

## Methodologies for assessing adaptation needs<sup>1</sup>

### Information note

#### Recommended action by the Adaptation Committee

The Adaptation Committee (AC), in the run-up to its 18<sup>th</sup> meeting, will be invited to consider the information note containing draft guiding questions for the mandated submissions as noted in **section 2** and request the secretariat to issue the call.

## 1. Introduction and background

1. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA), in its decision 11/CMA.1, requested the AC to prepare a technical paper on methodologies for assessing adaptation needs. This work is to be conducted in the following three clearly defined steps:

- a) First, the AC was requested to develop an inventory of relevant methodologies for assessing adaptation needs by June 2020.

This inventory has been developed in collaboration with the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), partner organizations of the Nairobi work programme on impacts, vulnerability and adaptation (NWP), users and developers of relevant methodologies, including academia and the private sector. It includes methodologies for assessing adaptation needs related to action, finance, capacity-building and technological support in the context of national adaptation planning and implementation. A pilot inventory is available on the Adaptation Knowledge Portal<sup>2</sup> which is currently being finalized and will be updated regularly.

- b) Secondly, the CMA invited Parties and observer organizations to submit via the UNFCCC submission portal by February 2021 their views and information on the development and application of methodologies for assessing adaptation needs, including needs related to action, finance, capacity-building and technological support.

The AC discussed possible guiding questions at AC 17 and a subsequent stocktake meeting to maximize the usefulness of the submissions to inform technical paper. The draft guiding questions are indicated in section 2 below for the AC's final consideration and clearance.

- c) And finally, the CMA requested the AC, with the engagement of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group II, as appropriate, to prepare a technical paper on methodologies for assessing adaptation needs.

## 2. Guiding questions for the call for submissions

2. As noted above, Parties and observer organizations will be invited to submit by February 2021 their views and information on the development and application of methodologies for assessing adaptation needs, including needs related to action, finance, capacity-building and technological support. To maximize the usefulness of the submissions, the AC may wish to agree on targeted questions that will provide the

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<sup>1</sup> This topic originates from decision 11/CMA.1, subheading "Methodologies for assessing adaptation needs with a view to assisting developing countries without placing an undue burden on them".

<sup>2</sup> <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWPStaging/Pages/SearchAsses.aspx>

material needed for the technical paper. The following guiding questions could be issued, with Parties and organizations being free to answer as appropriate (not all questions have to be answered):

3. **Existing methodologies:** What concrete methodologies, guidelines and tools does your country/organization use to assess adaptation needs? For each, please specify, as applicable:
  - a) Is it open source or proprietary?
    - i) How and where can it be accessed?
    - ii) Is it contained in the inventory on the Adaptation Knowledge Portal?<sup>3</sup> Do you use the inventory on the Adaptation Knowledge Portal and how could it be improved?
  4. What is needed to apply it (e.g. IT equipment, data, human resources, time investment)?
  5. What is it used for (e.g. stage in the adaptation policy cycle, geographical scale, sector)?
  6. What are the strengths and weaknesses?
    - a) Selection/application:
      - i) How does your country/organization select and apply the most suitable methodology for its needs?
      - ii) Which of the AC guiding principles<sup>4</sup> and possibly others for the application of methodologies do you consider useful?
    - b) **Gaps, good practices and lessons learned:**
      - i) In your country's/organizations' experience, what gaps, good practices and lessons learned exist in terms of developing methodologies for assessing adaptation needs?
      - ii) In your country's/organizations' experience, what gaps, good practices and lessons learned exist in terms of applying methodologies for assessing adaptation needs?
    - c) **Case studies:** Please provide one or two case studies that could be useful to other countries and that could be replicated. Case studies on transboundary measures are also welcome.

### 3. Next steps

7. The AC will be invited to agree on the guiding questions for the submissions and to request the secretariat to issue the call accordingly.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NWPStaging/Pages/SearchAsses.aspx>

<sup>4</sup> Guiding principles for methodologies for assessing adaptation needs previously identified by the AC, see document [AC/2017/12](#):

- a) Relevance – Methodologies should be capable of facilitating assessments leading to information that is meaningful to decision makers and practitioners, including at the appropriate spatial scale and for the relevant time horizon;
- b) Flexibility – Methodologies should accommodate a wide range of data availability, technical and institutional capacities in developing country Parties;
- c) Practicality – Methodologies should focus on indicators/metrics that are relatively easy to measure, and ideally could be aggregated and compared across scales;
- d) Applicability and cost – Methodologies should be applicable with limited financial, technical and institutional capacity to not place an undue burden on developing country Parties;
- e) Adaptability and adoptability – Methodologies should be adapted and adopted easily to suit national and local circumstances;
- f) Being facilitative of the next step – Methodologies are not an end in themselves but should be useful towards taking further action;
- g) Participation and inclusiveness – Methodologies should ensure consideration of all relevant stakeholders;
- h) Clarity – The purpose for performing a needs assessment should be clear.

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**Document information**

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>
01.0	15 October 2020	AC 18 This information note (AC18/INFO/5C) contains revised draft guiding questions in relation to mandated submissions for the AC consideration.
n/a	10 August 2020	Post AC 17 The AC agreed to begin brainstorming how the it can reach a wider audience with the call for submissions once it is released.
n/a	6 March 2020	AC 17 The document <a href="#">AC/2020/5</a> was presented to the AC (draft guiding questions for submissions and possible scope for a technical paper), who decided to continue to work on it intersessionally.

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Keywords: adaptation assessment, developing countries, Resilience.

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