.

There was some discussion about the merits and options for hosting an AC Side Event at COP26 – information was to be circulated via email to members.

Members thanked the Secretariat and co-Chairs for their efforts and support.

Congratulations and thanks were offered to Pilar Bueno, long time member and former co-Chair of the AC, on the occasion of her last AC meeting.

14. Closing

The meeting was closed.