



## Operationalizing the Global Goal on Adaptation with a Child-Responsive and Youth-Inclusive Lens at SB64

### Introduction

Children, defined under international law as all persons below the age of 18, constitute nearly one-third of the global population - and a significantly higher proportion in many developing countries. They are uniquely susceptible to climate change impacts due to their distinct physiology, behavioural characteristics, developmental needs, and societal roles, yet targeted responses to these specific needs remain systematically underprioritized in climate policies and financing. Youth, commonly defined by the UN as persons aged 15-24, and in some national and regional frameworks extending up to age 35, also represent a significant demographic group in many climate-vulnerable countries. Their needs are distinct from, but often connected to, those of children. The importance of incorporating cross-cutting considerations within the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), including children, youth and demographic characteristics such as gender and age, was underscored by multiple Parties during COP30 negotiations and is reflected in the decision text as follows:

*12/CMA.7 para 10 “recalls paragraph 10(c) of decision 3/CMA.4, paragraph 13 of decision 2/CMA.5 and paragraph 21 of decision 3/CMA.6 and emphasizes the importance of **cross-cutting considerations**, including by acknowledging **the contributions of children, youth, people with disabilities, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, people of African descent and migrants to adaptation, and the importance of consideration of gender, human rights, intergenerational equity and social justice, and participatory and fully transparent approaches...**”*

*12/CMA.7 Annex para 1 and 1(a) note that “Adaptation is context-specific, and capturing progress in adaptation in a comprehensive manner requires contextual information, which may be reflected through the disaggregation of indicators, as appropriate... Indicators may be disaggregated, as appropriate, by: (a) Social categories, which may include demographic and socioeconomic characteristics such as vulnerability, **gender, age, disability, race, socioeconomic status, status as Indigenous Peoples, status as migrants, as well as children and young people...**”*

Following the adoption of the Baku Adaptation Roadmap (BAR) and Belém Addis Vision (BAV) to support the implementation of the GGA, SB64 arrives at a critical junction for the GGA: While these workstreams provide an important platform to strengthen adaptation ambition and accountability, further clarity is needed on roles, responsibilities, and mandates for taking this work forward. Specific recommendations include:

- Clarifying and elaborating on **how the different activities under the BAR and BAV processes align**, including the intersections between actors, technical papers and taskforce outputs.
- Providing clarity on the **composition, nature and responsibilities of the technical taskforce** (Decision 12/CMA.7, paras 23, 24 and 25), including membership, alignment with Constituted Body (CB) mandates, and scope of work.
- Establishing the **nature of the BAV policy alignment process**, including aligning the GGA with UNFCCC processes, work done by international organizations, and national level action, as well as how this links to the work of the technical taskforce.
- Establishing a **clear and explicit mandate for international organizations, including custodian agencies of indicators under existing global monitoring frameworks** e.g. SDGs, Sendai Framework, CBD, etc. that directly correspond to the Belém Adaptation Indicators, including their systematic engagement in the technical taskforce and the policy alignment process.
- Reinforcing the mandate of **data disaggregation, where possible, and strengthening the inclusion of cross-cutting considerations** in the BAR and BAV processes.

- Supporting the **alignment of the targets under the UAE Framework on Global Climate Resilience with the Belém Adaptation Indicators**. While the indicators provide a structure for Parties to collect and report adaptation information, they do not capture all components of the targets of the UAE Framework, and considerable work is required to both support the implementation of the GGA targets, and the operationalization of the Belém Indicators, as noted by several Parties in recent submissions and engagements.
- Considering how the **BAV can be aligned with upcoming BTR submissions and inform the second Global Stocktake (GST2)**. Given the tight timeline, Parties may not have sufficient time to report against the Belém Adaptation Indicators in their current form in their second BTRs. Nevertheless, it remains critical to ensure that GGA follow-up processes are designed to generate clear and comparable information on adaptation progress, gaps and needs that can inform GST2 and strengthen future reporting, planning and implementation.
- **Operationalizing the new adaptation finance goal through the BAR and BAV, with a clear focus on means of implementation**. Future work under the BAR and BAV should help translate the COP30 adaptation finance goal into concrete support for country-led implementation of the GGA, including through finance, capacity-building and technology transfer. This should include support to address the specific vulnerabilities of children and other groups in vulnerable situations, consistent with the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience and the NCQG decision's specific recognition of children and its call for finance to support achievement of the UAE Framework targets (Decision [1/CMA.6](#), paras 26 and 18).

For additional recommendations on the BAR, please reference the recent submission on embedding child-responsive outcomes within the BAR [here](#).

### Belém-Addis Vision: Policy alignment process

The BAV presents an important opportunity to strengthen coherence across the UNFCCC adaptation architecture and support alignment between global frameworks, national planning processes and country priorities. Rather than creating a new framework, the BAV can clarify how existing UNFCCC processes and workstreams contribute to implementation of the GGA, including the Baku Adaptation Roadmap. Early guidance will be important in order to enable the BAV to be concluded at COP32.

#### Specific recommendations include:

- Clearly defining the scope and expected outputs of the BAV policy alignment process, including what is meant by 'alignment', which actors should be involved, and which modalities will be used.
- Deciding how global GGA follow-up processes can connect with national priorities and existing planning/reporting instruments, including NDCs 3.0, NAPs, and BTRs, particularly where these were developed or submitted prior to adoption of the Belém Adaptation Indicators.
- Clarify the relationship between the BAV and the BAR, including their distinct roles, responsibilities, timelines and expected outcomes.
- Identify capacity needs and support requirements, particularly for developing countries, LDCs and SIDS, to strengthen data systems, technical reporting, monitoring, evaluation and learning, and the use of indicators in national adaptation planning and implementation.

The actors involved will depend on the specific element of the alignment process and should be clarified in relation to the BAV taskforce. To ensure coherence with existing UNFCCC processes, Parties could draw on representatives of relevant constituted bodies to map their mandates and work programmes against GGA-related mandates and identify areas of complementarity or duplication. For alignment with global frameworks such as the SDGs and Sendai Framework, coordination with UN agencies and other custodian organizations responsible for data collection may be useful. To connect

the GGA with national and subnational processes, National Statistic Offices, local practitioners, technical experts and institutions responsible for NDCs, NAPs, and BTRs will be important. This should also include meaningful engagement of children and young people in line with 12/CMA.7 para 10. Parties can further contribute by mapping their capacity for technical data collection, systems development, monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL), etc. at the national level.

A central function of the BAV should be to assess whether the Belém Adaptation indicators can collect the information needed to understand adaptation progress globally and assess whether the UAE framework is being advanced. In other words, the BAV should help determine whether the indicators, in aggregate, can provide Parties and observers with a sufficiently clear picture as to whether or not the Global Goal on Adaptation is being achieved. Where misalignments are identified, the BAV could provide a process for Parties to consider how these should be addressed, as well as identifying how to build the technical capacity, especially in developing countries. Greater clarity is also needed on the timeline for this work, including whether information generated through the indicators can meaningfully inform the GST.

The policy alignment process should also consider how the Belém Adaptation Indicators relate to national and subnational policies. Many countries developed or submitted NDCs 3.0 before the adoption of the indicators, while many NAPs have been prepared in line with the thematic and dimensional targets of the UAE Framework (2/CMA.5 paras 9 and 10) rather than the formal indicator set. It will therefore be important to clarify the relationship between the UAE Framework targets and the indicators, and how existing national reporting can be drawn upon. This could include exploring the use of proxy indicators, mapping existing national MEL frameworks against the indicators, and identifying where additional technical support is needed.

At SB64, Parties should therefore seek to clarify the distinct functions of the BAR and the BAV, how the two processes intersect, which actors and modalities will be involved, and what mandates and timelines are needed to move the work forward.

### **Belém-Addis Vision: Technical taskforce**

#### **Specific recommendations include:**

- Ensuring that the technical taskforce includes relevant CBs, international organizations and agencies, technical experts, local practitioners, and statistical experts, including representatives of National Statistic Offices, in line with Decision 12/CMA.7. Specifically, drawing on the established work and expertise of custodian agencies for international frameworks could help streamline technical work, especially where Belém Adaptation indicators align with existing global indicators, including under the SDGs, Sendai Framework and Convention on Biological Diversity, for example.
- Defining the main function of the taskforce as the development of methodologies, data standards and metadata to enable the operationalization of the Belém Adaptation Indicators, including assessment of the relevance and feasibility of data disaggregation.
- Drawing, where appropriate, on the expert group's list of 100 indicators, including existing work on indicator readiness, methodologies, metadata, data sources and data availability.
- Establishing regular touchpoints between the technical taskforce and negotiators to build trust in the process, maintain transparency and ensure that technical outputs can be considered for adoption under the Belém Addis Vision.

The composition of the technical taskforce could include CBs and international organizations, in line with 12/CMA.7 paras 23, 24 and 25. However, Parties should also consider including statistical experts, National Statistic Offices, and technical practitioners with experience in data systems, monitoring, evaluation and learning. Given the significant task of developing metadata and methodologies for the Belém Adaptation Indicators, it will be critical to leverage existing processes wherever possible, including by involving custodian agencies for relevant international frameworks, such as the SDGs and Sendai

Framework. This can help accelerate delivery, reduce duplication, strengthen national ownership, and ensure that adaptation action achieves both resilience and development outcomes for children.

In order for the indicators to provide a meaningful global picture of adaptation progress, significant technical work is needed on methodologies, metadata, data collection, disaggregation, reporting and aggregation. Parties may also wish to consider the use of proxy indicators to support reporting against Belém Adaptation Indicators, particularly where these align with the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience. This could build on the expert group's [proposed list of indicators](#), including columns I and K, which identify suggested metadata sources and data availability through existing reporting frameworks and/or data sources.

One possible model for the taskforce is learning from the SDGs or other global indicator frameworks, where a smaller group of technical experts works iteratively to refine metadata and methodologies before outputs are brought forward for broader political consideration. However, Parties should avoid creating procedural bottlenecks through an overly expansive technical body. Clearly defining roles, process, timelines and expectations at SB64 will be critical to set the taskforce up for success ahead of COP32.

A key design consideration will be the establishment of dedicated feedback channels between the taskforce and negotiators. Regular political-technical touchpoints would allow experts to respond to Party feedback while preserving the scientific and technical integrity of the process. Learning from countries that are piloting or mapping the indicators would also provide valuable insight, and a structured feedback mechanism should be established for this purpose. Reflecting on the UAE-Belém Work Programme, more regular engagement between political and technical actors could help ensure that outputs of the technical work mandated in 12/CMA.7 paras 23-25 have both the scientific integrity and political legitimacy required for successful consideration and intended adoption at COP32.

In addition to developing methodologies, data standards and metadata, the task force should make recommendations on strengthening national statistical capacity, supporting peer-to-peer learning and review, and establishing mechanisms for compilation, validation and aggregation of data at regional and global levels, in line with Decision 3/CMA.6 para 11.

### Alignment of targets and indicators

#### Specific recommendations include:

- Ensuring that sectoral adaptation efforts are guided by the targets of the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience, including its child- and gender-responsive, participatory and inclusive dimensions, and supported by data collected under the Belém Adaptation Indicators.
- Strengthening alignment between UAE Framework targets and the Belém Adaptation Indicators, including by identifying gaps in the indicator set and options to address them, to ensure that all components of the UAE Framework targets can be meaningfully tracked.
- Clarifying if, and how, Parties with existing national policies, indicators and MEL systems aligned with the UAE Framework targets can use these to advance GGA follow-up processes, even where they do not use the exact language of the Belém Adaptation Indicators.
- Promoting coherence with BTRs and Global Stocktakes, while recognizing that the short timeline for second BTRs may limit Parties' ability to systematically report against the indicators in the current reporting cycle.

National planning processes, particularly in sectors critical to children and young people's wellbeing such as water and sanitation, health (physical and mental), education, nutrition, social protection and child protection, are often aligned with the UAE Framework targets and include specific measures to address the impacts of climate change on children and young

people. However, further work is needed to clarify practical implementation pathways for delivering the UAE Framework targets across sectors, levels of government and partner systems, particularly for those most in need. This includes identifying the capacities, institutions, delivery mechanisms and financing required to translate the UAE Framework targets into operational programmes, particularly in the systems that children depend on for their survival, development and wellbeing.

It will also be important to identify sectoral and cross-cutting gaps in the Belém Adaptation Indicators that are critical for adaptation efforts, including education and human mobility, and to consider how these relate to national planning priorities already identified in NAPs, NDCs and sector strategies.

Parties can build on experience integrating the UAE Framework targets into national adaptation planning, reporting, available data systems and national MEL frameworks, to selectively test indicators based on national readiness and adaptation priorities; mapping existing national indicators and datasets against the Belém Adaptation indicators; and strengthening alignment of NDCs, NAPs, and other climate policies with the UAE Framework targets. At SB64, Parties should clarify how progress towards the thematic and dimensional targets can be recognized, including where such progress is not yet captured by the formal Belém Adaptation Indicators.

BTRs present a valuable opportunity to share information on GGA-aligned adaptation action. However, with BTRs due at the end of the year, many countries have already begun preparing their submissions prior to the discussions and guidance that will emerge at SB64. Some Parties have begun testing subsets of indicators, or mapping indicators to available national data sources, but comprehensive use of the full indicator set, particularly where new methods of data collection are required, is unlikely to occur *en masse*. Given this timeline, Parties may wish to clarify how they can meaningfully report on GGA-aligned action, progress, gaps and needs in their second BTRs, including through existing national indicators, proxy indicators or narrative reporting, especially for Parties with limited capacity.

### Data disaggregation and cross-cutting considerations

#### Specific recommendations include:

- Ensuring a dedicated focus on the incorporation of cross-cutting considerations into the GGA follow up processes, including through the disaggregation of indicators where possible by age, gender, and disability, among other demographic and social characteristics (Decision 12/CMA.7 Annex para 1(a)).

Children, particularly those under the age of 5, are disproportionately vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and face heightened risks of physical harm compared to adults. Adolescents, particularly girls, also experience distinct and heightened risks and incidence of climate-related impacts. Robust data on the differentiated impacts of climate change on children, including gender, age and disability considerations, is essential for tracking inclusive adaptation and ensuring that GGA implementation responds to one of the largest and most vulnerable cohorts of the global population.

However, significant technical work is required to support the implementation and monitoring of the Belém Adaptation Indicators. The current indicator set does not yet adequately capture the specific needs and vulnerabilities of children across the thematic targets. This is particularly important recalling decision 3/CMA.6, para 21 (f), which calls for “indicators that reflect the **unique vulnerabilities of children to climate change** impacts across the thematic targets and, potentially, **cross-cutting indicators related to education and the health of children and young people.**” Without proper disaggregation and child-sensitive methodological guidance, this will not be possible.

Parties have expressed concern over the technical feasibility of collecting and reporting disaggregated data. Understanding the technicalities behind data disaggregation will ensure smoother operationalization of the indicators – and, more

broadly, successful adaptation interventions that appropriately consider the needs and capabilities of vulnerable groups. Including statistical and monitoring professionals in the BAV process with a focus on disaggregation could support exchange on best practice, standardization of data collection and treatment, and approaches to data quality and comparability.

This could include sharing and developing plans for Parties to incorporate the disaggregation of data by age, gender, disability and other relevant categories (Decision 12/CMA.7 Annex para 1(a)) when testing the Belém Adaptation Indicators, and when integrating the UAE Framework targets and Belém Adaptation Indicators into reporting and planning processes (Decision 12/CMA.7 para 11 and 12). Such work should help ensure that the unique vulnerabilities and needs of children and young people are reflected across GGA follow-up processes, including cross-cutting considerations related to education and the health of children and young people. Parties could also explore plans for piloting indicators and how other agencies, stakeholders and practitioners can support these efforts (Decision 12/CMA.7 paras 11, 25).

## Adaptation finance and MOI

### Specific recommendations include:

- Using the BAR and BAV to connect the goal of tripling adaptation finance by 2035 with implementation of the UAE Framework and the Belem Adaptation indicators.
- Clarifying how the invitation to multilateral climate funds (MCFs) (Decision 12/CMA.7, paras 17- 19) can support delivery of UAE Framework targets, including gender-responsive, child-responsive, and inclusive adaptation finance.
- Building on the NCQG decision’s specific commitments on children and on finance for the UAE Framework targets to strengthen support for child-responsive adaptation, including in child-critical social services.

The direct invitation to the GEF, the GCF and the Adaptation Fund provides an important opportunity to identify concrete linkages between the implementation of the UAE Framework and access to climate finance. Parties can use the BAR and BAV to clarify the relationship between MOI indicators, the invitation to MCFs, the new adaptation finance goal, and the NCQG. Understanding how funds intend to respond to this invitation, and how this will be communicated to Parties, will also be important.

**Parties may wish to consider whether updated or supplemental guidance to MCFs could help strengthen alignment with the UAE Framework, while avoiding the creation of additional access burdens for developing countries.** Overall, the adaptation finance and MOI discussion should be framed not only as a question of volume, but also of quality, accessibility and responsiveness to the needs of those most affected. This includes ensuring that finance for GGA implementation reaches the social sectors and frontline systems that are essential for protecting children and young people’s rights, wellbeing and resilience.

---

### For questions or reflections, please contact:

- Leeya Nix ([lnix@unicef.org](mailto:lnix@unicef.org)), Adaptation Policy Specialist, UNICEF
- Chiagozie Udeh ([udeh@unfpa.org](mailto:udeh@unfpa.org)), Programme Specialist, Climate Adaptation and Innovation, UNFPA
- Fiona Curtin ([fiona.curtin@qeh.ox.ac.uk](mailto:fiona.curtin@qeh.ox.ac.uk)), Policy Officer, Young Lives, University of Oxford
- Patricia Kramarz ([patricia.kramarz@savethechildren.de](mailto:patricia.kramarz@savethechildren.de)), Senior Advocacy Manager Global Health, Save the Children
- Gaël Bizet and Levina Oyugah ([adaptation.youngo@gmail.com](mailto:adaptation.youngo@gmail.com)), Adaptation Contact Points, YOUNGO