

Republic of Maldives

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

April 2022

The Republic of Maldives welcomes the opportunity to provide views on the objectives of the Glasgow-Sharm el-Sheikh (GlaSS) work programme on the global goal on 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. The Republic of Maldives particularly wishes to provide views on 7/CMA.3 paragraph 7b, which decided that one objective of the GlaSS is to “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”. We note the importance of further defining the GGA in order to be able to assess progress toward it.

The Republic of Maldives acknowledges and thanks the Adaptation Committee for its valuable work on the complex subject of assessing progress towards adaptation. In this note, we draw insight from the AC’s work as well as non-governmental and research institutions with whom we have collaborated.

The Republic of Maldives is also of the view that work toward clarifying the GGA should be conducted in an inclusive manner. It should be guided by the best available science with the engagement of expert bodies such as the IPCC other relevant constituted bodies under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, taking into account local knowledge and traditional and indigenous expertise, and also views from all groups such as women and youth.

Article 7 of the *Paris Agreement* established 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.” We believe that specifying the global goal more precisely should be a key priority of the GlaSS. However, specifying the GGA, it has to consider the country circumstances, especially the vulnerabilities and special circumstances of SIDS and challenges facing SIDS on addressing the adaptation needs.

Although the Paris Agreement does not specify the GGA concretely, it gives three characteristics of the goal. The GGA must be:

1. global in nature;
2. articulated in terms of resilience, adaptive capacity, and reducing vulnerability;
3. and should contribute to sustainable development.

Further articulating criteria for an acceptable GGA, the Climate Ambition Support Alliance published a [technical paper](#) on the GGA from a Small Island Developing State perspective.

This technical paper has provided insights on important issues in defining a GGA and made suggestions on a way forward, mainly on the expectations from a SIDS perspective.

It is clear that adaptation goals need to be specific and multifaceted, responding to country and regional circumstances and capacities as well as global ambitions. It must respect the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capacities. Nevertheless, the Republic of Maldives believes that there must be a **global** goal that meets these criteria, and can serve as a common benchmark, guiding regional, national, and local goals as well. Because of the transboundary nature of many adaptation actions—especially those concerning food, water, and biodiversity—it is necessary to have a truly global goal.

The Republic of Maldives believes that the GGA should have the following core elements:

- **Sustainable development:** The GGA should concern climate related risks to sustainable development priorities such as water, health, food security, biodiversity and livelihoods.
- **Support:** Countries, specifically the vulnerable and small island developing states need to have adequate resources including finance and other means of implementation to address their adaptation needs.
- **Collective Action:** Countries should undertake collective adaptation actions that are commensurate with climate risks.
- **Capabilities:** Countries should have the capabilities needed to undertake these actions. This requires adequate finance and technology support so that adaptation action does not create additional burdens to developing countries.
- **Transformative:** The GGA should help build a better future, be forward looking, and include a vision of transformational adaptation.

The elements we identified above seek to fulfill the aspirations of Article 7 and aspirations of vulnerable small island states. The transformative element is aspirational. The specification of taking actions that are commensurate with climate risks links resilience building to potential temperature scenarios and the impacts they will bring. The collective nature of the goal seeks to ensure a link between local and regional/global efforts. The Republic of Maldives believes that combining these core elements into a formal GGA will give countries clarity as they work to achieve it, and specificity as to what they are trying to achieve collectively.

The Republic of Maldives is pleased to share its views, based on its experiences, the key literature and academic expertise available, and informed by our country's and region's unique characteristics and needs. We look forward to reading submissions from other Parties, and welcome open dialogue in the forthcoming workshops and related activities under the GlaSS up to and including COP27 and onto to 2023.