



# COUNTRY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

A Country-Driven Approach for Collective Impact on Climate and Development Action

Updated April 2022

**NDC**   
PARTNERSHIP

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# PROLOGUE: CONTEXT FOR THE UPDATED COUNTRY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

The NDC Partnership has now been operating for five years. Our country-driven, whole-of-government model of engagement has produced several significant successes — including supporting Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) enhancement, planning and/or implementation in almost 80 member developing countries — but it has also had to evolve in response to members' shifting needs and new challenges. In 2022, the Country Engagement Strategy has been updated in line with the NDC Partnership Work Program 2021-2025, reflecting this evolution while retaining the core components of the Partnership's proven in-country approach.

## KEY ELEMENTS OF THE UPDATE INCLUDE:

- An adjusted Country Engagement cycle with more built-in flexibility and a greater emphasis on initial scoping activities to determine the most effective channels for Partnership support.
- Emphasis on providing countries with analytical support for implementation, helping inform and support decision-making processes.
- Recognition of the importance of embedded advisors for delivering and guiding NDC implementation support while building up national capacity.
- Details on new initiatives and tools, such as the Partnership Action Fund (PAF), the project information notes (PINs) and the Online Partnership Plan tool.
- Integration of components of the Partnership's new finance strategy across the Country Engagement cycle, demonstrating our understanding that insufficient access to finance remains a chief constraint to achieving the Paris Agreement's goals.

The Partnership's work will continue to adapt to meet the needs of the moment, and Country Engagement will remain at the heart of that response. The Support Unit will further update this Strategy on a periodic basis to build on lessons learned from the Partnership's in-country experiences and the experiences of related initiatives. Regardless of these changes,

the Partnership will always aim to leverage its membership's expertise, technical assistance and funding as effectively and efficiently as possible to provide developing country members with the resources they need to implement their commitments under the Paris Agreement and pursue long-term, climate-resilient, low-emission development.



LAUNCH OF UGANDA'S PARTNERSHIP PLAN



THE PARTNERSHIP'S WORK WILL CONTINUE TO ADAPT TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE MOMENT, AND COUNTRY ENGAGEMENT WILL REMAIN AT THE HEART OF THAT RESPONSE.



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# INTRODUCTION AND AIMS OF THE NDC PARTNERSHIP

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This Country Engagement Strategy provides an overview of the NDC Partnership's approach to providing country support, including our guiding principles and the logic model, as well as our structures, roles and approaches for catalyzing targeted changes. The strategy builds on lessons learned during the NDC Partnership's first five years of work. This document is designed for both internal and external audiences – especially current and potential member countries and partners of the Partnership.

## OVERVIEW OF THE NDC PARTNERSHIP

The NDC Partnership brings together more than 200 members, including more than 115 countries, developed and developing, and more than 80 institutions to create and deliver on ambitious climate action that helps achieve the Paris Agreement and the sustainable development goals (SDGs). Governments identify their NDC implementation priorities and the type of support needed to translate them into actionable policies and programs. Based on these requests, the membership offers a tailored package of expertise, technical assistance and funding. This collaborative response provides developing countries with efficient access to a wide range of resources to adapt to and mitigate climate change and foster more equitable and sustainable development. The effects of climate change are far reaching and interconnected. So too must be our response. Transformational change is needed

to cut emissions and adapt to a changing climate, all while meeting development needs. Such change requires ground-breaking coordination to mobilize resources globally with speed and at scale.

The NDC Partnership is a collective response to address critical interactions of climate-relevant development practices through participatory and coordinated approaches. Countries drive the articulation of their own climate-resilient development pathways, and through the Partnership, they draw upon members' expertise and funding to turn their NDCs into actionable policies, programs and projects. The NDC Partnership Support Unit facilitates the process, convening and facilitating dialogue among members to respond to emerging needs.

FIGURE 1:  
THE NDC PARTNERSHIP'S  
10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

1	Support country-driven processes
2	Promote long-term climate action
3	Enhance efficiency and responsiveness
4	Build in-country capacity
5	Improve coordination
6	Enhance integration of NDCs into national planning
7	Advance adaptation and mitigation
8	Align development and climate change
9	Support multistakeholder engagement
10	Promote gender parity

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Partnership is guided by ten principles to which all members commit upon joining (see **Figure 1**). The overarching goals of the NDC Partnership are to ensure effective support to the implementation of NDCs and to promote increasing ambition over time through an enhanced process of shared learning and coordination. The Partnership identifies and addresses gaps in current efforts to support developing countries to implement their NDCs and provides tools and networking opportunities for developing countries to more easily access support. **The following Partnership objectives guide members in implementing NDCs:**

### **Greater alignment between climate and development agendas**

The Partnership is based on the recognition that attaining a carbon-neutral, climate-resilient world that delivers on long-term social and economic development objectives, within the framework of the SDGs, requires innovation, solidarity and resourcefulness. Therefore, we aim to achieve a new, greater level of alignment between development and climate agendas, with clear gender responsiveness and inclusivity.

### **Impactful, responsive NDC support programs**

The Partnership works to ensure country-specific bilateral and multilateral support programs are needs based, complementary and synergistic.

### **Enhanced visibility of and access to NDC-related resources, tools and initiatives**

The Partnership enhances access to, and awareness of, existing initiatives, tools and resources, including



technical assistance, to reaffirm the business case that climate and development ambitions are complementary and an integrated SDG-NDC approach maximizes impact of available programs. By working together to scale up these programs, we achieve more.

### Increased political momentum

Given the importance of political commitment and awareness for improved NDC engagement over time, the Partnership advocates for increased support for

NDC implementation, including engaging with the private sector on investment opportunities.

### Transformational climate policies

Recognizing that current NDCs are insufficient to limit global temperature rise to targeted 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, the Partnership promotes the formulation and implementation of longer-term strategies and policies leading to successive and consistently more ambitious NDCs.

## UNIQUE VALUE PROPOSITION

Within the diversity and complexity of the development landscape, the emergence of multistakeholder platforms is driving more systematic and coherent approaches to development. The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Paris Agreement are examples of global agreements that affirm the essential role of multistakeholder partnerships for scaling and amplifying success. While several platforms exist for coordinating services and partners in SDG and Paris Agreement implementation, what sets the Partnership apart is our dual role as a global partnership and a country-level coordination and resource mobilization mechanism.

The Partnership targets a wide range of governments, Development Partners (DPs), private-sector agencies and civil society organizations with the intent of streamlining aid through a more manageable and coordinated process. We leverage lessons learned from our first five years of operation and from past and parallel initiatives to design a strong engagement approach for partnership and coordination.

### As such, we go beyond fostering partnerships to:

- 1 Facilitating agreements on countrywide frameworks for cooperation among Implementing Partners (IPs), with common objectives and concrete plans of action in the form of national NDC Action Plans (government-owned plans outlining how a country will implement or enhance their NDC, supported by the Partnership, which can include Partnership Plans [PPs], Request for Support Letters [RSLs], Climate Action Enhancement Package [CAEP] support and Economic Advisory Initiative [EAI] support).
- 2 Harnessing a rapid and streamlined flow of technical and financial assistance between member country governments and IPs.
- 3 Linking the capacity-building and knowledge products of various stakeholders to a centralized knowledge platform.



### The NDC Partnership is unique, in that:

- We are the only partnership exclusively focused on NDCs.
- We ensure both in-country and global coordination across stakeholders under a single framework.
- We play a matchmaking role among over 200 members to respond to member developing countries' support needs with technical and financial assistance from members and partners.
- We rely exclusively on government-led planning and budgeting processes to plan and execute services at the country level.

### The NDC Partnership's unifying strategy offers many valuable benefits to members seeking a holistic approach for climate and development action. In particular:

- Governments can rely on an external, institutional technical assistance body to enhance results while strengthening their internal capacity and can benefit from the resources and expertise of a wide range of partners, each bringing unique strengths.
- DPs and IPs benefit from achieving greater impact with their allocated resources by leveraging synergies across multiple layers of development cooperation.
- The private sector has the advantage of accessing comprehensive assessments of the most effective areas to channel investment by being part of the formulation and implementation of NDC Action Plans.



MINISTER PEARNEL CHARLES JR. OF JAMAICA ADDRESSES DELEGATES IN THE NDC PARTNERSHIP'S PAVILION AT COP26

# 2

## INTRODUCTION TO THE COUNTRY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

### WHAT IS COUNTRY ENGAGEMENT?

The Partnership Country Engagement Strategy responds to technical assistance and project financing requests from country members. It supports planning, coordination, implementation, resource mobilization and progress tracking of Partnership members' NDC implementation through a flexible and country-driven process.

**Countries can adapt this process to fit their own needs and context but it typically includes:**

- Fast-tracked NDC implementation through technical assistance and project financing.
- A coordination framework with specific results and clear indicators to track progress.
- Support to mobilize and leverage resources for country priorities from a wide range of sources.

The Partnership helps countries turn NDCs into results-based national implementation and investment plans by locating national climate and development goals within broader sustainable development agendas. Countries refer to these

plans in different ways, including as Partnership Plans (PPs).

A country member's PP describes its technical assistance and project financing needs (based on priorities identified by the country). It mobilizes and tracks partner support and implementation for these needs. This government-owned plan highlights priority actions for NDC implementation aligned to national development objectives.

Successful Country Engagement requires high-level national commitment and strong national leadership to engage a wide range of stakeholders. Member countries appoint Focal Points (FPs) from their environment/climate change and planning/finance ministries to guide engagement with the NDC Partnership and ensure national ownership. The FPs work closely with line ministries to coordinate and communicate NDC revision and implementation activities. The Partnership's Support Unit can support this outreach as needed.

## A whole-of-society approach

A whole-of-society approach refers to policy approaches that include representatives from civil society, academia, the private sector, various identity groups or other groups at various stages of consultation or other processes. The NDC Partnership values outcomes that promote the interests of disadvantaged and underserved populations who are most vulnerable to climate impacts. The Partnership is committed to gender-responsive climate action implemented

through our **Gender Strategy** and to meaningful engagement with young people through our **Youth Engagement Plan**.

Partners may assist governments in identifying gender-related challenges and needs to be included in RSLs and/or PPs. They may also assist governments in designing youth-inclusive NDC processes at the country level and engaging youth across all phases of the NDC process.



**The NDC Partnership's Gender Strategy** outlines various entry points for mainstreaming gender equality as part of the Country Engagement Strategy's five stages. These entry points include inviting key gender stakeholders to meaningfully participate in NDC consultations, using national gender frameworks and gender analyses to inform NDC planning and implementation, including sex-disaggregated data and gender indicators in Partnership Plans, tracking progress on gender equality results and strengthening country capacity for gender mainstreaming.

## NDC PARTNERSHIP SERVICES

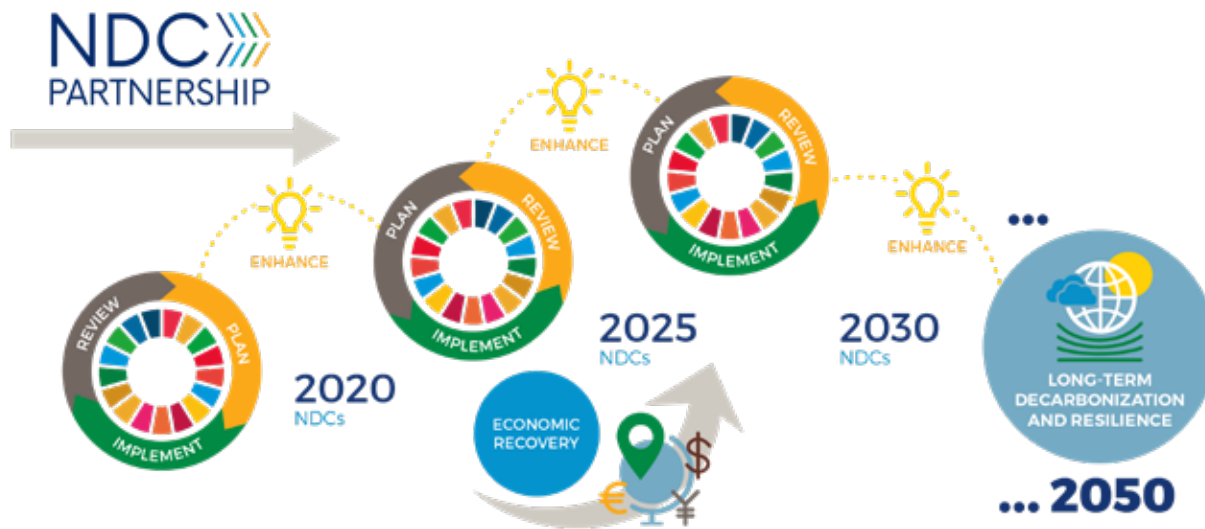
Under the Paris Agreement, countries revise their NDCs every five years to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and implement solutions to adapt to the effects of climate change. This five-year enhancement cycle requires response at speed and scale (see **Figure 2**).

The Partnership mobilizes and coordinates support to enable countries to transform their NDCs from one-off processes into integrated sustainable

development plans, policies and investments. By harnessing the strengths of our members, pooling resources and mobilizing them in a coordinated way, the Partnership responds to country needs and priorities with speed. Countries may draw on support to improve planning for implementation and track and raise the ambition of their NDCs.

The Partnership may coordinate special initiatives to respond to common and urgent country

FIGURE 2: NDC ENHANCEMENT CYCLE



needs. For instance, in 2019, we launched the CAEP to provide technical and financial support to countries as they prepared their enhanced 2020 NDCs. The EAI was launched in 2020 to mainstream NDCs into COVID-19 recovery plans, and Readiness Support for Greening Central Banks was launched at COP26.

Knowledge sharing and learning are important Partnership services to spur action and enable members and partners to respond to emerging needs. Members can access knowledge resources and opportunities to complement, reinforce or deepen their work. A comprehensive Knowledge Portal offers member access to tools, guidance, good practices and funding opportunities.

The following subsections provide examples of the Partnership's main service offerings.

## IMPROVED PLANNING

- Preparing and reviewing NDC roadmaps and implementation plans (national, subnational and/or sectoral).
- Mainstreaming climate change into national, sectoral and subnational planning and budgeting instruments.
- Mainstreaming gender, youth and other perspectives into NDC planning processes and instruments.
- Learning and technical assistance opportunities.

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## STRENGTHENED COORDINATION

- Conducting analytical, institutional and capacity-building support for developing and/or strengthening governance mechanisms.
- Strengthening or supporting existing coordination platforms for joint climate action with development partners and government, or creating new coordination platforms where needed.
- Setting systems and processes for climate finance for better NDC coordination with various scales and scopes (national, subnational, sectoral), including by offering a dedicated system in the form of the Partnership's Online Partnership Plan Tool for countries to track and coordinate their PPs and have an overview of the support they are receiving.

## ACCELERATED NDC IMPLEMENTATION

- Aligning, coordinating and tracking international support against NDC objectives through a national implementation plan.
- Mobilizing resources for technical assistance and project financing for NDC implementation.
- Strengthening technical and institutional capacities for NDC implementation.
- Streamlining expert support for green economic recovery.
- Providing access and targeted training on the Knowledge Portal to complement NDC planning processes.
- Organizing peer-to-peer exchanges with other countries and/or NDC Partnership institutional members.

## TRANSLATING NDCS INTO SECTORAL AND FINANCIAL POLICIES

- Providing technical assistance on policy frameworks: technical analyses, costing, impact assessment and policy design.
- Advising on legal and regulatory instruments intended to foster and fund climate change adaptation and/or mitigation.
- Mainstreaming climate change into public financial management systems (PFMs) and economic policies.
- Providing readiness support to central banks aiming to green the financial sectors in their countries or regions of operation.
- Developing economic and financial instruments at various scopes and scale.

## ENHANCING ACCESS TO CLIMATE FINANCE IN LINE WITH THE PARTNERSHIP'S FINANCE STRATEGY

- Developing capacity through strengthening coordination between ministries of environment and finance or supporting financial mechanisms to mobilize climate finance.
- Improving enabling environments by supporting establishment of legal and policy frameworks to strengthen finance mobilization or supporting countries in mainstreaming climate change into national and sectoral development plans and PFM systems.
- Developing NDC financing strategies.
- Greening the financial system through central banks.
- Engaging the private sector.
- Identifying and matching projects with finance providers.
- Engaging subnational stakeholders.
- Cross-cutting learning and information sharing on finance windows and funding opportunities through the NDC Partnership's Climate Finance Bulletin and Climate Fund Explorer.

## DEVELOPMENT OF NDC TRACKING AND REPORTING SYSTEMS ALIGNED WITH THE PARIS AGREEMENT

- Developing and/or strengthening institutional arrangements to implement the Paris Agreement's Enhanced Transparency Framework.
- Enhancing data availability, collection and systematic processing (meteorological, greenhouse gas emissions and other key variables).
- Establishing national accounting systems consistent with the Paris Agreement's NDC reporting mechanisms.
- Providing technical assistance on methods and tools for greenhouse gas inventory enhancement, adaptation monitoring and evaluation (M&E) modelling etc.

## ACTING ON ENHANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Supporting ambition-raising efforts by strengthening emission targets, setting sector-specific targets and adding adaptation actions.
- Improving NDC quality by developing methodologically robust and costed targets and identifying funding opportunities.
- Strengthening processes in support of NDC updates, enabling greater ownership for the NDC revision and ensuring national stakeholders are engaged.



# 3

## THE NDC PARTNERSHIP'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO CATALYZE CHANGE THROUGH COUNTRY ENGAGEMENT

### THEORY OF CHANGE AND DELIVERY MECHANISMS

The NDC Partnership's theory of change (TOC) outlines the cause-and-effect relationships between the different levels of intended results as well as the underlying assumptions that must hold true for those results to be attained. As shown in **Figure 3**, it charts the relationship from short-term outputs to longer-term, higher-order outcomes and impact. To achieve the results articulated in the TOC, the NDC Partnership provides inputs through three main channels: **1) technical assistance and capacity building, 2) knowledge products and 3) facilitating finance.**

IPs and DPs support NDC implementation through their NDC-related projects, programs and special initiatives that directly respond to the government-initiated service requests. The NDC Partnership strives to add value to existing NDC support from IPs/DPs. This way, the NDC Partnership TOC is not just an articulation of results that will be achieved through an NDC Partnership-specific stream of funding and other resources; rather, it aligns and captures the collective efforts of all major partners

working toward common goals, set forth by the NDCs themselves. This approach is anchored in the belief that unified action is required not only to improve the effectiveness of development results, but also to ensure NDC implementation is complementary to national socio-economic objectives.

It is critical that countries take leadership in guiding in-country cooperation and that governments integrate NDCs into their national and sectoral strategies, policies and investment decisions. That is why IPs and DPs jointly provide the necessary technical support and financing through member countries' NDC Action Plans (see section six) to develop, implement, monitor and share lessons learned from the process in direct support of government ambitions.

Recognizing that climate change cannot be tackled by any single organization, the NDC Partnership streamlines assistance by providing opportunities to integrate, jump start and scale up actions collectively. It operates on the premise that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts and that time invested in partnership formation and



collaborative approaches is worthwhile because it yields greater results. Working through many partners, the NDC Partnership catalyzes, leverages and enhances the impact of support.

FIGURE 3: NDC PARTNERSHIP THEORY OF CHANGE

IMPACT	OUTCOMES	INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES	OUTPUTS	ASSUMPTIONS	
Countries successfully reduce emissions, improve climate resilience, and advance sustainable development, with strong international support consistent with the achievement of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	By 2025, member countries are on track or ahead of schedule to implement their NDCs with the support of the Partnership	Implementing and development partners accelerate and coordinate support so that member countries have the capacity and resources needed to implement and update their NDCs using a whole-of-society approach	Implementing and development partners have the capacity and resources to respond with speed and flexibility to requests from countries through the Partnership	High level commitment from members and other stakeholders in line with the Guiding Principles of the NDC Partnership	
	Member countries communicate new NDCs reflecting greater quality and ambition by 2025 with the support of the Partnership, inspiring and informing others		Member countries have results-based, equitable, and inclusive NDC Action Plans in place, aligned with development and recovery plans	Availability of technical and financial resources and capacity building support from members for NDC implementation and updating at the national and subnational levels.	
		Member countries have integrated NDC mitigation and adaptation targets into national and subnational development plans, policies, budgets, and recovery plans	Member countries have participatory NDC coordination mechanisms and resources for inclusive and transparent NDC implementation and updating	Implementing and development partner members are willing to use country requests presented through the Partnership as a key element in their resource programming	
	Member countries receive increased investment flows towards climate action		Increased country access to knowledge and capacity development	Members receiving support have cross-government commitment to the ongoing implementation and enhancement of their NDCs and to the work of the Partnership	
		Improved enabling environment established and public and private finance providers mobilized			
				Implementing and development partners use Partnership data and insights to program support in alignment with NDC Action Plans	

## NDC PARTNERSHIP VALUE CHAIN OF SERVICES

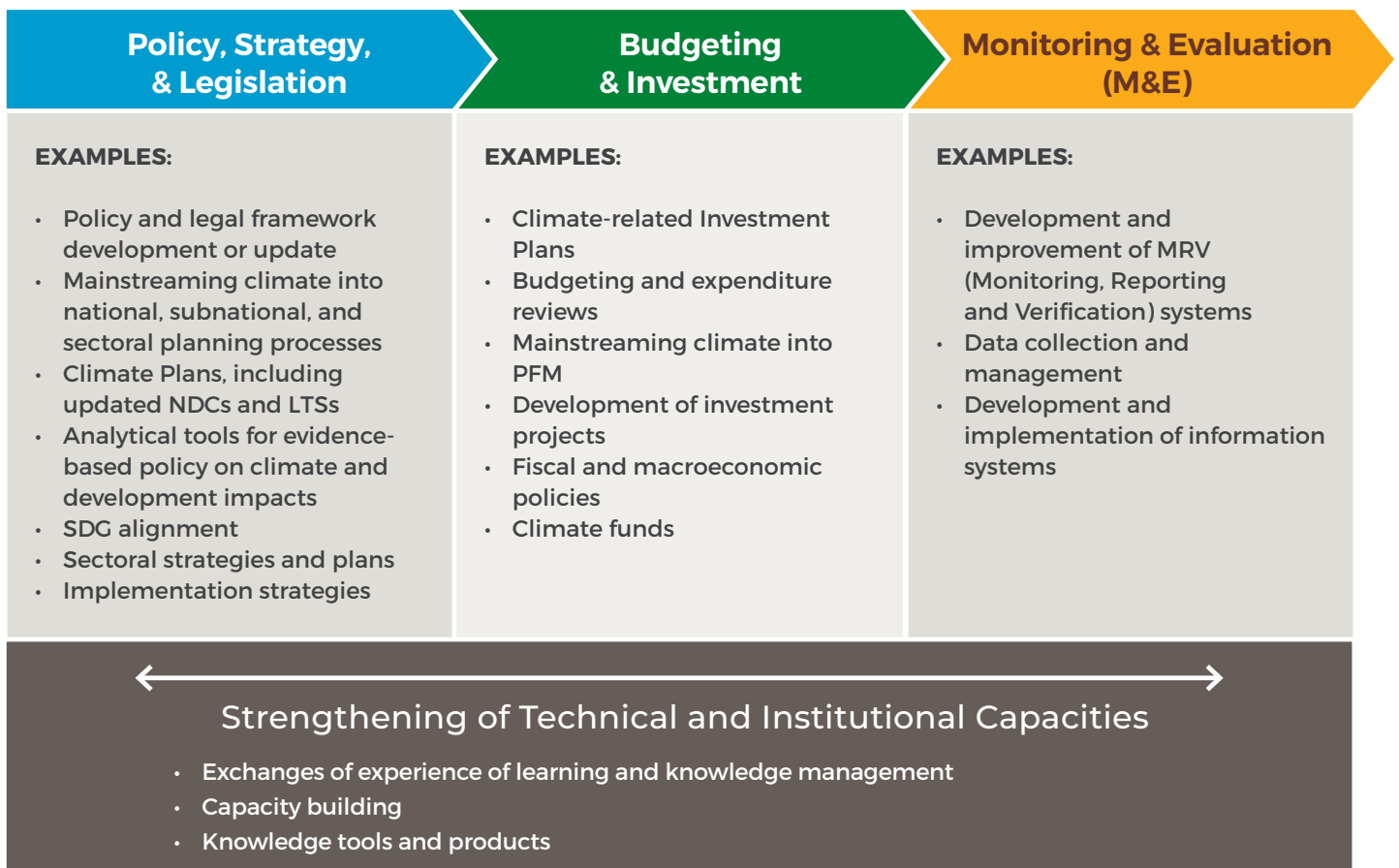
Partnership members collectively provide a full spectrum of tailored NDC implementation support, from NDC enhancement to implementation planning to resource mobilization and project delivery. The Partnership’s efficacy is based on coherence and relevance of action. This message is captured in the NDC Partnership’s Value Chain of Services, which is essentially a menu of the various services that Partnership members and partners can provide.

The Value Chain of Services provides a flexible framework to guide members in planning and conducting in-country activities. It can help

countries identify how and when the Partnership can be useful in supporting NDC implementation. Member countries may elect to engage the Partnership in all or some of the services. Countries may choose to pursue the service areas sequentially along the continuum from policy, strategy and legislative work – including updating or drafting new NDCs – to budgeting and investment through to M&E. They may also request different services, as needed.

As shown in **Figure 4**, these services are grouped into three mutually reinforcing and interrelated areas along a continuum.

FIGURE 4: NDC PARTNERSHIP VALUE CHAIN OF SERVICES





# KEY ROLES AND STRUCTURES FOR NDC PARTNERSHIP IN-COUNTRY SUPPORT

There are several distinct entities working in collaboration to address the challenges discussed above and support the larger objective of achieving and enhancing NDCs. The Partnership is a coalition of not only countries and global organizations, but also stakeholders (both domestic and international) operating within member countries. The key functions within the Partnership are described below.

## MEMBERS

The Partnership is open to countries, international institutions and civil society organizations that are committed to ambitious implementation of NDCs under the Paris Agreement and the 2030 SDGs. The NDC Partnership's membership is comprised of country members, institutional members (including development finance institutions) and associate members (nongovernmental organizations).

Membership is voluntary and defined by support for the NDC Partnership's guiding principles, which orient its work and the work of its members. Members pledge to cooperate and provide support to ensure that any NDC-related assistance is aligned with the identified priorities of the country receiving assistance.

## DEVELOPING COUNTRY MEMBERS

Developing country members are eligible to request and benefit from the support of the Partnership. As such, they nominate FPs within their government – typically from the ministry of environment and the ministry of finance/planning or the head of state's office. These country FPs assume responsibility for internal coordination to guide their engagement in the Partnership, taking ownership and coordinating the elaboration of the country's support needs, including through RSLs and PPs.

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## IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

IPs are partners (members or nonmembers) that provide support to country requests through the Partnership across the Partnership's Value Chain of Services (discussed in section three). IPs are any relevant organizations – including NDC Partnership members and nonmembers – that bring useful resources and skillsets to the table, regardless of the source of funding, and play a role in supporting implementation efforts in response to country's support needs.

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## DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

DPs are countries providing official financing administered for the promotion of developing countries' economic development and welfare. They provide funding in response to member countries' support needs, either through IPs or through another mechanism. DPs can be NDC Partnership members or nonmembers.

## IN-COUNTRY FACILITATOR

In-country facilitators are entities or individuals identified and approved by the country government, serving as liaisons between the country and the NDC Partnership and coordinating the implementation of the NDC Action Plan. Contrary to the function of IPs – which implement directly – the in-country facilitator's role is purely one of coordination and supportive facilitation. Working on behalf of the government, the in-country facilitator plays a key role in ensuring the smooth coordination of the in-country engagement process and building the capacity of the government. This involves working with the member country to communicate its objectives for support over time (including articulation of the NDC Action Plan), coordinating the NDC Action Plan in country and serving as an anchor to assist in communicating and coordinating services at country level. **Table 1** distinguishes the in-country facilitator's role from those of the FPs and the IPs.

TABLE 1: DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN THE ROLES OF THE COUNTRY FOCAL POINTS, IN-COUNTRY FACILITATOR, DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS AND IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS

ROLE	MAIN FUNCTION	KEY RESPONSIBILITIES
DEVELOPING COUNTRY FOCAL POINTS (GOVERNMENT)	<b>Agenda setting, decision making and approvals</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shape the conversation and resulting work.</li> <li>• Guide the engagement with the NDC Partnership and coordinate across government the definition of priorities and areas of support.</li> <li>• Endorse/approve each key element of Country Engagement stages (see section five for further details).</li> <li>• Lead oversight of the implementation of the support provided.</li> </ul>
IN-COUNTRY FACILITATOR	<b>Country-level coordination and facilitation and government capacity building, as applicable</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Track implementation of and reporting on the PP.</li> <li>• Liaise with the Support Unit, IPs and others as the government's NDC Partnership interface.</li> <li>• Build government's capacity to coordinate and facilitate directly, as applicable.</li> </ul>
DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS	<b>Funding, global coordination</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide funding for responses to member countries' support needs, either directly through the IPs or through another mechanism.</li> <li>• Integrate NDC implementation support into development assistance planning, country planning frameworks, etc.</li> </ul>
IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS	<b>Implementation, service delivery</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver technical assistance, policy advice and other services.</li> <li>• Collaborate with others for synergies and results.</li> </ul>

## NDC PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT UNIT

The NDC Partnership's work is facilitated by a secretariat, namely the Support Unit, which is led by the Global Director. The Support Unit is hosted by the World Resources Institute (WRI), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations Office for Program Support (UNOPS).

The Global Director is responsible for coordinating the work of the Support Unit and implementation of the Support Unit's annual Work Plan and associated budget. The annual workplans define the specific activities that the Support Unit needs to implement to facilitate the effective implementation of the NDC Partnership's Work Program. The Support Unit is accountable to the Steering Committee and its Co-Chairs on substantive and technical matters. A management team that consists of senior experts from the Support Unit coordinates the work of the Support Unit under the leadership of the global director.

The Country Engagement Team of the Partnership's Support Unit functions as a rapid-response team charged with coordinating flexible provisions of technical support, financial resources and knowledge products in response to country needs. It supports countries through our five-stage Country Engagement cycle. This includes assisting each member country's government, as needed, to engage IPs in designing and tracking the execution of the NDC Action Plan, while helping to ensure engagement is aligned to the government's ambition to strengthen and implement its NDC. To consistently verify services are of agreed quality and scope, the Support Unit, together with the in-country facilitator, organize discussions – as appropriate – at key milestones of the Action Plan and collates 360-degree feedback from governments. This information is reported periodically to the Partnership to promote effective decision making.



### COUNTRY ENGAGEMENT TEAM

The Country Engagement Team of the Partnership's Support Unit functions as a rapid-response team charged with coordinating flexible provisions of technical support, financial resources and knowledge products in response to country needs.

## EMBEDDED ADVISORS

The Partnership deploys embedded advisors, as requested by governments, to support needs as they emerge. These include economic advisors, who provide three broad areas of support to governments to incorporate climate considerations into economic recovery responses to COVID-19: i) national planning and budgeting; ii) project pipelines and preparation; and iii) climate finance. The Partnership also supports embedding climate finance advisors in ministries of finance and/or planning to provide a range of services, including mobilizing and coordinating climate finance; supporting the creation of enabling regulatory environments for low-carbon, climate-resilient investments; assisting with climate budget tagging; and strengthening institutional and technical capacity across these areas. The Partnership also deploys other types of advisors in response to governments' requests, including central bank advisors, sectoral advisors, and subnational advisors.



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## COUNTRY-SPECIFIC ENGAGEMENT APPROACHES

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The Partnership implements our Country Engagement Strategy in a flexible and tailored manner, always ensuring government ownership and building on existing processes and systems. As such, the in-country engagement approaches will differ from country to country to adapt to local realities. The complexity of engaging in major emerging economies (MEEs), for example, requires the Partnership to develop MEE-specific modes of operating, as described in the **MEE Strategy**. Regardless of the approach chosen, the components described below apply to the Partnership's engagement across all countries and are designed to incorporate lessons learned and avoid common pitfalls of other past and ongoing partnership and coordination efforts.

### BUILDING CAPACITY AND FOSTERING COUNTRY OWNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABILITY

To ensure country ownership, member country governments exercise authority over all policies and activities supported by the Partnership, setting the agenda for and determining the manner of that support at every stage. After a government launches the Country Engagement process through the Partnership, the responsibility for advancing in-country engagement is delegated to the local IPs as much as possible. Increasing

readiness for the gradual transfer of this work and ensuring that it will be sustained may require building capacity of government staff members, changes in governance mechanisms and/or creation of sector working group(s). Yet the groundwork is laid by ensuring all stages of the in-country engagement process are initiated, led and endorsed by the member country government.

## OPERATING WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF PRIOR AND ONGOING ENGAGEMENTS

Given that the Partnership is operating in contexts of a country's prior and ongoing work on their NDCs and beyond, we engage with ongoing initiatives and align our work with theirs. The intention is for NDC Action Plans to consider these long-term partnership frameworks by reflecting their priority areas of engagement (e.g., investment, technical assistance, etc.) within relevant NDC Partnership objectives, as per needs expressed by the government. Conversely, when the IPs design their future country programs in collaboration with the government, they would be expected to factor in the NDC Partnership TOC and country NDC Action Plans. We aim for all relevant members to align their support with government needs, ensure it is complementary to stakeholders' inputs and seize opportunities to leverage skills and resources with other organizations while building the capacity of the government.

## CONSIDERING EXISTING MECHANISMS AND FUNCTIONS

The Partnership aims to strengthen and complement the cooperation mechanisms established by the Paris Agreement and to achieve the SDGs. As such, Support Unit staff identify and consider existing coordination mechanisms and confer with FPs when selecting the facilitation model and adapting the in-country facilitator's terms of reference (ToR) for the country context. For instance, to deepen the coherence of partners' engagement toward the PP, the most effective way of having an impact in certain countries may

be for the Partnership to work through existing coordination mechanisms to promote learning, align partners around common objectives and build governments' capacity to coordinate. Where coordination structures and systems are limited or nonexistent, the in-country facilitator may need to take on more of a lead role and liaise with key stakeholders to establish common platforms for collaboration. In other situations, processes or mechanisms may be in place but would benefit from the Partnership's support to strengthen, leverage and streamline them.

Conflict-prone countries may require unique approaches to best serve their needs, given their particular vulnerability to climate variability, climate change and natural hazards, particularly as increasing impacts of climate change are acting as a threat multiplier of violent conflict and fragility.

## ENSURING BOTH VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL COMMUNICATION

Regardless of the engagement approach applied in a country, communication will take place both vertically (i.e., with points of contact within the headquarters of bilateral agencies) and horizontally (i.e., with coordination points at in-country offices or embassies, as applicable). This is not only important for South-South and North-South learning, but also for engaging the different levels at which each IP operates. It is important to clarify that the in-country facilitator is not meant to be a gatekeeper or mouthpiece of the government; rather, this function should support the government by facilitating and streamlining the PP coordination and implementation.

# 6

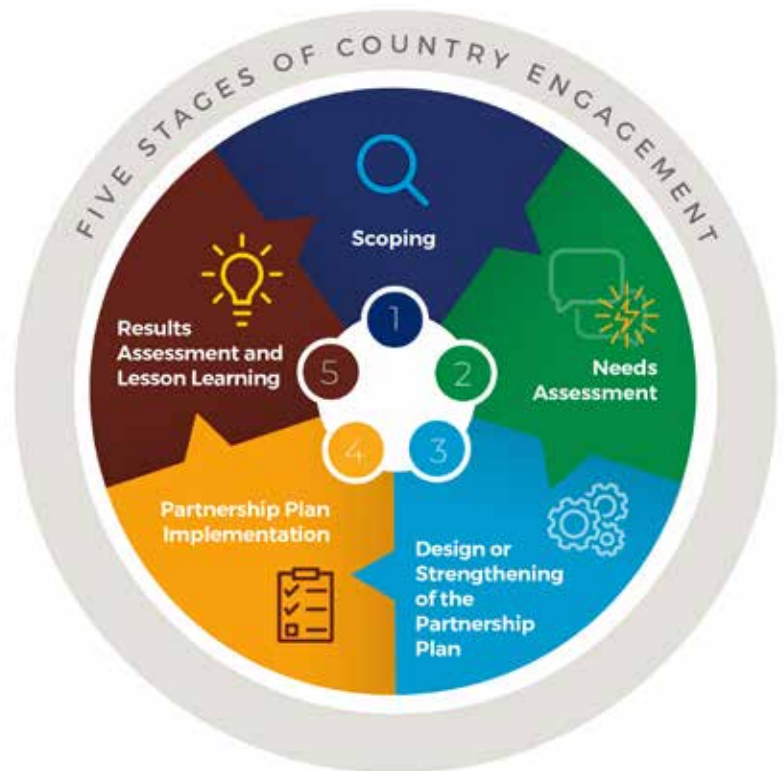
## STAGES OF THE COUNTRY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

The In-Country Engagement Process has been designed to provide Partnership stakeholders with guidance on a set of key steps for establishing, operationalizing and monitoring activities at the country level. Recognizing that partnerships and coordination can be quite complex, and that timelines vary, the Country Engagement cycle is illustrative; it is at the country's discretion to determine which steps are relevant to them and when.

In each stage of the Country Engagement process, communication needs to be inclusive and open to all relevant stakeholders. Ensuring that member country stakeholders, IPs, DPs and the Support Unit are appropriately informed, offered the opportunity to participate in workshops and document reviews and have access to information regarding the Partnership's in-country engagement is critical to an effective partnership. To that end, the Support Unit and partners collaborate to extract valuable lessons that can inform replication and scale up the most effective actions, publishing knowledge products that bolster in-country action.

The Country Engagement cycle (**Figure 5**) elaborates the Partnership's process to support countries to create an enabling national framework for NDC updating, coordination and implementation.

FIGURE 5: STAGES OF COUNTRY ENGAGEMENT



## STAGE ONE: SCOPING

Scoping is the first of the five stages of Country Engagement and entails a government-led participatory process to identify NDC-related needs across the different sectors. The scoping stage aims to assess country needs for NDC implementation and detail requirements for the NDC Partnership's support. The NDC Partnership scoping lead may be an IP or DP (usually a Partnership member) or the Support Unit, who leads the consultations with the government and in-country stakeholders, **including by:**

- Raising awareness around the NDC Partnership and its services.
- Identifying initial implementation activities and needs.
- Establishing contacts with member country offices and embassies.
- Identifying key stakeholders.

Any member of the Partnership can take on the role of scoping lead subject to the approval of the member recipient country. The scoping lead guides the Country Engagement work from the initial scoping stage to completion of the PP (see stage three). If no member organization expresses interest, the Partnership Support Unit will act as scoping lead. The Government FPs coordinate the scoping process.

### Scoping processes

The scoping exercise assesses national needs across sectors for NDC planning, implementation and enhancement.

To inform the scoping stage, scoping leads prepare an overview of the NDC and key government



### SNAPSHOT: ACTIONS AND DELIVERABLES OF SCOPING

#### ACTIONS:

##### Scoping leads:

- Prepare concept notes for scoping under the guidance of government FPs.
- Announce scoping stage to Partnership members and prepare stakeholder contact list.
- Organize prescoping briefing calls.
- Launch Partnership work at the country level.
- Engage national and international stakeholders.
- Conduct a preliminary assessment of country priorities, ongoing programs and initiatives and areas in need of support, feeding into the scoping report.
- Map the government's national, sectoral and subnational policies, plans and priorities related to the NDC.
- Map relevant stakeholders, including gender stakeholders and youth organizations.
- Align next steps and way forward with government FPs.
- Prepare and circulate scoping report, including preliminary needs assessment.

#### DELIVERABLES:

- Scoping report drafted.

stakeholders and a stakeholder contact list relevant to in-country NDC updating, coordination and implementation.

The scoping lead and country FPs schedule a prescoping briefing call for interested members to discuss initial support areas for NDC implementation. **Members are asked to:**

- Share relevant information with the scoping lead regarding their current and pipeline projects in the country, including any key country program documents or frameworks.
- Connect the scoping lead with their regional and country office counterparts for follow-up exploratory discussions.

Following initial briefings and preparatory work, FPs and scoping leads typically arrange a country visit. This virtual or in-person consultation is an opportunity to build working relationships and outline a process by which the NDC Partnership can assist the country in achieving its NDCs. All relevant members of the Partnership can join the consultations at the discretion of the host country.

Before the end of the scoping stage, the scoping lead organizes a debrief with the country FPs, to approve a scoping report for circulation across the NDC Partnership.

TABLE 2: EXAMPLES OF COUNTRY PROGRAMMING DOCUMENTS INFORMING THE PRESCOPING PHASE (NONEXHAUSTIVE LIST)

ORGANIZATION	DOCUMENT
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	Country Programme Document
World Bank	Country Partnership Framework Country Climate and Development Report
Food and Agriculture Organization	Country Programming Framework
Asian Development Bank	Country Partnership Strategy
African Development Bank	Country Strategy Paper
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development	Country Strategy
Inter-American Development Bank	Country Strategy
Green Climate Fund	Country Programme

## Engaging national and international stakeholders

Scoping follows a whole-of-government consultative process. The Partnership supports countries to engage as comprehensively and effectively as possible with government branches and broader stakeholder groups. Identifying all stakeholders that should take part in the Country Engagement process is a vital action within the scoping stage.

During scoping, government FPs organize meetings with in-country stakeholders, such as government ministries, including the national gender agency; implementing and development partners; civil society organizations; and the private sector. These meetings may be a workshop, series of bilateral discussions or both.

A workshop is an opportunity to leverage the knowledge and expertise of multiple stakeholders and build on existing analyses conducted by in-country stakeholders. **If used, the objectives of the workshop are to:**

- Discuss with all stakeholders how the Country Engagement process can add value, building on existing mechanisms.
- Secure broad involvement of all stakeholders for maximum ownership.
- Facilitate cross-sectoral, multistakeholder dialogue on NDC implementation.
- Clarify the process and roles and responsibilities of the various actors in the process.



### ZIMBABWE

In Zimbabwe, more than 60 stakeholders from 10 different sectors, including the private sector, local governments and civil society organizations, participated in workshops and consultations alongside 14 DPs. The purpose of the engagement was to get a broader understanding of the status of Zimbabwe's NDC implementation, the challenges that are hindering climate action across sectors and priorities for support.

Partnership members commit to pursuing a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach during the scoping stage. This includes contributing to mapping of existing projects, areas of support and interests to best inform a preliminary needs assessment. The Partnership encourages meaningful engagement of civil

society and the private sector to harness the contribution that nongovernment sectors can make to adaptation initiatives and mitigation strategies at the national, subnational and local levels. Meaningful engagement includes inviting key gender stakeholders to scoping meetings, for example the ministry or main agency responsible



for gender equality or social equity and/or the UNFCCC gender FP and other identified stakeholders (e.g., women's organizations and local gender experts) working on gender equality and/or social inclusion.

## The scoping report

A scoping report summarizes the findings of the scoping stage and provides an overview of the climate change landscape and areas for Partnership engagement. The report's primary audience is IPs and DPs with interest in supporting the country to advance the climate development agenda.

### The template for the Scoping Report template includes:

- 1 **NDC overview and government stakeholders:** Showing the national NDC priorities, key ministries and national agencies and government FPs working on the NDC, including FP for funding partners, such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Global Environmental Facility (GEF).
- 2 **Overview of the climate change landscape:** Summarizing the country's policy and legal framework; the status of climate mainstreaming efforts into development

plans; budgets and Public Financial Management mechanisms; coordination mechanisms; level for engagement of finance/planning ministries; identified stakeholders for NDC implementation, including groups most affected by climate impacts, if such information is available (e.g., gender, youth, private sector, subnational, disadvantaged groups).

- 3 **Preliminary needs assessment:** Outlining the identified potential support needs and current gaps and challenges on NDC implementation. This assessment may include preliminary mapping of key ongoing/planned projects and programs contributing to NDC implementation.

See the [ToRs for implementing partners taking on this role](#).

### In line with the Partnership's Gender Strategy, the scoping report should:

- Identify relevant existing national gender frameworks and policies.
- Reference existing gender analyses and relevant research/resources.
- Identify potential needs to develop gender analyses to inform the Partnership process.



## SCOPING REPORT

A summary of the findings of the scoping stage and provides an overview of the climate change landscape and areas for Partnership engagement.





THE PARTNERSHIP'S **FINANCE STRATEGY** OUTLINES SEVERAL POTENTIAL SUPPORT SERVICES WITHIN EACH STAGE OF THE COUNTRY ENGAGEMENT CYCLE (SEE SECTION SEVEN). DURING SCOPING, THESE INCLUDE:

1. **Capacity development:** Deploying economic advisors to support implementation of recommendations from the EAI.
2. **Improving enabling environments:** Identifying obstacles and market barriers associated with deployment of climate finance.
3. **Developing NDC financing strategies:** Sharing a framework on elements for NDC investment plan.
4. **Greening the financial system through central banks:** Holding a scoping call with Central Bank representatives.
5. **Private-sector engagement:** Supporting countries in engaging the private sector as part of a whole-of-society approach.
6. **Identification of strategically important projects and programs and matching with finance providers:** Supporting countries to flag projects of interest.
7. **Subnational engagement:** Supporting countries in engaging subnational stakeholders as part of a whole-of-society approach.

## STAGE TWO: NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The second stage in the Country Engagement cycle builds on information gathered in stage one (the scoping stage). This needs assessment phase aids the FPs and other relevant government stakeholders to formally specify and communicate needs for support, drawing on existing needs assessments where available.

During the needs assessment, a detailed request to advance the Country Engagement process may emerge in the form of an RSL (see **Processes for needs assessment**) or the initiation of the process to develop the PP or strengthen an existing climate Action Plan.

Stage two of the cycle is flexible and optional to accommodate the different ways countries may wish to engage the Partnership. In some cases, countries do not submit an RSL but instead move directly to stage three – the development or strengthening of the NDC PP. If countries do not want to develop a PP, they can skip stage three and move straight to implementation (stage four). In such cases, the guiding framework for implementation is the Partnership's consolidated response to the request for support or the ToR to respond to a support request.



## REQUEST FOR SUPPORT LETTER

One option at this stage is for the member to formulate and submit a request for support to the NDC Partnership, which the Support Unit will share with all members. The Support Unit will respond to the recipient member with a consolidated response from other members, listing the partners with interest, resources or expertise to deliver specific requests. The timing of the RSL is flexible – the member may also submit it after the elaboration of the PP and the identification of gaps in stage three.



## SNAPSHOT: NEEDS ASSESSMENT

### ACTIONS:

#### Scoping leads to:

- Support governments in preparing the RSL (if needed).
- Further analyze and clarify governments' requests for support to the Partnership (if needed).

#### Support Unit to:

- Circulate the RSL to members and generate responses.
- Organize coordination calls between governments and interested implementing and development partners to further clarify request for support areas.
- Conduct targeted outreach to IPs and DPs to increase the number of responses.

### DELIVERABLES:

- RSLs submitted by the government and consolidated response drafted by the Support Unit (optional – or can take place at stage three).
- Resource brief prepared, at the country's request, summarizing existing case studies, tools and other resources extracted from the [NDC Partnership's Knowledge Portal](#) to help inform and shape the country's NDC support needs (optional – can also take place in stages one or three).



PARTICIPANTS AT THE VALIDATION WORKSHOP OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC'S NDC ACTION PLAN 2022 - 2025 IN SANTO DOMINGO IN MARCH 2022

## Processes for needs assessment

### Request for support letter

The RSL is an optional step prepared in stage two or stage three after completion of the PP. The RSL identifies a country's support needs in relation to its NDC implementation and is signed by the FPs or their ministers and/or permanent secretaries.

To inform the RSL, the scoping lead collaborates with the FPs to develop a set of specific, measurable, relevant and time-bound requests for NDC implementation. Consultative workshops and meetings typically build RSL momentum and develop buy-in from across government.

The RSL provides specific information necessary for the Support Unit to engage IPs and DPs and help align their existing and future projects with a country's own identified priorities. **Per the RSL Guidance Note, an RSL typically includes:**

- A cover letter with a brief overview of the country's context in terms of climate change, including relevant contextualization to the request (i.e., reference to NDC targets and priorities, strategies and/or plans), and a summary of areas of support being requested.
- An annex (NDC Partnership request form) with details on the support requested, including specific outputs/deliverables, activities, estimated cost, lead government institution and other information as per the form. The Country Engagement Team of the Support Unit of the Partnership can support member countries in the preparation of requests and the engagement with relevant ministries and institutions upon request.

The Support Unit encourages countries to share a draft annex to the respective Country Engagement Team to ensure sufficient details are included to enable adequate responses from Partnership members.

## What type of support do member countries request?

Member countries identify strategic priority actions and measures aligned with national and sectoral NDC priorities for Partnership support.

### For example:

- Actions that contribute to NDC targets and the enabling environment for climate action.
- Alignment with national and sectoral development plans, including mitigation and adaptation actions that are already in the development plans but need further support.
- Cross-sector consultations to identify priority actions or projects from different ministries (i.e., planning and finance, energy, agriculture, forestry, transport, gender).
- Enabling activities that can trigger transformational actions, such as regulatory frameworks, capacity building, feasibility studies and assessments, preparation of investment projects or portfolios.
- Consideration of specific implementation needs and gaps related to gender equality and climate change.
- Mitigation and adaptation measures that go beyond the current NDC, increasing its coverage and ambition.

## Consolidated Partner Response Letter

Once a member country submits an RSL, the Support Unit circulates this letter to the headquarter and country offices or embassies of members through contacts established during the scoping phase. The Support Unit organizes a call with the FPs and the members expressing interest to explain the requests and discuss the initial scope of offered support and any finer details related to each request.

Members of the NDC Partnership identify areas where they may have the expertise, resources and capacity to commit to addressing requests either through new or existing activities. They send their responses to the Support Unit within a four-week time frame and should flag any existing support underway or planned that potentially duplicates the requests circulated.

The Support Unit collects and summarizes support offers from members and drafts a formal response to the government. Based on these responses, discussions can take place with members and the government in small teams, forums or working groups to take on larger issues related to, for example, monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV); policy landscapes and mainstreaming activities; capacity building for national and/or subnational stakeholders; enabling environments; or climate finance.

## Partnership Action Fund

The NDC PAF is a new funding mechanism of the Partnership's 2021-2025 Work Program. It aims to support developing country members in fast tracking the implementation of their NDCs and bridging gaps in support. By pooling funds and

making them more readily available, the PAF ensures countries have better access to technical and financial resources and the widest possible range of the Partnership members can respond rapidly to the needs of developing country members.

### The PAF operates through two funding windows:

#### ● WINDOW ONE: FACILITATION SUPPORT

Facilitation support provides resources to engage in-country facilitators, reporting directly to NDC Partnership FPs in environment and finance ministries. The in-country facilitators provide support to coordinate, implement, and track progress and mobilize resources for NDC implementation.

#### ● WINDOW TWO: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND SCOPING SUPPORT

Technical assistance support provides funding for urgent and/or strategic country needs that have not received member support. Scoping support allows institutional or associate members to lead the initial engagement with a member country on behalf of the Partnership, including needs identification, preparation of the NDC Action Plan and initial resource mobilization through the consolidation of support offers from IPs and DPs. Thematic calls may also be issued periodically by the Support Unit of behalf of the Partnership, inviting countries to request support on specific topics identified as priorities by the Partnership's Steering Committee.

PAF resources are deployed in line with the NDC Partnership's Country Engagement Strategy. All requests received through the NDC Partnership will continue to be circulated to members for their response, utilizing their existing projects or programs. Only after exhausting support available from members will requests be eligible for PAF support.

### The Resource Brief and the Knowledge Portal

The member country can request the preparation of a resource brief on a specific thematic focus

to support the scoping and needs assessment processes. The Support Unit's Knowledge and Learning team generate the resource brief by drawing on resources from the NDC Partnership Knowledge Portal. This curated online platform provides access to over 1,000 knowledge resources to assist countries in strengthening climate action across a variety of sectors and topics. The resource brief summarizes resources on the requested theme, including guidance, analytical frameworks, tools, case studies, lessons learned, partner platforms and funding opportunities.

### The Knowledge Portal has four platforms:

- 1 The **Climate Toolbox** draws together tools, guidance, platforms and advisory support from leading institutions in a searchable database to help countries plan and implement NDCs.
- 2 The **Good Practice Database** provides a searchable repository of country good practices and lessons on effective design and implementation of climate action.
- 3 The **Climate Finance Explorer** is a searchable database of open climate funds and related support for mitigation and adaptation activities.
- 4 The Climate Finance Bulletin provides a platform for partners and member countries to flag and apply for time-bound funding opportunities (namely, calls for proposals).



ACCORDING TO THE FINANCE STRATEGY, POTENTIAL **FINANCE SUPPORT SERVICES** (SEE SECTION SEVEN) DURING THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT STAGE INCLUDE:

1. **Capacity development:** Continuing to receive requests (new countries) related to economic advisory support or expand current offerings (existing countries receiving support).
2. **Improving enabling environments:** Coordinating in-country roundtable discussions led by the finance and/or planning ministry targeting members of the Partnership to present national financing priorities in the context of NDCs.
3. **Developing NDC financing strategies:** Inquiring about countries' finance-related capacity needs through a standardized template.
4. **Greening the financial system through central banks:** Supporting the development and circulating ToRs and RSLs based on scoping analysis and through a consultative process (led by FPs and including key players in the financial and capital markets).
5. **Private-sector engagement:** Supporting countries in engaging the private sector as part of a whole-of-society approach.

*continued on next page*



## 6. Identification of strategically important projects and programs and matching with finance providers:

- Engaging sectoral ministries and the private sector to identify pipeline of priority projects (workshops/bilateral discussions).
- Dedicated roundtable discussions with the private sector and subnational-level actors (under the leadership of the FPs).
- Supporting the development of and circulation of RSLs for PIN design (detailed under stage four).

## 7. Subnational engagement: Supporting countries in engaging subnational stakeholders as part of a whole-of-society approach.

## STAGE THREE: DESIGN OR STRENGTHENING OF THE PARTNERSHIP PLAN

In stage three, the Partnership supports members to develop new or strengthen existing national government-owned plans outlining how the country will implement its NDC in the form of PPs, implementation plans or similar documents. This stage of Country Engagement builds on government policies, strategies and priorities to produce programmatic plans that can inform partners' subsequent programming cycles.

Stage three also includes a range of processes relating to the development of PPs, including analysis, assessment, consultation, mapping, communication and setting up or strengthening of coordination mechanisms. Country members with developed PPs can revise them during this stage, as necessary.

A PP identifies national climate priorities and connects these to support from IPs and DPs.

The PP plays a key role in facilitating cross-governmental planning and monitoring of climate activity and harmonizing the rollout of mitigation and adaptation actions. The PP also serves as a resource mobilization tool through the identification of gaps, for example in funding for bankable projects. The availability of support to meet identified needs will depend on planning and funding cycles and partner priorities.

The development process for PPs is multistakeholder and collaborative. It includes Partnership members, private-sector entities, civil society, women and youth, research institutions and multiple levels of government across sectors and at subnational levels. Plans are updated periodically to reflect changes in government and evolving government needs.





## SNAPSHOT: DESIGN OR STRENGTHENING OF THE PP

### ACTIONS:

#### Scoping leads to:

- Map IPs' and DPs' (both members and nonmembers) ongoing pipeline and new climate-related projects/programs against PP outcomes, outputs and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). (Mapping based on desk research and responses received directly from partners with all information validated by partners.)
- Assess and strengthen the PP's gender responsiveness across outcomes, outputs, KPIs and budgets and with meaningful gender agency participation. (Assessment to be informed by new or existing gender analysis as relevant.)
- Consider national youth engagement in the PP's implementation by including and funding youth-led implementation projects and involving and targeting young people in capacity development efforts.
- Prepare a PP narrative providing the analytical background, context and summary of the PP's outcomes with linkages to the NDC priorities and targets, development plans and the 2030 SDGs. Provide a summary of the PP's development process.
- Develop and agree on a process and system ([Online Partnership Plan Tool](#) or other mechanism) to track implementation progress alongside facilitator, government and partners.
- Share the PP and its narrative publicly.
- Support NDC Partnership government FPs in endorsing the PP through an inclusive whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, including gender stakeholders, youth groups and other under-represented groups.
- Identify partnership gaps and under-funded aspects of the PP (and prepare an RSL if not already in place).
- Establish/strengthen NDC coordination mechanisms.
- Identify facilitator and partners for any joint assessments required to facilitate PP development.

### DELIVERABLES:

- Government-approved, results-based PP and narrative endorsed.
- Mapping of new and existing NDC Partnership member support to PP completed and validated by partners (at stage three or earlier).
- Facilitator recruited (if not recruited in stages one or two).

## Processes for design or strengthening of the PP

In some countries, the Partnership supports the strengthening of an existing planning process. In other cases, a country will choose to develop a new or revise an existing PP.

Developing or strengthening the PP is a collaborative exercise. Building on the assessment of existing policies and plans, scoping phase reports, needs assessments, bilateral meetings, and workshops, the FPs in coordination with the in-country facilitator, the scoping lead, sectoral ministries, Partnership members, and others will jointly develop a PP.

The draft PP is shared with national and international stakeholders for comments and suggestions. Revisions are made and cross-checked with stakeholders and the FPs approve the final draft. Transparency is critical for an inclusive planning process so that all stakeholders can contribute to the final output.

The Partnership offers a **template** featuring outputs, indicators, time frames and responsibilities if a country has no pre-existing climate plan. Members may opt to use the template to track and report on their NDC implementation. Additionally, the Partnership offers countries an online system to host PPs. The **Online Partnership Plan Tool** (see [flyer for more detailed information](#)) improves the accessibility, user-friendliness, data quality and progress reporting. Facilitators update the web-based tool continuously, and ministries and partners use it to report progress and identify gaps. The tool offers a transparent way to share Country Engagement

updates, manage PPs and generate strategic and operational information for governments, IPs and DPs and other stakeholders

As the PP draft nears completion, a PP narrative will be prepared. The PP narrative provides a summary of content and the context behind a country's NDC implementation, developed through engagement with the Partnership. The narrative is validated by the government in parallel to their validation of the PP and before IPs and DPs respond with indications of support. The details contained in the narrative, including outcomes and context, NDC priorities and targets, climate and sustainable development linkages, summary of processes and implementation framework, are intended to help Partnership members, as well as non-members, identify opportunities to engage early in the NDC implementation process.

## Project mapping

After government identification of priorities in the PP, the scoping lead and in-country facilitator map existing partner projects in the different priority areas. This mapping process informs the development of a more specific request for support to the Partnership by clarifying the scope of support based on the gaps.

## Gender- and youth-responsive PPs

PPs provide an opportunity to mainstream gender equality and incorporate gender-responsive approaches by identifying, understanding and implementing interventions to address gender gaps and overcome historical gender biases in policies and interventions.

**Suggested steps to ensure PPs are gender responsive include the following (see “Practical Guide on Developing Gender-Responsive NDC Action Plans” for more details).**

- 1 Include sex-disaggregated and gender-responsive measures that reflect the inclusion of women, men, youth and disadvantaged groups.
- 2 Reflect gender equality needs and issues in PPs.
- 3 Matchmake gender-related country needs with partner services through their existing support programs and potential new support.
- 4 Build country capacity for gender mainstreaming in NDCs.

During consultation and planning NDCs at the country level, the Partnership encourages members to consider the needs and rights of youth and recognize the impact of climate on youth and their role as positive agents of change. Members are also encouraged to explore ways to improve access to funding for NDC implementation projects of youth and youth-led organizations and to consider capacity building for young people as a critical component of their climate work.

## Identifying implementing partners

The PP, after government validation, is circulated to key stakeholders (both members and nonmembers of the Partnership), inviting them to express their intention to provide support to address gaps.

The PP identifies IPs to support specific activities based on existing and planned projects and initiatives. The in-country facilitator (see section below) supports IP coordination and information exchange to mobilize their resources to support the PP. Where a coordination mechanism already exists, the facilitator aids integration of the Partnership into the established mechanism and provides services to strengthen coordination and harmonization.

The FPs and scoping lead share the implementing partners with the broader group of stakeholders involved in the country's NDC implementation. Implementing partners can be added to the PP throughout the Country Engagement process. Implementing partners, FPs and the in-country facilitator coordinate closely on NDC implementation, sharing responsibilities, information and resources and tracking progress. The number of implementing and developing partners can range widely. For example, in Uganda, 20 partners came forward to support 111 out of 135 requests. In São Tomé and Príncipe, 11 partners have pledged support for 110 of 195 requests. Georgia had 42 requests, with 34 requests receiving confirmed support from five partners.

## Selecting an in-country facilitator

Each member country government identifies an in-country facilitator to coordinate between the implementing and development partners and support government FPs to coordinate with relevant ministries.

A standard ToR outlines the responsibilities of the in-country facilitator, which can be amended by the government to reflect specific country contexts. While the in-country facilitator's role is country specific to consider country needs and priorities as well as existing coordination structures and functions, a minimum set of common responsibilities will apply to all member countries to ensure a basic level of consistency and equity. These are outlined in the in-country facilitator's ToR along with examples of typical tasks.

**The first step in selecting the facilitator(s) often begins in the scoping stage through one of the following options:**

- 1 The facilitator is a government body (e.g., ministry) that undertakes the role independently.
- 2 The facilitator is an individual embedded in a government body (e.g., ministry).
- 3 The facilitator is an organization (e.g., a Partnership IP, DP or other agency) chosen by the government.
- 4 A government body serves as facilitator with support from an embedded technical assistant (hybrid option).

Typically, there is a single in-country facilitator for each country, though it is possible to have more than one if a country's government deems necessary. Facilitators are sometimes already recruited in stages one or two.



### JORDAN

In **Jordan**, an embedded facilitation approach is in place supported by the Government of Germany and the European Commission through UNFCCC. An individual facilitator is embedded in the ministry of environment and works closely with the ministry of planning and international cooperation, relevant sectoral ministries and IPs and DPs. The facilitator has supported the setup of sectoral working groups that led a prioritization exercise of the NDC Action Plan and subsequent mainstreaming of priority NDC actions across sectoral development plans. The facilitator is also coordinating efforts around the setup of a partner coordination platform for NDC implementation.



## LEBANON

In Lebanon, a government-led facilitation approach is in place. The FP in the ministry of environment has taken on the primary role of facilitator. The facilitator, as a liaison between the government and the NDC Partnership Support Unit, coordinates with all relevant ministries around the development of sectoral PPs and their respective technical validation.

If the government opts for an embedded facilitation option, the Partnership will support an advisor within the selected ministry for an agreed period. For sustainability purposes, this person's role is to develop government capacity to assume the role of facilitator in the future.



## TUNISIA

In Tunisia, the government opted for a partner-led facilitation approach. The ministry of local affairs and the environment designated UNDP and GIZ as cofacilitators to jointly coordinate between the NDC Partnership Support Unit, the government and other IPs and DPs in Tunisia. A national consultation process mobilized state and nonstate actors to develop an NDC implementation roadmap. Leveraging this roadmap, the PP was developed with the support of the UNDP and will be used to mobilize support and track progress on NDC implementation. The cofacilitators also support the country in strengthening existing coordination mechanisms to implement the PP and share communications with national and international stakeholders.



ACCORDING TO THE **FINANCE STRATEGY**, POTENTIAL FINANCE SUPPORT SERVICES (**SEE SECTION SEVEN**) DURING THE DESIGN OR STRENGTHENING OF PLANS STAGE INCLUDE:

- 1. Capacity development:** Deployment of advisors in finance or sectoral ministries.
- 2. Improving enabling environments:**
  - Mainstreaming climate change into planning and budgeting processes.
  - Implementing or strengthening regulatory frameworks.
- 3. Developing NDC financing strategies:**
  - Collecting information from DPs and IPs to better understand their Official Development Assistance (ODA)/financing programming cycle.
  - Designing NDC investment plans.
- 4. Greening the financial system through central banks:**
  - Matchmaking with member support.
  - Establishing governance arrangement.
- 5. Identification of strategically important projects and programs and matching with finance providers:**
  - Working with members to develop PINs and move them across different stages of project development.
  - Offering project development training for national project development officers from government agencies.
  - Supporting member countries to develop a pipeline of high-impact projects based on their NDC Action Plan (through embedded experts or consulting firms).
- 6. Subnational engagement:** Support Unit sharing analysis of subnational-related requests with ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, United Cities and Local Governments, C40 and other relevant networks.

## STAGE FOUR: PP IMPLEMENTATION

Once PP design or revision is complete and the in-country facilitator is in place, country engagement moves into the implementation phase. Stage four focuses on continuous coordination and facilitation of implementation, including periodic coordination calls, progress reports and an annual stock-take of PP progress. The country member's government delivers initiatives and projects that contribute to NDC implementation with support from the Partnership members and beyond.

The PP is a living document, and its development and implementation is a dynamic, iterative process. Even once in the implementation phase, country member governments can continue to add new areas in need of support to the PP, and members and partners can continue to fill gaps in support.



### SNAPSHOT: ACTIONS AND DELIVERABLES OF PP IMPLEMENTATION

#### ACTIONS:

##### Facilitator and Partnership members to:

- Implement the PP and coordinate across different stakeholders.
- Prepare investment and/or resource mobilization plans.
- Develop project information notes and/or bankable project concept notes.
- Organize global and country-specific coordination calls every quarter.
- Track and share quarterly progress reports with in-country stakeholders.
- Develop country support gap summary as needed to inform support discussions.
- Conduct annual PP stock-take and update.

#### DELIVERABLES:

- Quarterly progress updates of implementation (facilitator reports) shared.
- Investment plan/project information notes prepared.
- Annual stock-take exercise reports communicated.
- PP updates as needed.
- Country support gap summary prepared.
- National coordination mechanism strengthened (where it already exists) or established.



## Processes for PP implementation

The facilitator supports the government in monitoring changes in the operating context and tracks implementation progress, providing quarterly progress updates to the government and Partnership members.

The facilitator coordinates PP progression, leveraging assistance from Partnership members or the Partnership Support Unit when necessary. This assistance may include capacity strengthening, such as technical assistance and formal/informal on-the-job training of the government to fully take on the facilitation role in the future.

## National and partner coordination

Partner coordination mechanisms increase efficiency and responsiveness of support, decrease duplication, increase collaboration and lead to greater collective impact. Effective national coordination builds on existing structures and government efforts, such as a National Climate Change Committee or sector working groups. A dedicated partner mechanism with emphasis on support coordination and resource mobilization

can be useful and necessary to accelerate implementation, achieve NDC targets and enable governments to raise ambition over time.

In the absence of existing coordination mechanisms – which should always be used, where available – the Partnership offers support to help conceptualize national coordination mechanisms, for which the PP can serve as a roadmap.

## Communicating progress

The in-country facilitator tracks progress by collecting partner progress updates and consolidating these into quarterly country update reports. As part of this quarterly reporting, facilitators monitor and report on progress against gender equality outcomes.

In-country facilitators require appropriate tracking systems to communicate results and progress toward PP objectives. The Partnership developed a specific functionality for facilitators to easily capture those updates and use them for their quarterly reporting inside the [Online Partnership Plan Tool](#). One example of this is the [quarterly update report from Grenada](#) from the first



### VIETNAM

In **Vietnam**, a dedicated working group has been set up focused on climate change, following the updated NDC submission. It aims to enhance coordination, complementarity and coherence of the DPs' activities in the field of climate change in Vietnam.

quarter of 2021, where section 2.1 “Progress Towards Delivery of Partnership Plan Outputs” has been populated using information from the online PP tool. Furthermore, the tool also consolidates these updates over time and serves as a place to consult them whenever needed.

## JORDAN



In **Jordan**, the government has initiated both a national coordination structure with key sectoral ministries and an international partner coordination mechanism. The Jordanian government set up five sectoral working groups in key focus areas of the country’s NDC Action Plan: transport, energy, agriculture, health and water. The working groups – consisting of government representatives and national sectoral experts – are leading processes to select priority sector actions and to mainstream NDC actions across sectoral development plans at the prime minister’s request.

Moreover, Jordan has initiated an NDC coordination platform for international and development partners to be operationalized in 2021 following cabinet approval. The objectives of the partner coordination platform are:

- To deepen mutual understanding, exchange views and strengthen coordination for coherent, effective and efficient support to Jordan’s NDC priority actions and monitoring initiatives.
- To facilitate availability and accessibility of information on new developments related to the NDC actions amongst partners, the ministry of environment and other sectors to promote greater alignment between development assistance and national processes.

## Mobilizing support

Resource mobilization is high on the agenda for many countries, especially less-developed countries. **Partnership members can mobilize support through several channels:**

- Regular follow-ups of the planned commitments of implementing and developing partners by the FPs.
- Sharing of progress noting outstanding gaps at development partners coordination platforms.
- Highlighting countries’ NDC-related gaps in discussions with bilateral and multilateral funders.

As needed to inform support mobilization discussions, the Support Unit may produce a Country Support Gap Summary. This mapping exercise is for IPs and DPs to highlight country needs and support gaps within the PP. **It includes:**

- A visual breakdown of the gaps in support within the PP (e.g., by sector, by focus area).
- A list of unsupported and partially supported requests.

The Country Support Gap Summary may inform a stop-and-reflect meeting or NDC meetings organized by government or partners.

### Promotion of bankable projects

PPs include projects that address climate change in line with a country's development priorities. However, there may not be sufficient project-related information to enable funder decision making around support. The Partnership supports developing member countries to develop and promote specific projects or pipelines of projects in several ways, including through feasibility assessments (technical; economic; Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG); etc.), financial structuring of projects and technical assistance to access international sources of finance (multilateral development banks (MDBs), climate funds, etc.) via readiness programs and/or proposal development.

The Partnership also promotes bankable projects prepared by partners, governments and other stakeholders using our network, round tables and targeted matchmaking. Additionally, we facilitate the development of PINs, which are used to provide interested entities with the necessary background to decide whether to pursue a

project. PINs are designed to eventually attract and leverage financing for NDC projects from NDC Partnership members and beyond, prevent duplication of efforts by multiple NDC financing mechanisms and make it easier for investors to generate pipelines of projects.

Following the elaboration of initial ideas, the NDC Partnership Support Unit organizes periodic briefing calls with Partnership members to gauge their interest in supporting PIN development. This support may include refinement of the project concept – under government direction – to make it more attractive for financiers. The Partnership Support Unit also invites all Partnership members to a call to pitch, a forum where governments can present their PINs for further development and mobilization of financing.

The PIN has two major components: one related to the project's economic return and the other describing the objective, rationale, benefits and gender responsiveness of the project, highlighting its social, climate, environmental and gender impact. Review the criteria for project concept selection in the **PIN Fact Sheet**.



In response to a PIN, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is supporting the Low Carbon Transformation of the Rwandan Tea Processing Sector Project in **Rwanda**. The proposed project of approximately \$60 million involves the private sector and aims at reducing emissions from tea production and establishing a fleet of low-carbon tea factories throughout Rwanda. Tea is Rwanda's main cash crop, representing 15% of its total exports. Tea has been identified as a major growth driver in the national development plans. The Strategic Plan for Agricultural Transformation identifies tea as the most promising sector for large international investors and sets out an expansion plan to encourage international investors and the production of high-value specialty tea. Rwanda has 19 large tea processing factories, mainly privately owned, that produce processed tea from surrounding green-leaf plantations which could benefit from the project. These factories are the largest industrial source of greenhouse gas in Rwanda. It's anticipated that the project could benefit 11,600 small-holder tea farmers and lower emissions from the tea sector from 54,000 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e/yr. to 20,000 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e/yr.

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UNIDO is supporting the advancement of the project in collaboration with the ministry of environment, the ministry of finance and economic planning, the ministry of agriculture and animal resources and key private-sector stakeholders. UNIDO is well equipped and ideally positioned to coordinate with other organizations that are planning to offer additional support at future stages of the project, which include GET.invest, a GIZ-implemented program funded by the European Union, BMZ, Sweden, the Netherlands and Austria; the Private Financing Advisory Network; the Climate Investment Platform; and others.

### Annual stock-take of the PP

A PP typically spans three to five years (depending on the country's planning cycle) in alignment with the NDC cycle. Monitoring and evaluation results are reviewed annually to determine whether a plan requires revision. On an annual basis, the FPs, in-country facilitator and partners assess progress and evolving needs, funding gaps, changing conditions and opportunities to increase ambition and update the PP accordingly.

These stop-and-reflect exercises with key stakeholders inform updates to the PP and identify the need for follow-up needs assessments. They can align with NDC revisions and should include all relevant ministries for NDC implementation and the ministry responsible for gender equality and/or women and social affairs. Based on the stop and reflect exercises, the FPs can communicate emerging support needs to the NDC Partnership.

Depending on the context, the NDC PP may not need annual updating and can instead be adjusted in line with arising opportunities.



### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

In the **Dominican Republic**, the NDC Action Plan (2022-2025) is being revised and updated following the revised NDC of December 2020. The government launched NDC Action Plan consultations in early July 2021. A series of sectoral consultations and the accompanying technical work to update the plan's targets is ongoing, and the updated plan was launched in March 2022. This updating exercise also serves as a valuable opportunity to take stock of the plan's existing support and identify gaps for further resource mobilization.





ACCORDING TO THE **FINANCE STRATEGY**, POTENTIAL FINANCE SUPPORT SERVICES (**SEE SECTION SEVEN**) DURING THE IMPLEMENTATION STAGE INCLUDE:

- 1. Capacity development:** Peer exchanges among advisors and FPs on capacity gaps and solutions.
- 2. Improving enabling environments:**
  - TA provision.
  - Peer exchanges.
- 3. Developing NDC financing strategies:**
  - Resource mobilization for implementation of financing strategies (matchmaking).
  - Regional peer exchanges.
  - Finance Insight Briefs.
  - Deployment of finance/investment advisors, including in public-private partnership (PPP) units of finance ministries (in coordination with other member initiatives, e.g., Climate Finance Access Network (CFAN)).
- 4. Greening the financial system through central banks:**
  - Technical assistance (TA) provision.
  - Peer exchange.
  - TA pull from global roster.
- 5. Private-sector engagement:** Private-sector roundtable to highlight investment opportunities; where available, build on existing member in-country platforms.
- 6. Identification of strategically important projects and programs and matching with finance providers:**
  - Member-operated helpdesk support for further development of projects (both national/subnational levels).
  - Business-to-government (B2G)/government-to-business (G2B) matchmaking — in-person or virtual forum, inviting international finance institutions (IFIs), donor agencies and relevant DPs that will provide interested countries with market and crowdsource ideas for improvements on the pipeline of projects they have developed.
  - Finance ministry to present PINs to members of the Partnership in various forums (to be facilitated by the Support Unit).
- 7. Subnational engagement:** Deployment of advisors in subnational government on FP request

## STAGE FIVE: RESULTS ASSESSMENT AND LESSON LEARNING

Throughout all stages of the country engagement process, the Partnership collects lessons learned to:

- Improve its engagement strategy.
- Inform future NDC implementation efforts.
- Identify good practices for achieving climate and SDGs.

This stage of country engagement focuses on strengthening capacity and knowledge exchange and is ongoing across all Partnership member countries.

The Support Unit reviews country results and global trends to identify outstanding support gaps, success stories and lessons learned, sharing them through outreach products and events targeted at the Partnership's network. These include insights shared by in-country facilitators in their quarterly reporting and serve to inspire further success and attract greater support for NDC action.



### SNAPSHOT: DELIVERABLES OF LESSON LEARNING

#### ACTIONS:

##### Support Unit to:

- Analyze country requests and gaps in support.
- Collate NDC Partnership-wide lessons learned.
- Publish and share knowledge pieces on improving NDC implementation and coordination.
- Convene IPs, DPs and member countries to share lessons and inform future areas of work.

#### DELIVERABLES:

- Insight Briefs and Partnership briefings on action areas and common support gaps across countries drafted and disseminated.
- Periodic publication of country impact briefs.
- Feature stories for the annual "Partnership in Action" (PiA) report drafted and published.
- Presentation of successes and lessons learned at Partnership events, including the Annual Members Forum, COP events, webinars, the Youth Engagement Forum and more.



## Processes for lesson learning on NDC implementation

The Support Unit's Country Engagement and Knowledge and Learning teams, together with members, draw out compelling stories from the Partnership's in-country support and conduct analysis to identify lessons learned.

### Stories are identified through:

- Country update reports.
- Dialogue with IPs and DPs.
- The NDC Partnership's knowledge management system – **the kNook**.

### Stories are shared virtually through the following:

- **Partnership briefings:** These are hosted by the Support Unit to share country support gaps and trends for members.
- **Insight Briefs:** These are short papers that capture insights from the NDC Partnership as seen by the Support Unit, accessible to all through the NDC Partnership website.
- **Country impact briefs:** These summarize examples of Partnership support and key results at the national level.
- **Partnership events:** These include the Annual Members Forum, COP events, webinars and the annual Youth Engagement Forum.
- The annual **PiA report**.
- The Partnership's monthly **newsletter**.
- **Blogs** on the Partnership website.
- The Partnership's **social media** channels.

Through the **kNook**, the Support Unit can track support against country requests and produce analysis drawing out trends in specific sectors, key topics, activities, focus areas or regions. The kNook is accessible to all NDC Partnership members upon request.

## Documenting Partnership in Action

The PiA report is the NDC Partnership's flagship annual publication. It includes thematic focuses and country stories that profile our progress and impact on major climate and sustainable development topics. The PiA features captivating examples of country efforts to drive NDC implementation and raise ambition alongside profiles of IP and DP actions.

## Fostering peer learning

Members face common challenges in NDC implementation and enhancement and often benefit from sharing experiences and lessons learned with other countries. The NDC Partnership Members Forum brings together all members once a year, enabling a communal space to exchange learning and take stock of progress. Members share lessons and good practices and discuss issues of common interest or concern.

In addition, the Support Unit's Knowledge and Learning team supports regular peer-to-peer exchange among country members on topics of central importance to the Partnership's mission. Every two years the Support Unit brings together members involved in the Partnership's Country Engagement work for stop-and-reflect exercises to discuss opportunities to improve and learn from the Partnership's engagement processes.

## Convening learning around youth engagement

The Youth Engagement Forum – as described in the [Youth Engagement Plan](#) – provides a space for peer learning among Partnership members and youth organizations and experts on successful strategies and best practices for engaging young people across all stages of the NDC process, from development to implementation.



ACCORDING TO THE **FINANCE STRATEGY**, POTENTIAL FINANCE SUPPORT SERVICES (**SEE SECTION SEVEN**) DURING THE RESULTS ASSESSMENT AND LESSON LEARNING STAGE INCLUDE:

### 1. Cross-cutting learning integrated into:

- Stop-and-reflect exercise.
- Country impact briefs.
- Peer learning activities.
- Insight Briefs.

## 7

# SUMMARY OF FINANCE ACROSS THE COUNTRY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS






## HOW THE PARTNERSHIP SUPPORTS ACCESS TO FINANCE

Finance is the most frequently requested area of support among NDC Partnership countries. Of developing country members, 96% submit at least one request for support related to finance. **These requests generally fall into five categories of need: i) developing climate finance strategies and financial roadmaps; ii) integrating NDCs into national planning, budgets and revenue;**

**iii) project and program financing and resource mobilization; iv) developing bankable projects and pipelines; and v) private-sector engagement in NDC implementation.**

See **Figure 6** below for a more detailed breakdown of what is included in each category.

FIGURE 6: CATEGORIES OF NDC FINANCE REQUESTS

	<p><b>Developing climate finance strategies and financial roadmaps</b> This includes: The development of climate finance strategies, national, local and sectoral NDC investment plans, and the development of financial roadmaps.</p>
	<p><b>Integrating NDCs into national planning, budgets, and revenue</b> This includes: Integration of Climate Finance into Public Budgets &amp; Expenditure Frameworks, Climate finance tracking, sustainable public procurement guidelines and regulations, and carbon pricing, taxes and trading.</p>
	<p><b>Project and program financing and resource mobilization</b> This includes: Blended finance mechanisms, financial mechanisms or vehicles such as national climate funds, green bonds, revolving funds, etc, and access to capital markets.</p>
	<p><b>Developing bankable projects and pipelines</b> This includes: Project feasibility assessments, project financial structuring, and accessing international sources of finance through the development of project concept notes and proposals.</p>
	<p><b>Private sector engagement</b> This includes: Private sector engagement, assessment of private sector needs, mapping of private sector partners, and assessments of private capital markets.</p>

## THE FINANCE STRATEGY

The objective of this strategy is to enable the Partnership and its IPs and DPs to support countries as effectively as possible in mobilizing finance to scale and support the implementation of the 2021-2025 NDC Partnership Work Program. It follows four main principles:

- 1 The Partnership's model consists of a country-driven approach in which requests are channeled exclusively through national focal points.** The finance strategy will be embedded across all stages of the Country Engagement process.
- 2 The Partnership exists to make its members more effective by facilitating collaboration.** Any Partnership role on finance should be rooted in its core competencies of matchmaking and facilitating cooperation among members. The strategy will not replicate members' activities but add value to them.

- 3 The Partnership acts through its members. Except where explicitly stated, proposed actions are for members to undertake.** The role of the Support Unit is one of facilitation and communication, not as an IP.
- 4 The 2021-2025 Work Program remains the primary document for guiding the Partnership's work.** This strategy reinforces but does not replace elements of that Work Program.

The finance strategy aims to give a clear narrative for members of how the Partnership supports countries to mobilize finance for NDC action and to highlight areas in which that cooperation can be strengthened.



NDC PARTNERSHIP STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS AT THE LAUNCH OF THE PARTNERSHIP'S FINANCE STRATEGY IN APRIL 2022



## KEY FINANCE ENGAGEMENT AREAS

The following key areas detail where the NDC Partnership can provide added value across its Country Engagement process.

TABLE 3: NDC FINANCE SUPPORT SERVICES ACROSS COUNTRY ENGAGEMENT STAGES

NDC Partnership Finance Support Services	NDC PARTNERSHIP COUNTRY ENGAGEMENT STAGES				
	Stage 1: Scoping	Stage 2: Needs Assessment	Stage 3: Designing or Strengthening of Plans	Stage 4: Implementation	Stage 5: Assessment of Results and Lessons Learned
1. Capacity Development	Deploy economic advisors (EA) to support recommendations from the EA Initiative	Continue to receive requests from countries or expand current offerings	Deploy advisors in finance or sectoral ministries	Facilitate peer exchanges among advisors and focal points on capacity gaps and solutions	8. Cross-Cutting Learning  Stop and Reflect Exercise  Country Impact Briefs  Peer learning activities
2. Improving Enabling Environments	Identify obstacles and market barriers to the deployment of climate finance	Convene roundtables led by the Finance & Planning Ministry, where Partnership members can present NDC-related national financing priorities	Support mainstreaming climate change into planning and budgeting and enhancing regulatory frameworks	Provide Technical Assistance (TA) and facilitate peer exchanges	Insight Briefs
3. Developing NDC Financing Strategies	Develop NDC Investment Plan Framework with expert members	Standardize templates for country inquiries into staffing for finance positions	Share information on DPs/IPs financing programming cycle.  Design NDC Investment Plan.	Develop financing strategies for resource mobilization and convene regional peer exchanges.  Develop Finance Insight Briefs  Deploy finance advisors, including in PPP units of finance ministries	

New or strengthened

Existing

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NDC PARTNERSHIP COUNTRY ENGAGEMENT STAGES					
NDC Partnership Finance Support Services	Stage 1: Scoping	Stage 2: Needs Assessment	Stage 3: Designing or Strengthening of Plans	Stage 4: Implementation	Stage 5: Assessment of Results and Lessons Learned
4. Greening the Financial System Through Central Banks	Conduct a scoping call with Central Bank representatives	Develop Terms of Reference (ToRs) and Request for Support Letters (RSLs)  Circulate RSLs	Align requests with member support  Establish governance structures to manage climate risks	Provide TA in line with country requests  Facilitate peer exchanges	8. Cross-Cutting Learning  Stop and Reflect Exercise  Country Impact Briefs  Peer learning activities  Insight Briefs
5. Engaging the Private Sector	Support countries in private sector engagement as part of Whole-of-Society approach		Convene private sector roundtable to highlight investment opportunities.  Build on in-country platforms.		
6. Identifying Projects and Matching with Finance Providers	Countries may flag projects of interest during scoping	Engage sectoral ministries and private sector to identify priority projects.  Convene roundtable discussions with the private sector and sub-national level actors	Develop PINs with Members for progress along project development stages	Provide a member-operated helpdesk to support further development of projects (both national/sub-national levels)	
		Design PINs using RSLs from Focal Points	Facilitate project development training for government staff and development officers	Facilitate a B2G/G2B match-making forum with IFI donors and DPs, to help countries improve their project pipeline	
7. Engaging Subnational Entities	Support countries engage with sub-national stakeholders as part of Whole-of-Society approach		Support Unit shares analysis of subnational-related requests with relevant subnational networks	Deploy advisors in subnational government on Focal Point requests	



## CONCLUSION

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The Country Engagement Strategy builds on lessons learned during the NDC Partnership's first five years of work and from other coordination platforms to provide a clear framework for the Partnership's collective response to member countries' requests. The Support Unit will continue to adapt this strategy as the Partnership's work evolves in response to changes in member countries' needs and priorities and further experiences with Country Engagement. Nevertheless, the core mission of the Partnership's Country Engagement will remain unchanged: leveraging the membership's expertise, technical assistance and funding to efficiently provide developing country members with the resources they need to adapt to and mitigate climate change and foster more equitable and sustainable development.



# ANNEX: GLOSSARY

## Associate members

NDC Partnership members that are nonstate actors.

## Briefing call

During stage one of Country Engagement, a call for interested members to discuss initial areas of support for NDC implementation.

## Country Engagement cycle

A cycle that illustrates the NDC Partnership's strategy to support countries to create an enabling national framework for NDC updating, coordination and implementation.

## Country Engagement (team)

The Partnership's work stream that coordinates support requests and in-country NDC implementation.

## Country Support Gap Summary

A mapping exercise directed to an audience of development and implementing partners that highlights country needs and support gaps within the PP, including a list of unsupported and partially supported requests.

## Country Engagement update reports

Quarterly reports prepared by in-country facilitators to: (i) update government and IPs on the status of implementation of the NDC Action Plan; (ii) keep relevant stakeholders informed of any upcoming relevant event or milestone organized by the country's government and/or by other IPs; and (iii) facilitate the coordination of activities contributing to NDC implementation.

## Development Partner (DP)

A country providing official financing administered with the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries as an objective.

## Focal Points (FPs)

Senior representatives of a country or institution who assume responsibility for internal coordination to guide their engagement in the Partnership. Country Focal Points represent ministries responsible for addressing climate change and development, typically the ministry of environment and the ministry of finance or planning.

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## Gender-responsive approaches

Identifying, understanding and implementing interventions to address gender gaps and overcome historical gender biases in policies and interventions.

## Implementing Partner (IP)

Any partner (member or nonmember) that provides support to country requests through the Partnership.

## In-country facilitator

Entities or individuals identified and approved by the country government, who serve as the NDC Partnership's national-level interface, operating as a liaison between the country and the NDC Partnership and coordinating the implementation of the PP.

## Insight Briefs

Reports addressing action areas and common support gaps, written by the NDC Partnership Support Unit and accessible to all, through the NDC Partnership website.

## kNook

The NDC Partnership's knowledge management system. The kNook is accessible to all Partnership members upon request. The data in kNook are based on official requests for support submitted to the Partnership by country members, including RSLs and PPs. In addition, where available, the kNook also captures details on IP responses to country requests.

## Knowledge Portal

The NDC Partnership's Knowledge Portal helps countries to accelerate climate action by providing quick and easy access to data, tools, guidance, good practice and funding opportunities from partners and other leading institutions.

## Long-term strategies

**As articulated by the UNFCCC:** "In accordance with Article 4, paragraph 19, of the Paris Agreement, all Parties should strive to formulate and communicate long-term low greenhouse gas emission development strategies, mindful of Article 2 taking into account their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in the light of different national circumstances."

## Member country

Countries that commit to ambitious NDC implementation and long-term, climate-resilient, low-emission development to become members of the Partnership. Country members are expected to support the Partnership by engaging senior officials as focal points, sharing information on existing in-country

initiatives and coordination efforts and contributing to the development of aligned and tailored NDC implementation and enhancement processes.

## National coordination

Coordination for Country Engagement building on existing structures and government efforts, such as a National Climate Change Committee or Sector Working Groups.

## Nationally Determined Contributions

**As articulated by the UNFCCC:** “Nationally determined contributions (NDCs) are at the heart of the Paris Agreement and the achievement of these long-term goals. NDCs embody efforts by each country to reduce national emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. The **Paris Agreement** (Article 4, paragraph 2) requires each Party to prepare, communicate and maintain successive nationally determined contributions (NDCs) that it intends to achieve. Parties shall pursue domestic mitigation measures, with the aim of achieving the objectives of such contributions. What does this mean? The Paris Agreement requests each country to outline and communicate their post-2020 climate actions, known as their NDCs.

Together, these climate actions determine whether the world achieves the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement and to reach global peaking of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as soon as possible and to undertake rapid reductions thereafter in accordance with best available science...NDCs are submitted every five years to the UNFCCC secretariat.”

## Needs assessment

The second stage in the Country Engagement cycle which builds on the information gathered during the scoping stage and helps the FPs and other relevant government stakeholders to specify needs for support.

## NDC Action Plans

National government-owned plans outlining how a country will implement or enhance their NDC, supported by the Partnership. These instruments include, but are not limited to, PPs, RSLs, CAEP support and economic advisory support.

## NDC implementation plans

Countries may call their PPs NDC implementation plans, NDC Action Plans or another name.

## NDC Partnership members forum

Brings together all members once a year, enabling a communal space to exchange learning and take stock of progress. Members share lessons and good practices and discuss issues of common interest or concern.

## Paris Agreement

**As articulated by the UNFCCC:** “The Paris Agreement is a legally binding international treaty on climate change. It was adopted by 196 Parties at COP 21 in Paris, on 12 December 2015 and entered into force on 4 November 2016. Its goal is to limit global warming to well below 2, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels. To achieve this long-term temperature goal, countries aim to reach global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible to achieve a climate neutral world by mid-century.”

## Partnership briefings

Experience-sharing events hosted by the NDC Partnership Support Unit to share country support gaps and trends.

## Partnership Action Fund (PAF)

The PAF is a funding mechanism designed to address gaps in developing country members' NDC enhancement and implementation needs by matching them with and funding NDC Partnership members' best available technical expertise and capacities. The PAF complements the NDC Partnership's IP and DP existing support offerings to catalyze further climate action.

## Partnership in Action report

The NDC Partnership's flagship annual publication with country stories of the NDC Partnership's progress and impact on major climate and development topics.

## Partnership Plan (PP)

The PP acts as a tool to organize a country's NDC priority activities and match them with Partnership member support and in-country stakeholders.

## Project information note

The template used to provide potentially interested financial institutions with the necessary background to pursue the project. Part of an initiative to promote priority projects from NDC Action Plans to attract financing from the Partnership's members, partners and beyond.

## Project mapping

Once government priorities are identified in the PP, the scoping lead, with the support of the in-country facilitator, carries out mapping of existing partner projects in the different priority areas.

## Resource brief

An overview document prepared by the Support Unit's Knowledge and Learning team on a specific thematic focus to support the scoping and needs assessment process, as requested by a member.

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## Request for support letter (RSL)

Specific requests to the Partnership, formulated and submitted by a member and shared by the Support Unit with all members.

## Scoping

The first of the five stages of Country Engagement: a government-led participatory process to identify NDC-related needs across the different sectors. The scoping stage aims to assess country needs for NDC implementation and detail requirements for the NDC Partnership's support. Any member of the NDC Partnership can volunteer for the role of scoping lead with the approval of the member recipient country. The scoping lead will organize consultations with the government and in-country stakeholders to raise awareness around the NDC Partnership and its services to identify initial implementation activities and needs, to establish contacts with member country offices and embassies and to identify key stakeholders. The scoping lead guides the Country Engagement work from the initial scoping stage to completion of the PP. If no member organization expresses interest, the NDC Partnership Support Unit will act as scoping lead.

## Scoping lead

An entity who volunteers to lead the work from stage one (prescoping calls) to stage three (completion of the PP). The scoping lead must be approved by the member country or if no member organization expresses interest, the NDC Partnership Support Unit will act as scoping lead.

## Scoping report

Prepared by the scoping lead to summarize the findings of the scoping stage and provide an overview of the climate change landscape and areas for Partnership engagement.

## Stop and reflect

A reflective exercise with key stakeholders that can be used to update the PP and conduct follow-up needs assessments.

## Support Unit

The NDC Partnership's secretariat, hosted by the UNFCCC and United Nations Office for Project Services in Bonn, and the World Resources Institute in Washington, D.C.

## Youth Engagement Forum

A space for peer learning among Partnership members and youth organizations and experts.

## Youth Engagement Plan

NDC Partnership's Youth Engagement Plan proposes a series of actions to engage meaningfully with youth regarding the Partnership's work.

## Whole-of-government

Public services agencies working across portfolio boundaries to achieve a shared goal and an integrated government response to particular issues.

## Whole-of-government approach

Policy approaches that effectively leverage a government's full capacity, i.e., ministries, departments or similar bodies directly or indirectly involved in climate change responses.

## Whole of society

Engagement of multisectoral stakeholders to facilitate their active participation in decision-making processes to take appropriate measures together.

## Whole-of-society approach

Policy approaches that include representatives from civil-society, academia, the private sector, various identity groups or other groups at various stages of consultation or other processes.



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