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Hands-on Training on Tracking NDC Mitigation Commitments under the Paris Agreement

An introduction to adaptation reporting and the BTR

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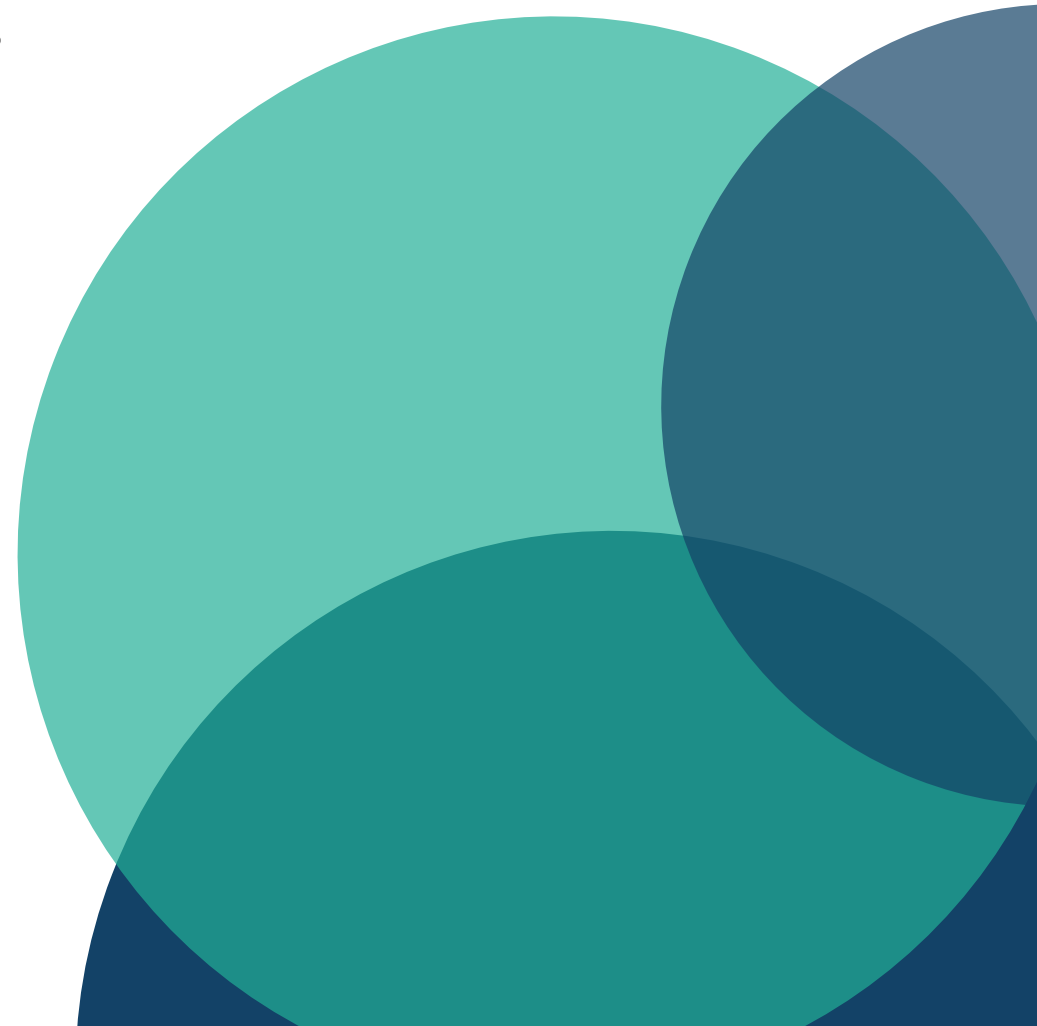
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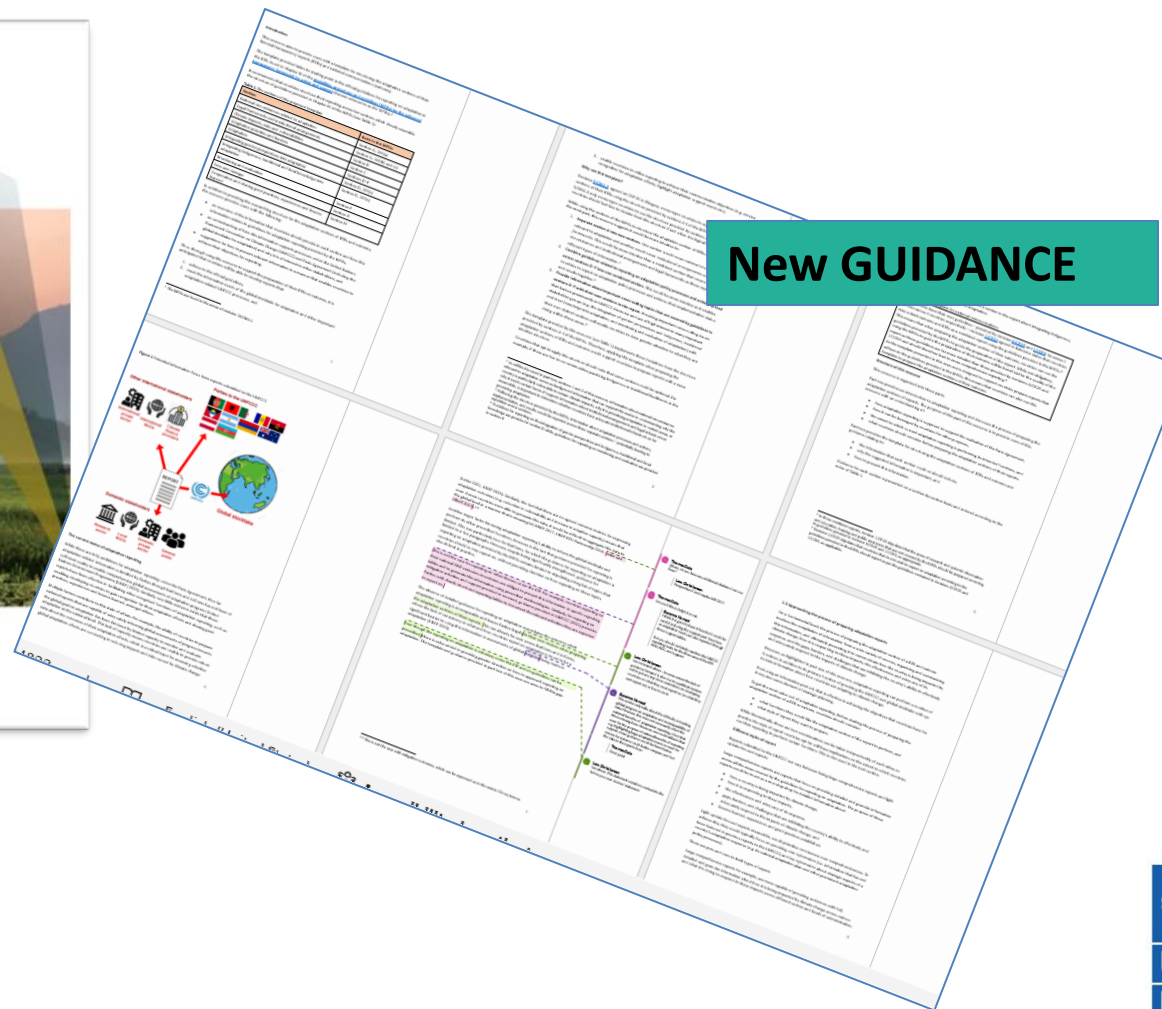


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Reporting adaptation through the Biennial Transparency Report: An explanation of the guidance

Adaptation reporting GUIDANCE



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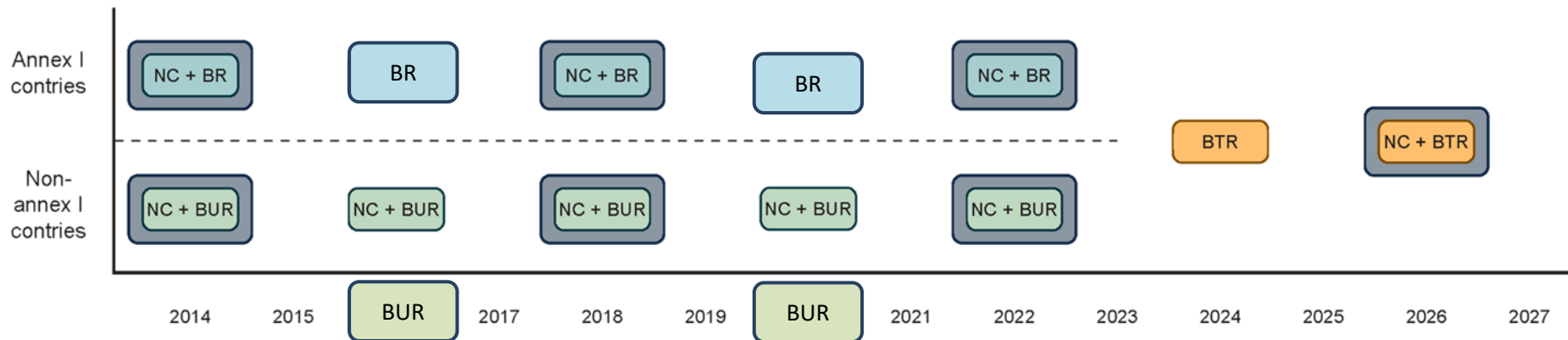
Relevance to reporting on adaptation under ETF

The Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) will come into force on the **31st of December 2024**.

On this date, the ETF will replace the convention's transparency framework, the Monitor Review Verification (MRV) system.

The **BTR will replace both Biennial Reports (BR) and Biennial Update Reports (BUR)** for both annex I and non-annex I parties, meaning that the BTR format will be used by all Parties from 2024 onwards.

Not all aspects of the previous arrangement will be replaced, e.g., National Communications (Nat. Coms) will remain active alongside BTRs under ETF.



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Instruments available for communicating /reporting under the UNFCCC

Following the Paris Agreement, and subsequent decisions, there are now five instruments available under the UNFCCC that countries can use to communicate/report on adaptation, these are:

- **National communications** (the chapter on vulnerability & adaptation)
- **National Adaptation Plans** (NAPs)
- **Nationally Determined Contributions** (the adaptation component)
- **Adaptation communications**
- **Biennial Transparency Report** (the adaptation section – A-BTR)

In addition to these, countries can also by communicate on adaptation plans through unilateral instruments (i.e. that are not associated with the UNFCCC system). The most significant of these is:

- **National adaptation plans, programmes or strategies** (which are essentially equivalent to NAPs)

Note: NAPAs have been excluded from this list as while they are still active under the convention, with LDCs generally opting to undertake the more long-term orientated NAP process, NAPAs are naturally becoming redundant under the UNFCCC. Meanwhile, Biennial Reports and Biennial Update Reports are not included as they do not contain provisions for reporting on adaptation.

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Introduction of the A-BTR

While a clear vision of what reporting on adaptation via the BTR is never explicitly spelled out by guidelines or decisions resulting from the COPs...

Clues towards what the A-BTR is intended to achieve can be found in the "official" purpose that is given for the establishment of the Enhanced Transparency Framework (found in paragraph 1, decision 18/CMA.1).

*"the purpose of the framework for transparency of action is **to provide a clear understanding of climate change action in the light of the objective of the Convention as set out in its Article 2, including [...] Parties' adaptation actions under Article 7, including good practices, priorities, needs and gaps, to inform the global stocktake under Article 14**"*

In relation to adaptation, the purpose states that the ETF is intended to provide a clear understanding of climate change action, including:

- **Parties' adaptation actions, including related good practices, priorities, needs and gaps.**
- It also states that it is intended **to inform the global stocktake.**

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Introduction of the A-BTR

This reinforces the idea that the A-BTR is intended to have **a similar function to the adaptation chapter of Nat. Coms** – i.e., it is meant to provide a snapshot of a country's national adaptation processes.

In other words, it should include information about:

- A country's vulnerability to climate change
- How it is adapting to this vulnerability, and
- Any adaptation needs or gaps it may have.

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The purpose A-BTR

This purpose provided in decision 18/CMA.1 also suggests that it is intended to:

- **Contribute to the collective pool of good practices and lessons learned** in adaptation
- **Facilitate the recognition of adaptation efforts from developing countries**
- **Contribute to the collective understanding** of the status of adaptation at the global- and regional-levels.

This insinuates that adaptation reporting through the BTR is intended to facilitate national adaptation reporting that:

- **More comprehensive** than is presently submitted (i.e. **more complete and with greater levels of detail**)
- Enables the **sharing of good practices, knowledge and lessons learned**

Both **these notions are reinforced by the *actual guidelines*** for the A-BTR (*coming next*)

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Streamlining adaptation reporting

Type of information	BTR	Nat. Com. (NAI)	Ad. Com
National development, circumstances, and frameworks			
Adaptation-related national circumstances	Green	Green	Green
Assessment of impacts and vulnerability			
Research on vulnerabilities and adaptation	Green	Green	Red
Observed and expected impacts, risks, trends and hazards	Green	Red	Green
Vulnerability to adverse effects of climate change	Green	Green	Green
Loss and damage			
Information on loss and damage	Green	Red	Red
Planned adaptation efforts			
Adaptation actions	Green	Green	Green
Adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans and mitigation co-benefits	Green	Red	Green
Stakeholder involvement	Green	Red	Red
Implementation and progress on adaptation efforts			
Implementation of adaptation	Green	Green	Green
Steps to integrate climate change into development, policies and actions/related capacity building	Green	Green	Red
Gender-responsiveness; integration of gender, science; traditional, indigenous and/or local knowledge	Green	Red	Green
Effectiveness and sustainability of adaptation	Green	Red	Red
Barriers, challenges and gaps related to implementation	Green	Green	Green
Monitoring and evaluation			
Monitoring and evaluation	Green	Green	Green
Needs and supports			
Implementation/support needs of developing countries	Red	Red	Green
Assistance/support provided to developing countries	Red	Red	Green
How support meets adaptation needs	Green	Green	Red
Other information			
Cooperation, good practices and lessons learned	Green	Red	Green
Contribution of adaptation to international frameworks	Red	Red	Green
Any other information	Green	Red	Green

Information is requested in guidelines 
 Information is **not** requested in guidelines 

Analysis of the guidelines for the Nat. Com., Ad. Com, and BTR conducted by the Adaptation Committee (2019) visualises the overlap in the (adaptation-relevant) guidelines for these instruments.

This analysis suggests that **countries looking to combine reporting requirements should use the BTRs guidelines as their starting point** – before using the other guidelines to cover gaps...

Streamlining adaptation reporting

The most obvious means of doing this would be **to combine these reports when their submission timetables align** – i.e. submit one report that serves as two or more instruments.

For example, countries can submit a combined report that constitutes their:

- National Communication and BTR
- National Communication and Adaptation Communication
- BTR and Adaptation Communication
- National Communication, BTR, and Adaptation Communication

For Nat. Coms and BTRs, **this should happen once every four years** (in theory).

Combined submissions of Ad. Coms and BTRs/Nat. Coms will depend on how when countries choose to submit their Ad. Coms

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Overview of the guidelines for the A-BTR

Before looking at what information should be included in an A-BTR, I believe it is important to quickly outline the following:

- Including an adaptation section in one's BTR is voluntary, as such **all elements of the guidelines are also voluntary**.
- The process of **preparing an A-BTR is an entirely "country-driven" exercise**.
- The **majority requests made by the guidelines use the prefix "Parties should"** – meaning that Parties are suggested to fulfil the request (if they can) but not are obligated to.
- Requests that do not use the prefix "Parties should", use the prefix "Parties may", which is less stringent and means that the request is considered optional and not necessarily suggested.

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Overview of the guidelines for the A-BTR

The titles of the guidance's nine sections provide a good indication of what information should to be included.

The majority of guidelines are aimed at how to report on their ongoing adaptation processes (across sections A–F).

Alongside the guidelines for reporting on adaptation:

- Section G contains guidelines for reporting on Loss and Damage.
- Section H contains guidelines for reporting on related activities that support adaptation.

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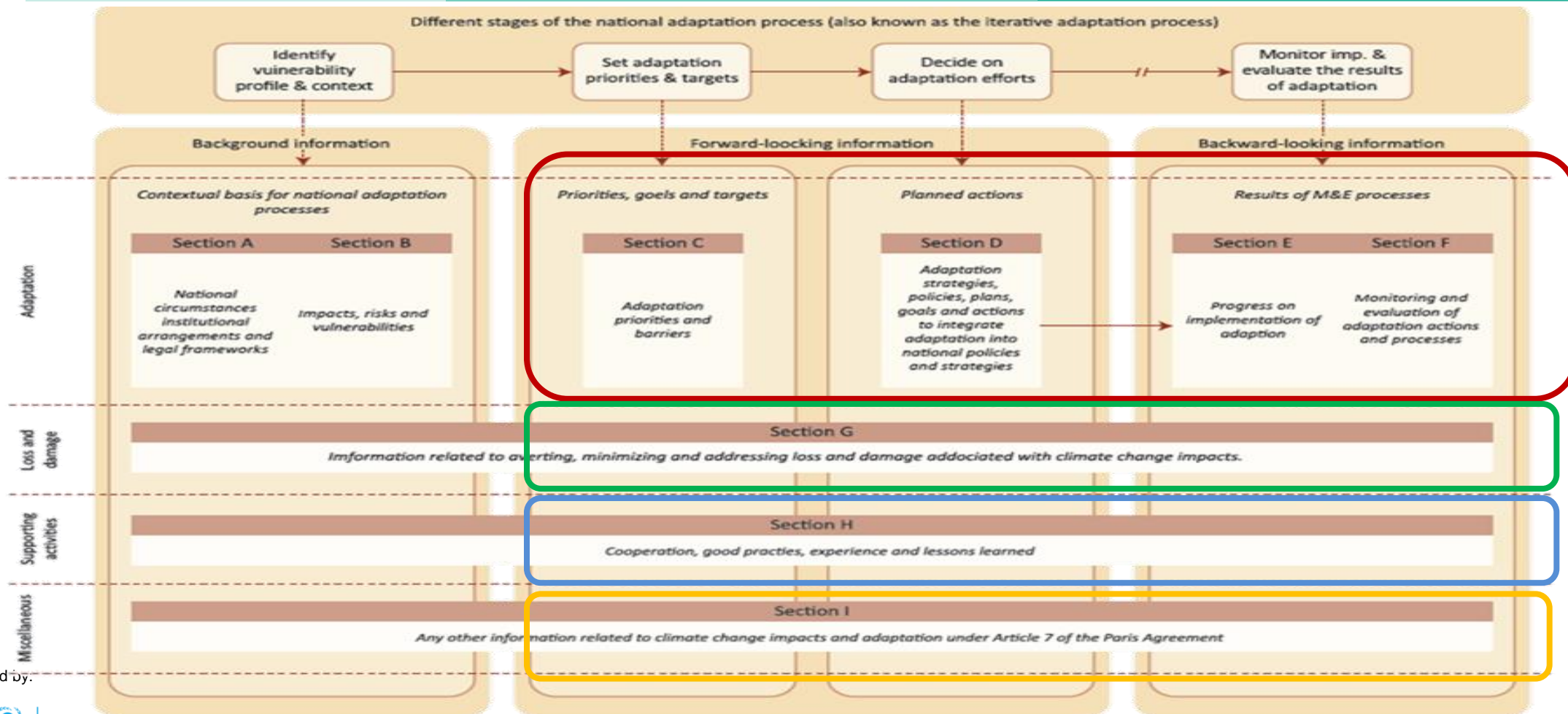


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Overview of the guidelines for the A-BTR



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A-BTR- Outline

A-BTR sub sections	
A. National circumstances, institutional arrangements and legal frameworks	Para 106. Each Party SHOULD provide the following information, AS APPROPRIATE: [...]
B. Impacts, risks and vulnerabilities, AS APPROPRIATE	Para 107. Each Party SHOULD provide the following information, AS APPROPRIATE: [...]
C. Adaptation priorities and barriers	Para 08. Each Party SHOULD provide the following information, AS APPROPRIATE: [...]
D. Adaptation strategies, policies, plans, goals and actions to integrate adaptation into national policies and strategies	Para 109. Each Party SHOULD provide the following information, AS APPROPRIATE: [...]
E. Progress on implementation of adaptation	110. Each Party SHOULD provide the following information, AS APPROPRIATE, on progress on: [...]
	111. Developing country Parties MAY also include information on, AS APPROPRIATE, implementation of supported adaptation actions, and the effectiveness of already implemented adaptation measures.

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BTR- Outline

A-BTR sub sections	
F. Monitoring and evaluation of adaptation actions and processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Para 112. In order to enhance their adaptation actions and to facilitate reporting, AS APPROPRIATE, each Party SHOULD report on the establishment or use of domestic systems to monitor and evaluate the implementation of adaptation actions. Parties SHOULD report on approaches and systems for monitoring and evaluation, including those in place or under development.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Para113. Each Party SHOULD provide the following information, AS APPROPRIATE, related to monitoring and evaluation: [...]
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Para 114. Each Party SHOULD provide information related to the effectiveness and sustainability of AS APPROPRIATE, including on: [...]
G. Information related to averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with climate change impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Para 115. Each interested Party MAY provide, AS APPROPRIATE, information related to enhancing understanding, action and support, on a cooperative and facilitative basis, to avert, minimize and address loss and damage associated with climate change impacts, taking into account projected changes in climate-related risks, vulnerabilities, adaptive capacities and exposure, including, AS APPROPRIATE, on: [...]

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BTR- Outline

A-BTR sub sections	
H. Cooperation, good practices, experience and lessons learned	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Para 112. 116. Each Party SHOULD provide the following information, AS APPROPRIATE, related to cooperation, good practices, experience and lessons learned: [...]
I. Any other information related to climate change impacts and adaptation under Article 7 of the Paris Agreement	Para113. 117. Each Party MAY provide, AS APPROPRIATE, any other information related to climate change impacts and adaptation under Article 7.

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Key Questions

- Which of these reporting instruments available under the UNFCCC does your country use/will use to communicate/report on adaptation:
 - a) National communications,
 - b) National Adaptation Plans (NAPs),
 - c) Nationally Determined Contributions,
 - d) Adaptation communications,
 - e) Biennial Transparency Report,
 - f) All of the above.

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Guiding questions for expanding the relevance and reach of national reporting

The general idea behind reporting on adaptation to the UNFCCC via national reports is to inform the COP negotiations and associated processes about the following:

- How the reporting country is vulnerable to climate change
- Where the reporting country wants to be in relation to its vulnerability to climate change (i.e. its visions, priority areas, goals and targets)
- What the reporting country has done or is planning to do to achieve this vision, address these priority areas, and reach goals and targets
- What progress it has made thus far (i.e. outputs and results)
- And, what challenges, barriers and gaps the country is facing, and what support needs it has

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Thank you!

QUESTIONS?

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