Proposed responses of the International Platform on Adaptation Metrics (IPAM) to the Guiding questions by the SB Chairs for the Technical Assessment component of the first Global Stocktake

A) Introducing IPAM:

While the imperative for adaptation has been recognized by the Paris Agreement, there remains a well-documented gap between adaptation needs and realized adaptation finance.
One of the key barriers - frequently acknowledged - is the need for a global effort to build consensus on metrics to help governments, businesses, and financial institutions to identify and steer investment.

The urgent need for accepted and effective adaptation metrics extends beyond financial flows. More specifically, adaptation metrics are essential in assessing vulnerability, risk, resilience or climate impacts and to track implementation of adaptive responses. Further, adaptation metrics are required to develop monitoring and evaluation systems to assess implementation progress, effectiveness of responses, and to boost learning processes.

The International Platform on Adaptation Metrics (IPAM) was created with the intent to help fill this gap. Launched in May 2020, IPAM is the leading network for the dedicated institutions and teams working on the adaptation metrics subject. IPAM seeks to compare results and create synergies, and to advance science, technologies, and practice.

IPAM now has 15 organisation members from around the world, as well as 80 individual experts from 28 countries contributing to four sectoral committees: Agriculture; Cities; Water, and Tools & Techniques.

The objectives of IPAM are to:

- Create a space for dialogue to connect experts, practitioners and decision-makers through the organization of events (including international conferences, workshops, tutorials, and webinars)
- Facilitate the co-design of metrics through exchange and innovation, and considering the need for aggregation and comparison
- Promote capacity building, research exchange and data enhancement, clustering and analysis
- Develop approaches, instruments, tools and facilities for the effective finance and policy making for climate adaptation

More can be found about IPAM at www.adaptationmetrics.org

B) Rationale for contribution to the first Global Stocktake :

IPAM considers the Global Stocktake as the most important current process when it comes to guiding frameworks and decisions that will cascade down to national, subnational, and non-state actions regarding climate adaptation. IPAM hopes this submission and subsequent activities will contribute to improved integration of adaptation metrics into the Stocktake, and as it has been the case for CoP26 in Glasgow, IPAM will be present at CoP27 in Sharm el Sheikh, voicing the need for attention to adaptation metrics.

C) Answering SB chairs guiding questions :

IPAM offers comments below on questions 6-9 combined, and on questions 10 and 15 separately:

1. Comments applying to questions 6, 7, 8 and 9 :

Assessing the progress of implementation and ambition in adaptation actions is very challenging given the current lack of consensus on adaptation metrics. As explicitly stated in Section 2.1.1 of The Global Goal on Adaptation (Measuring its dimensions), it is difficult to know the progress as the only common metric employed is money spent, which in itself is a contentious question. IPAM exists to address the insufficient level of progress in the development of metrics for adaptation across multiple contexts. IPAM recognizes the critical need is to address the questions of what metrics are needed and how they will be applied.

To this end, IPAM encouraged the development of the Adaptation Metrics Mapping Evaluation Framework ("AMME Framework"). The AMME Framework was launched at CoP 26 in November 2021. Its purpose is to enable a systematic evaluation of climate adaptation indicators and establish the completeness of their coverage. In other words, this means not only assessing how well any indicators address their intended focus, but also whether they are addressing their context efficiently and effectively and, ultimately, providing relevant and timely support for decision-makers.

The AMME Framework is a whole system approach which sets out a universal methodology for evaluating the relevance and focus of indicators. This means that it can be applied across different systems and localities and is not tied to a specific context, setting, or spatial level. It provides a consistent means of evaluating indicators and their capacity to address climate adaptation issues including their purpose, relevance, and ability to incorporate stakeholder engagement. In this way

the AMME Framework helps to ensure that key aspects of what needs to be measured are included and can be used to highlight where there might be gaps. For example, AMME can determine whether there are inadequacies and/or overlaps - in indicator coverage for a particular adaptation contexts and related challenges (e.g., adaptation of smallholder farms in a region facing more frequent and extreme drought conditions).

The Framework is designed to be an operational document and includes a set of four main implementation steps in the metrics evaluation process.

In addition to the development of the AMME Framework, IPAM is collaborating with others to develop metrics. Examples of our joint efforts include our contribution to the GAP-Track of IDDRI, and to the Race to Resilience (R2R) metrics framework, where IPAM is engaged through the R2R Methodological Advisory Group.

2. Recommendations applying to question 10 :
a) What further action is required?

IPAM recommends continued and accelerated work by the Adaptation Committee and relevant experts and stakeholders to convene and exchange ideas on how adaptation (and climate impact and adaptive capacity) metrics might be more clearly articulated, applied and interpreted.

Our work, including but not limited to the AMME Framework, could support the Global Stocktake in moving towards a more specific and actionable definition of the Global Goal on Adaptation. We will be represented at CoP 27 in Sharm el Sheik and available to discuss the ways in which IPAM can support metrics evaluation and development including incorporation of the AMME Framework into identification and evaluation of proposed metrics as well as inputs from all four of IPAM's sectoral committees.

b) What are the barriers and challenges, and how can they be overcome at national, regional and international levels? /c) What are the opportunities, good practices, lessons learned and success stories?

IPAM offers the following excerpt from the AMME Framework (pages 4 -5) that summarises our view:

"Assessing climate adaptation progress on a global basis requires protocols and corresponding metrics that apply across countries and economic and natural systems as well as over time. However, unlike limits on greenhouse gas emissions, there is no simple, unique or universal adaptation metric given the complexity and ambiguity associated with climate adaptation. Context-specific vulnerabilities and needs vary widely across different regions and sectors (e.g. agriculture, water,

energy), and across different scales (e.g. cities, regions, nations). There are also temporal, spatial, economic, social and cultural dimensions to be accounted for, and the diversity of resources and adaptive capacity available.

However, approaches to overcome some of these challenges have been proposed using ‘proxy indicators’ that can apply irrespective contexts such as regions, project types, or sectors. An example of one of these metrics is the Vulnerability Reduction Credit (VRC). This uses ‘avoided climate impact costs’ - together with per capita income – as a proxy for climate vulnerability reduction. The VRC provides a basis for comparisons across alternative adaptation measures and this serves as a starting point for understanding adaptation benefits ."

Related to the ‘Finance Flows’ guiding questions, we would like to focus on question 15 :

a) What further action is required?

Good metrics are important for adaptation to set targets, prioritize projects, and understand results of adaptation investments. Here is a relevant excerpt from the AMME Framework pages 5 and 6:

"Another framework initiative, from the Financial Stability Board (FSB), is more directly targeted at the financial and business community: the Task Force on Climate Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD). The importance of this is growing as is the number of businesses which are voluntarily or, increasingly, being required to prepare financial disclosures concerning both physical climate risk and transitional financial risks to their business. Efforts to clarify metrics are underway, as reflected in Proposed Guidance on Climate-related Metrics, Targets, and Transition Plans. The TCFD guidance is further underpinned by other supporting initiatives for example on climate-related financial disclosure standards. However, many of these initiatives have an emphasis on mitigation rather than adaptation.

Climate funds and international aid programs are another active driver for adaptation metrics thinking. Funders and project implementers - such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the Adaptation Fund (established by the UNFCCC) - are particularly interested in how their funding results in positive aid and adaptation outcomes. The question of what funding should be attributed to adaptation is currently an area of debate, as the funding levels for adaptation projects under the Paris Agreement (12% in 2017/2018) are to be equal to, but are currently significantly less than, that for mitigation projects. This contrasts with stated aims made under the Paris Agreement that funding ‘should represent a progression beyond previous efforts’ (UNFCC, 2017). However, developed countries count almost three-quarters of climate finance as official development assistance. This has important implications for how adaptation project funding is attributed and for any associated metrics."

b) What are the barriers and challenges and how can they be overcome at national, regional and international levels?

See above for IPAM's views. One of the specific advantages of AMME is that it can apply at all levels.