



Summary record

**OECD-United Kingdom
Climate Change Committee**

Measuring progress in implementing national adaptation policies

Virtual event
28 September 2021

■ Background

This meeting was jointly convened by the OECD and the UK Climate Change Committee (CCC). It brought together members of the OECD Task Force on Climate Change Adaptation (TFCCA), adaptation stakeholders from the United Kingdom as well as international experts on adaptation measurement. TFCCA members include policy makers from OECD member and non-member countries as well as experts from leading organisations working on climate change adaptation. The TFCCA assists the OECD Secretariat in delivering projects in support of strengthening resilience to climate change and climate variability. The TFCCA seeks to promote concrete solutions and develop policy guidance on climate change adaptation.

The UK Climate Change Committee is an independent statutory body which advises the UK and devolved governments on emissions targets. It reports to the UK Parliament on policy progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and in preparing for and adapting to the impacts of climate change.

■ Meeting objectives

This meeting was organised as part of an ongoing OECD work that aims at supporting countries in their adaptation measurement efforts and in the development of appropriate adaptation indicators. It provided an opportunity for experts from governments and other organisations to share their experiences and discuss the progress and challenges faced while developing frameworks and instruments for adaptation measurement. The meeting informed ongoing OECD work on the topic, notably a country case study on the United Kingdom developed with the support of the UK Department of Food and Rural Affairs.

All presentations are available on the [meeting's website](#).

■ Contact

Mikaela Rambali | Policy Analyst

Climate Change Adaptation

OECD Environment Directorate

Tel. + (33-1) 45 24 14 81 | mikaela.rambali@oecd.org

Discussion highlights

- As more countries have national policies in place and start revising them, there is increasing demand for guidance on how to measure adaptation and in particular track progress in the implementation of national policies and strategies.
- Countries' experience remains uneven and generally limited. Some frontrunners have published progress reports and some even engaged in robust assessment of climate-related risks, to guide adaptation policies. Where they exist, measurement frameworks remain limited to track outputs and processes and very little is known on how to track outcomes and benefits.
- The use of indicators, which can help indicate a trend but not the reason behind the trend, is hindered by the lack of data available and agreed methodology.
- More work is needed to get more traction on adaptation measurement, notably by setting a clear vision for adaptation and engaging with stakeholders to strengthen their buy-in.

The meeting was opened by **Simon Buckle** (OECD) and **Andrew Carr** (UK Department of Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)). In their remarks, they highlighted the importance of adaptation measurement as a key priority to ensure continued progress on climate change adaptation. They provided the context for this meeting, which fits into the broader OECD work programme, and introduced the OECD-UK collaboration on a case study to identify progress and challenges in developing adaptation measurement. Andrew Carr highlighted that 2021 is an important year for adaptation in the United Kingdom, with COP26 in Glasgow and the recent release of the [UK's Third Climate Change Risk Assessment](#) (CCRA) and of the CCC's [assessment of progress](#) in adapting to climate change.

In his keynote speech, **Mike Thompson** (Climate Change Committee (CCC)) presented the Committee's approach to assessing the priority risks and opportunities facing the UK from climate change, which has its foundations in the 2008 Climate Change Act. The Act sets a long-term goal along with a pathway and a monitoring framework. He shared some of the key findings from the third CCRA, which gathers evidence of climate risks and opportunities at the national, devolved administration and sector levels. He argued that, while there is good understanding of the risks posed by climate change, as presented in the 3rd CCRA, there is not enough action on preparing for such risks. He highlighted some of the barriers of adaptation that justify why adaptation may be lagging behind mitigation action; namely, the complexity and cross-cutting nature of adaptation; the lack of resources for adaptation (albeit they are increasing); and the difficulty in setting a clear goal and vision to define and identify progress. He closed his remarks emphasising on the UK's commitment to improve its adaptation measurement framework, as much more remains needed to go beyond tracking and be able to assess outcomes.

During the state of play session, **Timo Leiter** (London School of Economics) presented his recent [paper](#), which gathers evidence on the global progress in assessing national adaptation policies. His research shows that, while a growing number of countries have developed National Adaptation Plans and indicate that they intend to track policy implementation, the majority are not there yet. At the global level, countries are at very different stages in developing monitoring and evaluation systems for adaptation policies. Such efforts are sometimes driven by a mandate prescribed in a climate change law and usually unfold as a multi-year process led by Ministries of Environment. Timo Leiter also observed that, while most countries intended to use indicators, often with a focus on outputs, only a few countries have developed and used an elaborated set of national adaptation indicators. He presented some of the key challenges in developing comprehensive monitoring and evaluation systems, notably the difficulty of identifying and agreeing on what needs to be monitored and why, of getting buy-in from stakeholders to undertake reviews and of securing resources for operationalising monitoring and evaluation systems.

Emil Ivanov (United Nations Statistics Division) provided an overview of the [Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators](#), which has just undergone a global consultation. He explained the context for its development, notably in relation to the existing statistical processes, such as reporting to UNFCCC, Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework. The current draft Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators has been sent to the National Statistics Offices of all

UN member states to assess their relevance, methodological soundness and data availability. Emil Ivanov also provided an overview of the 28 adaptation indicators featuring in the Global Set. Indicators are categorised in three tiers, depending on their maturity, applicability and on the availability of the data they rely on. He indicated that most countries find it difficult to report on adaptation indicators, because of methodological issues and/or the lack of data. UNSD is actively working to fill methodological gaps and aims to present the Global Set for to the Statistical Commission for adoption in 2022.

Country insights

United Kingdom – Brendan Freeman: The CCC has a statutory role to review the UK government's progress on climate change adaptation in England every two years. It developed a scoring system to evaluate the National Adaptation Programme, looking at both progress in managing risks (exposure and vulnerability) and the quality of plans in 34 priority areas. The quality of the plan is assessed based on criteria such as whether the plan considers different future scenarios; whether it sets out specific actions and is supported by a monitoring framework. An indicator framework, which covers the components of climate risk, supports the assessment of the risk management angle. However, the robustness of this framework depends on the quality of the indicators that underpin it, which can vary depending on data availability.

Chile – Camilo Prats: Chile is developing its framework law on climate change and its long-term climate strategy as well as regional action plans (4 under development, 16 projected) and 11 sectoral plans ([see slides](#)), which complement the NAP and the revised NDC. Recently, Chile also developed the web platform [ARClim](#) (the Climate Risk Atlas for Chile) to present information and projections at the territorial level on climate risk and adaptation in Chile. It released its [Monitoring Report](#) in 2019. The country faces various challenges to monitor and evaluate policy progress, most notably in getting a set of indicators to link with public policy and move towards a learning process. Chile under the CBIT project is emphasizing the importance of having stakeholders, including private actors and civil society at the centre of indicator development, to improve legitimacy and transparency into the system.

Germany – Achim Daschkeit: Germany developed its National Adaptation Strategy (NAS) in 2008 and its first National Adaptation Plan (NAP) in 2011. It prepared a progress report in 2015, including the second NAP, and a first evaluation of the NAS covering the period of 2017-19. These evaluation processes aimed to contribute to both, *learning* (to help identify success factors and challenges of the adaptation policy process and help understand what were valuable adaptation measures) as well as *controlling* whether the implementation of adaptation actions was on track or delayed. The evaluation process followed a 5 steps approach (input, implementation, output, outcome, impact) to assess whether the adaptation process as a whole contributes to strengthening the country's resilience and was expected to provide first insights on the impact of (groups of) measures. It was estimated that the quality of insights from the evaluation and findings' used in subsequent political action was not driven by indicator use, as they are not yet considered good enough to evaluate the impact.

Other country updates: Other country delegates shared updates about ongoing work on adaptation measurement in their administrations. **Kirsi Mäkinen** from **Finland** shared information about the fourth round of evaluation of the Finnish NAP and the wider plan being revised. **Åsa Sjöström** from **Sweden** highlighted the ongoing work on monitoring adaptation via the monitoring system KLIRA ([see SMHI report](#)). **Margie Eddington** from **Australia** informed participants about the upcoming release of the revision of the country's National Climate Resilience Strategy, which will include a set of indicators.

Participation

The meeting gathered 115 participants from countries and organisations working on adaptation. Participants included delegates and experts from 26 OECD member countries and 2 key partner countries, as well as from international organisations such as the United Nations Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Statistics Division and the World Bank. Representatives from research institutes also contributed to the discussion. The full list of participants can be found on the [TFCCA community site](#).

OECD Adaptation Website
<https://www.oecd.org/env/cc/climate-adaptation/>

TFCCA Community Site
You can activate notifications on the website
<https://community.oecd.org/community/joint-adaptation-task-force>

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