



Australian Government

Submission: Party views on objectives of the Glasgow-Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal for adaptation. March 2022

Australia welcomes the opportunity to provide views on the objectives of the Glasgow-Sharm el-Sheikh (GlaSS) work programme on the global goal for adaptation (GGA) in advance of a series of workshops to be conducted with the support of the secretariat and the guidance of the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies. Australia acknowledges the importance of assessing adaptation progress on the GGA as part of the Global Stocktake (GST).

We wish to thank the Adaptation Committee (AC) for the work it has completed on the matter of adaptation progress assessment. Our understanding of the challenges and opportunities involved in assessing progress on adaptation has benefited from the AC's work, as well as associated work by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), International Institute for Environmental and Development (IIED) and Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations (IDDRI) among others.

Australia looks forward to exchanging perspectives and sharing learnings as part of the GlaSS process. Open and constructive engagement can only serve to strengthen our adaptation practice, both at home and abroad. We focus on promoting practical adaptation action that:

- integrates risk and resilience thinking into all relevant decisions, policies, and investments
- uses country-driven and context-specific approaches and considers effectiveness, science, data and impact to make the best use of available finance, and
- prioritises social inclusion, empowering the most vulnerable, including women, youth, indigenous and those with disabilities.

We see the GlaSS workshops over 2022 and 2023 as opportunities for Parties to share experiences and remain open and engaged as emerging and transformative approaches to assessing progress are brought forward and discussed. Australia is determined to better understand how adaptation progress can be assessed through multiple, complementary approaches that are informed by data and good practice and are context specific and not overly burdensome.

Specific to Australia's view on the GlaSS objectives, we are focussed on supporting the work programme's contribution to **Objective 1** "enabling the full and sustained implementation of the Paris Agreement, towards achieving the global goal on adaptation, with a view to enhancing adaptation action and support".

Australia's view on **Objective 2**¹ is framed by our overarching position that there can be no one-size-fits-all approach to adaptation action or assessment. Regarding action, while principles and good practice are helpful, we understand action varies according to risk profile, as well as political, economic, and socio-cultural priorities and resources. This complexity highlights that unlike mitigation, there can be no global reference metric for adaptation that applies across communities, countries, and regions. **Methodologies** for assessing adaptation progress, when faced with the diversity and complexity of adaptation starting points and pathways, present us with challenges as the AC's [technical paper](#) has made clear. Managing these methodological, empirical,

¹ "Enhance understanding of the global goal on adaptation, including of the methodologies, indicators, data and metrics, needs and support needed for assessing progress towards it"

political, and other challenges involves combining qualitative and quantitative approaches to provide more holistic accounts of adaptation progress that can inform more targeted and context appropriate future action.

One promising methodology in Australia's view is the emerging Global Adaptation Progress Tracker ([GAP-Track](#)) tool that uses expert interviews and judging scoring systems to bring together different information types across sectors and scales. We encourage approaches, like the GAP-Track, that capture context rich information in scalable and inclusive ways while not overburdening countries with complex and abstract assessment approaches.

Regarding **data and metrics** used as a part of assessment practices, Australia views the information from relevant, pre-existing data sets as valuable. These include data available as part of reporting under complementary frameworks, including Sustainable Development Goals, the North Dam Global Adaptation Index, the Sendai Framework, as well as nationally developed measures where a two-way exchange of information and approaches is encouraged (**this also relates to Objective 6²**).

On the issue of the GlASS supporting a better understanding of **needs and support**, Australia supports the view that assessment plays a key role in the iterative and cyclical process of better planning and implementation. Information, lessons and ideas identified during the assessments must inform needs and support, both in financing and enabling environments, to minimise maladaptation (**As per Objectives 4³ and 5⁴**). Through planning and practice, the accumulation and sharing of lessons learnt and associated knowledge products through the Nairobi Work Programme, among other platforms, is key to strengthening the implementation of adaptation actions (**Objective 7⁵**).

Regarding **Objective 3⁶**, it is Australia's view that the GlASS can benefit the GST by providing assessment results based on a reliable and robust process which can be built on and improved in successive GSTs. As stated above, informing the GST on adaptation progress through a holistic assessment approach should provide important information on gaps in enabling environments as well as finance.

Australia sees the complementarity of communication and reporting instruments (**Objective 8⁷**) taking shape. We support the development of a streamlined architecture for adaptation assessment under the UNFCCC. We view the use of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and other development plans as sensible and practical starting points for Parties. As national and international efforts at assessing adaptation develop, holistic and scalable approaches can be applied to assess progress. Adaptation Communications, in Australia's view, are suitable instruments for communicating progress and identifying opportunities for future action.

Australia is pleased to share its views, based on the key literature available and informed by our adaptation experience at home and in our region. We look forward to reading the submissions from other parties, and welcome the open sharing of experience and expertise in the forthcoming workshops and related activities under the GlASS up to and including COP27 and onto to 2023.

Thank you.

² "Facilitate the establishment of robust, nationally appropriate systems for monitoring and evaluating adaptation actions"

³ "Enhance national planning and implementation of adaptation actions through the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans and through nationally determined contributions and adaptation communications"

⁴ "Enable Parties to better communicate their adaptation priorities, implementation and support needs, plans and actions, including through adaptation communications and nationally determined contributions"

⁵ "Strengthen implementation of adaptation actions in vulnerable developing countries"

⁶ "Contribute to reviewing the overall progress made in achieving the global goal on adaptation as part of the global stocktake referred to in Article 7, paragraph 14, and Article 14 of the Paris Agreement with a view to informing the first and subsequent global stocktakes"

⁷ "Enhance understanding of how communication and reporting instruments established under the Convention and the Paris Agreement related to adaptation can complement each other in order to avoid duplication of efforts"