Third Workshop under the UAE–Belém work programme on indicators

Date: 21-22 March, 2025

Bonn, Germany

Live broadcast is here: 21 March, 22 March

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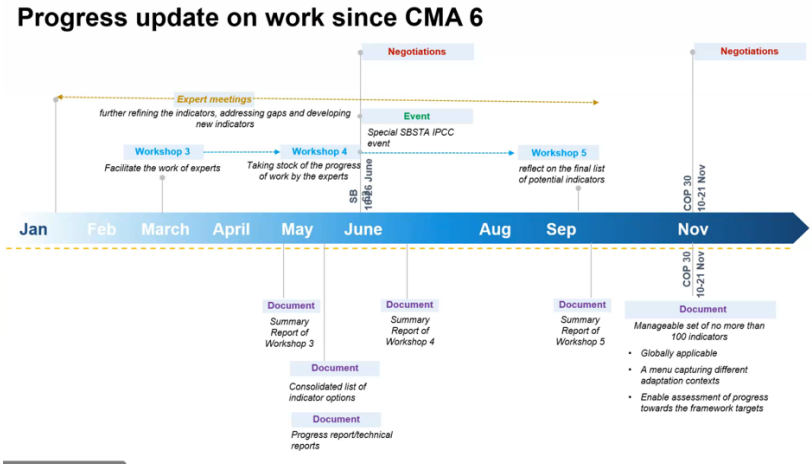
Day 1:

Short presentation by the secretariat on the experts' work in 2025

- 78 experts convened
- Compilation of 7,000 indicators, 2,000 indicators from the AC
- This is the third mandated workshop
- New guidance from CMA6 with additional criteria and considerations



Updates from experts: Water, Food, Health, Ecosystems, Infrastructure, Poverty and livelihoods, Cultural Heritage, Adaptation Cycle

- There is a need to address transboundary issues when it comes to water and has overlap with other indicators and targets.
- Expert groups are scoping new indicators
- Common challenges:
  - Limited Geographic Relevance: The indicators may only apply to a select group of countries.
  - Data Availability & Cost: Access to necessary data might be limited or prohibitively expensive.
  - Evolving Reporting Requirements: Reporting standards and frameworks are likely to change over time.

  - Ensuring Consistency in Indicators: It's essential to determine how to standardize indicators across diverse contexts.
  - Contextual Variations: Indicators may vary based on local circumstances and needs.
  - Attribution Challenges: Determining the specific causes and impacts associated with the indicators can be complex.
  - Flexible Indicator Set: Develop a customizable set of indicators that countries can choose from based on their unique contexts.
- The existing frameworks deal with data gaps.
- The presentation is highly impressive, demonstrating a substantial amount of work and technical expertise.
- It's great to see that experts were involved in delivering such comprehensive work.
- The depth, scope, and sophistication of the analysis introduce certain challenges.
- Are you concerned about the number of indicators assigned to you?
- Is it worrying that the indicators may be too high-level or difficult to manage effectively?
- Amazed at the amount of work that has been done so far. Understand the need for engaging with relevant parties and refining progress. Would like to see how the current issues will be addressed moving forward.
- Missing a critical point in assessing global indicators and providing a menu of indicators within the health group. There are many elements that could be tracked, and mortality could be used as one common element. Question on how adaptation and support are being engaged with in the dimensions group.
- The importance of transboundary issues is critical. Curious about how indigenous knowledge is incorporated into the framework.
- Ensure that the work focuses on adaptation rather than just broader actions. The biodiversity group's approach was interesting and should be incorporated, especially enabling factors, as these are important in the set of final indicators. Address concerns regarding the readiness of data for indicators and how to ensure smooth implementation.

Session 1: Data readiness for indicators

- Balancing potential trade-offs between short-term feasibility (using existing data) and long-term impact (developing new methodologies and data collection systems)
- Possibility of integrating alternative data sources or proxy indicators to fill gaps in data collection
- Should we prioritize selecting indicators already with data and established methodologies or should we include those indicators to drive future data collection and methodology development?
- What are the potential trade-offs between short-term feasibility (using existing data) and long-term impact (developing new methodologies and data collection systems)?
- How can we ensure that countries are not discouraged from reporting due to lack of data, but rather see it as an opportunity to build capacity?
- How can we integrate alternative data sources or proxy indicators to fill gaps in data collection? (e.g., impact indicators to measure outcome indicators)

- The approach might not be final and could span across different targets, requiring further discussion in upcoming sessions.
- There is a need to engage with various targets as the process progresses.
- Ensure indicators reflect and highlight racial issues affecting the African-descendant population, especially in their adaptation efforts in community and territorial settings in the outskirts of Brazil.
- Critically assess global and country-level data collection systems to identify gaps, focusing on available data. For example, data collected through SDG 6.1 and 6.2 is already being used by the water group.
- The World Bank is currently reporting on climate results and seeking eventual alignment with the GGA framework.
- within the global SDG context, existing NDCs may fit subcomponents, suggesting that focus should be on SDGs rather than developing overarching indexes.
- concerns about data readiness, emphasizing that countries should have more opportunities to improve data readiness and avoid data gaps. Existing materials should be utilized to capture national circumstances.
- Caution should be taken to avoid oversimplification and misalignment in interpretations when using proxy indicators.
- High data gaps in many countries could lead to inequality.
- create indicators based on available data and future data. Countries face limitations in data and capacity, and there is a need for common approaches to Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MOI).
- governance issues regarding data and reporting. Suggested restricting the number of indicators and making global risk adaptation actions voluntary.
- Reporting on Sendai with authorization from member states reduces reporting burdens. Within SDGs, countries don't need to report multiple times. Compound indicators may not be captured directly, but nested indicators (e.g., early warning systems) could be helpful.
- Data governance: An expected outcome at COP29 will focus on youth and young people, also relevant to the elderly. Early childhood is particularly vulnerable, as impacts on children under five years old can have lifelong consequences. Diseases like malaria affect children disproportionately.
- Emphasizing the importance of ensuring the voices of vulnerable groups, especially children, are heard and addressing their specific needs.
- What is listed in the planning stage should be incorporated into the policy cycle.
- Indigenous groups are a cross-cutting issue, especially in terms of adaptive capacities, with existing materials available.
- Human settlements and infrastructure are important factors to consider when developing indicators.

Session 2: Interlinkages across indicators

Panel discussions with experts on interlinkages across indicators with examples, where relevant, and associated challenges:
• cross-cutting indicators (social inclusion, Indigenous Peoples, human rights, gender equality, migrants, children and young people, and persons with disabilities);
• compound indicators;
• nested indicators;

• indicators that are relevant to multiple targets
How should cross-cutting indicators be included in the final list?
What are the key benefits of using compound and nested indicators? what gaps or challenges do they address?
What determines when an indicator should be structured as a compound indicator with sub-indicators, rather than as a standalone or multi-target indicator?
What challenges arise in aligning indicators across thematic and dimensional targets, and how can they be addressed?

- Looking at the consolidated list of indicators, there is an opportunity to revisit cross-cutting issues.
- There has been general encouragement to disaggregate indicators, but it should be more specific, making disaggregation a requirement unless there's a clear reason not to. Aggregation should be done by sex, age, and disability.
- It's crucial not to create uniformity across all targets.
- GGA needs to add value to the interlinkages between different targets.
- Regional and national contexts must be considered, especially where data is lacking, to avoid leaving behind countries.
- cross-cutting considerations should not be overemphasized at this time and emphasized the need for clear indicators now.
- cross-cutting considerations are important, especially gender. Compound indicators could and should provide a way to address these considerations. The real importance lies in the effectiveness of the measures, though there are challenges and weaknesses when aligning indicators across themes.

Day 2:

Session 3: Global indicators and overall trends and identified gaps and new indicators

Enablers and MOI

- What are some examples of indicators for enabling factors for the implementation of adaptation action, including means of implementation, that have been successfully utilized in other processes, and how could similar indicators be made applicable to the GGA?

- MOI assesses needs. What are the specific needs in this context?
- The importance of capacity building in addressing these needs.
- Assess whether there is the capacity to answer the issues and achieve adaptation outcomes.
- Infrastructure plays a significant role when looking at MOI and enablers.
- Debt has pros and cons in the context of financing.
- Conditional transfers and lending are important financial tools.
- Ecosystem group is involved in addressing finance and resource allocation related to biodiversity and ecosystem conservation.

- Existing processes already have MOI in adaptation.
- SDG 15, Target A, focuses on mobilizing finance from all sources to conserve biodiversity and ecosystems.
- Target B in SDG 15 focuses on forest management.
- Cultural heritage is a key area, involving finance and resource allocation, as well as the preservation of cultural heritage through both public and private funding.
- National and local budgets should be allocated to support cultural heritage.
- Capacity-building efforts should focus on training heritage and community leaders.
- The Sendai framework includes both outcome and output levels.
- SDG 17 works with the OECD and development assistance through their finance tracker.
- The methodology for finance is risk-sensitive.
- Sendai framework Target F is the least reported target, with only 104 reports submitted. There are challenges related to capacity building and technology.

- How do we ensure that global indicators reflect regional and national realities, while still providing a meaningful global assessment?
- Analyzing gaps and exploring the need for new indicators

- Output and outcome indicators should trigger action, with a focus on capacity building, tech transfer, finance, and MOI.
- MOI indicators are underreported in the Sendai Framework, with insurance seen as a key enabler.
- There is a need for indicators that drive real progress, but challenges include sector-specific MOIs and data reporting environments.
- The importance of measuring risk assessment, aligning indicators with SDGs, and addressing gaps in existing indicators.
- Data readiness is crucial for adaptation; methodological issues include tracking financial flows and ensuring risk-sensitive data.
- Experts seek to refine existing indicators and create a manageable number that reflect adaptation progress.
- A balanced approach to enablers and MOI indicators is needed, with flexibility for countries to report based on national circumstances.
- Capacity building, data collection, and clarity on expectations are essential to support meaningful reporting and adaptation progress.

Substantive overview of the workshop

The workshop is designed to facilitate expert deliberations on refining indicators under the UAE–Belém Work Programme. Following the initial review of indicators submitted in 2024, experts have assessed indicators based on their relevance to adaptation and to the targets. CMA 6 introduced additional criteria and considerations, including paragraphs 17 and 21, which guide the process of consolidating and finalizing indicators. Given the substantial technical work required within strict timelines, this

workshop will primarily serve as a working space for experts, with opportunities for Parties and observers to engage in discussions and receive updates.

- Updates since CMA 6s: the mandate from CMA 6 invites experts to ensure that they apply common approaches and methodologies, as appropriate, as they continue their work and to enhance collaboration among the experts working across both the thematic and dimensional targets with a view to identifying synergies, and facilitate contributions by experts from all geographical regions across all the targets. There will be a short presentation from the secretariat to update on the work of experts
- Data readiness for indicators: One of the new criteria from CMA 6 that experts may consider is 'the use of metrics where baselines exist', which follows discussions at previous workshops on data readiness, and the acknowledgement by Parties1 of its importance. This session will include insights from the IPCC as well as discussions on data feasibility and methodology development (para 17a-c, 3/CMA.6). Discussions will also focus on how to balance short-term feasibility (using existing data) with long-term impact (developing new methodologies and data collection systems).
- Interlinkages across targets: Another new criterion from CMA 6 is to consider the relevance to multiple thematic targets as well as outcome and output orientation (para 17d-e, , 3/CMA.6). Experts will also consider the benefits and feasibility of different types of indicators and provide examples, where relevant, and explore how these considerations could be integrated into the indicator process.
- Global indicators & overall trends and identified gaps and new indicators: Paragraph 10(c) of decision 3/CMA.6 invites experts to keep indicators that reflect overarching trends and common challenges. The workshop will be an opportunity to unpack this in more detail and explore the overarching trends and challenges that indicators should capture. In this session, participants can also unpack identified gaps and the need for the development of new indicators. Paragraph 10(d) of decision 3/CMA.6 invites experts to develop, if needed, or identify indicators from the existing compilation for enabling factors for the implementation of adaptation action, including means of implementation. Based on their review of indicators thus far, experts will have the opportunity to unpack and reflect on this as well as wider enabling factors that could be reflected in the indicator list, and how such indicators can provide a catalyst for increasing adaptation actions.