

Theme 4: Reaching the most Vulnerable

It is widely recognized that adaptation policy and practice must reach those most vulnerable to the effects of climate change. However, to date, practice does not live up to this intention. This theme reflected on the risks faced by vulnerable groups and communities, and highlights the actions needed to address those risks more effectively. It also analysed the role of insurance in absorbing climate shocks in vulnerable regions, along with an exploration into the feasibility of establishing an African learning platform for climate risk insurance.

i) Technical Expert Meeting on Adaptation (TEM-A)

The Technical Examination Process on Adaptation (TEP-A) was established at COP21 as part of the adaptation agenda set out in the Paris Agreement. It is taking place during 2016-2020, and its objective is to identify concrete opportunities for strengthening resilience, reducing vulnerability, and increasing the understanding and implementation of adaptation actions. The process is composed of a series of meetings called TEM-As.

Under GAN's commitment to push for adaptation solutions that reach the most vulnerable, it was decided that a Regional TEM-A would be held at this Forum in Abu Dhabi. In keeping with the theme of addressing those most threatened, the TEM-A focused on adaptation in relation to SIDS, people with disabilities, the impacts of climate-induced migration, and much more (See Annex II for the report on this TEM-A).

The audience were encouraged to participate as much as possible, and the input was diverse and enlightening. Some suggested that decentralisation of adaptation planning was critical for reaching the most vulnerable. Peter King from the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies pointed out that litigations are being filed against major fossil fuel companies, and if one can tie any successful cases to compensation pay-outs for the vulnerable, then this could be a missing link. The meeting concluded with a caveat from Barney Dickson, head of GAN, that one should be cautious with phrases like "reaching the vulnerable", for such language can portray the vulnerable simply as the prospective recipients of support, rather than actors who can work to reduce their own vulnerability. The results from this discussion were fed into the UNFCCC Bonn Climate meeting in April-May 2018.

