

Session: Twenty-eight meeting of the Adaptation Committee (hybrid meeting)

Location: Bonn, Germany and online via Teams

Date and Time: Sep 15 - 19, 2025

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

Attended by: RINGO nominated observers;

- **Pan Ei Ei Phyo**, Climate and Water Policy Consultant, Alliance for Global Water Adaptation(AGWA)
- **Lucia Ravens**, Tufts University Institute of the Environment
- **Emilie Beauchamp** (PhD), Lead on MEL for climate change adaptation, International Institute for Sustainable Development (Supported by Hillary Rosentreter, Policy Advisor, Tracking Progress, International Institute for Sustainable Development)
- **Gregg Walker**, Mediators Beyond Borders International, the International Environmental Communication Association, and Oregon State University (USA) - virtual, with some technical problems accessing the meeting

Summary

The twenty-eight meeting of the Adaptation Committee (AC) was held again in a hybrid format between 15-19 September 2025 in Bonn, Germany, with the option of virtual attendance via MS Teams space. The schedule of work for AC28 can be found at:

<https://unfccc.int/documents/649777>

Please see here for AC28 landing page: <https://unfccc.int/event/AC-28>

An annotated agenda can be found here: <https://unfccc.int/documents/649429>

Direct links to the AC27 YouTube Livestreaming

- Day 1: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLBcZ22cUY9RKr5idw-X9u-RFs05r3blbh>
- Day 2: https://www.youtube.com/live/cb69aYTp_3w?si=U0edETLMp5QiqHHg
- Day 3: <https://www.youtube.com/live/OoliXiRdBPE?si=rvY8kYZ2uZpAP7PQ>
- Day 4: https://www.youtube.com/live/_Eq8AanDCqM?si=QPvU3qLfJwEhOvH6

Summary / overarching notes:

- **Advancing Technical Guidance and Coherence:** Members reaffirmed that the AC's comparative advantage lies in synthesising knowledge and providing practical, demand-driven guidance. Strong convergence emerged on adopting a stepwise, evidence-based approach, beginning with scoping notes, mapping, and case studies

before developing comprehensive technical tools. The Committee sought to improve coherence across workstreams—especially between impact, vulnerability and risk assessment (IVRA), adaptive capacity, and monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL)—to create an integrated analytical foundation for the UAE Framework.

- **Operationalising the UAE Framework and the GGA:** Several agenda items focused on translating the UAE Framework's objectives into actionable support for Parties. The AC endorsed updates to technical guidance and training materials, emphasising accessibility and regional balance. Members also discussed how the Committee's deliverables—particularly the State of Adaptation Action Portal and the forthcoming 2026 Synthesis Report—can inform collective progress tracking under the Paris Agreement and recognition of developing-country efforts.
- **Enhancing Collaboration and Partnerships:** The AC reviewed a draft note on criteria for collaboration with external experts and organisations, stressing transparency, voluntary participation, and balanced regional representation. Members proposed adopting flexible engagement modalities, including expert task groups, peer reviews, and joint products with other constituted bodies. Offers of collaboration from UNDRR, IOM, and other partners highlighted opportunities to connect the AC's analytical work with operational initiatives on the ground.
- **Communications, Visibility, and Outreach:** The Committee reviewed progress on the AC's Communications and Engagement Strategy and endorsed a unified narrative centred on the UAE Framework. Members launched the Adaptation Action Newsletter—a quarterly product to share updates across adaptation bodies—and requested stronger regional storytelling, accessibility, and alignment with upcoming milestones such as COP30 (Belém) and the 2026 Adaptation Forum.

1. Opening and welcome

2. Organisational matters

2a. Adoption of the agenda

Document: <https://unfccc.int/documents/649429>

The agenda was adopted as presented.

2c. Organisation of work

The organization of work for the meeting was agreed as proposed.

3. Report back on accomplished and finalized work

Date: 16 September 2025

Time: First presentation of the day

Doc: Agenda item 3 (not available)

Presentation: <https://unfccc.int/documents/649949>

Background: A Focus on deliverables accomplished between AC 27 and now

The main points of discussion at AC28 were:

Participation in June Climate Meetings

- In session technical workshop to facilitate the design of gender action plan activities;
- In session workshop on systemic and holistic approaches to implementation of climate action on agriculture, food systems and food security, understanding, cooperation and integration into plans:
- ACE Dialogue
- 2025 Ocean and Climate Change Dialogue
- Global Center on Adaptation's consultation on adaptation education;
- Submission of written input for 9th Meeting of informal coordination group for capacity-building under the Convention and the Paris Agreement.

Participation in regional Climate Weeks 2025

- Latin America Climate Week: 19-23 May 2025, Panama City, Panama
- Africa Climate Week: 1-6 September 2025, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

AC's technical session at NAP Expo 2025

Navigating the landscape of support for the process to formulate and implement NAP's

- Training for participants on the landscape of support on AC's online tool
 - Panel Discussion on GCF's role within the landscape of financial support and country experiences in identifying support opportunities for NAP's
- Practical exercise to collect feedback from participants on how best to update and further develop the online tool.

State of Adaptation Action by the Parties

Update on the AC's Interactive portal

Key points:

- Comprehensive & validated information on national adaptation arrangements and actions for all 198 UNFCCC Parties
- A wide range of filtering options allowing quick access to the information that the visitor is interested in.
- A non-exhaustive list of external portals which provide complementary information on adaptation

Publications

- Mapping of technical guidance and training materials to support the implementation of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience
 - Recognizing the adaptation efforts of developing countries parties
- Synthesis report on institutional arrangements & stakeholders engagement

Additional Activities

- Participation in 2025 Forum on Standing Committee on Finance (SCF)
- Input for SCF draft guidance to operating entities of the Financial Mechanisms
- Participation in Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning for National Adaptation Plans in Latin America webinar
- Participating in the 26th Advisory Board meeting of the CTNC

Next Steps

- AC to discuss lessons learnt for future work as needed, and agree on next steps as appropriate

4. Impact, vulnerability and risk assessment

Date: 18 Sep 2025

Time: 14:20

Doc: <https://unfccc.int/documents/649778>

Presentation: <https://unfccc.int/documents/649962>

Background:

Building on guidance from AC26 and AC27, this agenda item addressed the Adaptation Committee's work on impact, vulnerability and risk (IVR) assessments: a foundational component of adaptation planning and implementation. Paragraph 10(a) of decision 2/CMA.5 sets a collective target for all Parties to conduct up-to-date assessments of climate hazards, impacts, and exposure to vulnerabilities by 2030, using results to inform NAPs, NDCs, and adaptation communications.

The Secretariat introduced document AC28/CN/4, outlining potential activities to support Parties in strengthening IVR assessment capacity and integration into decision-making. The work aligns with the AC's mandate under the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience to provide technical guidance and training materials, and to contribute to tracking collective progress under the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA).

The main points of discussion at AC28 were:

- Clarifying Scope and Technical Focus: Members agreed that the work should ensure regional balance and address multiple governance levels (national to local), focusing on institutional capacity-building and the use of assessments in policy decisions. However, there were mixed views on the level of ambition and sequencing. Some members supported moving forward on the full sequence proposed in the concept note—covering case studies, expert meetings, and a technical paper. Others preferred a stepwise approach, beginning with a concise guidance or concept paper to refine objectives and identify where the AC can add value before expanding to broader technical work.
- Relation to Adaptive Capacity Assessment (Agenda Item 5): Several members emphasised the conceptual overlap between Impact, Vulnerable, Risk Assessment and adaptive capacity assessments. It was agreed that adaptive capacity should be treated as an integral component of vulnerability and risk assessment, rather than a separate or

duplicative activity. The next concept note should clarify these interlinkages, including how adaptive capacity informs exposure, sensitivity, and overall risk.

- Conceptual and Methodological Framing: Members agreed that the AC's role is not to "ensure" or "harmonise" national methodologies but to synthesise existing tools, identify data and governance gaps, and showcase good practices. UNDRR and UNU offered to contribute their ongoing work on risk assessment methodologies, data systems, and disaster-loss tracking tools. (UNDRR: [Tracking losses and damages — turning impact data into action](#))
- Data Systems and Use of Assessments: Several interventions stressed the importance of understanding how countries use risk assessment results: how these feed into NAPs, NDCs, and national planning processes. Members called for more insight into data quality, accessibility, and validation, noting that poor data systems often constrain effective risk-based decision-making.
- Collaboration and Value Addition: It was agreed that the AC's contribution should focus on identifying gaps and synthesising country experience rather than replicating technical guidance already produced by partners (UNDRR, WMO, LEG, PCCB, and WIM ExCom). Members highlighted the need to clarify the AC's added value, especially in supporting countries with limited capacity to interpret and apply assessment results.
- Proposed Next Steps and Timeline: Members reviewed the Secretariat's proposed roadmap:
 - Q1 2026: Establish a working group to refine objectives and scope.
 - By AC29: Identify case studies, draft an outline for a technical paper.
 - Q2 2026: Hold an expert meeting.
 - Mid-late 2026: Organise a capacity-building workshop.
- Most members supported this sequenced plan, though with a lighter initial phase focused on scoping and literature review before committing to resource-intensive activities.
- Convergences and Divergences
 - Convergence: Agreement on a stepwise approach, beginning with refinement of the concept note and mapping existing methodologies and data systems. Broad support for exploring synergies with adaptive capacity assessment work.
 - Divergence: Some members preferred to advance directly into case studies and expert meetings, while others urged consolidating the conceptual basis and AC niche first.
- Much of the discussion focused on requesting the Secretariat produce a concept note for consideration, with a step-by-step approach to possible activities, and taking into account regional differences
- One member raised concerns about the possibility of duplicating work if there is not clarity on impact, vulnerability, and risk assessment as well as adaptive capacity and how those things differ and connect. He suggested establishing an understanding of the commonalities so the AC could be sure to avoid the duplication of work in their requests to the Secretariat. Other members supported these efforts to reduce duplication.

Summary Outcome:

The AC considered agenda item 4 on impact, vulnerability and risk assessment and agreed to request the secretariat to develop, for consideration by AC 29, an overview note on the application of impact, vulnerability and risk assessments in different countries, reflecting case studies from different regions and adaptation contexts, with a view to identifying additional areas of work by the AC.

5. Adaptive capacity assessment

Date: 18 Sep 2025

Time: 11:00

Doc: <https://unfccc.int/documents/649779>

Presentation: <https://unfccc.int/documents/649960>

Background:

Adaptive capacity: the ability of systems, institutions, and communities to adjust to potential damage, take advantage of opportunities, or respond to consequences, is a key determinant of climate resilience. However, methodologies for assessing it remain less standardised and inconsistently applied, especially in developing country contexts. Recognising this, the AC aims to bridge conceptual and operational gaps by clarifying the definition of adaptive capacity, mapping existing tools, and exploring how assessments can inform NAPs, adaptation communications, and tracking under the GGA. This effort aligns with paragraph 44 of decision 2/CMA.5, which requests enhanced technical guidance and training materials to support the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience.

The Secretariat introduced document AC28/CN/5, which outlines potential activities on adaptive capacity assessment under the AC's 2025–2027 flexible workplan. The presentation recalled that at AC26, members recognised adaptive capacity as a foundational element of effective adaptation planning, implementation, and monitoring, and at AC27, agreed to revisit this topic at AC28.

The concept note proposes a sequence of activities aimed at clarifying the conceptual basis, methodologies, and practical applications of adaptive capacity assessments, identifying existing tools and gaps, and aligning with the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience and the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA).

The Secretariat outlined potential deliverables:

- A technical review and mapping of adaptive capacity assessment methodologies and tools;
- A concise guidance note clarifying the concept, role, and application of adaptive capacity assessment;
- A compilation of case studies illustrating effective practices; and
- A knowledge-exchange session with key partners such as the IPCC, LEG, CGE, and PCCB.

The main points of discussion at AC28 were:

Members broadly welcomed the concept note and reaffirmed the importance of advancing the AC's work on adaptive capacity as part of strengthening global understanding of resilience and enabling more robust adaptation planning.

- **Clarifying the Objective and Scope:** There was convergence that the initial focus should be on conceptual clarification rather than methodological standardisation. Members agreed that before developing technical products or guidance, the AC needs to articulate a shared understanding of what constitutes adaptive capacity, how it is assessed, and what purpose such assessments serve (e.g. policy design, MEL, or reporting).
- **Conceptual vs. Operational Focus:** Some members emphasised that adaptive capacity should be framed as a cross-cutting enabler across the adaptation cycle—relevant to risk assessment, planning, and implementation—rather than as a stand-alone measurement domain. Others preferred keeping the focus narrower, to develop a conceptual foundation that can later inform technical methodologies.
- **Relationship to Other AC Workstreams:** Several interventions stressed the need to align this work with other ongoing activities, including the AC's MEL work (Agenda Item 7) and the technical guidance being developed under paragraph 44 of decision 2/CMA.5. Members also encouraged collaboration with LEG, CGE, PCCB, and NWP, to draw on existing expertise and avoid duplication.
- **Level of Ambition and Deliverables:** There was consensus that the AC should start with a concise concept note or technical guidance paper, serving as a “starting step” for subsequent work. Some members proposed organising a single knowledge-sharing event or webinar rather than multiple expert meetings, to test ideas and identify partners.
- **Convergence and Divergence**
 - **Convergence:** The AC agreed on the value of clarifying the concept and role of adaptive capacity as foundational to effective adaptation.
 - **Divergence:** Some members wished to maintain a light, conceptual focus, while others favoured exploring practical deliverables (e.g., case studies or pilot assessments).
 - One member raised the point that collaboration with constituted bodies is not an option but rather a requirement to get the work done, and thus it was removed from the list of options and the Secretariat will update this for the concept note.
 - There were notable disagreements on the scope proposed by the various options, which slowed discussions.
 - Another member noted that it will be important to understand what information and data are being used by governments of all levels to perform their assessments
 - There was a brief intervention by a member during the next agenda items about how the co-chair handled this agenda item (5) and closed by saying she would speak bilaterally with one of the country representatives to try reaching an agreement. This point of order was raised because the member did not want to set a precedent of this happening.

Summary outcome

The AC considered agenda item 5 on adaptive capacity assessment and requested the secretariat to develop a concise concept note clarifying the concept, role and application of adaptive capacity assessments, to serve as a starting point for discussion at AC 29, with a view to identifying potential deliverables.

6. Support for planning and implementation

6. (a) Update of the online resource on navigating the landscape of support for the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans

Date: 19 Sep 2025

Time: 14:49

Doc: <https://unfccc.int/documents/649773>

Presentation: <https://unfccc.int/documents/649950>

Background:

The *Navigating the Landscape of Support* online resource, first published in 2015 and updated in 2022, provides an overview of financial, technological, and capacity-building support available to developing countries engaged in NAP formulation and implementation. At AC27, the Committee decided to update the resource periodically, beginning in 2025, and requested a concept note outlining options for enhancing its content, structure, and engagement with external partners. The Secretariat presented document AC28/CN/6A, building on feedback from the 2025 NAP Expo in Lusaka, Zambia, where participants confirmed the tool's value for identifying and accessing support but called for more regionally tailored information, dynamic functionality, and integration with the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience.

The note proposed a modular approach for the update, divided into three phases (2025–2027), and two options for the finance section:

- Option 1: Maintain the scope of the 2022 version and update data.
- Option 2: Expand coverage to include all sources of adaptation finance, including support for enhancing access capacities (costing, investment planning, proposal development).

The main points of discussion at AC28 were:

- **Scope and Alignment:** Members agreed that the update should align with the language of key frameworks, including the GGA, NCQG, and Articles 7 and 9 of the Paris Agreement, to ensure coherence across finance and adaptation processes. Several interventions stressed that the update must reflect evolving means of implementation discussions and avoid duplicating other knowledge platforms.
- **Finance Section and Options:** Members converged that merging Options 1 and 2 would be most appropriate. The merged approach would retain the core 2022 structure while adding information on support to strengthen country capacity for accessing finance. However, members cautioned against the phrase “all sources of adaptation finance”, preferring the framing of “support for types of adaptation activities” or “focus areas”. Several members underlined that the finance for development and support channels sections required clearer articulation to distinguish between funding sources (e.g., GCF, Adaptation Fund, bilateral donors) and areas of focus (e.g., investment planning, proposal design).

- **Timing and Workload Management:** While all members supported the update, some questioned the timeline. A few members proposed deferring concept note revision to AC29, considering membership turnover and workload, whereas others preferred advancing intersessionally to maintain momentum and fairness to the Secretariat.
- **Engagement with External Experts and Stakeholders:** The Secretariat proposed inviting inputs from operating entities, regional centres, and experts linked to the UAE–Belém Work Programme thematic areas. Members supported this, noting the importance of clear criteria for collaboration (linked to Agenda Item 14(b)). Collaboration with the LEG, PCCB, and CGE was encouraged to ensure consistency across guidance materials and training resources.
- **Functionality and Knowledge Value:** Members highlighted the importance of maintaining the resource as an accessible and user-friendly knowledge product, not merely a static database. The NAP Expo feedback underscored demand for regional-level information, integration with the State of Adaptation Action Portal, and usability improvements such as filtering, tagging, and multilingual options.
- **Convergences and Divergences**
 - **Convergence:** Broad support for merging Options 1 and 2, aligning with the GGA and NCQG, and advancing a modular update starting in 2025. Strong emphasis on maintaining the tool as a live knowledge resource and not reopening its scope entirely.
 - **Divergence:** Differing views on whether to finalise the concept note intersessionally or postpone detailed revision to AC29.
- Secretariat heard feedback about wanting a product that is useable and importantly useful to the outside world
- It was said in feedback that the tool is useful, but people want local and Indigenous knowledge to be included, want the tool to include information on subnational levels too for practitioners, could have the option to share peer experiences, allow support providers to post about their opportunities, make it more dynamic with filtering options (hazard, regions, etc...), different languages, user accounts to save preferences, and link with other platforms so users can go deeper elsewhere if they want
- Modular phase to the update, updating data first and then update on support available for adaptation planning in line with thematic and then dimensional targets, 2026 would add filtering and more interactive functions, and 2027 phase would look into AI tools and user accounts
- No discussion about the NAP Guidelines published in August
- One member said many of the participants at the feedback sessions at the NAP Expo were practitioners, from developing countries, and included many young people
- Another member said some of the language needs to be changed to reflect agreed language among parties before the concept note can be moved forward (all hazards > climate impacts)
- A member emphasized that the tool should be expanded to be more interactive rather than just a repository of information and asked for more time to consider the options before making a decision
- One member was keen to go ahead with a number of the proposed updates.

Summary Output

The AC agreed to update the information contained in the online resource within its current scope. The AC also requested the secretariat to prepare a revised document, including on the scope of the next update, for consideration during the intersessional period.

6. (b) AC thematic dialogues

Date: 17 September 2025

Time: morning

Doc: <https://unfccc.int/documents/649764>

Presentation: <https://unfccc.int/documents/649951>

Background:

The main points of discussion at AC28 were:

Summary Outcome:

The AC considered a draft concept note for the next thematic dialogue and requested the secretariat to:

- Expand the scope to invite the Adaptation Fund to provide updates and make corresponding adjustments to the agenda, while maintaining the proposed timeframe of two hours;
- Merge the two options proposed in the concept note and include (1) experiences from countries and (2) information from support brokers on facilitating developing countries' access to adaptation finance;
- Plan for a globally focused webinar to be held in the first half of 2026, while assessing the possibility of organizing it before the end of 2025;
- Assess options for organizing the dialogue in person or virtually and share updates on the draft agenda and possible dates for consideration during the intersessional period.
- Consider issues related to data gathering and analysis, technology, and education

The AC agreed to make a recording of the dialogues available for information and training purposes. It also considered possible themes for future thematic dialogues.

7. Monitoring, evaluation and learning

Date: 18.09.2025

Time: Morning

Doc: Not Available

Presentation: Not Available

Background:

MEL is central to tracking progress on adaptation and informing the iterative process of planning and implementation. Under its mandate, the AC supports Parties in developing national and subnational MEL systems, documenting good practices, and fostering a learning-oriented approach to adaptation governance. The MEL toolkit and accompanying case studies have been widely used by developing countries and partners to enhance evidence-based adaptation

reporting and evaluation, and they directly contribute to operationalising the Global Goal on Adaptation by improving understanding of progress and gaps.

The Secretariat presented the update on the AC's work on Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL), including progress since AC27 and planned activities under the 2025–2027 flexible workplan. The presentation recalled that MEL is a long-standing workstream of the AC and one of its most utilised technical resources. The Secretariat highlighted three key updates:

1. The forthcoming update of the MEL guidance toolkit, building on feedback from Parties and lessons from the pilot toolkit launched in 2021;
2. Opportunities to align MEL approaches with the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience, particularly its target areas on adaptation planning, implementation, and reporting; and
3. Exploration of linkages between MEL systems and other thematic work—such as adaptive capacity assessment (Agenda Item 5) and data systems (Agenda Item 11)—to ensure coherence across AC outputs.

The main points of discussion at AC28 were:

- Alignment with the UAE Framework and GGA: Members emphasised that MEL should remain a core analytical backbone of the AC's work, supporting the operationalisation of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience and helping Parties to report under the Global Goal on Adaptation. There was convergence that MEL frameworks must evolve alongside the GGA's forthcoming indicator system to ensure relevance.
- Streamlining and User-Friendliness: Members highlighted the need to make MEL tools more accessible and practical for developing countries, avoiding overly technical formats. They agreed to maintain a learning-oriented approach that supports practitioners and policymakers alike.
- Integration with Other Workstreams: There was broad consensus that MEL should be embedded across AC workstreams, serving as a cross-cutting function linking guidance on adaptive capacity (Agenda Item 5), data systems (Agenda Item 11), and technical training materials (Agenda Item 8). Members welcomed the Secretariat's proposal to produce cross-referenced modules so that MEL elements are reflected consistently throughout AC outputs.
- Collaboration and Knowledge Exchange: Several members supported enhanced collaboration with the PCCB, LEG, and CGE, noting synergies with capacity-building and reporting processes. Members also proposed documenting case studies from developing countries that demonstrate practical MEL systems, including participatory and gender-responsive approaches.
- Convergences and Divergences
 - Convergence: Agreement on the importance of MEL as an enabler of evidence-based adaptation, and support for aligning the MEL toolkit with the UAE Framework and GGA indicators.
 - Divergence: Some members preferred updating existing materials incrementally, while others advocated for a comprehensive overhaul of the toolkit to reflect new global guidance.

- One member brought up the possibility of closing this agenda item.
- Another member suggested the AC wait for COP 30 in Belem, see how that goes and then decide on what happens to the MEL agenda item.
- A member asked about what would be lost along the way if this agenda item is closed, approaching it from simply wanting to understand.
- One member proposed a concept note that goes beyond MEL and looks at the broader picture of what MEL interacts with (not completely clear what was meant by this).
- Another member is concerned that some other paras (such as 44 from decision 2/CMA.5) are not getting as much attention as MEL and that MEL is taking away from the opportunities to consider other parts of the decision. He also wanted a decision to be taken on how technical guidelines will be updated.
- This discussion was quite lengthy, illustrating the importance of this topic area.

Summary Output

- The AC reflected on the activities carried out to date in the area of monitoring, evaluation and learning, and considered possible follow-up work. The AC decided to update the MEL toolkit.

8. Technical guidance and training materials to support the implementation of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience (in collaboration with the CGE and LEG)

Date: 16.09.2025

Time: 11:15 - 12:45

Doc: <https://unfccc.int/documents/649765>

Presentation: <https://unfccc.int/documents/649956>

Background:

Under the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience adopted at CMA6 (decision 2/CMA.5), Parties agreed that the AC, LEG, and CGE should collaboratively enhance technical capacity and support implementation through actionable, demand-driven guidance. This work builds upon earlier outputs such as the mapping of technical guidance (2024) and aligns with the AC's flexible workplan (2025–2027). The Framework seeks to operationalise the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) through 11 thematic targets, and this agenda item represents the AC's key operational contribution to that mandate.

The Secretariat introduced document AC/STRAT/8, presenting the updated draft strategy paper on technical guidance and training materials to support the implementation of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience. The presentation recalled the mandate under paragraph 44 of decision 2/CMA.5 and outlined progress achieved, including the publication of a user-friendly mapping of existing materials and the identification of over 130 capacity-building and knowledge gaps across sectors such as water, agriculture, health, ecosystems, and monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL). Four types of potential deliverables were proposed: thematic guidance briefs, online learning modules, peer learning exchanges, and tailored in-person training. The AC was invited to agree on an initial set of deliverables and advise on prioritisation given limited resources.

The main points of discussion at AC28 were:

Members recognised that the work on technical guidance and training materials represents one of the AC's most tangible contributions to the implementation of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience. The discussion reflected a shared understanding that the mandate provides both an opportunity and a challenge: to demonstrate the AC's leadership in shaping actionable tools for Parties, while ensuring complementarity and avoiding duplication with other constituted bodies.

There was broad agreement that progress should be incremental, pragmatic, and resource-conscious. Members supported a stepwise approach, beginning with the consolidation and updating of existing products before expanding into new training materials. The Secretariat's mapping exercise had shown a significant imbalance: 79% of existing materials were guidance documents, while only 21% were structured training products, indicating that much of the available content remains theoretical rather than practice-oriented. Members agreed that this gap underscores the need for user-centred, application-focused products capable of building institutional and local capacity.

A strong convergence emerged around the value of modular, digital formats—such as e-learning courses, interactive briefs, or hybrid peer-learning exchanges—that would improve accessibility and cost-effectiveness while reducing barriers for developing country practitioners. Several members emphasised that online formats would allow continuous updates, localisation, and translation, ensuring that capacity-building remains dynamic as the UAE Framework evolves.

However, discussions revealed two different schools of thought on how to operationalise this mandate:

- **Consolidation Approach (Converging on Practicality):** A number of members favoured building upon what already exists within the AC's portfolio: such as the MEL Guidance Toolkit and Navigating the Landscape of Support and repackaging these into training-ready formats (e.g. annotated slide decks, explainer briefs, or online repositories). This approach was seen as a low-cost, high-impact option that would demonstrate progress before COP30, maintain coherence with the flexible workplan, and avoid overburdening the Secretariat.
- **Targeted Innovation Approach (Diverging on Ambition):** Others argued that consolidation alone would not meet the expectations of Parties nor the scale of capacity gaps identified. They urged the AC to design new, thematic training modules on priority topics such as adaptive capacity, vulnerability, and risk assessment: areas that align with the UAE Framework's thematic targets and where developing countries have repeatedly expressed demand. Such pilot modules could serve as “early deliverables” to test the AC's approach to learning tools before COP30 and demonstrate leadership in operationalising the GGA.

A recurring thread across both perspectives was the question of collaboration versus ownership. While members agreed that the AC must engage actively with partners such as the LEG, CGE, PCCB, and relevant UN agencies (FAO, WHO, GCF) to ensure complementarity, several cautioned that the Committee should retain intellectual and institutional ownership of the final products. Existing resources from external entities can inform and enrich the process, but the AC's role should

be to contextualise these within the UNFCCC adaptation architecture and ensure technical consistency.

There was also forward-looking convergence that any new guidance or training should be designed with flexibility to integrate future decisions and indicators under the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), expected from COP30 in Belém. Members from developing countries in particular highlighted that once the GGA indicator framework is finalised, many countries—especially LDCs and SIDS—will face steep learning and implementation demands, requiring strong, practical, and easily accessible training support from the AC and its partners.

- One member asked how to balance the AC setting their own deliverables with the knowledge that they will likely be mandated further deliverables at COP 30 in Belem just a couple months away.
- Looking into the sources, it appears 80% of them are guidance and only 20% are training, so two members flagged this gap as something to fix
- One member also noted that a number of the resources are older and perhaps out of date and cautioned against the AC becoming a body that simply projects the reports and products of other UN agencies, as it is its own body that can and should produce its own work, as it as key representation and can provide a unique perspective on a variety of issues at hand

Summary Outcome:

The AC considered the advanced strategy paper prepared for this agenda item and agreed to request the secretariat to prepare a concept note, for consideration at AC 29, outlining an initial set of deliverables under two tracks:

- (a) Using and updating existing technical guidance and training materials;
- (b) Developing new training products (e.g. online modules).

The AC also agreed to continue collaboration with the LEG and the CGE under this mandate and to assess additional collaboration opportunities with the PCCB.

9. Recommendations on how to improve reporting on adaptation action and progress (in collaboration with the CGE and LEG)

Date: 19.09.2025

Time: Morning

Doc: <https://unfccc.int/documents/649766>

Presentation: <https://unfccc.int/documents/649966>

Background:

Under paragraph 45 of decision 2/CMA.5, the Adaptation Committee (AC), in collaboration with the CGE and LEG, was mandated to develop recommendations on how to improve reporting on adaptation action and progress—particularly to inform the future review of the ETF's modalities, procedures and guidelines (MPGs) and the training course for BTR review experts.

At AC 27, members requested the secretariat to prepare an updated mapping and analysis of existing adaptation-reporting requirements, guidelines, and practices (AC28/INFO/9), along with options for timelines and next steps. At AC 28, the secretariat presented document AC28/9, which outlines two draft timeline options:

- Option 1: final recommendations by 2027 (aligned with the ETF review cycle);
- Option 2: a condensed schedule delivering most recommendations by 2026, before the second GST and anticipated MPG review.

Four areas of recommendation were presented and seek AC inputs:

Improving coherence and clarity across existing reporting vehicles (NAPs, adcoms, BTRs, NDCs, NCs); Enhancing the adaptation-related section of ETF MPGs; Updating the BTR reviewer training course to reflect new adaptation-reporting experience; and Establishing long-term AC–CGE–LEG coordination and support for capacity building.

The main points of discussion at AC28 were:

- Overall Direction and Timelines: Members reaffirmed the importance of this workstream as a pillar of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience and agreed that the process should remain stepwise and collaborative with other constituted bodies. There was broad convergence that a 2026 timeline (Option 2) would be more responsive to the expected review of the MPGs and the CMA 7 outcomes of the UAE–Belém Work Programme on Indicators. However, some members cautioned that an overly compressed schedule might limit consultation with Parties and result in fragmented recommendations.
- Scope and Sequencing: Members supported structuring the work into phased deliverables, beginning with a call for submissions (early 2026) and an information note synthesising findings from NDCs, BTRs, NAPs, and Adcoms. The first recommendations could then be drawn from analytical work already under way within the CGE, LEG, and AC. Several members stressed that recommendations should clarify definitions of “adaptation progress” and reporting purpose—avoiding additional burden on Parties while ensuring alignment with the GGA’s thematic targets.
- Collaboration with CGE and LEG” There was strong support for maintaining joint working sessions with the CGE and LEG, building on early experiences from regional training workshops and NAP progress reporting. Members highlighted complementarities: the CGE brings expertise in adaptation reporting and training for BTRs, while the LEG contributes insights from NAP formulation and progress monitoring.
- Technical and Political Balance: Interventions emphasised the need to balance technical precision with political feasibility. Some members proposed including flexibility clauses for voluntary reporting elements and addressing the needs of developing countries with limited capacity or data availability. Others highlighted that recommendations should promote greater coherence across reporting vehicles, including through the potential creation of a voluntary “Adaptation Progress Annex” in BTRs.
- Linkages to Other Workstreams: The Committee noted strong interlinkages with:
 - the GGA indicators (under the UAE–Belém Work Programme);
 - the MEL guidance update (Agenda 7); and

- the State of Adaptation Action by Parties portal (Agenda 10), which could serve as a complementary data repository.
- Convergences and Divergences
 - Convergence: broad agreement on adopting the condensed 2026 timeline (Option 2); sequencing the work through submissions → expert meeting → draft recommendations; and prioritising coherence and complementarity across reporting vehicles.
 - Divergence: some preferred a light, conceptual first step; others urged earlier drafting of substantive technical recommendations tied to the ETF review.
- Ensuring no additional reporting burden for parties
- One member wanted to ensure the AC would not only limit the scope to progress, but also have space for challenges and other aspects of adaptation that aren't just progress and cautioned against taking any further steps beyond calling for submissions and synthesizing them at this stage, and to leave further steps for decision at AC 29
- Many members were interested in requesting the mandate cover: addressing and improving existing vehicles and guidelines; improving the adaptation-related section of the MPGs from the ETF; and improving the training course for BTR review experts. Fewer members were interested in having the mandate request the LEG, CGE, and AC provide long-term support for adaptation reporting.

Summary Outcome:

- The AC agreed to adopt a stepwise approach to define the timeline and prepare recommendations in response to the mandate. The AC requested the secretariat to prepare a note, for consideration at AC 29, describing the status quo of adaptation reporting vehicles, guidelines and MPGs. The AC further agreed to invite the CGE to provide draft elements for recommendations on the training course and to indicate where further work is needed. The AC also agreed to launch a call for submissions to support the development of recommendations in the context of this mandate. Also decided that initial recommendations will be developed inter-sessionally and presented at AC 30 for inclusion in the Committee's 2026 annual report to SB 65, COP 31 and CMA 8.

10. State of Adaptation Action by Parties

Date: 19.09.2025

Time: 9:30

Doc: Not available

Presentation: Not available

Background:

The Chair invited the Secretariat to provide an oral update on the State of Adaptation Action by Parties Portal, a web-based database compiling information from national adaptation plans (NAPs), adaptation communications, BTRs, and NDCs. The update informed members that 198 country profiles had been validated by focal points and national adaptation contact persons. The portal will remain a living product, updated whenever new national information becomes available, and will serve as an input to the AC's forthcoming synthesis work.

The main points of discussion at AC28 were:

- **Progress and Validation:** Members welcomed the confirmation that validation with Parties had been completed and recognised the Secretariat's effort in building a transparent and credible evidence base. Several members stressed that the portal helps to recognise developing-country efforts and should continue to be expanded as new reports are released.
- **Update Frequency and Cut-off Dates:** Many interventions called for clear procedures on when updates will be made and how new information will be incorporated into future synthesis reports. Some supported an ad hoc update approach to stay current; others preferred a defined annual or semi-annual cycle with formal notification to focal points.
- **Technical and Communication Improvements:** Suggestions included displaying the "last-updated" date for each country page, adding regional or thematic filters, and producing a table summarising the update status for review at the next AC meeting. Members proposed that the portal be featured at COP 30 and promoted through the Adaptation Action Newsletter to increase visibility and encourage partner support.
- **Use of Portal for Synthesis Work:** Members emphasised that the portal should underpin future analytical products, particularly the 2026 Recognition Synthesis Report, and link with other data-oriented activities under the AC.
- **Convergences and Divergences:**
 - Convergence: broad agreement on the portal's usefulness, need for continuous validation, and importance of showcasing developing-country progress.
 - Divergence: differing views on whether to keep updates informal and flexible or institutionalise a fixed reporting schedule.

Summary Outcome

The AC welcomed the completion of the interactive portal on the state of adaptation action by Parties and requested the secretariat to update it on a continuous basis. The AC further requested the secretariat to inform the AC, at AC 29, of the status of updates to each country profile and to prepare a concept note for the 2026 synthesis report, including a draft annotated outline and a proposed cut-off date for defining the database that will inform the report.

11. Recognising the adaptation efforts of developing country Parties

Date: 17 September

Time: 14:30

Doc: <https://unfccc.int/documents/649772>

Presentation: <https://unfccc.int/documents/649957>

Background:

The Secretariat recalled that at AC27, the Adaptation Committee agreed on the broad theme for its fourth synthesis report—to be published in 2026—by merging Option 3 ("Strengthening reporting and data systems for adaptation") and Option 4 ("Advancing adaptation through science, education, and technology collaboration"). The Secretariat presented an updated concept note and annotated outline, inviting members to refine the theme and provide further guidance on framing, scope, and objectives. The presentation noted that the synthesis report will aim to recognise developing countries' adaptation efforts, inform negotiations under the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), and provide practical insights on how data systems, science, and technology can strengthen adaptation planning, implementation, monitoring, and reporting.

The synthesis reports are key flagship products of the Adaptation Committee, mandated to distil lessons, good practices, and knowledge on adaptation across Parties and stakeholders.

The first three reports addressed:

1. Institutional arrangements and enabling environments (2018),
2. Stakeholder engagement and governance (2021), and
3. Lessons from the four elements of the adaptation cycle — risk and vulnerability assessment, planning, implementation, and monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) (2023).

Building on these, the fourth report (2026) aims to provide added value by exploring the interplay between data systems and knowledge collaboration as a means to strengthen adaptation action and reporting under the Paris Agreement.

The main points of discussion at AC28 were:

Members reaffirmed their agreement from AC27 to merge the two themes but differed on how to frame the relationship between data systems and science–education–technology collaboration and what the primary focus of the report should be.

- Clarifying the Objective and Scope of the Report: There was general convergence that the synthesis report should recognise developing country efforts and lessons in building robust data and information systems that underpin all stages of the adaptation policy cycle. Members agreed that data systems are not an end in themselves but a critical enabler of adaptation planning, implementation, and reporting. However, divergence emerged on the report's central lens:
 - Some members preferred a reporting and MEL focus, arguing that improved data systems should primarily strengthen national reporting processes and evidence-based monitoring of adaptation progress. This would also align with mandates under paragraph 45 of decision 2/CMA.5 on improving reporting of adaptation actions.
 - Others supported a broader adaptation cycle framing, viewing science, education, and technology collaboration as tools that drive not only reporting but also implementation and planning. They stressed that data systems should inform risk assessment and decision-making across all stages, not only ex-post reporting.
- Framing the Role of Science, Education, and Technology: A strong convergence emerged that science, education, and technology are integral to effective data systems. They provide the means to collect, process, and apply adaptation-relevant data, including traditional and Indigenous knowledge systems. Yet the interpretation differed:
 - Some viewed these as subcomponents of data systems—inputs that improve data quality and usability.
 - Others framed them as broader enablers of adaptation that should be recognised beyond data collection, supporting planning and implementation through research collaboration, innovation, and capacity building.
 - Some members underlined that data infrastructure, technology access, and capacity remain major constraints. Establishing national data systems and platforms is resource-intensive, and many countries lack the necessary scientific capacity and institutional linkages to sustain them. Therefore, the synthesis report should highlight

these structural challenges and recommend approaches for enhancing science-policy linkages and technology partnerships.

- Ensuring Added Value and Avoiding Overlap: Several members stressed the need for the fourth synthesis report to add value beyond the previous reports. Since earlier reports had already synthesised findings on the adaptation cycle and MEL, the new report should not revisit these topics but instead examine how data systems and science collaboration can enhance them in practice. This would provide continuity while avoiding duplication.
- Title, Structure, and Framing Options: Different formulations for the report's title were discussed:
 - "Strengthening data systems for adaptation through science, education, and technology collaboration."
 - "Role of science, technology, and education in strengthening data systems for adaptation."
 - "Science, technology, and education in advancing adaptation action."

Some members preferred to keep "data systems" in the title, noting it was the "bridging element" that links the merged options, while others suggested broadening it to "advancing adaptation action" to capture implementation and planning dimensions. The compromise emerging from the discussion was to retain data systems as the central entry point, but articulate how these systems contribute to all four elements of the adaptation cycle from risk assessment and planning to implementation, MEL, and reporting.

- Divergences in Emphasis and Sequencing:
 - Narrow focus (converging on feasibility): Several members highlighted the limited one-year timeframe and urged a tighter focus on reporting and MEL to deliver a concrete, evidence-based report by 2026.
 - Broader focus (diverging on ambition): Others argued that narrowing the scope risks missing the opportunity to showcase how data and technology drive adaptation actions, not just track them.

The debate thus revolved around depth versus breadth—whether the report should serve primarily as a recognition and reporting tool or as a forward-looking analysis of how data systems and scientific collaboration accelerate adaptation implementation.

- Whether to stick to the topics merged at the previous AC meeting
- One member asked for a Middle Eastern case study to be included in the report, since there had not been an example used recently
- That same member was not confident that the topic of strengthening reporting and data systems for adaptation would fit well in a synthesis report alongside the theme of advancing adaptation through science, education, and technology collaboration.
- That member also suggested removing "to strengthen data systems" from the title of the previously combined topics for the synthesis report.

The AC's paper on data for adaptation (2020) is available under the following link: [Data for adaptation at different spatial and temporal scales | UNFCCC](#)

Summary Outcome:

- The AC further discussed the focus and scope of the synthesis report, to be published in 2026, in the context of recognising adaptation efforts of developing country Parties, and requested the secretariat to elaborate the concept note further and start collecting case studies to be included in the report.
- The revised draft will:
 - Maintain data systems as the central focus.
 - Integrate science, education, and technology as enabling factors that strengthen those systems.
 - Illustrate how these systems contribute to each element of the adaptation cycle—risk assessment, planning, implementation, MEL, and reporting.
- Include case studies (e.g., from the Middle East and other developing regions) showcasing country experiences in building data systems and leveraging science and technology for adaptation.
- The updated version will be circulated intersessionally for review and further refinement ahead of AC29, with the aim of finalising the annotated outline for adoption and initiating data collection for the 2026 publication.

12. Communication

12. (a) Communications plan and strategy of the Adaptation Committee

Date: 18.09.2025

Time: 17:06

Doc: <https://unfccc.int/documents/649768>

Presentation: <https://unfccc.int/documents/649963>

Background:

The Adaptation Committee's communications and outreach activities aim to strengthen the visibility of its work, enhance stakeholder engagement, and amplify knowledge products across Parties and non-Party stakeholders.

At AC28, the Secretariat presented an update on ongoing and planned outreach efforts for 2025–2026, guided by the Committee's Communications and Engagement Strategy.

The presentation provided an overview of current channels: including the Adaptation Exchange newsletter, AC social-media presence, website analytics, COP side events, and external partnerships, and introduced a plan to streamline the Committee's messaging under the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience.

The main points of discussion at AC28 were:

- **Strategic Direction and Branding:** Members recognised the progress made in strengthening the AC's profile through targeted events and products but emphasised the need for a coherent narrative that connects all AC outputs to the UAE Framework and the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA). Some members proposed creating a "house style" across AC publications to reinforce identity and accessibility for policymakers and practitioners.
- **Outreach Channels and Knowledge Products:** There was agreement to broaden engagement beyond the UNFCCC constituency by leveraging regional communication

platforms, webinars, and academic partnerships. Several members called for regular thematic spotlights on AC workstreams (e.g. MEL guidance, landscape of support, State of Adaptation Portal) and stronger cross-promotion between AC products and NAP Expo materials.

- **Coordination with Other Bodies:** Members suggested aligning communications with those of the LEG, PCCB, and WIM ExCom to ensure consistent messaging and avoid duplication of efforts. Observers encouraged closer collaboration with youth and civil-society networks, including through translation and localisation of AC outputs.
- **COP 30 and 2026 Milestones:** The Committee discussed communication priorities for COP 30 in Belém, including joint events on the UAE Framework, a media brief summarising AC achievements, and preparatory messaging for the 2026 Adaptation Forum. Members stressed the importance of clear, concise products for high-level audiences — notably ministers and finance actors — to position adaptation as integral to stability and growth.
- **Convergences and Divergences**
 - **Convergence:** strong support for a unified narrative linking all AC deliverables to the UAE Framework and GGA; consensus on maintaining quarterly newsletters and expanding regional visibility.
 - **Divergence:** some members differed on whether to produce stand-alone outreach materials per workstream or integrate them into one annual synthesis product.

Summary Output

The AC took note of the progress report on its communication and outreach efforts for 2025–2026 and requested its communications working group to provide guidance to the secretariat on communications activities during the intersessional period, if required.

12. (b) Adaptation Action Newsletter

Date: 18.12. 2025

Time: 15:50

Doc: <https://unfccc.int/documents/649768>

Presentation: <https://unfccc.int/documents/649963>

Background:

At AC27, the Adaptation Committee (AC) agreed to establish a new outreach product—the Adaptation Action Newsletter—as part of its broader communication and engagement strategy. The newsletter is designed to disseminate adaptation-related updates and developments from constituted bodies and entities under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, complementing the existing Adaptation Finance Bulletin.

The Secretariat presented document AC28/CN/12B, containing the draft of the first issue, which will be published in October 2025. The newsletter aims to serve Parties, policymakers, and adaptation stakeholders by sharing news, publications, upcoming events, and calls for contributions in a concise, visually engaging format.

The draft issue features:

- Quick facts on global adaptation progress (NAPs, adaptation communications, NDCs, and BTRs);
- Updates from the Adaptation Committee and other constituted bodies (LEG, PCCB, CGE, TEC, ExCom, NWP);

- Coverage of events such as NAP Expo 2025 and Climate Week 2025;
- Highlights on youth engagement, innovation, and regional capacity-building; and
- A section on forthcoming publications and calls for submissions.

Main Discussions at the AC28 were:

- **Content and Framing:** Members welcomed the inaugural draft, describing it as a valuable and accessible platform for communicating progress on adaptation. They encouraged the Secretariat to ensure that each issue reflects the AC's ongoing priorities, including work under the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience and the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA). Several members highlighted the need for balanced coverage across regions and stakeholder groups and suggested that the newsletter's "Quick Facts" section should draw from the State of Adaptation Action Portal and other official AC products to maintain consistency and credibility.
- **Design and Accessibility:** Members appreciated the visual layout and newsletter-style format, noting that it enhances readability compared to previous AC bulletins. Some suggested shorter, focused features (e.g., two-paragraph highlights or infographics) to improve accessibility for non-technical audiences. There were also suggestions to explore multilingual summaries and to maintain a mobile-friendly version for broader reach.
- **Editorial and Integration with Other Workstreams:** The AC discussed how to integrate the newsletter with other communication outputs (e.g., Adaptation Forum updates, quarterly press notes, and the Adaptation Exchange newsletter). Members supported aligning publication timing with major AC milestones — such as AC meetings, NAP Expo, and COP sessions — to maximise visibility.
 - A few members proposed inviting guest contributions from other constituted bodies, partner organisations, and regional experts to enrich future issues, provided editorial oversight remains with the Secretariat.
- **Convergences and Divergences**
 - **Convergence:** broad agreement on the newsletter's relevance, quarterly publication schedule, and alignment with the UAE Framework and GGA communications. Members also agreed it should highlight youth engagement, regional capacity-building, and innovation stories.
 - **Divergence:** minor differences emerged on whether external collaborators (e.g., experts or organisations) should co-edit content or merely contribute features; no decision was taken.

Summary Output

The AC considered the draft of the first issue of the Adaptation Action Newsletter and agreed to request the secretariat to refine the draft intersessionally, under the guidance of the AC's communications working group and taking into account feedback received from members and observers at AC 28.

A side note: The ideas of an "adaptation action newsletter" came from observers in a previous AC meeting.

13. Work of the Adaptation Committee's Task Force on National Adaptation Plans

Date: 16.09.2025

Time: Morning

Doc: <https://unfccc.int/documents/649767>

Presentation: <https://unfccc.int/documents/649953>

Background:

The Secretariat introduced document AC28/INFO/13, highlighting the NAP Task Force's implementation of its 2025–2027 workplan. Key activities included supporting technical sessions at the NAP Expo, contributing to finance dialogues, updating the **“Navigating the Landscape of Support” online resource**, and producing a policy brief on direct access finance.

The NAP Task Force is a joint platform involving the AC, LEG, SCF, TEC, Adaptation Fund, and GCF. It supports developing countries in formulating and implementing National Adaptation Plans, and ensures coherence between constituted bodies.

The main points of discussion at AC28 were:

- Collaboration vs. contribution: Members questioned how the NAP Task Force not only gathers inputs from other bodies but also actively contributes to their technical work (e.g., LEG's updated NAP guidelines).
- Monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL): Strong calls to begin work on MEL for NAPs without waiting for COP30's outcomes on GGA indicators.
- Updating support tools: Members emphasized the importance of annual updates to the “Navigating the Landscape of Support” portal, with peer review and stakeholder engagement to ensure quality and relevance.
- Communication products: Observers welcomed the new Adaptation Action Newsletter but encouraged it to also highlight recurring challenges in NAP implementation, not just finance.
- Collaboration with TEC: The TEC Vice-Chair emphasized synergies on adaptation technologies (early warning systems, water–energy–food systems), offering closer collaboration.
- One member asked for further clarification about how the AC is working to collaborate and especially strategize their collaboration with organizations, such as the LEG
- Another member noted text missing in the annex

Outcome and Next Steps

- The AC took note of the NAP Task Force's progress and endorsed continuation under the 2025–2027 plan.
- The Secretariat will update the NAP TF workplan to reflect AC28 guidance, including stakeholder engagement, MEL approaches, and peer review mechanisms.
- Closer collaboration with the TEC and LEG was encouraged, with follow-up intersessionally.

14. Collaboration and coherence

14. (a) Adaptation Forum

Date: 18.12.2025

Time: 17:15

Doc: <https://unfccc.int/documents/649774>

Presentation: <https://unfccc.int/documents/649965>

Background:

The Adaptation Committee (AC) has convened Adaptation Forums since 2013 as a core modality for promoting coherence, providing guidance, and strengthening adaptation action and support under the Convention and the Paris Agreement. At AC27, the Committee reviewed the preliminary concept note for the 2026 Adaptation Forum, agreeing to focus it on technical support and guidance, assessing adaptation progress, and innovation frontiers for adaptation. The AC requested the Secretariat to revise the concept note, incorporating members' feedback for consideration at AC28.

The Secretariat presented AC28/CN/14A, proposing that the 2026 Forum be held over three days in a hybrid format, strategically scheduled to align with milestones in the international adaptation agenda—including, where applicable, the potential conclusion of the UAE–Belém Work Programme on Indicators. In this context, the Forum would provide a global platform for structured dialogue on the integration of emerging indicators into national planning and reporting systems, while examining the means of implementation (finance, technology, and capacity-building) needed to accelerate innovation and ambition.

The Forum will deliver synthesised insights and forward-looking recommendations for:

- Operationalisation of the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) at national and global levels;
- Enhanced coherence and collaboration among support providers (e.g. constituted bodies, financial institutions, and regional organisations);
- Innovative approaches in adaptation finance, data systems, governance, and partnerships; and
- Preparatory groundwork for the second Global Stocktake (2028).

Theme: Technical Support and Guidance, Assessing Adaptation Progress, and Innovation Frontiers for Adaptation.

The main points of discussion at AC28 were:

- **Framing and Thematic Clarity:** Members broadly supported the proposed focus areas but emphasised the need to sharpen the framing and simplify the reference to the GGA. Several noted that the current introduction was overly conceptual and should be made more operational and concrete, highlighting measurable adaptation progress across multiple levels — from local implementation to reporting under the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF). It was suggested that the title and framing of the Forum explicitly reflect its forward-looking and solution-oriented nature, examining future

adaptation pathways in the context of escalating climate risks and global temperature rise. Members encouraged the Secretariat to ensure that the Forum offers both retrospective assessment and prospective visioning, helping Parties anticipate future adaptation needs and options.

- Forum Structure, Focus, and Draft Programme: Members welcomed the proposed three-pillar structure and stressed the need for an interactive format with strong regional representation. The guiding questions presented in the concept note were considered preliminary and would need refinement once session partners are identified. Members recommended that the draft programme balance high-level plenary segments with solution labs and technical deep dives, facilitating co-creation among governments, financial actors, and technical institutions.
- Collaboration and External Partnerships: There was broad convergence on establishing a steering group model to guide the Forum's design and partner engagement. This approach would ensure transparency, inclusivity, and balanced participation across regions and stakeholder groups. Members highlighted that collaboration should include UN agencies, development banks, research organisations, and non-state actors, building synergies with the GGA indicator work and the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience.
- Timeline and Logistics: Members discussed possible scheduling options for the Forum, converging around the second half or last quarter of 2026 to align with key UNFCCC milestones and allow sufficient intersessional preparation. The Committee agreed that detailed planning — including venue selection, partner outreach, and communications plans — should be undertaken intersessionally, with the Secretariat reporting back at AC29.
- Communications and Outreach: The Forum will serve as a major visibility and outreach milestone for the AC. Members requested development of a dedicated communications and outreach plan, linked to the AC's broader communications strategy (Agenda Item 12a), with targeted messaging for COP 30 and the UAE–Belém work programme closure.
- Convergences and Divergences
 - Convergence: strong support for the Forum's focus on bridging technical guidance, assessment, and innovation; agreement on using the steering-group model; and endorsement of the hybrid, inclusive format.
 - Divergence: minor differences on the timeline (early vs. late 2026) and on the degree of Secretariat involvement in defining participation criteria and partner selection.
- A member brought up questions about language being used on the proposed focus for the Adaptation Forum. She also reminded AC members that it took a long time to converge on these topics.
- Another member supported having the State of Adaptation and reporting as the focus for the first day of the AF, not only the indicators, and would like a single topic on technical support to be the focus for the second day. She also recommended a focus on governance. Another recommendation she made was to designate a working group to

discuss this matter further intersessionally. She recommended focusing on implementation on the second day and forward-thinking topics on the third day.

- The Adaptation Forum is most likely to occur in the fourth quarter of 2026, before COP, and ideally back-to-back with the AC meeting
- One of the sessions on day one will require inputs from COP 30 in Belem, so those cannot be developed until after the COP

Summary Output

The AC provided inputs to the revised draft concept note and requested the working group established on this matter to further develop the agenda for the Forum during the intersessional period.

14. (b) Enhanced collaboration with external experts and organizations

Date: 17 September 2025

Time: 17:03

Doc: <https://unfccc.int/documents/649776>

Presentation: <https://unfccc.int/documents/649958>

Background:

The Adaptation Committee is mandated to strengthen coherence and coordination across adaptation-related work under the Convention and the Paris Agreement. Collaboration with external experts and organizations—such as research networks, regional centres, and UN agencies—has been a longstanding practice, particularly through initiatives like the NAP Task Force, technical papers, and joint toolkits (e.g., with the NAP Global Network). With the adoption of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience, the AC's workload and demand for technical inputs have expanded. Enhancing collaboration with external experts aims to ensure that products—such as guidance materials, training modules, and thematic reports—reflect a diversity of knowledge systems and practical experience, while remaining aligned with UNFCCC procedures and maintaining AC ownership.

The Co-Facilitator introduced the item and invited the Secretariat to present the concept note AC28/CN/14B, following up on decisions from AC26 and AC27. The presentation recalled that:

- At AC26, the Committee agreed to determine ways to enhance collaboration with external experts and organizations. At AC27, it requested the Secretariat to include options for collaboration in concept notes for relevant workplan activities and to develop criteria and modalities for such collaboration.

The Secretariat outlined the preliminary list of workplan activities that could benefit from external engagement: 1) Activities under paragraph 44 of decision 2/CMA.5 (technical guidance and training materials supporting the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience); 2) Update of the online resource on the Landscape of Support for NAPs; 3) Thematic dialogues; 4) Monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL); 5) The Adaptation Forum; and 6) Communication activities. Possible types of external contributions were presented as: Contributing to technical

discussions; Designing or developing products or activities; Peer reviewing AC products; and Serving as panellists or speakers at AC events.

The Secretariat further outlined the draft modalities and selection criteria contained in the annex, including guidance on ownership, branding, and the voluntary nature of external contributions. The AC was invited to: Endorse or refine the criteria for collaboration; Consider making the note publicly available on the AC website; Agree on an initial list of workplan activities benefiting from external collaboration; and Request the Secretariat to initiate engagement accordingly.

The main points of discussion at AC28 were:

- Clarifying the Nature of Collaboration and Voluntary Basis: There was broad convergence that collaboration with external experts and organizations should occur on a voluntary and non-remunerated basis, distinct from the Secretariat's procurement processes for consultancy services. This clarification was deemed critical to avoid confusion with contractual or paid arrangements. Members agreed that this distinction should be explicitly stated in the final note.
- Endorsement Readiness and Stepwise Refinement: Several members emphasised that the current draft was not yet ready for adoption. While the framework was welcomed, members proposed a stepwise refinement of the annex intersessionally. The Committee agreed that endorsement should follow further revision of the criteria, informed by written comments and examples from other constituted bodies (e.g., CTCN, PCCB, Adaptation Fund, GCF). Members agreed that stakeholder engagement must be context-specific, varying by product or activity, rather than governed by one uniform rule. Each activity—such as thematic dialogues, MEL guidance, or training materials—should define how external collaboration adds value.
- Criteria, Flexibility, and Representation: There was consensus that the criteria must balance transparency with flexibility. Rigid criteria could limit collaboration in some contexts, while overly broad criteria risk weakening quality control. Members supported having broad guiding principles—applicable across all collaborations—accompanied by specific sub-criteria for different types of engagement (events, publications, technical work). Additional criteria proposed for inclusion were conflict of interest, balanced representation (by region, gender, and expertise), and voluntary participation. The Committee noted that external collaborators come from diverse institutional settings (academia, UN agencies, NGOs, private sector), requiring differentiated considerations for individual experts vs. organizations.
- Ownership, Branding, and Liability: This topic generated significant divergence and was identified as a key area needing further clarification.
 - Many members stressed that ownership of outputs must remain with the AC, ensuring the Committee retains final oversight of content, even when developed jointly.
 - Others pointed out that some products (e.g., MEL toolkit collaborations) had required qualifiers or disclaimers, noting that views expressed were those of the authors, not the AC. Members therefore called for a clear disclaimer policy and guidance on co-branding, using examples from other constituted bodies such as CTCN and PCCB.

- Several interventions raised the issue of liability, recommending that collaborating organizations be informed in advance of potential legal responsibilities associated with co-authorship or public dissemination. At the same time, some members cautioned against over-complicating the process and creating disincentives for collaboration.
- Transparency, Appeal, and Visibility for Collaborators: Members highlighted that collaboration should also be mutually beneficial. To encourage high-quality voluntary engagement, external collaborators should receive visibility and acknowledgment for their contributions, for instance through AC publications, website listings, or participation in events.
- Practicality and Simplification: There was strong convergence that the framework should remain simple and adaptable, evolving over time as experience accumulates. Members supported a “living document” approach that can be updated as the AC learns from practice. The annex could eventually serve as a checklist or “one-pager” to guide discussions on stakeholder involvement for each new activity, supplemented by examples from past collaborations
- Observers’ Interventions
 - IOM offered logistical support for side events at COP30, noting its partnership with the Brazilian Government and willingness to make pavilion space available to the AC.
 - UNDRR encouraged the AC to harness the expertise of external organizations through voluntary task forces chaired by AC members, allowing for co-development of products under AC guidance—similar to approaches used by the ExCom of the WIM.
- A member noted some edits were made prior to the session beginning, and this said she doesn’t believe a decision can be made today at this point
- Another member agreed with the previous statement and noted a one-size-fits-all rule to stakeholder collaboration is not appropriate as it can look different product to product, the member wants a one-pager on how to involve stakeholders in products or activities including examples from the past and other constituted bodies
- Another member would appreciate distinction on what criteria is applicable to all outputs, and what criteria should be considered in specific cases, depending on the output
- Another member brought up the example of the NAP Global Network and how they had reached the cut-off for feedback and thus needed to include the qualifier that the MEL Toolkit does not represent the views of the AC, don’t want to always need to add the qualifier ([starts at 7:30:20](#))
- Another member said they are not at a point to agree, and would request the Secretariat to revise the document so it could be reviewed intersessionally
- A member raised that there are comments on more direction on how to discuss gender, liability in projects, conflict of interest regulations, and criteria being different for choosing experts acting individually versus those from organizations as collaborators

Summary Outcome:

- The AC considered the concept note prepared for this meeting and decided to request the secretariat to further elaborate the criteria for collaborating with external experts and

organizations, based on the inputs provided, for consideration during the intersessional period.

- The AC did not adopt the concept note at this session but agreed to revise it intersessionally.
- The Secretariat will:
 - Incorporate members' suggestions, including clarifying the voluntary nature, adding conflict-of-interest and liability provisions, and enhancing sections on branding, ownership, and visibility.
 - Include examples of collaboration frameworks from other constituted bodies (e.g., PCCB, CTCN, Adaptation Fund, GCF) to inform revisions.
 - Prepare a streamlined, one-to-two-page checklist summarising key criteria and principles for endorsement before AC29.

14. (c) Update from the IPCC Working Group II Technical Support Unit

Date: 19.09.2025

Time: Morning

Doc: Not available

Presentation: <https://unfccc.int/documents/649969>

Background:

As part of its regular engagement with scientific bodies, the Adaptation Committee (AC) received a briefing from IPCC Working Group II (WGII) on ongoing work under the Seventh Assessment Cycle (AR7). The update was presented by Dr Bart van den Hurk, Co-Chair of WGII, and provided an overview of the AR7 work plan, authorship process, thematic structure, and opportunities for collaboration.

The presentation outlined key milestones in the AR7 cycle, including the timeline for the Special Report on Climate Change and Cities (SR Cities) and the main WGII contribution to AR7, expected in mid-2027. It also introduced the development of the IPCC Technical Guidelines for Assessing Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation and announced the upcoming Expert Meeting on Adaptation Metrics, Methodologies, and Indicators (AMMI) to be held in Accra, Ghana, from 3–5 March 2026.

The main points of discussion at AC28 were:

The Co-Chair explained that the AR7 scoping meeting had been completed in Kuala Lumpur in December 2024, with the outline endorsed at the 62nd IPCC Plenary. Over 1,300 nominations were received, and 65 experts participated in the scoping meeting.

Author selection emphasised regional diversity, gender balance, and expertise across adaptation planning, finance, and vulnerability assessment. The first joint lead author meeting of Working Groups I, II, and III is scheduled for December 2025 in Paris.

Focus Areas of the WGII Report

WGII will place greater emphasis on solutions-oriented assessment, examining how adaptation, mitigation, and sustainable development intersect. Key analytical areas include:

- Metrics for monitoring vulnerability, risk, and impacts;
- Adaptation and losses and damages, including limits and prioritisation of options;

- Finance, particularly investment metrics and effectiveness of adaptation projects; and
- Sectoral indicators across water, agriculture, health, ecosystems, and infrastructure.

Members appreciated that these themes align closely with the AC's own workstreams on MEL, adaptive capacity assessment, and data systems under the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience.

Technical Guidelines on Assessing Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation

The presentation introduced the forthcoming IPCC Technical Guidelines, structured around four sections:

1. Adaptation in Practice – methodologies, co-design approaches, metrics, and data services;
2. Technical Guidance – principles, governance contexts, and iterative learning;
3. Tools and Enablers – financing mechanisms, regulatory environments, and implementation support; and
4. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) – with emphasis on iterative refinement and integration of MEL into national planning.

These guidelines aim to help governments and practitioners strengthen adaptation assessment and policy design, supporting iterative improvement of adaptation strategies.

Expert Meeting on Adaptation Metrics, Methodologies, and Indicators (AMMI)

Members welcomed the update on the **AMMI meeting (Accra, Ghana, 3–5 March 2026)**, noting its clear relevance to the AC's work. The meeting will gather approximately 60 experts, including authors and nominated specialists in MEL systems, tracking, national statistics, and SDG/DRR-aligned indicators. WGII invited constituted bodies, including the AC, to participate or contribute insights to help bridge science–policy gaps in adaptation measurement.

Reflections and Questions from Members

AC members expressed appreciation for the update and raised several points:

- The need to ensure developing-country representation in author teams and expert meetings;
- Opportunities to reflect national experiences with adaptation metrics and data systems within the WGII Technical Guidelines;
- The importance of aligning IPCC outputs with UNFCCC processes on the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), particularly as indicators and data systems evolve.
- Some members requested clarification on how adaptation finance and implementation effectiveness would be treated in AR7, and how IPCC findings could complement the AC's synthesis products and technical guidance under paragraph 44 of decision 2/CMA.5.

Convergences and Divergences

- Convergence: broad support for closer collaboration between the IPCC and AC; strong appreciation for the new focus on metrics, MEL, and iterative adaptation processes.

- Divergence: some members sought greater clarity on how IPCC outputs would be communicated back to the UNFCCC process and whether findings would be timely enough to inform COP30 and GGA indicator finalisation.

Summary Output

- The AC welcomed the update provided by the IPCC WGII Co-Chair and acknowledged its potential to inform relevant areas of work under the AC's 2025–2027 flexible workplan. It also took note of the progress in preparing the AR7 contribution and the Technical Guidelines on Assessing Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation. It also encouraged continued collaboration between the AC and IPCC, including potential participation in the Expert Meeting on Adaptation Metrics, Methodologies, and Indicators (Accra, March 2026); and AC Invited the Secretariat to explore mechanisms for ongoing exchange of information and outputs between the AC and WGII to ensure complementarity and avoid duplication.

15. Report of the Adaptation Committee

Date: 16.09.2025

Time: 09:00

Doc: Not Available

Presentation: <https://unfccc.int/documents/649952>

Background:

The Secretariat presented the draft 2025 Annual Report of the Adaptation Committee, which synthesizes work between October 2024 and September 2025. Highlights included the launch of the State of Adaptation Action portal, new publications (policy brief on traditional knowledge, synthesis on institutional arrangements, and first global synthesis of adaptation action), and the launch of the Adaptation Action Newsletter.

The main points of discussion at AC28 were:

- Clarity and simplicity: Members debated whether the recommendation should explicitly reproduce the CMA mandate or simply reference it, with some preferring short text and others insisting on spelling out the full paragraph.
- Deadline for submissions: Several members proposed including a concrete deadline (e.g., February 2026), while others argued for flexibility and leaving timing to intersessional work.
- Guiding questions: Views differed on whether the AC should provide guiding questions for Parties' submissions, or leave requests broad at this stage.
- Placement in report: There was general agreement that a reference to the call for submissions should appear in the AC's annual report, with a footnote to para. 45 of decision 2/CMA.5 to ensure clarity for negotiators.

Outcome and Next Steps

- The AC agreed to retain a short, clean recommendation text referencing the call for submissions, with the full mandate reproduced in a footnote.
- Decision on deadlines and guiding questions was deferred to AC29.
- The Secretariat will circulate draft text in track-changes for members' review, with the aim of consolidating by the end of AC28

16. Organisation of intersessional work

The AC agreed to assess opportunities to conduct a side event at COP 30 to present the completed interactive portal on the State of Adaptation Action by Parties and the policy brief on "Progress, good practices and lessons learned, challenges and opportunities in the application of traditional knowledge, knowledge of Indigenous Peoples and local knowledge systems in adaptation".

17. Dates and venues for future meetings

The AC agreed to conduct its 29th meeting from 14 to 17 April 2026 in Bonn.

18. Any other matters

In accordance with a request from AC members at AC 27, the secretariat organized, at AC 28:

- a training session for AC members on existing adaptation communication and reporting instruments; and
- a training session for AC members on integrating a gender perspective into the work of the AC.

19. Closing