EIG submission on the UAE–Belém Work Programme on Indicators

Context

At COP 28 parties adopted the UAE Framework for Global Climate Resilience with the purpose to guide the achievement of the global goal on adaptation and the review of overall progress in achieving it with a view to reducing the increasing adverse impacts, risks and vulnerabilities associated with climate change, as well as to enhance adaptation action and support.

To measure progress in meeting the objectives of the UAE Framework, the Parties launched the UAE- Belém two-year work programme on indicators, to identify quantified elements to guide and intensify action on gradual and transformative adaptation in the long term, with a view to reducing vulnerability and enhancing adaptive capacity and resilience, as well as the collective well-being of all people, the protection of livelihoods and economies, and the preservation and regeneration of nature, for current and future generations.

EIG views on the two-year UAE-Belém work programme on indicators for measuring progress towards the UAE-FGCR targets.

The EIG welcomes the UAE Framework and remarks that before developing new indicators, Parties should consider the tools that have already been adopted in the national adaptation plans of the Parties as well as in other multilateral fora, such as the reporting processes and indicators associated with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework which will also allow the monitoring of the 7 targets by 2030, consistent with the dimensions of the iterative adaptation cycle of the UAE Framework.

The EIG is of the view that identifying suitable indicators is notably challenging due to the broad scope and long timeframe of adaptation. There is a strong need to gather a rich and relevant source of information to facilitate further discussion. In this regard, the EIG has identified the following existing efforts that should be considered in the UAE-Belém work programme.

Existing indicators to review the progress of national adaptation plans of the Parties can serve as a valuable point of reference, for example there are some national adaptation plans, including in the EGI members states that incorporates a comprehensive set of policy-related indicators across different areas, along with public-oriented indicators. Progress in adaptation by the plan is consistently monitored and regularly evaluated using these indicators.

In a cross-cutting manner, the potential co-benefits that climate action has with the Sustainable Development Goals were identified, in that sense during the UAE-Belém work programme, it will be essential to consider the global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals, developed by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDGs Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) and adopted by the General Assembly on July 6, 2017[1].

Another crucial element for the work programme should be to work on **building synergies among multilateral environmental agreements and initiatives to address the multiple crises we face**, including, among others, the conventions and agreements related to climate change, biodiversity, chemicals and waste conventions, and the three Rio conventions. Considering also the initiatives and actions already existing at the regional, sub-regional, national and sub-national levels, respecting their respective mandates.

In a general overview, it is important that the indicators respond to the local context and capacities and, at the same time, allow the aggregation of information (both horizontally – sectors – and vertically – subnational/national level –). Likewise, this process should promote the generation of agreements that allow the sharing of information and the establishment of specific roles and responsibilities through inter-institutional regulatory frameworks.

Other elements to consider are the qualitative and quantitative indicators to provide a complete overview of progress, considering the national and subnational scales, and identifying the different capacities of the Parties. These indicators should take into account the best available science and integrate traditional and local knowledge, as appropriate, considering that indigenous peoples and Indigenous communities develop adaptation activities to climate change, this due to the collective construction of knowledge from ancestral/traditional modes of production to community organization and sustainable livelihoods that they carry out with less impact and in harmony with ecosystems.

Likewise, the indicators must include economic-productive and socio-environmental aspects that integrate an intersectionality approach, as an analytical tool that recognizes the systemic inequalities that are configured from the superposition of different social factors such as ethnicity and social class, as well as a gender perspective, cultural relevance, full respect for human rights, intergenerational justice and environmental justice.

Besides highlighting the importance of including gender analysis in the design and implementation of adaptation initiatives, considering all the possibilities of discrimination against women and those actions that multiply their disadvantages, it is considered that the intersectional gender approach in adaptation to climate change will make it possible to identify the different forms of inequality that women experience and that often operate together and exacerbate each other.

In this regard, it is necessary to carry out territorially disaggregated social measurements from a gender perspective and its intersectionalities such as age and other categories of differentiation in people's lives in social practices, institutions and cultural ideologie, that

[1] A/RES/71/313

consider the design of gender-sensitive indicators to contribute to the determination of the functions, needs and knowledge of women and men, and in turn to monitor and evaluate progress in gender equality and the empowerment of women and particularly vulnerable groups.

In the definition of indicators, it is necessary to establish consensus and incorporate multi-stakeholder participatory construction, involving different sectors, beyond the environmental.

It is also necessary to consider the availability of data on the changes to be monitored and the absence of baselines on which to compare the changes attributed to the adaptation measures, as well as the linking and articulation of the systems that allow interoperability, the sharing of information, reducing time and costs, and avoiding duplication of efforts.

There is a lack of human, financial resources, and appropriate technological aspects for the implementation of indicator systems, with emphasis on the importance of the links between science and policy, multidisciplinary participation, participatory construction, and the consideration of different competencies and needs.

Finally, in the overall process, it is suggested to include technological and financial aspects for the operation and maintenance of systems in the long term, through processes, tools and techniques for the collection and generation of information systematically and periodically under a cost-benefit vision and anchored in the household budget.

In this document, the EIG will share some elements regarding existing efforts that could support the work over the next two years. Additionally, it will list a series of considerations that can be taken into account for the development of a possible baseline for the indicators under the UAE–Belém Work Programme.

Water

Existing instruments

The IPCC's Sixth Assessment Report highlights the very serious effects of climate change on freshwater ecosystems and emphasizes the need to protect and restore them to improve adaptive capacity and build resilient societies, economies and ecosystems, in that sense initiatives such as the Freshwater Challenge that seeks to restore 300,000 km of rivers and 350 million hectares of wetlands by 2030 should be considered.

There is also the Global Water Partnership, whose goal is to provide knowledge and build capacity to improve water management at all levels: global, regional, national and local.

In addition, we have Goal 6 of the 2030 Agenda, which has eight targets that aim to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

Elements to consider for the monitoring of target A[2]

[2] Document FCCC/PA/CMA/2023/L.18

Propose concrete actions for efficient management of water resources according to their uses (Urban Public, Irrigation, Industrial, Energy Generation, Recreational, etc.).

Reforestation of watersheds to improve physical conditions for surface water capture and subsequent utilization.

Seek increased financing for sustainable management of watersheds, particularly for the construction of hydraulic structures to contain or manage extraordinary volumes of water due to extreme hydrometeorological events in response to climate change, thus preventing disasters.

Develop master plans with concrete actions for recharging overexploited aquifers and sustainably managing them to prevent overexploitation.

Advocate for legislation promoting water conservation practices based on current availability in reservoirs or intake dams. Identify the main challenges that communities face in accessing water, considering the accessibility of water sources (piped water, water truck delivery, or wells), as well as the time and effort required for water collection activities such as fetching water.

Additionally, it is recommended to involve children, adolescents, and youth in the creation and execution of water projects, considering their perspectives and circumstances. This requires a socio-economic analysis, with gender perspective, to identify each person's role (taking into account purchasing power, education, place of residence, and access to water) and integrate their differences and needs into the projects accordingly.

Food and agricultural production

Existing instruments

The review of the development and implementation of activities oriented towards the sustainability of food production systems and resilient agricultural practices, with the aim of protecting ecosystems and guaranteeing food security, can be based on a series of efforts and commitments at the national and international levels. The combination of these efforts can provide a solid foundation for the continuous review and improvement of agricultural practices, ensuring the sustainability of food production systems and the protection of ecosystems.

Some significant references may be: SDG 2, 13 and 15; sustainable agriculture initiatives, for example, Rainforest Alliance and Global G.A.P, which provide guidelines and standards for sustainable agricultural production; national policies and commitments, such as food security and sustainable development strategies aligned with international commitments.

It is also important to consider actions aimed at reducing food loss, specifically at the first link of the chain. For example, within the framework of SDG 12, there is target 12.3, which aims to halve global per capita food waste at the retail and consumer levels by 2030, as well as to reduce food losses in production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses.

FAO also provides tools that can assist in monitoring the UAE Framework, such as the Global Soil Partnership, which aims to contribute to capacity development and facilitate the exchange of knowledge and technologies for the sustainable management and use of soil.

There are also regional efforts such as the Climate Action Platform in Agriculture for Latin America and the Caribbean (PLACA), which is a regional voluntary collaboration mechanism in agriculture and climate change, bringing together representatives from agriculture ministries to share best practices.

Furthermore, within the OECD, there is a programme for monitoring and evaluating agricultural policies, and within the UNCCD, there is a thematic monitoring and evaluation framework. Additionally, collaboration with the Sharm el-Sheikh Joint Work Programme for the implementation of climate action in agriculture and food security will be essential.

Elements to consider for monitoring target B[3]

There is a need to strengthen monitoring, recording, verification, and data publication systems for the rural sector: consistency and systematic data collection, comparison between different data surveys, and data publication.

It is also suggested to increase adaptation and resilience measures through financial and technical support, capacity development, infrastructure, and innovations (including early warning systems). A possible indicator for this is the agricultural self-sufficiency coefficient and the livestock self-sufficiency coefficient.

Promoting food security and nutrition, especially for the most vulnerable people, through social protection systems, safety nets, school feeding programs, food supply, research, and specific innovation will be key. The potential indicator could be the rural population experiencing food insecurity.

Supporting agricultural and food system workers, whose livelihoods are threatened by climate change, through increased adaptation and income diversification will also be crucial. The possible indicator is the participation of rural production units in the final value of agricultural products.

Efficient water use for food security should also be considered. Possible indicators include the physical water productivity in irrigation units and the reduction of water footprint in priority crops.

Maximizing climate and environmental benefits through:

Conservation, protection, and restoration of natural ecosystems, improving soil health and biodiversity, and transitioning to practices that generate fewer greenhouse gas emissions, by also incorporation traditional knowledge and agroecological practices.

A more sustainable production and consumption approach that reduces food waste and promotes sustainable aquatic food consumption.

[3] Ibíd.

The possible indicator for this point is the stabilization of the agricultural frontier and sustainable practices in agricultural production.

Finally, it should be noted that women often have limited access to the natural and economic resources needed to produce food, making them more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change on food security. Therefore, it is important to promote shared responsibility for caregiving, in which both men and women fulfill responsibilities for the common good.

Health

Existing instruments

The experience of epidemiological surveillance systems can be leveraged and linked with climatic variables. Additionally, indicators in normal epidemiological surveillance systems, such as tracking the incidence of diseases like dengue fever, exist, but these could be improved and expanded. The participation of World Health Organization specialists in programme work meetings will be crucial, as well as working in conjunction with the new international pandemic treaty, which considers the link between health and the adverse effects of climate change.

Other sources of data and programs, promoted by national and international organizations, that could serve to identify the main effects, as well as the strategies that need to be implemented and/or strengthened to reduce the impact of climate change on people's health, could be:

● Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC): the IPCC provides scientific assessments of climate change, including its impacts on human health. Their reports are fundamental to understanding the relationship between climate and diseases, serving as a basis for policy formulation.

● United Nations Environment Program (UNEP): UNEP addresses the connection between the environment and human health, providing data on air quality, access to drinking water and other environmental factors that affect health.

● Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): At the national level, agencies such as the CDC collect detailed data on public health, including surveillance for diseases related to climate change. This data is essential to identify trends and critical areas.

● Climate Change Adaptation Programs at the National Level: Many countries have implemented specific programs to address the health impacts of climate change. These programs typically include coping strategies, public education, and preventative measures.

● Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs): NGOs such as Greenpeace, WWF, and others dedicated to global health and the environment often conduct research and programs to address the impacts of climate change on human health.

Considering these resources, the main health threats caused by climate change can be identified, as well as effective strategies designed and implemented to mitigate these risks and strengthen the resilience of communities.

Elements to consider for follow-up on Target C[4]

It is necessary to develop a system within public health surveillance programs to monitor risks and diseases related to heat. This should include both direct effects (heat strokes) and indirect effects (vector-borne diseases and food insecurity). Implementing early warning systems for heat-related diseases at the local level with emphasis on vulnerable areas is essential.

Environmental risk factors (temperature, precipitation) and direct and indirect health effects should be monitored and included in a risk map.

Furthermore, it is recommended to recognize and highlight the interrelationships between health and sexual and reproductive rights and the climate crisis, as there is currently limited information on this. In the event that this is done, it is suggested to conduct a participatory diagnosis with communities that have migrated due to the climate crisis, either due to heatwaves (droughts) or organized crime, or those who have adapted despite the circumstances.

Likewise, research should be conducted on best practices from climate-resilient communities, i.e., how people have adapted to the effects of the climate crisis and healthcare delivery with mobile integrated health units.

Ecosystems and Biodiversity

Existing instruments

Consider the work to be carried out in the CBD, in relation to the indicators of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which are to be adopted in October/November of this year. Specifically, goal 8: Minimize the Impacts of Climate Change on Biodiversity and Build Resilience.

The Data Reporting Tool (DaRT) is available, which is the first tool that supports Parties in effectively utilizing synergies in the field of knowledge management and information for national reporting to biodiversity-related conventions. DaRT is a national workspace for collecting, organizing, and sharing information. In addition to supporting compliance with the Water and Environment Framework and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, this tool could contribute to the information that needs to be developed regarding adaptation in the Paris Agreement's Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF).

Having the number of threatened or endangered species, biodiversity indices, and the extinction rate of species will help monitor progress in the UAE Framework. For this purpose,

[4] Ibíd.

the information published by the CBD in its Global Biodiversity Outlook and reports from the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) should be considered, as well as promoting exchange between Conventions.

Strengthening collaboration at the international level to address global challenges in a coordinated manner, by adopting measures on cooperation in research, exchange of good practices and mutual support in policy implementation, as well as promoting research and monitoring, can amplify individual countries' efforts.

Elements to consider for monitoring Target D[5]

Identifying information about the increase in the number of protected areas, improving the management and restoration of existing protected areas to enhance resilience.

To develop indicators related to ecosystem and biodiversity actions, it is essential to consider various aspects that affect the health and vitality of ecosystems, as well as the status of ecosystems, for example, the total area of natural ecosystems, the deforestation rate, and loss of natural habitats (both terrestrial and aquatic), the percentage of degraded or at-risk ecosystems, as well as habitat quality.

Likewise, establishing and identifying clear commitments for the conservation and restoration of ecosystems, including the protection of natural areas, reforestation and the rehabilitation of degraded ecosystem contribute both to the mitigation of climate change and to the preservation of biodiversity.

Ecosystem services should also be considered, where the carbon storage capacity of ecosystems, the economic valuation of ecosystem services, and the percentage of the population directly dependent on ecosystem services for their subsistence should be documented. In this regard, active participation of Indigenous Peoples decision-making and the implementation of measures in the sustainable management of natural resources ensures equity and long-term effectiveness.

Another element to consider is the restoration and conservation of species and ecosystems, by collecting data on the total area restored or under conservation programs, the success of reintroduction programs for threatened species, and the percentage of protected ecosystems under sustainable management.

It is important to tailor the indicators to the specific characteristics of each ecosystem and consider the availability of data for measurement, also according to each country's capacities.

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Infrastructure and Human Settlements

Existing instruments

To track the institutionalized monitoring and evaluation system of UN-Habitat, work is underway to create a more robust institutionalized monitoring and evaluation system by developing a comprehensive results framework that includes SMART indicators (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound) and corresponding targets and baselines.

Additionally, there is a set of 38 indicators recommended by an Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group to track progress in implementing the seven goals of the Sendai Framework, as well as their related dimensions reflected in Sustainable Development Goals 1, 11, and 13.

Elements to consider for monitoring target E[6]

To enhance information in this field and strengthen adaptation actions on infrastructure and human settlements, it's important to have the number and frequency of natural disasters (floods, storms, etc.) and their impact on infrastructure and human settlements.

Also, the percentage of infrastructure meeting resilience standards against climate change, along with information on investments in climate-resistant infrastructure (e.g., improved drainage systems, early warning systems, etc.) will be useful.

Sustainable Urban Planning is also crucial for achieving this goal. Therefore, it's important to have the percentage of urban areas with development plans that include measures for climate change mitigation and adaptation, urban density, percentage of green areas, accessibility to public transportation, and the percentage of trips made using public or non-motorized transportation.

It's also relevant to focus on the protection and reconstruction of hydraulic infrastructure affected by hydrometeorological phenomena to provide temporary drinking water and emergency sanitation services to affected population centers and productive areas. This includes capacity building across various sectors to address the population in emergencies and support community organization in disaster situations.

Use of adaptive social protection measures for the benefit of all

Existing instruments

In its Sixth Assessment Report, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), from 2022, noted that with climate change people have been affected by changes in

[6] Ibíd.

agricultural productivity, impacts on human health, food security, the destruction of housing and infrastructure, and the loss of assets and income, with adverse effects on gender and social equity.

The aforementioned Report mentions that the entry point to confront these problems is in the measurement of risk and the concepts of adaptation, vulnerability, exposure, resilience, equity and climate justice; It also indicates that structural vulnerabilities to climate change can be reduced through legal measures, policies and interventions from the local to the global that address inequalities based on gender, ethnicity, disability, age, location and income, among others.

Likewise, the International Labour Organization (ILO) has tools for monitoring and improving green jobs, and it's crucial not to overlook the need for a just transition of the workforce in this regard.

It's also important to have multidimensional poverty indices that consider aspects such as health, education, and access to basic services. In this context, the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), produced by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), serves as a valuable resource.

Elements to consider for monitoring target F[7]

It will be necessary to increase the adaptive capacity of women and men by recognizing their traditional practices and knowledge, as well as strengthening the resilience and reducing the vulnerability of natural and human systems for the common good.

Collecting climate vulnerability indices is essential, considering factors such as community exposure, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity, especially for those most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

Understanding the percentage of the population exposed to climate risks such as floods, droughts, and storms, and the number of adaptation measures implemented, such as early warning systems, climate-resistant infrastructure, and relocation programs, is crucial.

National and international financing towards rural areas is a key component in reducing women's poverty. For example, incentivizing women to lead projects in their territories to promote paid work opportunities for them.

In addition to information on green jobs, it will be important to know the unemployment and underemployment rates disaggregated by gender, age, and geographic location. Also, the percentage of employment in sectors vulnerable to climate change impacts, such as agriculture and fisheries, as well as access to decent jobs and adequate remuneration to ensure household economic security.

All adaptation measures need to be implemented with the community, from planning to implementation, evaluation, and monitoring.

[7] Ibíd.

Cultural heritage

Existing instruments

UNESCO has thematic indicators for culture in the 2030 Agenda, especially indicators 3 and 4, Sustainable Heritage Management and Adaptation to Climate Change and Resilience.

There are various cooperation programs and actions aimed at promoting and strengthening projects leading to sustainable development, the recovery of crop and seed systems, as well as culturally relevant food.

Additionally, there is indicator 11.4.1, "Total per capita expenditure on the preservation, protection, and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage, by source of funding, type of heritage, and level of government." It is essential to monitor and maintain investment in this area as it is a necessary tool for the protection and safeguarding of cultural and natural heritage.

Another instrument is the International Labour Organization's Convention 169. It has a focus on indigenous peoples, respecting and protecting their ways of life , their right to participate effectively in decisions that affect them, for the continuity of their own identities. Being a binding mechanism, it obliges states to ensure the application, recognition, and full enjoyment of the rights of indigenous peoples.

Elements to consider for follow-up on target G[8]

It is necessary to understand the strategies and actions that communities have undertaken to address the impacts of climate change, particularly on biocultural heritage, is essential. Therefore, studies should be conducted on these experiences to contribute to experiences in other areas.

It is equally important to consider an intersectionality approach, as an analytical tool that recognizes the systemic inequalities that are configured from the superposition of different social factors such as gender, ethnicity and social class. Consequently, both the disadvantages and privileges that a person has at a given time and place cannot be understood by examining in isolation the various elements of his or her identity and, on the contrary, attention must be paid to the set of power relations that characterize him or her. affect, including those macro-level forces such as the colonial past and poverty; as do micro-level forces, including a person's health status and the structure of their family or community.

It is crucial to recover women's knowledge by recognizing their practices and promoting the exchange of knowledge among peers from different regions. Promoting the participation of local populations and their local, traditional, or indigenous knowledge in decision-making is fundamental to ensuring their security, as indicated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2014). To promote a holistic research model, consider the

[8] Ibíd.

knowledge of both women and men, building them considering gender gaps and including both qualitative and quantitative indicators.

It will be important to consider the human mobility caused by climate change, which also has implications for the identity of indigenous people, since the abandonment of ancestral sites and their territories implies the decline of the place, putting at risk the shared well-being, belonging and the symbolic nature of social ties related to the territory.

General considerations

The EIG considers that the development of co-benefits between the SDGs the UAE-Belém work programme should be paramount, considering that the establishment of other metrics to help monitor the indicators associated with the SDGs should be subject to the availability of sources of information considering the various levels of disaggregation.

In addition, each of the goals should also consider working on the knowledge and recognition of structural nodes such as: a) socioeconomic inequality and poverty; b) patriarchal, discriminatory, and violent cultural patterns, as well as the culture of privilege; c) the sexual division of labor and the unjust social organization of care; and d) the concentration of power and hierarchical relations in the public sphere.

Likewise, the EIG suggest to reconcile the objectives of the Framework with the timely outcomes, agreements, and initiatives derived from international and regional forums on women's rights and gender equality. In this regard, it is important to revisit the Agreed Conclusions of the annual sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), with special emphasis on the outcomes of CSW66 (2022), which focused on "Achieving gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environment, and disaster risk reduction policies and programs."

On the other hand, the Generation Equality Forum, a global initiative to accelerate investment and implementation of gender equality, has six Action Coalitions (global alliances comprising governments, civil society, international organizations, and the private sector), including the Feminist Action Coalition for Climate Justice.

It is important to highlight that other international and regional economic mechanisms and forums are also monitoring the impact of climate change, such as the G20 and APEC, making them opportunities to promote the objectives of this framework within them.

Modalities of the UAE - Belém work programme

The UAE–Belém work programme should help improve the implementation of Article 2. 1(b) and 7 of the Paris Agreement and help identify concrete opportunities to continue acting to enhance the environmental effectiveness of the Paris Agreement.

In this regard, the EIG considers that the work programme should involve the participation of the scientific community, academia, civil society, indigenous peoples, youth, the private sector, and other relevant stakeholders.

Submission of cases, examples, and lessons learned on indicators to assess progress in adaptation should be requested from all Parties and non-Party stakeholders. A synthesis report on these submissions should be published by the secretariat, under the guidance of the Adaptation Committee (AC) and the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG), according to the schedule to be provided by the SB Chairs.

Regional-level work will also be necessary, considering cultural, geographical, economic, and social similarities. Additionally, it will be important to have spaces where the six official languages of the UN.

For inputs, EIG suggests using data from the IPCC and IPBES in their special reports and assessments. It is recommended to review documents and reports from environmental conventions, especially the three Rio Conventions and the Berna III process. It is also recommended to continue with the submission processes shared by the Parties and relevant stakeholders.

The EIG also considers that to prepare the participation of Parties and stakeholders in the workshops, it will be important to share the agenda and guiding questions at least three weeks in advance, so that contributions can be more substantive.

In addition to workshops, it is recommended to have a world café during the June sessions, where experts can share information about possible indicators, having co-facilitators who have expertise in each of the targets of the UAE framework, taking into account the equity representation of all regions.