

Making
adaptation
funding
mechanisms
work for the
most vulnerable



Anthropogenic warming and sea level rise would continue for centuries due to the time scales associated with climate processes and feedbacks, even if GHG concentrations were to be stabilised.

IPCC 4th Assessment Report

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The Fourth Assessment Report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change tells us that climate change is a reality and that it is happening now.

The need for adaptation can no longer be denied. Even with dramatic reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, we are committed to a certain amount of change, even beyond what we are already seeing.

The report also recognizes the fact that not all regions or people are affected equally by climate change impacts. Developing countries, who have contributed least to the problem of climate change, are expected to suffer most, both due to their exposure to the impacts, and due to the limitations in their adaptive capacity.

Adaptation in the UNFCCC

Article 4.4:

The developed country Parties and other developed Parties included in Annex II shall also assist the developing country Parties that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change in meeting costs of adaptation to those adverse effects.

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This injustice is recognized in the UNFCCC, which differentiates between developed and developing countries in assigning responsibility for tackling climate change.

Up until very recently, the focus in the negotiations has been primarily on mitigation. However, in recent years, adaptation is getting increasing attention as a fundamental component of the global response to climate change

We see adaptation in a number of different streams in the UNFCCC process, including technology transfer, capacity building, future cooperative actions, and financing.

Of particular interest in the context of this event is Article 4.4, which commits developed countries to assist developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change with the costs of adaptation.

What is adaptation?

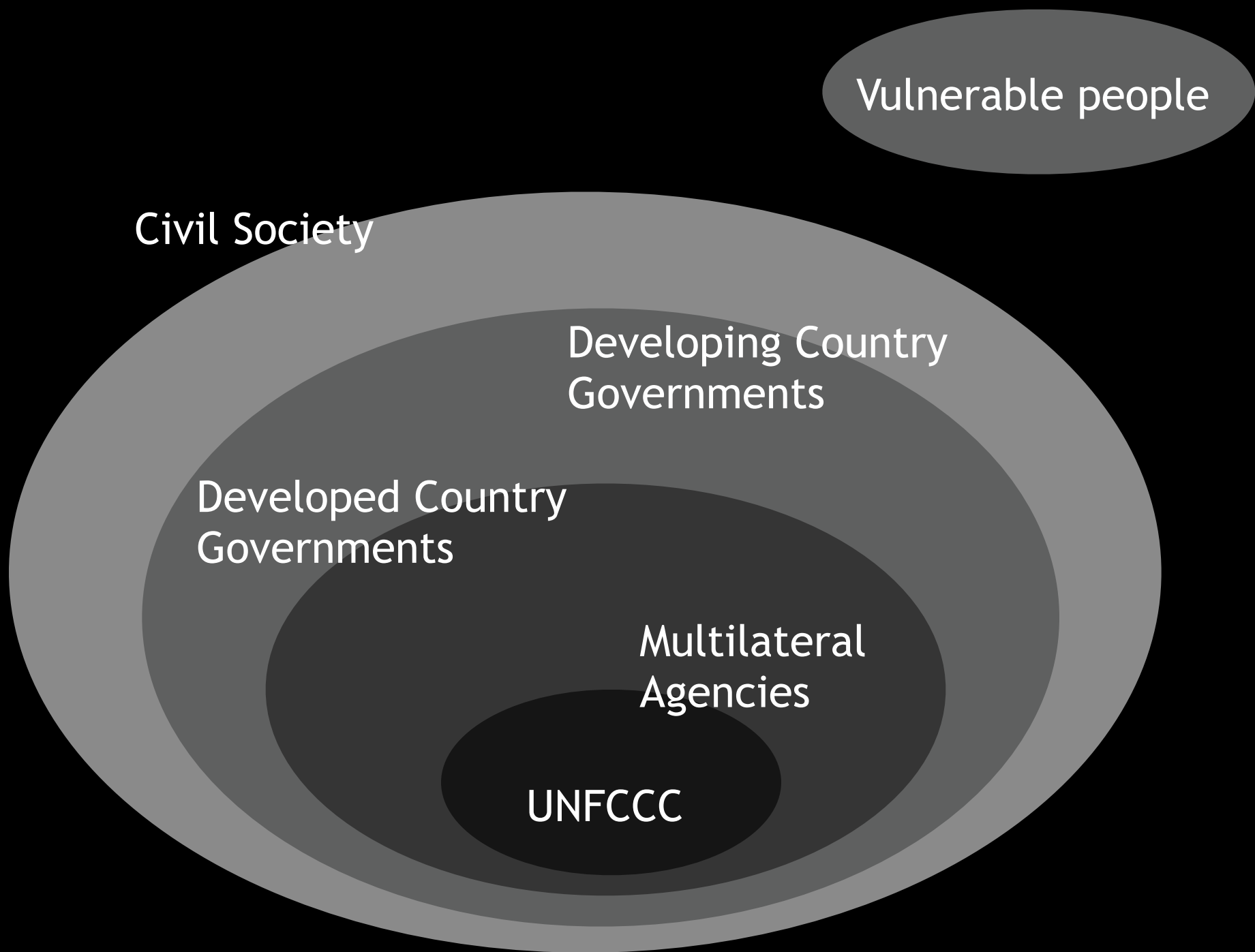
- UNFCCC: Practical steps to protect countries and communities from the likely disruption and damage that will result from effects of climate change
- Adaptation is a process
- Synergies with sustainable development activities
- Requires action at multiple levels

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So what is adaptation? The UNFCCC defines adaptation as “practical steps to protect countries and communities from the likely disruption and damage that will result from the effects of climate change”.

From a practical perspective, adaptation is a process, ideally a holistic process. It begins with an understanding of who is vulnerable, why, and to what impacts. With this understanding, we are in a position to design these practical steps to reduce vulnerability. This necessarily involves disaster risk reduction approaches, support for sustainable livelihoods in the context of a changing climate, and institutional capacity development. It also requires that we challenge some of the policies and power structures that contribute to vulnerability.

Adaptation is inextricably linked with sustainable development, and the lessons of



The discussions in this conference are focused on the responsibilities of different parties to
Within countries, different

Adaptation funding: critical issues

- How much funding is required to meet the adaptation needs of developing countries, and who should pay?
- How do we establish fair and efficient mechanisms for channelling adaptation funds to the countries that need it most?
- How do we ensure that adaptation funding support reaches the people that need it most?