
Regional Dimensions and Priorities on the Global Goal on Adaptation

Introduction

The Paris Agreement in 2015 introduced the concept of a Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), a parallel to the global mitigation goal aimed at limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C. Unlike mitigation, where progress can be tracked using a single metric, adaptation requires a more complex approach.

The Glasgow-Sharm El-Sheikh Work Programme on the Global Goal on Adaptation, initiated at COP26, set forth a series of workshops and negotiations to establish an operational framework for the GGA by COP28.

UNEP's Global Adaptation Network (GAN) undertook a series of regional webinars across Asia-Pacific, Africa, and Latin America & the Caribbean to gather insights and understand regional perspectives and priorities for the GGA.

The regional perspectives that emerged from these webinars can be summarized as follows:

Asia-Pacific

- As the GGA has a global scope that requires collective action and local implementation, it can serve as a crucial vehicle to push for transformational adaptation through a long-term well-being approach and global cooperation.
- The GGA offers a chance to address transboundary climate risks, often overlooked in adaptation planning, as highlighted in the 6th IPCC assessment report. The GGA should carefully consider and manage these risks, acknowledging that adaptation actions in one country can affect vulnerabilities in others.
- The development of a global framework needs to be supported by the scientific and academic community.
- Establishing robust and customized monitoring, evaluation, and learning systems that are country-driven is essential to assess progress toward the GGA. In Asia-Pacific, most countries plan to include MEL components as part of their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) in the future, requiring a country-driven approach. Integration with national SDG reporting and regional cooperation can address limited capacity, particularly in Least Developed Countries.
- **The Asia-Pacific region has made significant strides in understanding the GGA and enhancing adaptation actions. To ensure effective implementation, the GGA framework must emphasize transformational adaptation, global cooperation, science and evidence, and robust monitoring and evaluation systems. By addressing cross-border climate risks and promoting well-being, the region can collectively move forward in achieving its adaptation goals.**

Africa

- A GGA needs to recognize the unique vulnerabilities faced by African countries. Despite contributing only 4% of global emissions, Africa bears the brunt of climate risks and impacts.
- The GGA must address the adaptation finance gap and empower local communities in Africa. Africa faces a substantial gap in climate adaptation finance. Current commitments fall short of the estimated \$52.7 billion annually required by African countries for effective adaptation. A GGA means mobilizing more financial resources to support African nations in building resilience and implementing adaptation measures.
- The GGA should emphasize inclusivity and justice, especially by bridging the gap between national policies and local actions, ensuring that the most vulnerable communities, including youth and women, have a say in decision-making processes and benefit from climate adaptation initiatives.
- The GGA necessitates the use of scientific assessments and metrics to set clear targets and measure progress. African countries can leverage scientific evidence, such as reports from the IPCC, to formulate effective adaptation strategies that address their specific needs.
- **For Africa, the GGA represents an opportunity to address its vulnerability to climate change, ensure long-term resilience, and access much-needed adaptation finance. The continent must prioritize empowering local communities and ensuring inclusivity and justice in adaptation measures. Leveraging scientific evidence and aligning with IPCC assessments will be critical in formulating effective adaptation strategies for Africa's sustainable development.**

Latin America and the Caribbean

- The lack of a common understanding in the region of the GGA, what it means, and how it can strengthen action and support for adaptation poses challenges to effective communication and participation.
- The process of developing the framework for the GGA may seem remote from local realities, which is why it is important to build a Latin American vision that gathers perspectives and realities from different actors.
- The GGA can complement and guide national adaptation processes, requiring capacity building at all levels.
- The financing component of the GGA should address the unique adaptation financing needs in the LAC region.
- **The LAC region faces challenges in communicating the GGA and ensuring broad participation. Building a common understanding and integrating perspectives from different stakeholders will be essential in developing an effective GGA framework. The region should leverage the GGA to complement national adaptation processes, fostering inclusivity and addressing its unique adaptation financing needs.**

Common Conclusions From All Regions

Here are some of the common messages from across all three regions:

1. **Inclusivity and Participation:** A bottom-up approach, involving diverse stakeholders like local communities, youth, women, and indigenous groups, is critical to ensuring that the GGA is sensitive to ground realities and the specific vulnerabilities of these groups.

2. **Science-informed metrics:** Relying on robust scientific data, like IPCC assessments, is essential to formulate effective adaptation strategies. National monitoring and evaluation systems should be strengthened to assess the efficacy of adaptation actions.
3. **Regional Cooperation and Coordination:** Cross-border cooperation and knowledge exchange are essential to tackle shared climate risks and develop best practices for adaptation.
4. **Adaptation Finance:** The GGA framework must address the distinct financing needs of each region and ensure that funds are channelled to the most vulnerable communities.
5. **Country-Driven and Locally led Approaches:** The GGA framework should be flexible enough to accommodate the unique needs and priorities of each nation, aligning with their existing national adaptation strategies.

In addition, a set of conclusions were developed from the technical webinars and the regional discussions, such as:

1. **Urgency of Collective Action and Responsibility:** All regions acknowledged the pressing need for global cooperation to achieve the Paris Agreement's objectives.
2. **Integration of Adaptation and Mitigation:** Effective climate action requires a balanced approach, considering both adaptation and mitigation efforts.
3. **Equity, Rights, and Justice:** The GGA framework should prioritize fairness, ensuring that marginalized communities and future generations benefit equitably from adaptation strategies.
4. **Transformational Adaptation:** Embracing innovation and empowering local communities will drive adaptation efforts that move beyond incremental changes.
5. **Global Governance and Cooperation:** COP28 is a pivotal juncture for finalizing and operationalizing the GGA framework, aligning global adaptation efforts.
6. **Capacity Building:** Building institutional, technical, and financial capabilities is essential for successful GGA implementation.
7. **Youth and Future Generations:** Engaging young people in the GGA process is key to ensuring long-term, transformative adaptation actions.
8. **Learning and Iterative Process:** The GGA framework should evolve based on real-world feedback and scientific insights to maintain its relevance and efficacy.