



# Indicators for the global goal on adaptation

## Update on the UAE-Belém work programme

*Stuart Best*  
*UNFCCC*

# Background

- The Paris Agreement established the global goal on adaptation: *Parties hereby establish the global goal on adaptation of enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate change, with a view to contributing to sustainable development and ensuring an adequate, adaptation response in the context of the temperature goal referred to in Article 2.*
- CMA 5 (2023) adopted the UAE Framework for global climate resilience, including 7 thematic and 4 dimensional climate adaptation targets
  - Water, food, health, ecosystems, infrastructure, poverty and livelihoods, cultural heritage
  - Assessment, planning, implementation, MEL
- UAE-Belém work programme on indicators (2023-2025)



# Progress to date

- SB 60 (June 2024) provided guidance on the work programme, and requested the chairs to convene technical experts to support this work
  - 78 in total, with gender and geographic balance, and expertise across all areas
- Invitation to Parties and observers to submit information on existing indicators
  - 64 submissions, with over 9,000 indicators submitted
  - Compiled into an initial compilation for expert review, including relevance to adaptation and the specific targets
  - Assessment on availability of metadata and methodologies in place
  - Development of new indicators
- Refined list of indicators published prior to CMA 6 and Parties provided further guidance
  - Final Outcome may include a manageable set of no more than 100 indicators
  - Indicators for enabling factors for the implementation of adaptation action, including means of implementation
  - Further information on cross-cutting considerations e.g. children, indigenous peoples and human rights



# Progress to date

- Expert work continued in early 2025, and a consolidated list of indicator options was published in May.
  - 490 indicators, more developed metadata, technical reports
  - Some target areas more developed than others
  - A mix of existing, refined and new indicators
- SB 62 (June 2025) provided further guidance that experts submit the final list of potential indicators in August
  - Additional guidance, including on measurability, refinement of indicators
  - Limited data availability should not restrict the development of new indicators
- Experts set to work after SB 62, and a hybrid meeting took place from 20-22 August
- UNFCCC secretariat awaiting submission of the indicator list and technical report

## Next steps

- UNFCCC secretariat published the outputs:
  - The list of potential indicators prepared by experts is [here](#).
  - The technical report prepared by experts is [here](#)
- Opportunities for Parties and observers to review in the coming weeks
- Workshop taking place on 03-04 October, to reflect on the final list of potential indicators
- Negotiations at CMA 7 in Belém where the decision on the indicators is to be adopted
- The CMA 7 decision on the global goal on adaptation will likely include other aspects, including on the Baku Adaptation roadmap
- Upon adoption of the indicator list, it is envisioned that Parties will report through numerous instruments, including BTRs and Adaptation Communications, which will serve as inputs to the global stocktake.

# High-level observations, August 2025

- The list discussed during the expert meeting currently contains ~120 indicators
- Experts have been working to ensure consistency of language used, using disaggregation by hazard to provide for context specificity of indicators, identify duplicates and overlaps
- The challenge of aligning to the language of the targets, e.g. measuring resilience to climate impacts rather than measuring the impacts themselves
- In the list from May, some indicators have a lot of information on metadata and methodologies, whereas others have very little
- Refining existing indicators (e.g. SDGs) to make them adaptation relevant, but without losing the data already being collected

# High-level observations, August 2025

- Balancing the mandates of having no additional reporting burden with the need to develop new indicators in some areas
- The focus for many Parties on the indicators for enabling factors and means of implementation
- For some targets, the inclusion of qualitative indicators adds value in explaining context and providing an overall assessment
- Global targets → global indicators → national reporting → local adaptation contexts
- Role of NSOs
  - Talking to your national delegations/COP negotiators and highlighting your perspectives
  - Contributing to data and methodologies for new and refined indicators
  - Contributing on how to measure indicators that are transboundary in nature

# Where to find information

- The list of indicators is posted on [GGA webpage](#) (UNFCCC→Adaptation→GGA→Background)
- Information on the workshop were shared via UNFCCC National Focal Points, and designed UN contact points, and on the GGA webpage
- In-person and virtual participation
- It will also be webcasted



Thank you

Any questions to:  
Mr. Stuart Best  
[sbest@unfccc.int](mailto:sbest@unfccc.int)  
[gga@unfccc.int](mailto:gga@unfccc.int)