

The Gathering Storm

Adapting to climate change
in a post-pandemic world

UN  | 5 
environment programme | 1972-2022

**Adaptation Gap
Report 2021**

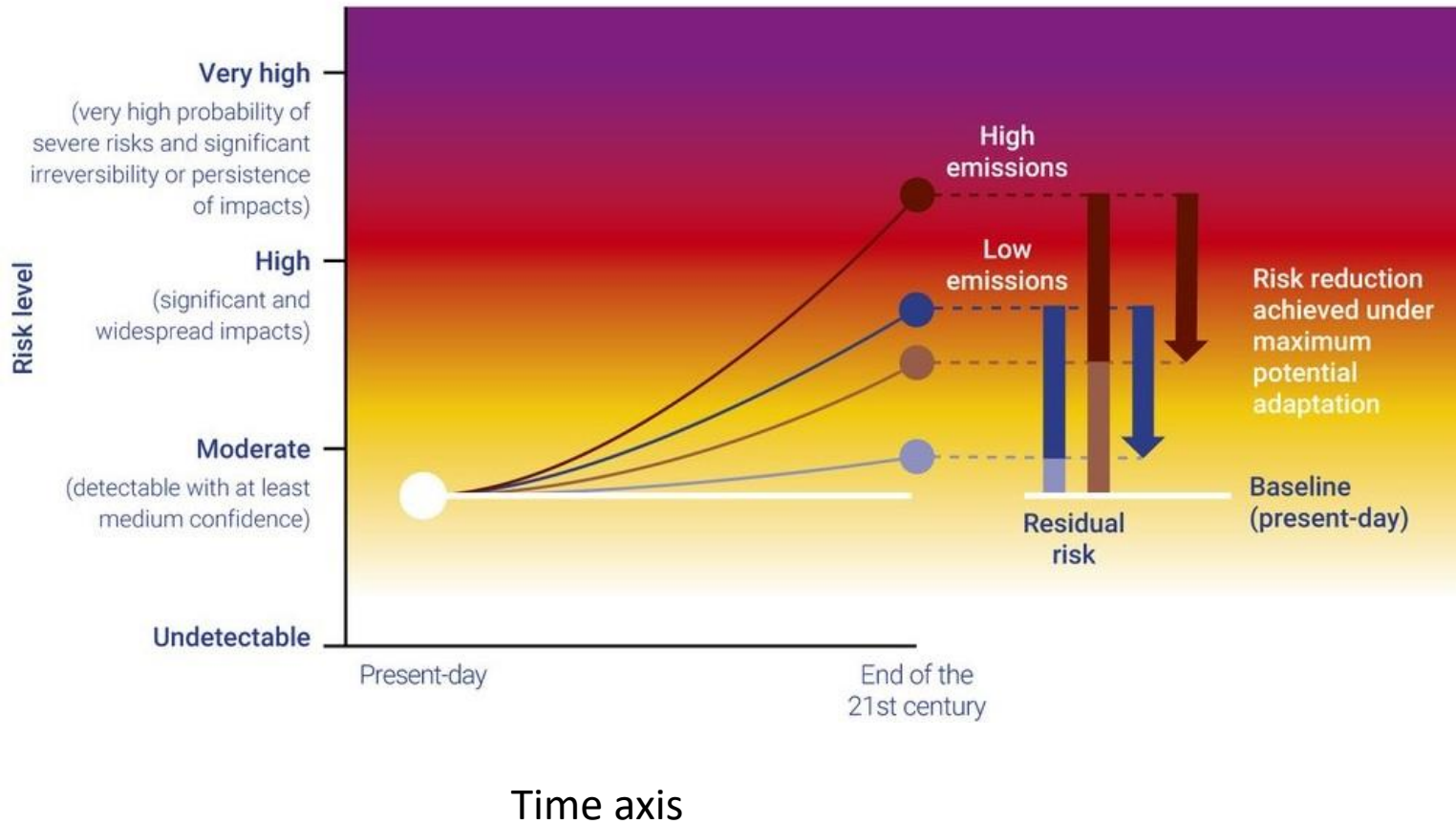
The UNEP Adaptation Gap Report 2021



- 1. Provides an update of the status and progress on:
 - Adaptation planning
 - Adaptation finance
 - Adaptation implementation
- 2. Analyses and discusses the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic for adaptation



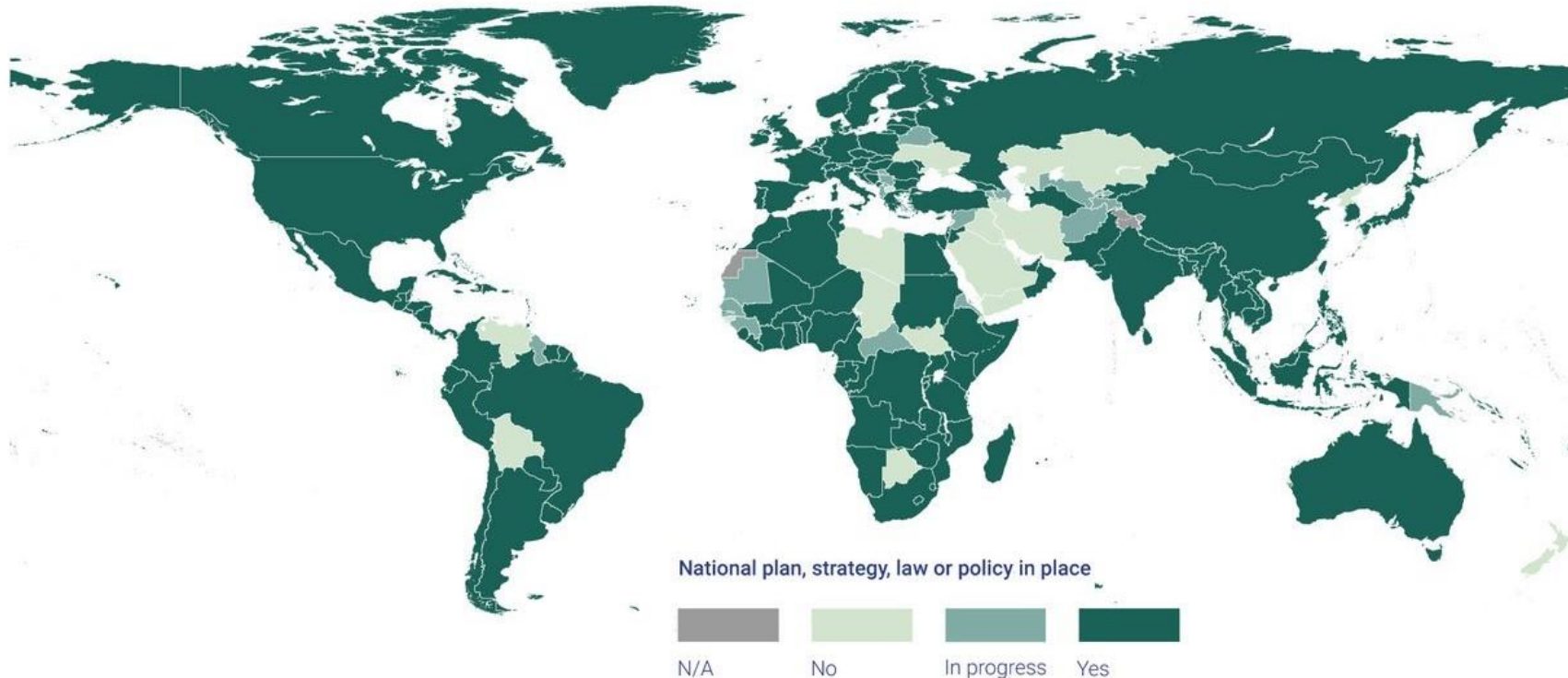
Report's main conclusion: More and better adaptation is needed to minimize current and future risks and impacts of climate change



- Climate risks and impacts **increase** with temperature rise
- Adaptation can help **reduce** those risks and impacts
- But adaptation costs will **increase** with risk and impacts
- Strong mitigation is required to **reduce** climate risks and impacts, considering:
- Raising ambition is critical to **reduce** the adaptation gap

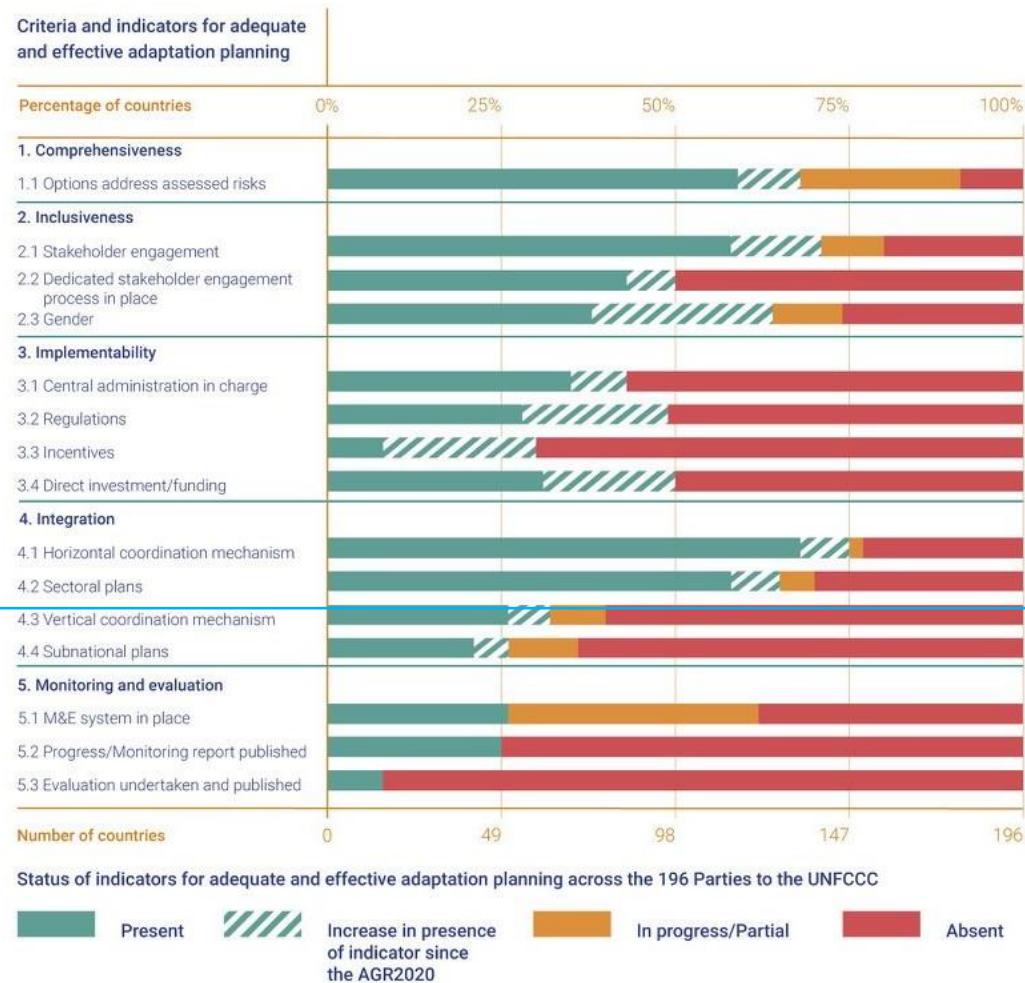
Significant progress in adaptation planning since end 2020

Status of adaptation planning worldwide, as at 5 August 2021



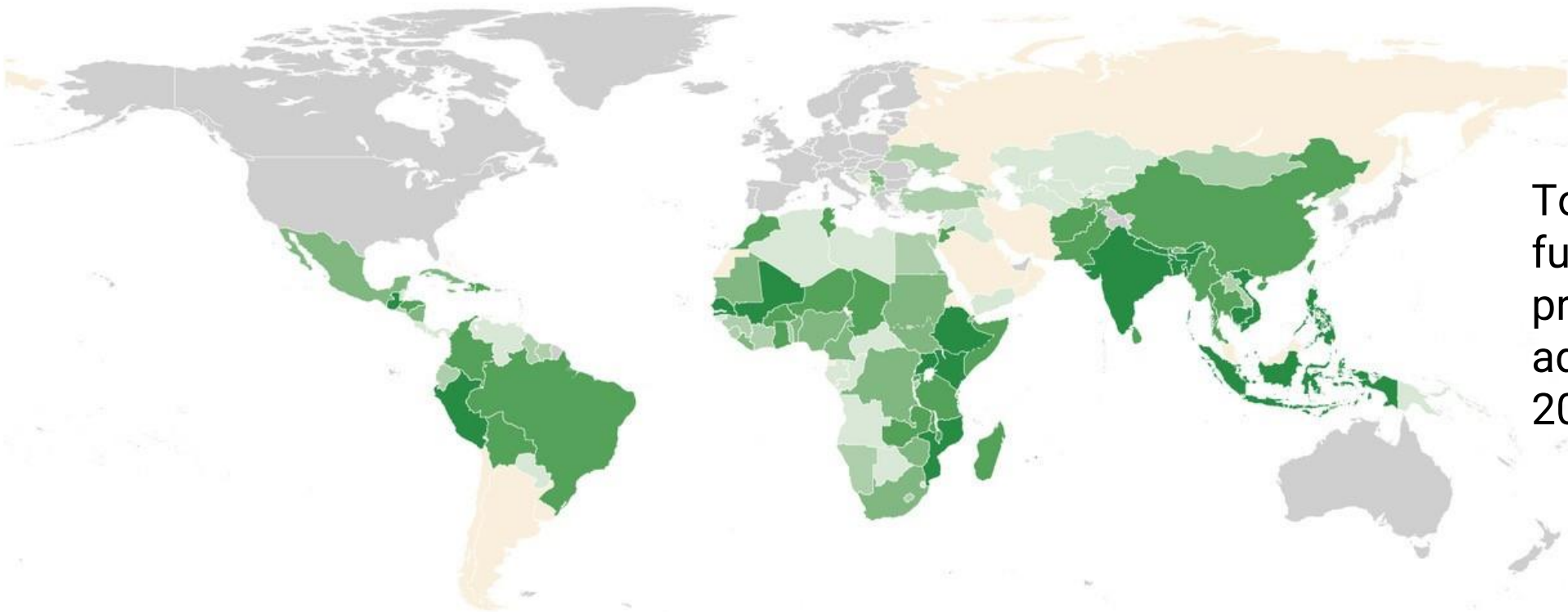
- 79% of countries (+7%) have at least one national-level adaptation planning instrument in place
- 9% of countries without planning instruments are in the process of developing one (no change)
- > 65% of countries have one or more sectoral plans and > 26% have one or more subnational planning instruments

Indicators of adequacy and effectiveness of adaptation planning show positive trends compared to 2020



- **Comprehensiveness:** 2/3 of countries (+9% compared to 2020) address priority sectors
- **Inclusiveness:** Stakeholder engagement (43%→50%); Gender (52%→73%)
- **Implementability:** Generally under 50%, but significant progress on regulations, incentives and investment
- **Integration:** Horizontal (68%→75%); Vertical (26%→32%)
- **M&E:** Still a concern as only 26% have a system in place; another 36% of countries are developing such systems

Adaptation actions are being implemented more often, but further scaling up is urgently needed



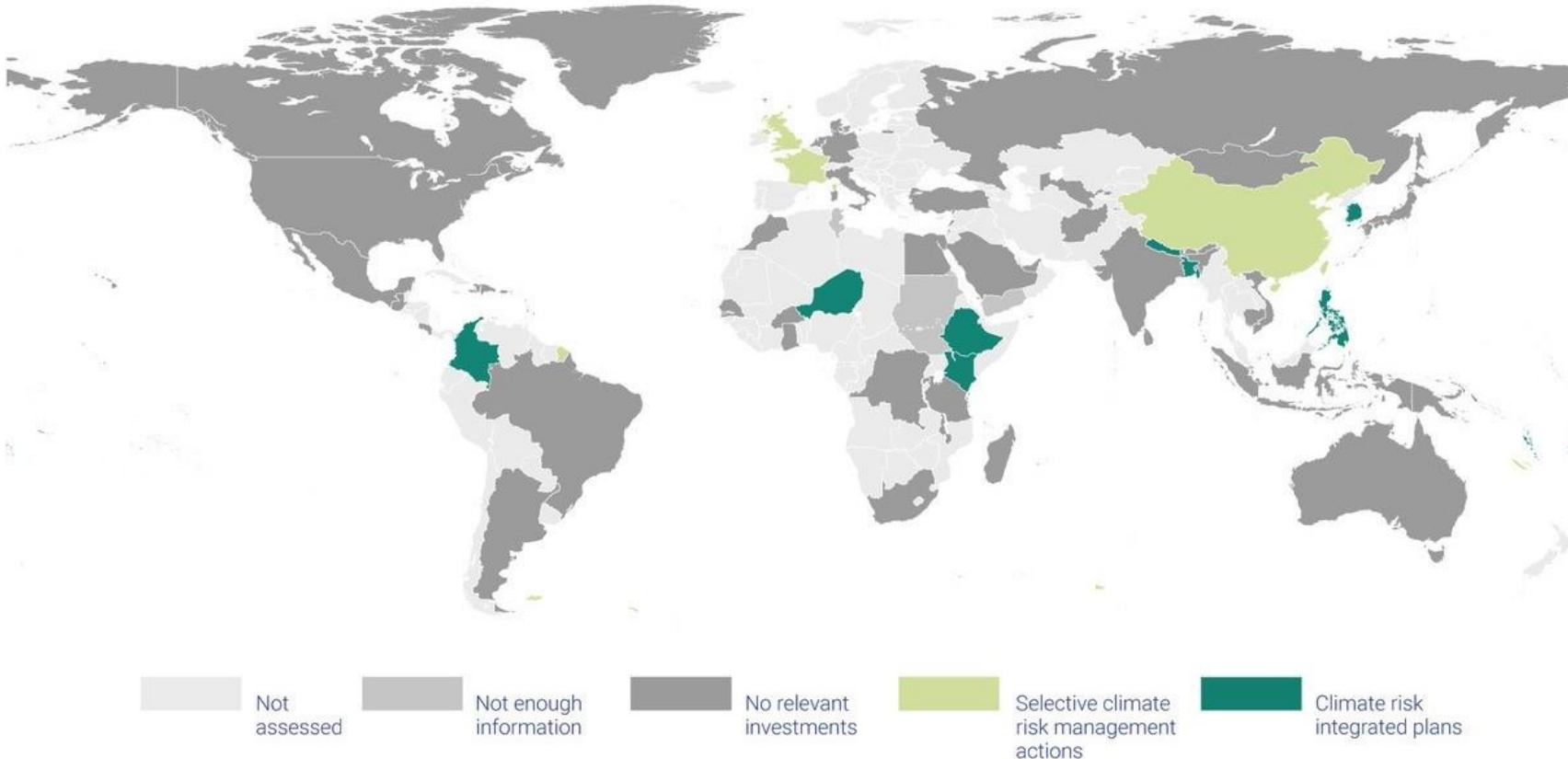
Top ten bilateral donors funded more than 2,600 projects with principal adaptation focus since 2010

Number of principal adaptation projects funded by the top 10 bilateral donors



Effects of COVID-19 pandemic lead to increase in adaptation risks

Countries including selected adaptation interventions in stimulus packages



- Only a small portion of the US\$16.7 bn fiscal stimulus deployed around the globe has targeted adaptation
- COVID-19 restrictions impede disaster-response efforts
- Economic and social impacts disproportionately affect vulnerable groups
- Heightened costs of servicing debt and decreased government revenues

Lessons of the COVID-19 pandemic for adaptation

Governments can:

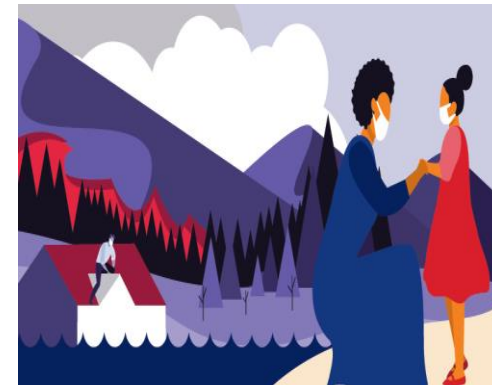
- Address compound risks through integrated risk management approaches
- Use the fiscal recovery from the pandemic to prioritize interventions that address economic and social priorities as well as climate change resilience
- Establish flexible disaster finance frameworks

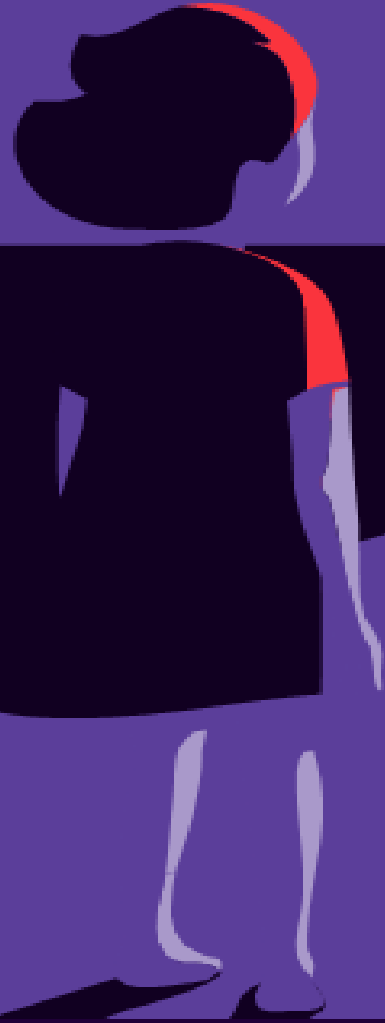


Advanced economies should help developing countries to free up fiscal space for green and resilient COVID-19 recovery efforts through concessional finance and substantive debt relief.

Although some adaptation progress is made, further ambition is needed

- The world needs to scale up public adaptation finance, through direct investment and by overcoming barriers to private sector adaptation
- More and stronger implementation of adaptation actions is needed to avoid falling behind on managing climate risks, particularly in developing countries
- Fiscal recovery from the pandemic can prioritize interventions that achieve both economic growth and climate change resilience
- Advanced economies can help developing countries to free up fiscal space for green and resilient COVID-19 recovery efforts through concessional finance and substantive debt relief





On behalf of the report's steering committee, authors and production secretariat:

Thank you very much!

UNEP Science Division
UNEP DTU Partnership
World Adaptation Science Programme



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