

AC thematic dialogue 2026

Revised draft concept note

Recommended action by the Adaptation Committee

The Adaptation Committee, at AC 29, will be invited to consider the information contained in this revised note and provide further guidance to the secretariat on the next steps in organizing the 2026 dialogue.

I. Background

1. In the context of its joint mandate with the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) to continue identifying and addressing priority gaps and needs of developing countries related to the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans¹ and its overall mandate to promote the implementation of enhanced action on adaptation in a coherent manner under the Convention, the Adaptation Committee (AC) conducted in 2023 and 2024 a virtual thematic dialogue on addressing developing countries' capacity gaps in accessing adaptation funding, in collaboration with the members of its NAP task force.²
2. Taking into account the success of the dialogue and the considerable interest that it provoked, the AC, at its 26th meeting, decided to conduct new thematic dialogues in conjunction with existing adaptation-related meetings as part of its 2025–2027 workplan and in collaboration with other constituted bodies under the UNFCCC, and United Nations agencies, as appropriate.
3. At AC 27, the AC considered options for conducting the 2025 thematic dialogue and agreed to focus it on the topic of “Opportunities for accessing adaptation finance from the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism”. It also agreed to continue considering themes for future thematic dialogues at AC 28.
4. At the mid-term call, held on 22 July 2025, AC members considered possible dates for the 2025 dialogue and discussed that it could be held either in late 2025 or in 2026, not clashing with any mandated event, and possibly back-to-back with a finance-related event to enhance coherence and visibility. It requested the secretariat to provide options for the timing of the dialogue and a draft agenda at AC 28.
5. At AC 28, the AC considered a draft concept note and requested the secretariat to:

¹ Decision 9/CP.27, paras. 7–8.

² More information on the first part of the dialogue is available at <https://unfccc.int/event/ac-dialoguecapacity-gaps-access-adap-fund-part1> and on the second part of the dialogue at <https://unfccc.int/event/ac-dialogue-gaps-accessing-adaptation-funding-part2>.

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- (a) Expand the scope to invite the Adaptation Fund for updates and make respective adjustments to the agenda while maintaining the proposed timeframe of two hours
 - (b) Merge the two options as proposed in the concept note, namely (1) inviting experience from countries in accessing adaptation finance through the operating entities and (2) inviting experiences from support brokers in facilitating developing countries' access to adaptation finance;
 - (c) Plan for a globally-focused webinar to be held in the first half of 2026, while assessing the possibility of holding it before the end of 2025;
 - (d) Assess options for organizing the dialogue in-person or virtually and share updates on the draft agenda and possible dates for the AC's intersessional consideration;
6. The AC agreed to make a recording of the dialogues available for information and training purposes.
 7. The AC also considered possible themes for future thematic dialogues.

2. Sub-topics

8. CMA 6 agreed on the new collective quantified goal on climate finance³ and decided that a significant increase of public resources should be provided through the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism, the Adaptation Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund and the Special Climate Change Fund and also decided to pursue efforts to at least triple annual outflows from those Funds from 2022 levels by 2030 at the latest with a view to significantly scaling up the share of finance delivered through them in delivering on the goal contained in paragraph 8 of decision 1/CMA.6.⁴ CMA 7 called for efforts to at least triple adaptation finance by 2035 in the context of decision 1/CMA.6, including paragraph 16 thereof.⁵

9. Under the overall theme "Opportunities for accessing adaptation finance from the operating entities of the Financial Mechanism", the 2026 thematic dialogue will explore how the operating entities are preparing for these increasing flows and how these can be channelled efficiently and effectively to developing countries with a view to meeting their needs.

10. The following sub-topics may be considered:

<i>Sub-topic</i>	<i>Further details</i>
Updates from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) ⁶	Overview of support available for adaptation planning and implementation through the readiness programme, the project preparation facility, the adaptation funding window and the private sector facility Support from the GCF for developing countries in implementing the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience and in ensuring alignment of the Framework with NAPs and MEL systems as part of its readiness programme (decision 12/CMA.7, para 18) Efforts to improve access and efficiency • Reducing project review and disbursement time • Reformed accreditation package Enhancing country ownership • Dedicated regional departments and dialogues Building and supplementing national capacity

³ Decision 1/CMA.6, paras. 7–8.

⁴ Decision 1/CMA.6, para. 16.

⁵ Decision 1/CMA.7, para 53.

⁶ See the 14th report of the GCF to the COP.

Updates from the Global Environment Facility (GEF)⁷

- Revised Readiness Strategy 2024-2027, including extended programming cycle, readiness delivery partners, GCF Expert Placement Scheme, support to country and regional platforms

Regional presence

- Regional offices and an outpost of the Fund

Overview of support available for adaptation planning, implementation and reporting from the LDCE, SCCF, and the GEF Trust Fund through GEF project financing, project preparation grants, the Small Grants Programme or the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT)

Support available for the implementation of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience, including through the Capacity-building Initiative for Transparency (decision 12/CMA.7, para 17)

GEF-8 streamlining agenda

- Increasing efficiency and flexibility

Support for nationally determined coordination mechanisms, such as country platforms

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Country Engagement Strategy

- Support for country focal points and government institutions to ensure effective programming and access

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Updates from the Adaptation Fund (AF)⁸

Overview of support available for adaptation planning and implementation through the Readiness Programme, regular project funding, the Innovation Facility, the Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) program, and learning grants

Support from the AF for developing countries in implementing the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience and in ensuring alignment of the Framework with NAPs and MEL systems as a way of scaling up the implementation of adaptation projects identified as priorities within national adaptation plans (decision 12/CMA.7, para 19)

New spending caps approved in 2025

- New caps for country spending, individual single-country projects and regional projects

Launch of a USD 30 million funding envelope for regional Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) programs

- Complementing existing funding windows under the single-country LLA programs
- Involving at least three countries and a wide range of local actors including non-accredited entities

2025 resource mobilization goal

- Floor of USD 300 million in line with the mandate to triple outflows from 2022 levels by 2030

Expanded ceiling for learning grants

- Ceiling for learning grants raised from USD 150,000 to USD 500,000 to promote South–South exchange of lessons and good practices from the Fund’s portfolio

Amendment of its legal agreements for implementing entities

- Allowing entities to apply their rules, policies, standard practices and procedures in the administration of project grants which

⁷ See the GEF report to COP 30.

⁸ See the Adaptation Fund’s Annual Report 2025 available at <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/AF-Annual-Performance-Report-2025.pdf>.

should enable them to comply with AF's policies, guidelines, standards and procedures

Release of Adaptation Financing Supplement by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), Commonwealth Secretariat, Adaptation Fund and NDC Partnership Support Unit

- Providing guidance to help countries mobilize finance for climate adaptation, supplementing the Climate Investment Planning and Mobilization Framework (CIPMF) online tool

Joint efforts by multilateral climate funds to support countries' access to climate (adaptation) finance

Coordinated efforts in simplifying access

Complementary NAP support

Innovative partnership approaches

3. Draft agenda

11. The draft agenda for the 2026 thematic dialogue includes the following items (the total length of the dialogue might need to be adjusted subject to the available SB 64 side event slot – see section 4 below).

<i>Timing</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Speaker</i>
10 min	Welcome and introduction	AC Co-Chair
20 min	Updates from the GCF, including Q&A	Representative of the GCF
20 min	Updates from the GEF, including Q&A	Representative of the GEF
20 min	Updates from the AF, including Q&A	Representative of the AF
20 min	Joint efforts to support countries' access to adaptation finance, including Q&A	Representatives of the GCF, GEF and AF
25 min	Experiences from countries and support brokers on access to adaptation finance, including Q&A	Representatives from countries and support brokers at different levels*
5 min	Wrap-up and closing	AC Co-Chair

* Countries may include those that have accessed more than one of the funds, have received complementary support from multiple funds, e.g. for NAP formulation and implementation, and/ or have received support from support brokers. Support brokers could include GCF accredited entities, UNFCCC RCCs, and the Center for Access to Climate Finance of the NDC Partnership, among others.

II. Possible timing

12. It is suggested that the 2026 thematic dialogue be organized in a hybrid format at the margins of the first regular session of the subsidiary bodies in 2026 (SB 64) which will take place from 8-18 June 2026. This would allow for a considerable extent of in-person participation given the high representation of Parties, funds and organizations at the SB sessions. It would also allow for establishing links to finance-related events planned to be organized at SB 64 such as the Veredas Dialogue.

III. Engagement of external experts and stakeholders

13. In addition to representatives of the AF, the GCF, and the GEF, the 2025/2026 thematic dialogue may engage the following external experts and stakeholders, subject to the final agenda as will be agreed by the AC:

(a) Country representatives to share experiences on accessing adaptation finance from the GCF, LDCF/SCCF or AF;

(b) Support brokers from different government levels that provide hands-on support to facilitate countries' access to adaptation finance, e.g. UNFCCC regional collaboration centres, NDC partnership, GCF accredited entities, GEF agencies, AF implementing entities, regional centres and networks, national designated authorities.

IV. Next steps

14. At AC 29, the AC may wish to consider the following next steps in organizing the 2026 thematic dialogue and provide further guidance to the secretariat, as appropriate:

(a) Request the secretariat to share the revised concept note with the NAP task force for review and inputs;

(b) Agree on the final agenda, including guiding questions for the panelists, intersessionally, taking into account inputs received from the NAP task force;

(c) Request the secretariat to invite speakers and panelists for the dialogue, taking into account the AC's new guidelines for collaborating with external experts and entities, as appropriate;

(d) Agree on future themes for thematic dialogues on the basis of finalized AC products.

Documentation information

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>
0.1.2	31 March 2026	AC 29 This concept note including its next steps is for consideration by the AC.

Keywords: National adaptation plans, Means of implementation, Adaptation, Resilience