

Submission by the Czech Republic and the European Commission on behalf of the European Union and its Member States

Subject: Fourth workshop under the Glasgow – Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation on the theme of ‘Communicating and reporting on adaptation priorities, including considering complementarities of the various communication and reporting tools and taking into account insights from the first three workshops consider inputs to the GST.

Prague, 10 October 2022

Summary

- Communicating and reporting on adaptation efforts have an important role in improving the understanding of the current state of adaptation, are an important element of monitoring and evaluating progress at all scales and can inform the GGA and GST.
- An overview of the existing reporting options, their functions and contents under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, is an important starting point for this workshop.
- Another step is to analyse to what extent changes to the current systems are needed with a view to avoid duplication of efforts and to reduce the reporting burden of Parties.
- The EU suggests learning from approaches and tools also from other international reporting processes which can be relevant for climate change adaptation (e.g. CBD, CCD and Sendai).

1. Introduction

This submission responds to a call to Parties and observers in conclusions adopted by the SBI and the SBSTA at their fifty-sixth sessions on the Glasgow – Sharm el-Sheikh work programme (“GlaSS”) on the global goal on adaptation (“GGA”) referred to in decision 7/CMA.3. The conclusions invite “Parties and observers to submit via the submission portal views on the subsequent workshops, including on general considerations, the topics for discussion under the themes identified in the compilation and synthesis of submissions, areas of work, expected outcomes, examples, case studies and modalities, for each workshop to be conducted in 2022, at least three weeks in advance of the workshop.”¹

As part of their conclusions, the SBI and the SBSTA also endorsed the themes of the workshops as contained in the compilation and synthesis of submissions from 5 June 2022.² The European Union and its Member States (“EU”) welcome this opportunity to share our views and to provide information for the fourth mandated GlaSS workshop on “Communicating and reporting on adaptation priorities”.

This submission is divided into several sections. Section 2 sets the scene and highlights the importance of comprehensive reporting and communication on adaptation; section 3 outlines the EU’s view on topics for discussion and expected outcomes of the workshop; section 4 highlights EU experiences and examples; section 5 outlines our views on modalities for the workshop and suggestions for speakers; finally, section 6 relates to discussing possible inputs to the global stocktake (“GST”).

2. The importance of comprehensive reporting and communicating on adaptation

¹ Documents FCCC/SBSTA/2022/6, paragraph 154, and FCCC/SBI/2022/10, paragraph 187, respectively.

² https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Compilation%20and%20synthesis_GGA_WP_submissions_5June2022.pdf



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Communicating and reporting on adaptation efforts have an important role in improving the understanding of the current state of adaptation and to further advance adaptation progress at all levels. Under the UNFCCC and Paris Agreement (“PA”), Parties can communicate on adaptation through National Communications (“NCs”), Biennial Transparency Reports, Adaptation Communications (“ADCOMs”) or the adaptation component of the Nationally Determined Contributions (“NDCs”). The enhanced transparency framework under the Paris Agreement (Article 13 of the PA and decision 18/CMA.1), consists of a reporting and review process that allows each Party to indicate the current status of climate change impacts and adaptation, generating mutual trust in each other's implementation of the PA. Adaptation progress will also be reviewed under the GST (Article 7.14 of the PA).

Sharing the outputs from the National Adaptation Plan (“NAP”) process, including experiences and lessons learned from planning, implementing and evaluating adaptation efforts throughout the adaptation policy cycle, can serve as inspiration for adaptation practitioners at all levels and help build an understanding of progress, of what adaptation actions work well and of adaptation needs and knowledge gaps.

Reporting is an important element for reviewing adaptation progress at the local, national and global level, and hence for informing and achieving the GGA and the GST.

It is part of the monitoring and evaluation (“M&E”) step of the adaptation policy cycle, and requires suitable frameworks and tools in order to be successful. Hence, the topics discussed during workshop 3 on methodologies, indicators, data and metrics, M&E are an important starting point for any further consideration of reporting to take place during this workshop.

Previous workshops and discussions have highlighted the challenges in monitoring and evaluation of adaptation progress. The EU believes that a number of different approaches should be used and combined in order to assess progress towards the GGA, including process-based indicators, qualitative and quantitative assessments of progress stemming from national M&E systems, qualitative global assessments and existing monitoring systems.

In its 2020 report on monitoring and evaluation of national adaptation policies³, the European Environment Agency states that the overarching goal of monitoring, reporting and evaluation is to enable new information and lessons learned to shape future decisions within an iterative policy- and agenda-setting cycle. The tools and frameworks available for adaptation monitoring, reporting and evaluation (“MRE”) are typically not designed to be aggregated at global level, as they are relevant to specific contexts and designed for the national context. Nevertheless, these existing, national MRE systems can facilitate global knowledge sharing, learning and transparency, and provide insights into opportunities for synthesizing and partly aggregating country-level progress.

3. Topics for discussion and expected outcomes

The EU expects the fourth workshop to contribute to a purposeful reporting that will provide the information required for assessing progress at the local, regional and national level, as well as towards the GGA, and the GST. The existing reporting frameworks under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement allow for reporting on national adaptation needs, plans, progress and outcomes. A common understanding of the existing reporting requirements, functions and content is an important starting point for this workshop. This is useful for further discussing to what extent changes to the current system are needed and how to avoid duplications of efforts and to reduce the reporting burden of Parties.

The EU notes, in particular, that:

- The information contained in national adaptation processes, including NAPs should refer to the entire adaptation policy cycle, including risk assessment, the identification of adaptation options and priorities, the planning and implementation of adaptation actions and the monitoring and evaluation of adaptation action and its outcomes, making the NAPs an important basis for communicating and reporting on adaptation.
- ADCOMs, NCs, and adaptation components of NDCs can also inform both the GlASS and the GST with examples of best practices, lessons learnt and information on national

³ EEA Report (No 06 2020): Monitoring and Evaluation of national adaptation policies throughout the policy cycle.

progress on adaptation that can be replicated and/or scaled up elsewhere. The recently completed “Draft supplementary guidance for voluntary use by Parties in communicating information with the possible elements of an adaptation communication”⁴ could be strengthened in order to provide more guidance to Parties in completing their ADCOMs to this purpose.

The EU suggests the following topics for discussion during the workshop:

- Mapping and comparison of existing reporting options under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, with regard to their purpose, timelines, mandates, roles, functions and target audiences as well as the need to introduce changes.
- Exploring the possible contributions of the existing reporting options towards assessing collective progress and reporting towards the GGA and the GST,
- Identification of any gaps in the existing reporting options with regard to the GST mandate,
- Sharing experiences of current reporting on adaptation with a view to learning from examples and identifying possible information gaps and challenges, overlaps and duplications, as well as to identify capacity support needs and/or capabilities,
- Learning from approaches and tools from other international reporting processes which can be relevant for climate change adaptation (e.g. CBD, CCD and Sendai),
- Sharing experiences of adaptation reporting within the national adaptation processes, including ways of including information from non-state and sub-national actors and consideration of transboundary issues,
- Discuss options for streamlining and harmonising existing reporting options to avoid duplication of effort and to reduce reporting burdens,
- Status quo of reporting practice on adaptation information – what do Parties currently report on under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement?

⁴ AC22/GUID/6B

4. EU experiences from reporting and communication

In the EU, Member States report on national adaptation actions every two years under the Regulation on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action (GovReg) (EU, 2018). Before this regulation entered into force, reporting was done through the European Union Greenhouse Gas Monitoring Mechanism Regulation (MMR) (EU, 2013). The first MMR reporting on adaptation took place in 2015. The reporting processes and tools provide a framework that can be useful to set up the national systems for monitoring and evaluation.

By 15 March 2021 Member States reported to the European Commission (EC) for the first time following the new GovReg provisions. This information is presented in the country profiles on Climate-ADAPT for each country, structured according to the adaptation policy cycle. Member States can update their information anytime, to reflect any changes. This makes it easy to find information about what other countries are doing, and is an important communication tool. In addition, many Member States run dedicated adaptation web portals targeted at national stakeholders and containing information about adaptation work. In some cases, these portals also include sections translated into English and aimed at communication with an international audience.

A growing number of EU Member States are conducting national monitoring, evaluation and reporting activities, and are currently at different stages of the process. MRE is seen as a way to continuously adjust and improve policies and measures, as part of the adaptation policy cycle. Longer experience of implementation means that countries can make use of regular monitoring results to steer the adaptation process, strengthening earlier conclusions that this is a process of continued learning and development. For the MRE processes to fulfil their role in the adaptation policy cycle, it is important that the results are communicated to, and discussed with, the stakeholders that need to act upon them. This is done by various means, including through the adaptation web portals mentioned above, publications or seminars.

The national monitoring systems that are in place in many EU Member States, and that reflect national adaptation priorities, provide input not only to the national progress evaluations, but also feed into the EU reporting framework and to the reporting instruments of the Paris

Agreement. Experiences so far have highlighted the importance of recognising national priorities and contexts when designing the EU reporting framework.

5. Modalities of the workshop, including suggestions for speakers

The EU would like to see the fourth GlaSS workshop organized in a way that maximizes inclusivity and interaction, permitting the participation of all Parties and of all relevant observers. Given the cost of travel to, and stay in, Sharm el-Sheikh, we encourage the Secretariat to also allow for active virtual participation of participants, including invited speakers, who cannot attend COP 27.

The EU would like to propose as speakers, inter alia,

- Experts from EU Member States working on reporting on adaptation at the national, European and international levels;
- Experts from developing countries working on reporting on adaptation at the national and international levels in their respective countries;
- The Secretariat, providing an overview of existing tools and vehicles for communicating and reporting on adaptation under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, including on information to be provided and where such information overlaps across tools and vehicles.
- Experts working on approaches and tools to report under other international processes than UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.

The EU would also like to see strong representation of LDCs and SIDS, and representatives of vulnerable groups including women, indigenous populations, youth and people living with disabilities among invited speakers.

All outputs of the workshop, including a collection of concrete examples and experiences, should be captured on the GlaSS webpage. The GlaSS webpage should serve as a repository that can be accessed by all interested Parties and observers after the workshop ends.

6. Possible inputs to the first GST



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The synthesis of submissions on the Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation of 5 June 2022 suggests in paragraph 57 (d) that “the fourth workshop could, [...] taking into account insights from the first three workshops, consider inputs to the GST.”

The EU is interested in discussing this topic in a dedicated session of the workshop, as inputs from GlaSS would have to come soon in order to be able to inform the GST in its work in 2023.

7. Conclusion

The EU remains fully committed to the GlaSS and we will continue to actively contribute to its implementation with a view to enhancing understanding, improving adaptation actions globally and contributing to sustainable development in the context of limiting global warming to not more than 1.5 °C. We look forward to engaging with Parties and observers in the fourth workshop under the GlaSS in Sharm el-Sheikh and virtually.