

Adaptation Forum convened by the Adaptation Committee

Revised draft concept note

Recommended action by the Adaptation Committee

The Adaptation Committee, at its 28th meeting, will be invited to consider the information and options contained in this document and provide guidance to the secretariat on the organization of the 2026 Adaptation Forum.

I. Background

1. In its workplan for 2025–2027, the Adaptation Committee (AC) agreed to conduct an Adaptation Forum on the state of adaptation action by Parties and decided to consider a draft concept note on the Forum, including the theme, timeline and potential collaboration partners, at AC 27, with a view to conducting the Forum in 2026.

2. At AC 27, the AC considered the concept note for the next Adaptation Forum, agreed to focus it on “technical support and guidance, assessing adaptation progress and innovation frontiers for adaptation”, and to further develop the preparation of the Forum. It requested the secretariat to revise the concept note, taking into account the inputs received at AC 27, for consideration by the AC at its 28th meeting. It agreed to conduct the Forum for three days and in a hybrid format.

A. Value proposition

3. The AC has convened Adaptation Forums since 2013 as a core modality for advancing its mandate to promote coherence, provide guidance, and strengthen adaptation action and support under the Convention and the Paris Agreement. These Forums have served as strategic spaces for technical reflection, peer exchange, and showcasing adaptation progress.

4. The 2026 Forum will be strategically scheduled to align with key milestones in the international adaptation agenda, including, where applicable, the potential conclusion of the UAE–Belém work programme on indicators,¹ should Parties so decide. In this context, the Forum would provide the first global platform to engage in structured dialogue on the practical integration of emerging indicator frameworks, grounded into national planning and reporting systems. Furthermore, the Forum will serve to examine means of implementation necessary to accelerate adaptation innovation, with particular attention to finance, technology, and capacity building, thereby supporting Parties in enhancing ambition and implementation.

5. The UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience introduces a fundamental shift in how adaptation progress will be measured and assessed. The Forum will provide a dedicated space to explore the post-Belém implications, with a focus on national implementation.

¹ Decision 2/CMA.5, paras. 9 and 10.

6. Anchored in the theme agreed at AC 27, *technical support and guidance, assessing adaptation progress, and innovation frontiers for adaptation*, the 2026 Adaptation Forum will help set the tone for the next phase of adaptation efforts under the Convention and the Paris Agreement.

B. Proposed structure

7. The 2026 Adaptation Forum will be convened by the AC as a three-day hybrid event under its 2025–2027 flexible workplan. The structure of the Forum will be based on three interlinked pillars:

- (a) aligning technical support and guidance with the GGA following COP 30 outcomes;
- (b) assessing progress using the outcomes of the UAE–Belém work programme on indicators; and
- (c) identifying innovation frontiers in emerging technologies and approaches with the potential to drive long-term solutions.

8. The Forum will serve as a global co-creation platform to support the operationalization of the GGA including through the implementation of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience. It will bring together a broad range of actors to collectively explore solutions, identify technical gaps, and shape the next phase of adaptation efforts under the Convention and the Paris Agreement.

9. The Forum will be informed by the AC’s work on the state of adaptation action by Parties and the updated “Navigating the landscape of support for the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans (NAPs)” tool.

C. Format

10. Sessions will be designed not as one-way panels, but as collaborative dialogues, leveraging interactive formats such as roundtables, strategic visioning exercises, and solution labs.

11. Sessions may be led and prepared by external partners under a steering group model that would benefit external engagement and resource sharing.

D. Participants

12. Participants will include representatives from Parties, regional organizations, international organizations, UN entities, financial institutions, youth, Indigenous Peoples, researchers, academics and other non-state actors.

E. Expected outcomes

13. The Forum is expected to produce a concise set of synthesized insights and forward-looking recommendations to inform:

- (a) Operationalization of the GGA including at national and global levels, including early application of indicators;
- (b) Coherence and collaboration across support providers, including all constituted bodies and entities (including the operating entities of the financial mechanism) under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, other UN entities, and other relevant organizations;
- (c) Development and deployment of emerging technologies and approaches with the potential to drive long-term solutions;

(d) Preparatory groundwork for adaptation progress reporting into the **second global stocktake** in 2028.

14. The outcomes will also respond to the AC's ongoing mandate to provide guidance, enhance coherence, and strengthen the implementation of adaptation action and support under the Convention and the Paris Agreement.

F. Preliminary agenda

15. **Theme:** Technical support and guidance, assessing adaptation progress, and innovation frontiers for adaptation (Title to be confirmed)

16. **Format:** *Three-day hybrid event* | *Date:* to be confirmed, 2026 | *Venue:* to be confirmed (hybrid)

1. Day 1 – Scene-setting & state of adaptation

<i>Time</i>	<i>Session</i>
09:00 – 10:00	Opening session • High-level opening • Keynote reflections on the future of adaptation
10:00 – 10:45	Scene-setting panel What does a future-ready adaptation system look like?
10:45 – 11:15	Coffee break
11:15 – 12:45	Session I – The state of adaptation action by Parties • Launch of AC's synthesis report on the state of adaptation action • Regional insights: progress, gaps, emerging risks and opportunities
12:45 – 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 – 15:30	Session II – Applying the GGA including the UAE Framework • Reflections on the UAE–Belém work programme outcomes • National experiences piloting indicators
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee break
15:45 – 17:30	Session III – Co-creation roundtables: Approaches to measuring progress and reporting • Interactive breakout discussions (e.g., based on thematic or targets of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience, etc.)

2. Day 2 – Technical support & innovation frontiers

<i>Time</i>	<i>Session</i>
09:00 – 10:30	Session IV – Technical support and guidance for adaptation • Further needs, challenges, barriers, and opportunities
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 12:45	Session V – The innovation frontier: Technology, solutions and opportunities • Frontier technologies (AI, climate analytics)
12:45 – 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 – 15:30	Session VI – Marketplace of solutions • Parallel sessions hosted by regional and sectoral actors • Peer exchange on scalable adaptation innovations
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee break
15:45 – 17:30	Session VII – Partnering for progress • Institutional collaboration • Strengthening country and regional platforms and initiatives • Addressing gaps and needs

3. Day 3 – Strategic synthesis and forward pathways

<i>Time</i>	<i>Session</i>
09:00 – 10:30	Session VIII – Future pathways to 2030 & 2050 • Visioning exercise: how will adaptation and support systems evolve in the next 10–20 years
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 12:45	Session IX – Envisioning the roles of traditional and emerging actors in the adaptation landscape • Learning from the past and innovating the future – how can traditional and emerging actors collaborate • Reflections from AC members and participants on the AC’s future role in driving the adaptation agenda under the Convention and the Paris Agreement
12:45 – 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 – 15:30	Session X – Wrap-up and synthesis • Synthesis of key insights and recommendations • Closing remarks
15:30 – 17:00	Optional: High-Level Dialogue (to be confirmed)

II. Next steps

17. The AC may wish to consider the following next steps:

- (a) Provide further guidance to the secretariat on the Forum’s structure and focus and request it to refine the draft programme, including session modalities and indicative speakers, for consideration at AC 29;
- (b) Request the secretariat to prepare a detailed plan for engaging external partners in the preparation and implementation of the Forum, possibly through a steering group model, for the AC’s intersessional consideration and agreement;
- (c) Request the secretariat to identify the venue and date, for the 2026 Adaptation Forum for the AC’s intersessional consideration and agreement;
- (d) Request the secretariat to prepare a draft outreach and communications plan, including promotional and live-streaming arrangements, to be presented at AC 29;
- (e) Nominate members for the established working group on the matter to guide intersessional work.

Documentation information

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>
0.1.0	1 September 2025	The AC is invited to provide further guidance to the secretariat on the next steps of this revised draft concept note.

Keywords: Adaptation, Resilience, High-level events