

2024 Adaptation Forum – A brief overview of outcomes

The AC hosted its seventh Adaptation Forum from 18-19 March 2024, focusing on the theme of *Promoting solutions toward achieving the global goal on adaptation: opportunities for action and collaboration*.¹ The Forum brought together over 100 participants, including adaptation experts from international organizations and other relevant initiatives, as well as government and civil society representatives, both in-person and online. Discussions centred on the adaptation-related outcomes of COP 28 as well as opportunities and avenues for further collaboration to accelerate adaptation progress.

Participants reflected on needs and challenges, as well as corresponding opportunities for action and collaboration, across all four stages of the iterative adaptation cycle.

For example, in relation to the first step of the cycle – impact, vulnerability and risk assessment – participants emphasized that data limitations, including the lack of long-term hydrometeorological data in developing countries, is a significant barrier to advancing on adaptation. Illustrating one dimension of the problem, the WMO highlighted that half of all climate data is not digitized, which hinders the ability of adaptation practitioners to use this data for adaptation planning and assessment. Participants brainstormed several opportunities to overcome data-related challenges. These include:

- Using “twinning” programmes to pair developed countries and developing countries to share expertise and transfer knowledge about climate data management;
- Crowdsourcing data, including through citizen science and community-based approaches, was also put forward as an opportunity to close data gaps.

In relation to adaptation planning, challenges identified include a lack of shared ownership of adaptation across national line ministries and lack of adequate means of implementation to support planning efforts. Corresponding opportunities identified to address these challenges include establishing robust governance structures with clear roles and responsibilities to driving planning processes across ministries, and collaboration at the regional level to help countries share costs and lessons learned in developing their national adaptation plans.

In relation to adaptation implementation, participants underscored the opportunity to effect a paradigm shift from fragmented to transformative global adaptation action. This would entail elements such as reframing adaptation as an attractive investment opportunity that promotes social development, including by illustrating the clear return on investment and cross-society benefits; enhancing people-centred approaches to adaptation; and pursuing just transition pathways through adaptation action.

Finally, in relation to adaptation monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL), participants pointed to the opportunity to create incentive structures as part of MEL systems, which promote quality data and analysis and help overcome challenges associated with reporting fatigue. It was also highlighted that there is an opportunity to engage schools and universities in adaptation MEL to build long-term capacity and expertise in this area.

Across the entire iterative adaptation cycle, the Forum made clear the critical importance of enhancing collaboration across the international system.

The outcomes of the 2024 Adaptation Forum were used to inform the development of the AC’s draft strategy paper in relation to the mandate to support implementation of the United Arab Emirates Framework for Global Climate Resilience with technical guidance and training materials thereon.²

¹ See <https://unfccc.int/event/2024-ac-adapt-forum> and <https://unfccc.int/news/2024-adaptation-forum-highlights-opportunities-for-international-cooperation>.

² See AC document [AC26/STRAT/5](#).