

Is the UNFCCC ready to handle the reality of cross-border climate risks?

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Environment
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United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

1992: One of the three global treaties agreed at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

Since 1995: Annual sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC (COP).

30 Nov – 12 Dec: COP28 in Dubai, UAE.

The **‘ultimate objective’** of the UNFCCC is to prevent ‘dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.’



COP²⁸
UAE





Cancun Agreements (1/CP.16 and 1/CMP.6)

Green Climate Fund

A **process** to enable least developed countries and other developing countries to formulate and implement **national adaptation plans**

Cancun Adaptation Framework

nine activities related to planning, implementation, capacity strengthening and knowledge development

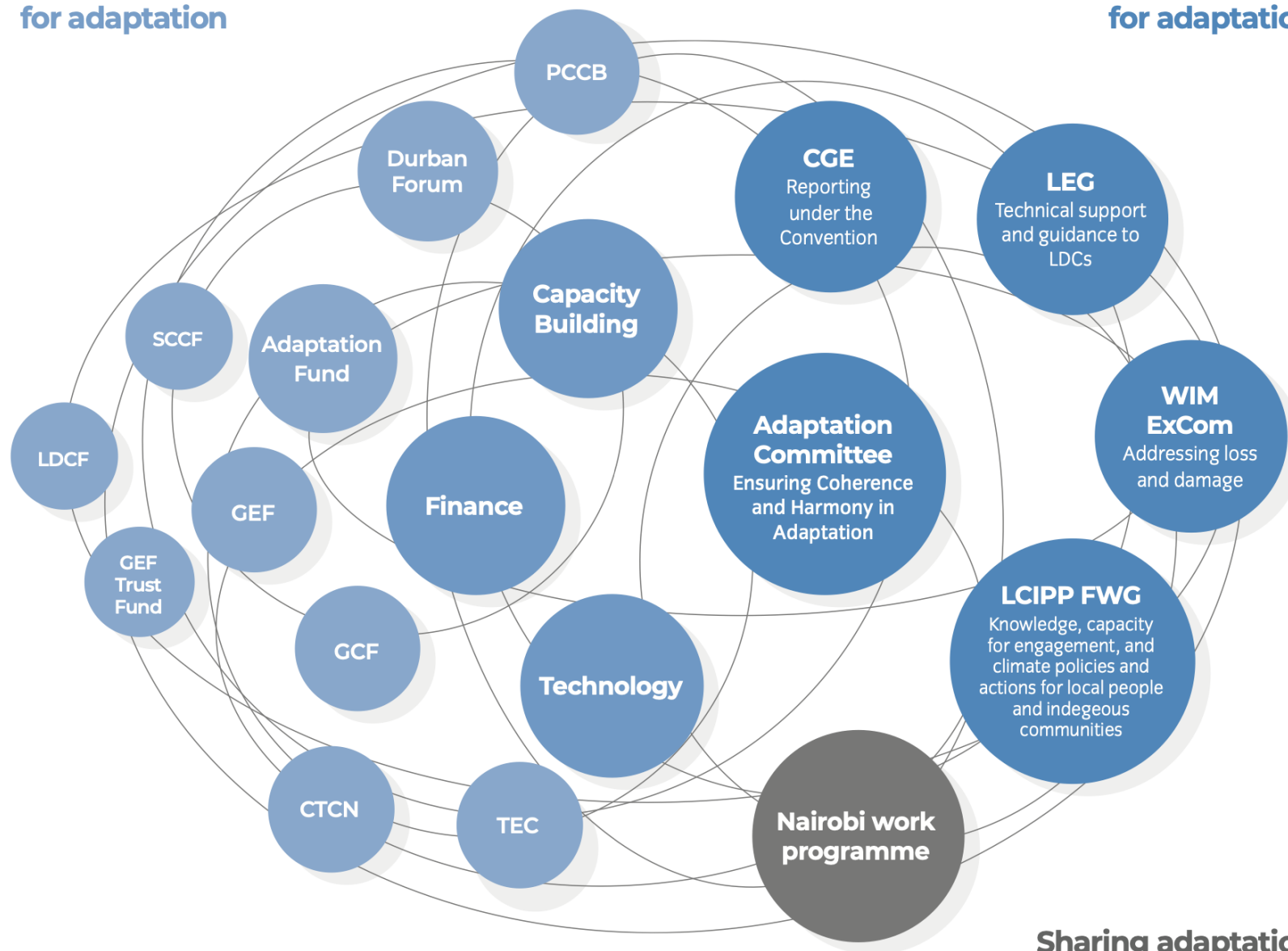
An **Adaptation Committee** to promote the implementation of enhanced action on adaptation in a coherent manner by, among other things, providing technical support, sharing relevant information, promoting synergies, and making recommendations on finance, technology and capacity-building

Technology Mechanism

A **work programme** to consider approaches to address **loss and damage** associated with climate change impacts in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change

Supporting the provision of means of implementation for adaptation

Strengthening technical and institutional capacities for adaptation



Source: Adaptation Committee (2019),
25 years of adaptation under the UNFCCC.

**Sharing adaptation
knowledge and closing
knowledge gaps**



Paris and beyond



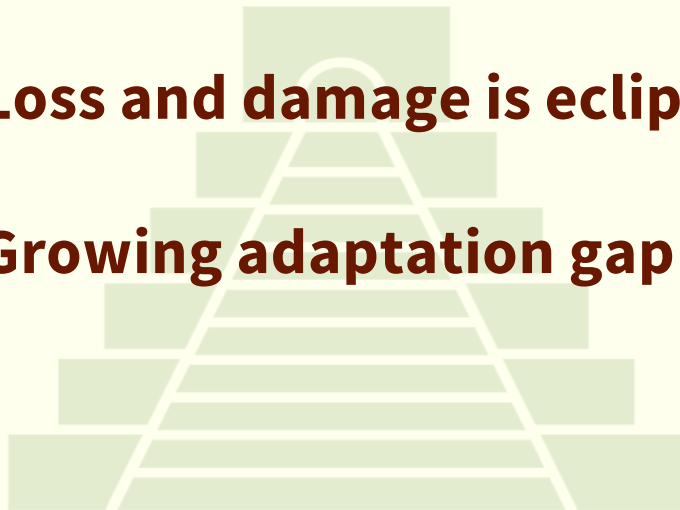
- **Global goal on adaptation, work programme, framework**
- **Global stocktake, technical dialogue**
- **Adaptation communications**
- **Work programme on just transition**
- **Fund for responding to loss and damage**



Where are we now?



- **A full agenda in a structure that is not fit for purpose**
- **Highly polarised negotiations**
- **Loss and damage is eclipsing adaptation**
- **Growing adaptation gap**



Ramp up ambition!

- **Ambition of adaptation, and ambition of the negotiations**
- **IPCC AR6: Climate change impacts and risks are becoming increasingly complex and more difficult to manage**
- **IPCC AR6: Multiple climatic and non-climatic risks will interact, resulting in compounding overall risk and risks cascading across sectors and regions**

Adaptation is a global challenge

- **This is part of the increasing complexity of risk to which the IPCC referred**
- **Transboundary climate risks affect all countries, creating an opportunity to build new coalitions**
- **Transboundary climate risks are largely overlooked in discussions on the GGA, the GST, NAPs and finance for adaptation.**

Shaping the narrative



- **Ongoing shift from a local, technical, non-political issue to a global issue that is increasingly urgent and politicised**
- **Adaptation, like all climate policy, is now being framed as an issue of justice in a prevailing climate of distrust**
- **Adaptation ambition could be a central element in several agenda items, but what is it?**
- **Addressing a global challenge requires global cooperation**

Opportunities for COP28



- **The global stocktake will discuss mitigation, adaptation, support and international cooperation**
- **The framework for the global goal on adaptation will be a framework of targets and indicators**
- **The work programme on just transition pathways will consider adaptation**
- **Transboundary climate risk may be more visible after COP28, but fragmentation of the adaptation agenda continues**

Thank you for your attention!

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