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Submission by the Adaptation Committee

This submission has been prepared in response to the call for input by the Standing Committee on Finance (SCF) to submit input on its 2026 Forum on financing climate action in water systems and the ocean. The Forum will be held from 21 to 22 September 2026. Inputs are requested, inter alia, in the form of evidence and information relevant to the possible sub-themes identified by the co-facilitators to further explore and develop the programme of the Forum; examples and case studies related to financing climate action in water systems and the ocean; and possible additional sub-themes for the co-facilitators to consider in the programme. Submissions will inform the co-facilitators to prepare a draft Forum programme ahead of the next SCF meeting to be held in June 2026. The deadline for submissions is 10 April 2026.

1. The Adaptation Committee (AC) welcomes the opportunity to submit its inputs to the SCF's 2026 Forum on financing climate action in water systems and the ocean.¹
2. The AC recalls its mandate to promote coherence and synergies in adaptation work under the Convention and the Paris Agreement, including through facilitating the sharing of relevant information and knowledge and providing technical support and guidance to Parties. In this context, the AC draws upon evidence gathered through its interactive portal² on the state of adaptation action, which compiles adaptation-related information as submitted by Parties through their national reports and communications to the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. The portal provides a central access point for information on action undertaken along the adaptation cycle and is designed to enhance collective understanding, stimulate learning and contribute to tracking of adaptation progress globally.
3. In preparing this input, the AC has drawn primarily on country experiences documented in its interactive portal, which compiles adaptation-related information as submitted by Parties through their national reports and communications to the UNFCCC. The examples presented below are illustrative of broader trends across regions and are intended solely as a contribution to the evidence base to be explored at the Forum. They do not constitute an assessment of best practice or a ranking of national efforts.
4. The AC's inputs below draw on selected indicative sub-themes identified by the SCF co-facilitators, including country-driven approaches and lessons learned, innovative financial instruments and the integration of water and ocean financing into national policies and plans.

Country-driven approaches and lessons learned (Sub-theme 5)

5. **Morocco** has implemented national programmes to improve water efficiency and strengthen ocean governance, including the expansion of drip irrigation and the development of fisheries management measures and marine protected areas. These efforts have contributed

¹ [Financing Climate Action in Water Systems and the Ocean | UNFCCC](#).

² https://unfccc.int/adaptation_country_portal.

to more efficient water use and strengthened the resilience of coastal and marine systems. For instance, the National Programme for Water Saving in Irrigation (PNEEI) and the Extension of Irrigation Programme (PEI) transformed agricultural water use by expanding drip irrigation from 9 per cent of equipped area in 2008 to 37 per cent by 2019, covering approximately 800,000 hectares. Morocco has also developed a medium-term climate expenditure framework, with World Bank technical assistance, providing a structured approach to aligning public investment with climate priorities and facilitating the integration of climate considerations into budget planning. Since 2004, multiple public-private partnerships (PPP) have supported the construction of small dams and hill lakes, rainwater collection facilities, and the expansion of wastewater treatment capacity.

6. **Kiribati** has implemented integrated water security interventions in Betio and South Tarawa, combining infrastructure investments, such as pipeline rehabilitation, groundwater monitoring boreholes, and rainwater harvesting systems, with strengthened rainfall monitoring across islands. This multi-layered approach, combining physical infrastructure and data systems, reflects the acute freshwater vulnerability of atoll states and the need for context-specific solutions. It also highlights the value of combining hard infrastructure investment with improved monitoring capacity to address compound water security risks, particularly in SIDS contexts where freshwater resources are fragile and directly threatened by saltwater intrusion.

7. **India** finances interventions to improve water resilience through domestic sources, including dedicated resources, the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) and a specific National Water Mission focused on addressing climate impacts on the hydrological cycle. India also actively taps international climate finance sources, including from the Adaptation Fund, the Global Environment Facility, and the Green Climate Fund, to complement domestic investments. The blended approach underscores the importance of strong national systems to absorb and direct multiple finance flows.

8. **Burundi** illustrates how LDCs can build water adaptation capacity through targeted projects: the PABVARC project (2013–2018) strengthened hydrometeorological services to support farmer decision-making; and the first NAP (2023) includes an explicit strategy for mobilizing adaptation finance, integrating it into national budgeting and building capacity for public-private partnerships.

9. **Uruguay** has developed a participatory, data-driven approach to coastal adaptation, compiling georeferenced databases of coastal vulnerability covering wave patterns, sea levels, and currents across 72 coastal points, and conducting workshops with coastal department managers to integrate local knowledge into adaptation planning. Each pilot site is being equipped with a baseline study of coastal dynamics and targeted measures addressing erosion, sediment transport, and coastal flooding, with strategies ranging from protection and accommodation to managed retreat depending on site-specific conditions. This example illustrates the value of combining rigorous scientific data collection with inclusive, participatory planning processes in the design of country-driven coastal adaptation.

Integrating water finance into NDCs, NAPs, and national policies (Sub-theme 3)

10. **Madagascar's** second NDC explicitly quantifies adaptation finance needs at approximately USD 11.6 billion for adaptation (of a total USD 24.4 billion climate finance need), with 3–4 per cent to be met from domestic resources and the remainder from international climate finance. The NDC integrates water resource management, including reforestation for catchment protection and fisheries co-management, directly into its investment framework.

11. **Chile** offers a notable example of embedding water and ocean adaptation within a broader national climate finance architecture. Chile's climate financing strategy aims to improve budgeting and fiscal policy to increase flows of both public and private capital toward adaptation, including water resources, covering urban and rural drinking water, as a stated technology transfer priority. This approach, which links sectoral adaptation planning to fiscal instruments and private capital mobilization, reflects an emerging model in which climate finance strategies serve as the connective tissue between NDC commitments and actual investment flows.

Innovative Financial Instruments (Sub-theme 9)

12. The **Marshall Islands** has created a direct institutional link between its NAP and national finance by vesting project prioritization in the NAP Oversight Board, which allocates resources from the Marshall Islands Resilience and Adaptation Trust Fund (MIRA) based on NAP Sectoral and Community Action Plans, ensuring that finance flows to nationally identified priorities. MIRA operates as a single-entry point for international donors, reducing transaction costs and channelling finance through a streamlined national vehicle in which the government determines resource allocation. National adaptation costs are estimated between USD 250 million and USD 1 billion in the near term, potentially rising to over USD 5 billion under a 2-metre-sea-level rise scenario. The MIRA model reflects a strategic effort to bridge the gap between these needs and available finance flows and offers a replicable template for other SIDS and LDCs.

13. **Oman's** climate finance strategy illustrates how some countries are leveraging adaptation finance frameworks to attract private investment in water and ocean systems. Recognizing the scale of investment required, Oman's strategy is designed to facilitate access to capital and mitigate financial risks for PPP, positioning climate finance as a structural enabler of climate-resilient growth rather than a supplementary funding stream. At the same time, Oman's preservation of the ancient Aflaj irrigation system, a primary water source for a substantial share of the population, governed under a national computerized inventory, demonstrates how climate finance can support the protection of culturally significant, community-managed water infrastructure alongside modern adaptation investments.

14. The AC trusts that these inputs will be of value to the co-facilitators in developing the Forum programme and stands ready to provide further information or engage on any of the topics raised.