

ADAPTATION RESOURCE GUIDE

THE CLIMATE JUSTICE SYLLABUS

Adaptation is defined as the process of adjusting to expected or actual climate change and climate change effects, like building sea walls, or changing farming practices. In this section of the climate justice syllabus, learn about the basic goals of adaptation through the lense of climate justice, the need for effective financial institutions, and why ethics and equity are so important in adaptation conversations.

Though climate change threatens the future of the entire planet, the worst impacts will (and already are) be felt by the most impoverished and marginalized communities of the world. Adaptation to climate change is no longer a choice for developing nations around the world; Pacific Island nations must brace for the rising ocean, Arctic communities are no longer able to rely on frozen seas, and farmers across the globe can no longer predict growing seasons. Mitigation has not yielded results yet, and with global temperatures continuing to rise, adaptation must be emphasized in order to protect communities from loss and damages. Of course, when considering adaptation to climate change, equity and ethics must be taken into account. This means acknowledging the historic responsibilities of rich countries and corporations (who are most responsible for the effects of climate change), and creating effective institutions for financing and promoting climate adaptation.

ADAPTATION V. MITIGATION

(Resource 1.) 350.org's article *Facing Climate Change through Justice and Intersectionality* discusses the difference between adaptation and mitigation, as well as the importance of seeing adaptation and mitigation through the lense of climate justice and intersectionality. A great resource to ground your thinking of adaptation as you continue on in the syllabus.

BASIC GOALS FOR ADAPTATION THROUGH THE LENSE OF CLIMATE JUSTICE

(Resource 2.) This *climate justice brief* (you should read all the climate justice briefs on thirdworldnetwork.org, they're incredible!), discusses the basic messages and demands for just adaptation. It outlines **Impacts on poor countries and people, responsibilities of rich countries and corporations, respecting and protecting human rights, why business as usual wont work, and the need for effective institutions.**

A DEEPER DIVE INTO IMPACTS ON POOR COUNTRIES AND COMMUNITIES

(Resource 3., pg 2-6) Action Aid's report *The Time is NOW: Lessons From Farmers Adapting to Climate Change* explores the impacts of climate change on agricultural communities in the developing world.

THE IMPORTANCE OF RESPECTING AND PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS

(Resource 3, pg. 7) *The Time is NOW* discusses the role of the right to food in adaptation plans

EXAMPLES OF CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

(Resource 3, pg 11-28) *The Time is NOW* provides case studies from farmers and agricultural workers in Bangladesh, Brazil, Ghana, Malawi, and Vietnam.

(Resource 4) Explore the UNFCCC page on *National Adaptation Plans* (NAPs) for developing countries. Available in various languages - Portuguese, French, English, and Spanish.

THE NEED FOR EFFECTIVE INSTITUTIONS

(Resource 5, pg 1-15) This section of *The History and Politics of Climate Change Adaptation at the UNFCCC* provides a historical background to adaptation within global climate regimes. Section 2 (Resource 5, pg 16-22) provides an overview of the different governing bodies of the UNFCCC and how they relate to adaptation presently. Section 3 (Resource 5, pg 23-28) provides recommendations and conclusions for the need for effective institutions when it comes to adaptation.

KEY TERMINOLOGY

Adaptation - the process of adjusting to expected or actual climate change and climate change effects, like building sea walls, or changing farming practices.

Business as Usual - Business as usual refers to keeping current systems the way that they are, systems like capitalism, colonialism, sexism, and racism that have led to the creation of the climate crisis and many other systemic issues with our society today.

Climate Finance - Climate finance is the transfer of public funds from rich & developed nations to developing countries who are least responsible for the climate crisis. These funds are to be used for reducing greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation), and to address climate change impacts (adaptation). Climate finance is a legal obligation and moral responsibility of rich and developed countries as finance is used by countries to adapt to and mitigate the climate crisis that they are least responsible for.

Developed Country - The term developed country refers to countries that are more industrialized, economically developed, and technologically advanced than other countries. These countries tend to be in the Global North.

Developing Country - The term developing country refers to countries that are less industrialized, economically developed, and technologically advanced than other countries. These countries tend to be in the Global South.

Equity - Where equality is treating everyone the same, equity is meeting everyone where they are and getting them what they need to be successful. An equitable approach acknowledges personal and social differences and works to promote fairness.

Historic Responsibility - The responsibility of countries to reduce their emissions, provide climate finance, and act on climate change measured in terms of their share of historical global emissions. Recognizing historic responsibility is vital for an equitable and just transition to a climate just future.

Intersectionality - [Merriam-Webster defines intersectionality](#) as “the complex, cumulative way in which the effects of multiple forms of discrimination (such as racism, sexism, and classism) combine, overlap, or intersect especially in the experiences of marginalized individuals or groups”

Mitigation - Mitigation refers to action taken on climate change that limits its effects, such as keeping fossil fuels in the ground.

National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) - [The UNFCCC defines NAPs](#) as: The national adaptation plan (NAP) process was established under the [Cancun Adaptation Framework \(CAF\)](#). It enables Parties to formulate and implement national adaptation plans (NAPs) as a means of identifying medium- and long-term adaptation needs and developing and implementing strategies and programmes to address those needs. It is a continuous, progressive and iterative process which follows a country-driven, gender-sensitive, participatory and fully transparent approach.

UNFCCC - The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change - ([From Wikipedia](#)) the UNFCCC “is an international environmental treaty adopted on 9 May 1992 and opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June 1992. It then entered into force on 21 March 1994, after a sufficient number of countries had ratified it. The UNFCCC objective is to “stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system”.^[1] The framework sets non-binding limits on greenhouse gas emissions for individual countries and contains no enforcement mechanisms. Instead, the framework outlines how specific international treaties (called “protocols” or “Agreements”) may be negotiated to specify further action towards the objective of the UNFCCC.”