

Terms of Reference: Research and analysis on the Global Goal on Adaptation

International Institute for Sustainable Development

Timelines: (on a part-time basis)

- First period: Start asap, maximum by end-April until end of May
- Second period: start mid- to end-June, until end of October

Context

In 2015, the Paris Agreement established the global goal on adaptation (GGA) with the aim to “enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change”. Despite slow progress on the GGA between 2015 and 2021, Parties agreed at COP26 to establish the Glasgow-Sharm el-Sheikh (GlaSS) work programme on the GGA to discuss key political and technical issues and move towards operationalising the GGA and enhancing adaptation action at the national level. Over the course of two years, the GlaSS will deliver four workshops per year in 2022 and 2023 and allow for Parties and non-Party stakeholder submissions throughout the programme. At COP27,

Despite the GGA gaining visibility through the GlaSS, the evolution of the debate and what to expect next is ambiguous. While the workshops offer a space to discuss concepts, how such discussions are integrated into a framework with potential goal, or series of goals, is not clear. Additionally, there is a number of new actors and negotiators involved in discussions on the GGA that do not have a strong background on Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning methods and processes. As such, discussing the methodological implications of different policy or position option remains murky.

The International Institute for Sustainable Development, as the secretariat of the National Adaptation Plan Global Network (NAP GN), contributes to the UNFCCC discussions amongst others by providing research and policy analysis that channels the experiences and knowledge from working with NAP GN partners. IISD and the NAP GN aim to support the production of inclusive, participatory and equitable processes under the UNFCCC through open dialogues and knowledge-sharing.

Assignment

IISD is seeking a part-time researcher / policy analyst to work with the Lead of MEL for Adaptation on one, or a series of short briefings, that will address the themes of the remaining GlaSS workshops, and ultimately COP28. The first briefing will focus on providing an overview of MEL concepts and principles for setting and assessing potential targets and goals under the GGA, along with the key challenges and benefits associated with different methodological options.

We’re looking for a researcher / policy analyst with:

- Good understanding, and ideally experience of implementing, of MEL systems, concepts and activities. E.g.: understanding the difference between output and process indicators, between output and outcome indicators. Understanding of the implication of developing methodologies for indicators, targets, or goals.

- Understanding of, and experience of researching global and national sustainable development policies and issues, and preferably on climate adaptation policies and issues.
- Awareness, and ideally understanding, of UNFCCC processes. If possible awareness of processes on the global goal on adaptation – but not essential.
- Excellent document analysis and writing skills, with preferably additional experience in conducting key informant interviews with policy makers.

Timelines and budget

This assignment is on a part-time basis. The scope and number of briefings will depend on the availability and expertise of the candidates found for this role. The delivery of assignments can be flexible depending on the candidates' availability, while noting that content should be delivered ahead of key UNFCCC conferences.

First period: Start asap, maximum end April until end of May.

A candidate is sought for a first briefing on the topic of adaptation metrics and targets, ahead of the SB58 from June 5-15th in Bonn.

Second period: mid- to end-June until end of October.

The development of up to three other briefings or other communication materials, such as blogs, will be determined by the availability and expertise of the candidates. The candidate will be co-author in all external publications they will contribute to.

Budget to be discussed based on expertise.

Application

Please send your CV and a short email text specifying your skills and experience in fulfilling the task and criteria above to:

Emilie Beauchamp ebeauchamp@iisd.org

Lead, MEL for Adaptation

Resilience Group, IISD

Interviews and contracting will be done on a first come, first serve rolling basis.

Useful references:

Beauchamp, E. 2022. How to Raise the GlaSS on the Global Goal on Adaptation at COP 27: Four foundations to build upon. NAP GN. <https://www.iisd.org/articles/deep-dive/glass-global-goal-adaptation-cop-27>

Beauchamp, E. and L. Motaroki. 2022. Taking stock of the global goal on adaptation: From the Paris Agreement to the Glasgow–Sharm elSheikh work programme. IIED. <https://www.iied.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/2022-04/20876IIED.pdf>

Beauchamp, E., da Silva Bernardo, C., Bueno, M. (2021). Progressing the Global Goal on Adaptation — key issues. IIED, London. <https://www.iied.org/17773iied>