



GUIDANCE FOR NDCs 3.0

12 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENHANCING ADAPTATION

This is a summary of forthcoming guidance that will be published in January 2025.

The next round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), referred to as NDCs 3.0, is due in 2025. This revision cycle provides an important opportunity for countries to “ratchet ambition” on adaptation—that is, to signal the political priority to adapt and increase the scale and scope of their efforts.

The 12 recommendations provided below build on the outcomes of the First Global Stocktake and the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience for the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA).¹ They are grouped into three clusters: Raising Ambition, Accelerating Implementation, and Strengthening Enablers. Each recommendation is followed by a specific action to illustrate how countries might implement the recommendation—either as an input to the NDC, or as a part of the targets and actions specified in the NDC. As countries develop their NDCs 3.0, it is important that they synergize and enhance the ambition associated with actions and priorities already identified in the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs).

1. Decision -/CMA.5 Glasgow-Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation referred to in decision 7/CMA.3: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma5_auv_8a_gga.pdf

12 Recommendations


Raise ambition

1. Consider the full range of plausible climate scenarios
2. Set GGA-aligned and measurable targets
3. Integrate adaptation into development and seek mitigation-adaptation co-benefits
4. Prioritize Nature-based Solutions (NbS)

Accelerate implementation

5. Align and synergize with NAPs
6. Enhance coordination in governance
7. Foster participatory and inclusive approaches
8. Signal a whole-of-society approach
9. Strengthen the science and knowledge base
10. Establish robust monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) systems

Strengthen enablers

11. Build institutional and human capacity
 12. Unlock adaptation finance
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Raise ambition through transformational and incremental adaptation and climate resilient development.

1. **Consider the full range of plausible climate scenarios** when planning adaptation to ensure that actions are sufficiently transformational, robust, and lead to increased resilience.

Action:

- › Review recent climate risk and vulnerability assessments to identify the most vulnerable sectors and ecosystems, potential limits to adaptation at higher levels of warming, and opportunities for transformational adaptation.

2. **Set GGA-aligned and measurable targets.** The seven thematic and four dimensional targets in the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience provide a useful guide to countries for setting their own nationally appropriate adaptation goals and targets.

Action:

- › Review GGA targets and, based on national circumstances and priorities, climate risk and vulnerability assessments, and the NAP, set the most appropriate targets/target areas for the NDC.



3. Integrate adaptation into development and seek mitigation-adaptation co-benefits in order to advance climate resilient development. Embedding adaptation in development plans is essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Similarly, more rapid progress on the SDGs can lead to increased resilience and improved adaptive capacity.

Action:

- › Identify and prioritize adaptation strategies in the NDC that lead to multiple benefits—environmental, economic, and social. For example, strengthen social protection schemes that enhance resilience, increase economic returns from reduced land degradation, or decrease greenhouse gas emissions through agroecological practices.

4. Prioritize Nature-based Solutions (NbS), which are cost-effective and synergistic, deliver biodiversity and socio-economic co-benefits, and link adaptation and mitigation.

Action:

- › Review ongoing portfolios of ecosystem- and biodiversity-related policies and programs and country priorities in National Biodiversity Action Plans (NBSAPs) that have been prepared in line with the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and the UN Convention on Desertification; identify NbS- and ecosystem-based adaptation targets and priorities at the national level.

Accelerate implementation by aligning targets with NAPs, strengthening all stages of the adaptation-policy cycle, and adopting a whole-of-society approach.

5. Align and synergize with NAPs. Ensure NDC adaptation targets and priorities are informed by the results and outputs of NAP implementation processes.

Action:

- › Where a country has undertaken a process to formulate and implement a NAP, leverage the outputs of the process to inform the targets and actions in the NDC and build on that process to strengthen both the NDC and the NAP.

6. Enhance coordination in governance. Strengthen vertical and horizontal coordination between agencies and ministries to facilitate cross-sectoral and cross-scale adaptation actions.

Action:

- › Examine policies in key climate-sensitive sectors such as water, agriculture, and infrastructure to ensure synergies and avoid trade-offs across sectors. Similarly, ensure that adaptation actions at the local level can be supported and enabled by suitable national or subnational policies and frameworks.

- 7. Foster participatory and inclusive approaches** that are gender responsive and include Indigenous and local knowledge and youth.

Action:

- › Adopt gender-inclusive indicators and strengthen planning and implementation actions to be gender responsive. Leverage traditional and local knowledge in the design and development of adaptation solutions and seek to engage young people.

- 8. Signal a whole-of-society approach.** Inclusive stakeholder engagement enables governments to utilize the capacities and contributions of diverse groups to boost ambition and accelerate NDC implementation.

Action:

- › Formalize stakeholder engagement at every stage of NDC development and implementation through mandated structures and processes or by establishing specific mechanisms to ensure equitable and inclusive input.

- 9. Strengthen the science and knowledge base** to ensure that adaptation actions are evidence based and that national research and innovation systems can facilitate new adaptation solutions based on lessons learned.

Action:

- › Engage in-country research institutions and organizations to contribute to NDC development and implementation with their technical expertise and implementation experience, through activities such as the assessment of risks and vulnerabilities and the development and deployment of adaptation technologies and solutions.



10. Establish robust monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) systems that measure the effectiveness of actions, evaluate what works and what does not work, and enable learning for iterative decision-making.

Action:

- › Use existing national planning, budgeting, and data systems to improve reporting on MEL from climate adaptation and resilience efforts.

Strengthen enablers at the global and national level through enhanced capacity building and by unlocking adaptation finance.

11. Build institutional and human capacity, including in the government and civil society, to strengthen climate adaptation efforts.

Action:

- › Consider including capacity-building goals and associated targets in the NDC and identifying opportunities for long-term human-capacity building—for example, through educational courses at the secondary and tertiary level that address adaptation and resilience.

12. Unlock adaptation finance at speed and at scale by leveraging different sources and ensuring access and delivery including at the local level.

Action:

- › Strengthen efforts to make adaptation targets and plans more investable through improved assessment of costs and benefits and leverage public finance and appropriate financial instruments.

Acknowledgments

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