

CIVIL SOCIETY BRIEFING PAPER ON CLIMATE ADAPTATION AT COP27 AND BEYOND

This briefing paper aims to inform civil society and policymakers about adaptation issues in the context of climate negotiations. It outlines key advocacy issues to inform advocacy at COP 27 and beyond. The paper: (a) elaborates on matters relevant to international climate frameworks related to adaptation; (b) reviews and evaluates decisions from COP 26 and SBs 55 & 56 on the subject matter; and (c) provides advocacy messages based on the analysis.

Context

The emergence of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in the early 1990s was crucial in driving global attention around the importance of climate action for resilience. Article Four of the Climate Change Convention calls on Parties not only to formulate, implement, and regularly update measures to mitigate climate change, but also take measures to facilitate adequate adaptation to climate change.

In enhancing the implementation of the Climate Change Convention, the Paris Agreement (2016) aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change including by “Increasing the ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production.” Furthermore, the Paris Agreement in its articles 7.10 and 7.11 calls on Parties to submit and periodically update Adaptation Communications, through a range of vehicles which may include: National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and National Communications.

In response to the global obligations, 194 countries submitted their NDCs, as of July 2022. By the same period 53 of the 54 African countries (apart from Libya) submitted their NDCs. For the African countries, the top prioritized sectors for adaptation are: (i) Agriculture (96%); (ii) Water (85%); and (iii) Forestry (74%) (Source: UNFCCC website: NDC Registry). Thirty-nine countries (including 11 LDCs and three African non-LDCs) submitted their NAPs by October 2022. The 11 African LDCs



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are: Benin, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Chad, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Liberia, Madagascar, Sudan, South Sudan, and Togo.

All the 11 African LDCs that submitted their NAPs list Agriculture and Forestry as among their priority sectors (Source: UNFCCC NAP Central). The delays are attributed to inadequate technical and institutional capacities to undertake NAP process, as well as delays in accessing financial support from the funding bodies (Global Climate Fund, and Global Environment Facility). This issue of gaps and needs in formulation of NAPs is one of the items scheduled for the negotiations at COP27.

Food systems are both impacted by and big drivers of the climate crisis. Article Two of the UNFCCC states that “The ultimate objective of the Convention, and any related legal instruments that the Conference of the Parties may adopt, is to achieve stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Such a level should be achieved within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.” Food sovereignty, the central role of food systems and a shift to climate-resilient agricultural approaches like agroecology, must be part of climate discussions.

Defining agroecology

Agroecology is a people-centered system of sustainable agriculture and a social justice movement driven by local farmers and other food producers to maintain power over their local food systems, protect their livelihoods and communities, and defend every African’s right to nutritious and diverse food. Uniting generations of indigenous knowledge, farmer-driven and science-based innovation, and an ecosystem’s natural processes, agroecological food systems can adapt to and even solve the climate crisis. Together, scientists and African food producers use agroecology to find appropriate and sustainable innovations and technologies shaping a resilient future for African food. Building on Africa’s deep history of farming knowledge, the science of agroecology preserves cultural tradition and the biodiversity of indigenous seeds and native species. African food producers transfer and adapt best practices to grow food sustainably and efficiently in changing environments through these farmer-to-farmer and farmer-to-scientist networks.

Farmers, pastoralists, fisherfolk, and communities in Africa are using agroecology to steward their land sustainably, produce nourishing food that celebrates cultural heritage, and strengthen local markets and economies.



Agroecology is an agricultural practice working in sync with nature.

Using agroecology, farmers and food producers work in sync with nature to grow diverse crops while regenerating natural ecosystems and biodiversity. Agroecology enables farmers to naturally manage pests, use water efficiently, and adapt their land use to changing environments to create a thriving on-farm ecosystem. With this ecosystem of native pollinators, diverse flora and fauna, and healthy living soil, farmers achieve abundant and nutritious yields — without the input of pesticides, fertilizers, and other industrial techniques that cause harmful health impacts for Africans and contribute to the climate crisis.

Agroecology is a people's movement for power over their food system.

Agroecology transforms power structures and defends a community's sovereignty over its food systems. It addresses food insecurity—the source of hunger and malnourishment—across the continent. Ensuring farmers, pastoralists, fisherfolks and communities have the power to determine how to manage and steward their seeds, land, waters, and culture, agroecology allows producers to feed their families and communities with healthy, affordable food and keep the profits within the local community.

State of play of the climate negotiations on adaptation

The state of play of adaptation negotiations at a particular session/moment emerges from two points, namely (a) the outcome of the negotiation from the previous COP session (in this case, COP 26), and (b) mandate(s) from previous COP session(s). At COP 26 in 2021 in Glasgow, Parties adopted a package of decisions called the “Glasgow Climate Pact” (Decision -/ CP.26), that included strengthening resilience to climate change and providing finance to support it.

The negotiations take place through the agenda items of sessions of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI), the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (BSTA), and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA), in this case, SBI 57, SBSTA 57, and CMA 4.

The key elements of adaptation negotiation at COP 27 hinge on the following issues under the SBI 57: (a) Matters relating to the Least Developed Countries (LDCs); (b) National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) (and issues under both subsidiary bodies); (c) Adaptation Committee and (d) Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation referred to in “Decision 7/CMA.3”.

The negotiations on LDCs are handled by the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG). The LEG, established in 2001, is currently mandated to provide technical guidance and support to the LDCs on the process of formulating and implementing national adaptation plans (NAPs); advising on the preparation and the implementation of the national adaptation

programmes of action (NAPAs), plus provision of technical guidance and advice on accessing funding from the Green Climate Fund (GCF). The LEG is mandated by the COP to develop its periodic work programme, in collaboration with a range of bodies and organizations, including the Adaptation Committee, as well as the “Nairobi Work Programme on impacts, vulnerability, and adaptation to climate change”. The Nairobi Work Program was established at COP 11 in December 2005 (through decision 2/CP.11) as a knowledge hub to facilitate and catalyze the development and dissemination of information to inform and support adaptation policies and practices, in developing countries. The current work of the LEG addresses gaps and needs in formulating and implementing NAPs, and reports regularly to the COP (FCCC/SBI/2022/18). The various engagements of the LEG in supporting the LDCs provide opportunities to integrate agroecology in the negotiations of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group.

The National Adaptation Plan (NAP), established under the Cancun Adaptation Framework (CAF) at COP 16 in 2010 through decision 1/CP.16, is a means to identify medium- and long-term adaptation needs and developing strategies and programmes to address the needs. Negotiations on national adaptation plans at COP 27 revolve around gaps, needs, and implementation. The negotiations on NAPs also provide possible entry points for the integration of agroecology into adaptation negotiations. Issues of national adaptation plans, under the UNFCCC, receive guidance from the Adaptation Committee.

The Adaptation Committee (AC), one of the bodies under the UNFCCC process, was established as part of the Cancun Adaptation Framework (CAF) at COP 16 to promote the implementation of enhanced action on adaptation in a coherent manner under the Convention, through a range of functions, including the provision of technical support to parties. The AC is mandated to generate its periodic work programme and reports annually to the COP through the subsidiary bodies (SBI & SBSTA) (FCCC/SB/2022/5). The CMA1 decided that the Adaptation Committee shall serve the Paris Agreement and also requested the AC and the IPCC Working Group II (a) draft supplementary guidance for voluntary use by Parties in communicating information (decision 9/CMA.1), and (b) prepare, a technical paper on methodologies for assessing adaptation needs and their application, as well as on the related gaps, good practices, lessons learned and guidelines, for

consideration and further guidance at SBSTA 57 (COP 27). The technical paper seeks to assist Parties by showcasing good practices to assess adaptation needs. It is contained in addendum 2 to the 2022 report of the AC. The negotiations on the adaptation committee, too, provide possible entry points for consideration of the integration of agroecology into climate change adaptation negotiations. At COP 27 and CMA 4, the SBI and SBSTA will be invited to consider the 2022 AC report and recommend draft conclusions and/or a draft decision resulting from the implementation of the work plan of the AC in 2022.

Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA): At COP 26 in Glasgow, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA) at its third session (CMA3), decided to establish and launch a two-year Glasgow–Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation (GGA work programme) to start immediately after CMA 3 and be carried out jointly by the SBSTA and the SBI (decision 7/CMA.3). The CMA3 also decided that four workshops should be conducted per year, under the guidance of the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies (SBs). The eight objectives of the GGA include: (a) Enabling the implementation of the Paris Agreement and (b) Contributing to reviewing the overall progress made in achieving the global goal of adaptation as part of the global stock-take referred to in articles 7 and 14 of the Paris Agreement.

Four workshops shall be conducted per year, starting at the SBs 56 (June 2022) under the guidance of the Chairs of the subsidiary bodies. Furthermore, parties were invited to submit views on how to achieve the objectives under the work programme, and the Chairs of the SBs shall select themes for the workshops on the basis of the submissions (FCCC/SB/2022/INF.2).

Theme and Topics of workshops on GGA

Building on the first workshop held from 8th to 9th June 2022 (themed: “Enhancing understanding of the global goal on adaptation and reviewing progress towards it”), the theme of the second workshop (held from 30th to 31st August 2022) was: “Enhancing adaptation action and support”. The third workshop was themed “Methodologies, indicators, data and metrics, monitoring and evaluation. The fourth workshop is scheduled to take place in person at COP 27 in Sham el-Sheikh under the theme “Communicating and reporting on adaptation priorities”.





Opportunities for recognition and inclusion of agroecology in adaptation negotiation spaces, policies and frameworks

According to the IPCC ARG WG II Report released in 2022, agroecological and conservation agriculture practices, such as intercropping, integration of legumes, mulching and incorporation of crop residues, are associated with household food security and improved health status (Nyantakyi-Frimpong et al., 2017; Shikuku et al., 2017). These practices can enhance the benefits of other adaptations, although effects vary across soil types, geographical zones and social groups (Makate et al., 2019; Mutenje et al., 2019).

There are a number of opportunities for civil society to push for recognition and inclusion of agroecology in climate adaptation spaces.

- 1) At in-person and virtual workshops

Themes for upcoming workshops and opportunities to advocate for inclusion of agroecology under the GGA

- a) Workshop 3 (virtual; September 2022): Approaches for assessing vulnerability, adaptive capacity, and resilience, including assessment approaches applied by financing institutions.
- b) Workshop 4 (in-person at SB 57; November 2022): Identification of adaptation options and needs, including best practices for scalable and replicable adaptation actions at the local, regional, and national levels. To note, this workshop offers a possible opportunity for inclusion of Agroecology in Climate Change negotiations.
- c) Workshop 5 (virtual; April 2023): Stocktake of existing national adaptation goals and activities.
- d) Workshop 6 (in-person at SB 58; June 2023): Identification of existing local, subnational and national monitoring and evaluation systems and processes.
- e) Workshop 7 (virtual; September 2023): Identification of methodologies, indicators and policy approaches to track and report on progress at the regional and global level, feeding into the global stock take.
- f) Workshop 8 (in-person at SB 59; November 2023): Potential improvements to existing communication and reporting instruments on adaptation under the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.

- 2) Through climate change instruments such as NAPs, NDCs, NAPAs, and National communications that are produced and submitted periodically by parties. These periodic submissions offer the following opportunities:
 - a) Integrate agroecology into negotiations on agriculture-related adaptation actions and the prioritization of ecosystem conservation and forestry.
 - b) Lobby for agroecology to be included in climate change negotiations, especially around the priorities of Indigenous knowledge.
 - c) Encourage countries to integrate agroecology into the process of preparing their NAPs.
- 3) Through alignment with the Paris Agreement. Article 7, paragraph 5 of the Paris Agreement calls for country-driven adaptation actions to account for vulnerable groups, communities and ecosystems and be guided by the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local knowledge. This is an opportunity to highlight the ways agroecology delivers on all of these requirements.
- 4) Positioning agroecology as a climate-safe solution to the growing demand for healthy foods that otherwise are produced through inorganic agricultural inputs.
- 5) Spotlight how the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Land makes the case for scaling up agroecology. The report carries a lot of weight in climate change debates and advocates for the transformation of the food system (IPCC, 2019). It provides a clear understanding of the coverage of different options and their co-benefits and promotes agroecological practices, demonstrating how they can contribute to enhancing farmers' resilience and address issues around soils and forests.
- 6) Support the work of the Nairobi Work Programme on Climate Change Adaptation (NWP). Indigenous knowledge and other work areas of the NWP are important for the recognition of agroecology. Negotiators and others can use the NWP to prepare information materials on agroecology and support dissemination.



The growing demand for healthy foods produced inclusion of Agroecology in the negotiations.

Key recommendations for African Parties / States

To include agroecology in climate change negotiations on adaptation and fostering climate resilience in food production, African Parties should:

- a) Acknowledge that agroecology is an effective climate change adaptation strategy that strengthens farmers' resilience.
 - b) Demand increased investment in research on agroecological approaches. This includes support for trans-disciplinary and participatory action research conducted by innovation platforms that foster the co-creation of knowledge and dissemination and serve as a learning hub for agroecology.
 - c) Lobby for capacity development and training to the agricultural advisory services on the dynamics of agroecology
 - d) Lead in the integration of agroecology into national climate change-related instruments (e.g., NDCs, NAPs, Biannual Transparency Reports, and different sector plans, strategies, and policies).
 - e) Lobby for support for long-term studies on agroecological systems. This will generate evidence to support agroecology as a means of transitioning to more sustainable and resilient food systems.
 - f) Support the work of the LEG, Adaptation Committee, and the NWP who all provide technical and other support to developing countries on adaptation actions. Parties should support the inclusion of Indigenous knowledge as a work area under the NWP and push for the consideration and inclusion of agroecology.
- and finally,
- g) Negotiators should stand together for the inclusion of agroecology in climate change negotiations. No consensus should be made in negotiations unless agroecology is considered in the climate change negotiations. **"NO AGROECOLOGY, NO CONSENSUS."**



**No Agroecology,
No Consesus.**

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