

NDC Partnership Response to Recommendations on the Mid-Term Review of the 2021-2025 Work Program

June 2024

In 2023, the Support Unit commissioned an independent Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the NDC Partnership’s 2021-2025 Work Program, led by IPE Global Ltd, an independent consultancy. The goals of the evaluation were to assess progress on goals and targets, identify key challenges or bottlenecks, and recommend any necessary corrective actions at the mid-point of the Work Program, to ensure that it remains on track and can achieve its outlined results by the end of 2025.

The NDC Partnership welcomes the results of the MTR, which recognize our growing **relevance** at the global and country levels; **coherence** across members at the global level; important opportunities to continue to improve **efficiency** in the delivery of support; **effectiveness** of our country engagement, knowledge and learning and finance support with opportunities to strengthen the links between global and country level efforts, inter-ministerial coordination, accuracy in data collection, and the Partnership’s role in helping countries access finance; and **impact** on NDC ambition, political ownership, resource mobilization and access to finance. **Many of the recommendations outlined in the MTR align with the ongoing or planned activities of the Partnership’s members, Steering Committee, Co-Chairs, and Support Unit, while others will serve as critical input as the Partnership begins to draft our 2026-2030 Work Program.**

These responses to the recommendations were developed by the NDC Partnership’s Management Team, through consultation with the Co-Chairs and feedback from Steering Committee members. Responses include a mixture of existing efforts (activities which started during the period the MTR was underway) and planned efforts. **Some responses are open-ended, and their next steps will be addressed through Steering Committee led Taskforces.**

MTR RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROPOSED RESPONSES

MTR Recommendations	Proposed Response
Strategic Recommendations	
<p>Bolster Country Engagement: A decentralized country engagement model with larger teams at the regional and country levels, along with fewer countries allocated per country engagement</p>	<p>The Support Unit coordinates the mobilization of support in response to country needs with its growing membership by balancing breadth and depth with as lean of a structure as possible.</p>

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<p>specialist will enhance the country-level effectiveness of the Partnership. [Support Unit and Steering Committee]</p>	<p>The Partnership’s approach has been to understand and support the priorities of developing country members through the engagement of the Support Unit’s Country Engagement Specialists (CES) and Regional Managers (RMs) with country focal points (FPs). Matchmaking is facilitated through the Support Unit’s engagement with members and partners at the global, regional, and national levels.</p> <p>The Partnership also supports member countries to drive the coordination with other ministries and with implementing and development partners nationally with capacity embedded in the government in the form of in-country facilitators and technical experts (e.g., climate finance advisors in the Ministry of Finance).</p> <p>To enhance the country-level effectiveness of the Partnership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Support Unit will strengthen its regional presence by revising the structure, roles, responsibilities, and capacities of its regional teams. • The Support Unit is recruiting additional CES to reduce the average number of countries per CES and allow for greater depth of engagement by both CES and RMs.
<p>Bolster Country Engagement: Bring the contracting and management of the in-country facilitators under the well-positioned and neutral Support Unit. This will mitigate the currently perceived conflict of interest and will also create direct accountability of the facilitators as well as stronger feedback mechanisms back to the SU to further strengthen country engagement. [Steering Committee, Development Partners, Implementing Partners, and SU]</p>	<p>To strengthen the role of in-country Facilitators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Support Unit will be the main entity responsible for the hiring of in-country facilitators to ensure the neutrality of their role going forward. These positions will be funded through PAF or through funds provided to the Support Unit for this purpose by Development Partners. • The Support Unit has developed a Facilitator Handbook to clarify the role of Facilitators, including critical elements such as the neutrality of the Facilitator, so that partners and member governments can benefit from the function in the way it is intended. The rollout of the Handbook will be completed by Q3 2024. • In case an Implementing or Development Partners wants to support the hiring of a facilitator, they will follow the guidance of the Facilitator Handbook and commit to the independency and neutrality of the facilitator. • Implementing and Developing Partners will share information on support being provided to implement NDCs, so that facilitators can map international support and key domestic efforts to implement NDCs and provide regular updates on them as part of their quarterly reports.
<p>Bolster Country Engagement: Strengthen existing capacity-building activities to address the identified need for guiding and supporting countries in formulating requests with long-term strategic objectives. This could potentially involve providing training and resources to enhance the quality of requests, ensuring alignment with outcome-driven objectives while upholding the country-driven approach. Additionally, the Partnership should explore the aggregation of smaller projects with similar strategic intent and further share information about successful models across countries. This approach will establish a catalytic link between</p>	<p>To better guide and support developing countries in formulating requests for support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Support Unit has put in place a review process to strengthen the clarity and completeness of country requests, as a complement to the direct bilateral engagement between Country Engagement Specialists, Focal Points, and Facilitators. This has already yielded improvements in the quality of requests circulated, with the caveat that the incorporation of feedback is ultimately at the Focal Points’ discretion. • In anticipation of the incoming requests for NDCs 3.0, the Support Unit, will support countries to formulate strong and clear requests through the development and use of the NDC 3.0 Navigator and technical review. • Moving forward, the Support Unit plans to strengthen the quality of the requests further through additional result-based management (RBM) trainings for Facilitators, Focal Points (if interested) and Support Unit staff. • Developing Countries will strengthen the clarity and completeness of requests for support to the Partnership and will look for opportunities to bundle requests when the timing of similar requests aligns. • Implementing and Developing Partners will build flexibility into their programming processes to support big and small requests from developing countries and will leverage existing or develop capacity building

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<p>advisory support and unlocking investments whilst also improving overall efficiency. [Steering Committee, SU, and Developing Countries]</p>	<p>programs to support countries to identify and prioritize needs based on their NDCs and long-term objectives and formulate associated requests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Steering Committee will establish a taskforce to discuss how to deepen in-country collaboration (including through “Country Platforms”) and identify ways to support accelerated implementation of NDCs through strengthened collaboration.
<p>Widen and Deepen Partner Engagement: DPs and IPs must strengthen vertical and horizontal communication from the headquarter to country levels. Establishing robust communication channels to bridge information gaps regarding incoming requests for support and to ensure resources are utilized efficiently. Moreover, there is a critical need to enhance donor coordination and engagement at the country level. By promoting a collaborative approach among donors, overlapping initiatives can be identified and mitigated, thus streamlining efforts and maximizing the impact of development projects through synergies. [Implementing and Development Partners, Developing Countries and SU]</p>	<p>To widen and deepen partners engagement across the Partnership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the invitation of Development Partners, the Support Unit is introducing the Partnership across the whole-of-government and at all levels, including embassies, mission staff, and to government agencies, and will continue to reach out to country embassies during missions. • The Support Unit will continue to engage partners as needed (through topic-specific conversations, including Thematic Partner Discussions, or regular coordination check-ins), and will increase staff capacity and strengthen communication tools, including the revamped country pages and country briefs available to quickly share snapshots of a country’s climate framework and the role of the Partnership. • As the Partnership looks to support countries develop 2025 NDCs, the Support Unit is working with countries to articulate requests for support for NDC enhancement, LTS development and alignment through direct bilateral assistance and the development of a toolkit with best practices for NDC development (NDC 3.0 Navigator). In addition, the Support Unit is working with partners to coordinate the rapid deployment of support through joint workplans, and systematize available technical resources to make them available to countries as part of the NDCs 3.0 Navigator. • In addition, building on the Partnership’s collective experience on NDC implementation to date, the Support Unit plans to strengthen the planning frameworks, capacity, and institutional arrangements to support a deeper in-country engagement with development and implementing partners to mobilize support for NDC priorities (i.e., country platforms). This will be a critical aspect of our support to countries in the years ahead. • The Support Unit will scope improvements to tools and systems to enable more efficient collection and coordination of responses to country requests for support. The Support Unit will also explore ways to better collect and reflect partners’ ongoing work in-country. • Implementing and Development Partners will establish robust mechanisms to inform all relevant parts of the organization about country needs surfaced via the Partnership. This will include a whole-of-organization/whole-of-government approach to mobilizing and deploying support to countries and strong coordination between Head Quarters/Capitals and regional/country offices/embassies. • Developing Countries will strengthen their cross-government coordination and donor coordination processes and use their NDCs to streamline and better coordinate the identification of priorities and needs and the mobilization and deployment of support. Strong leadership from the top will be necessary to guarantee ownership and aligned messaging to Implementing and Development Partners that will allow them to program against country needs. • MDBs will strengthen their engagement as a group in the NDC Partnership and support the engagement of Ministries of Finance, including the Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action in climate action. This will be reflected in the MDB engagement strategy to be developed by the Steering Committee.

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<p>Widen and Deepen Partner Engagement: Raise the visibility of the Partnership's benefits to Major and Emerging Economies (MEEs) to engage them more constructively. The Steering Committee co-chairs should play an active role in reaching out to the climate change Focal Points of those countries, on behalf of the Partnership and the opportunities for these countries to play a leading role in climate action. [Steering Committee and SU]</p>	<p>The NDC Partnership engages all member countries based on their priorities and needs. Small to mid-size countries often tap into the various offerings of the Partnership and lean into it to mobilize support across partners due to their limited resources. Major Emerging Economies (MEEs), on the other hand, have used the Partnership more selectively by virtue of the fact that they have higher capacity and resources, and often well-established mechanisms of coordination with development partners.</p> <p>The rationale for the MEE strategy was to elevate the engagement with this subset of member countries by leaning into champion Implementing and Development Partners that would bring partners together to scale up support via the Partnership. This has yet to materialize.</p> <p>Moving forward, the concept of “country platforms” – which builds on the Partnership’s experiences to date offers a renewed opportunity to facilitate political engagement and coordinated mobilization of scaled up support members countries, including MEEs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Support Unit will actively engage with Steering Committee members and other Development and Implementing Partners to promote stronger collaboration and to step up mobilization of support and finance in countries with strong climate frameworks (high ambition NDCs, comprehensive implementation plans, and robust investment plans), including MEEs. • Co-Chairs, Steering Committee members, and Implementing and Development Partners will align resources and provide political leadership to collectively advance wider and deeper engagements in member countries, building on the collective work of the Partnership as a neutral broker. • Steering Committee members will take an active role in engaging MEEs (members and non-members) on behalf of the Partnership to offer them support through the Partnership and to invite them to contribute to the objectives of the Partnership by sharing knowledge/best practices or supporting other developing countries.
<p>Widen and Deepen Partner Engagement: It is imperative to collaboratively develop a strategy with MDBs to incentivize and closely work together on implementing NDCs at both the global and country levels within the ambit of the Partnership. [MDBs, Steering Committee, and SU]</p>	<p>The Support Unit and Co-Chairs, in collaboration with Steering Committee members and the MDBs will develop an MDB Engagement Strategy to strengthen collaboration globally and in-country. The strategy will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for the Co-chairs, Steering Committee members, and Support Unit to deepen relationships with World Bank leadership to facilitate a higher response to country requests and the mobilization of finance in support of the needs articulated by member countries through the Partnership. This includes the World Bank increasing the internal dissemination of requests to mobilize a higher response rate, further leveraging the expertise and resources across the bank to support programmatic priorities outlined by countries in NDC Implementation Plans and collaborating with the Support Unit on specific mechanisms (e.g., economic advisors) and initiatives (e.g., MDB LTS Program and the Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action). • Opportunities to better use the World Bank Climate Change Development Reports (CCDRs) to scope and support action across the Partnership member countries. • Opportunities for MDBs to align support provided to countries through their newly launched joint MDB LTS Program with requests submitted by countries through the Partnership, including through its Global call on NDCs and LT-LEDS.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for MDBs to support development of NDCs 3.0 including involvement of Ministries of Finance in the development process, and in collaboration with the Coalition of Ministers for Climate Action. • Opportunities for MDBs to align support provided to countries through their climate programs more broadly to respond to the needs as outlined by countries in time-bound requests and NDC Implementation Plans. • Opportunities for MDBs to leverage their programs more broadly to mobilize finance in support of member countries NDC priorities. • Opportunities for MDBs to proactively engage as members of the Partnership in national coordination mechanisms led by country governments and supported by the Partnership in its role as neutral broker, looking to coordinate with other partners their contribution to country priorities. • Opportunities for MDBs to bring Ministries of Finance closer into NDC planning, implementation, and financing discussions. • Opportunities for the World Bank and the Regional Development Bank represented in the Partnership's Steering Committee will lead efforts to improve collaboration among all member MDBs, including by (i) responding to requests communicated through the NDC Partnership to strengthen capacities of national financial institutions; identification, development, and financing of projects; and developing financial vehicles to de-risk investments and increase the mobilization of private finance, (ii) increase the awareness of the Partnership with their government counterparts, and (iii) promote coordination and collaboration amongst different stakeholders at national, regional, and global levels. The Steering Committee seat that is shared by Regional MDBs, carries the obligation to coordinate among the MDBs to feed into the Partnership's strategic work and to disseminate opportunities for engagement, increasing the Partnership's visibility among the MDBs. <p>In addition, the World Bank will support deeper engagement with Ministries of Finance in the NDC Partnership's work through the Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action.</p> <p>The Steering Committee will establish a taskforce to discuss the engagement of MDBs in the Partnership and to draft the MDB Engagement Strategy.</p>
<p>Strengthening Access to Finance for NDC Implementation: To fortify financial and implementation support the Partnership could actively pursue collaborations with philanthropic funding organizations and sovereign wealth funds. This diversification of funding sources will not only bolster financial resources but also bring unique perspectives and expertise to the initiative. Efforts should be made to engage private capital funds and owners, encouraging their investment in alliance with MDBs to promote blended finance solutions. The Partnership should actively facilitate this collaboration, creating an environment conducive</p>	<p>To strengthen support to developing countries on the mobilization of finance for the implementation of NDCs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Support Unit will continue to support bridging efforts between developing countries and financiers through customized country-specific support anchored on a programmatic approach to investment planning and mobilization that promotes institutional strengthening and coordination, evidence-based investment prioritization, assessment of a broad spectrum of financial sources, and development of tailored programs and proposals aligned to the eligibility criteria of financiers. To strengthen these efforts, the NDC Partnership launched with the Green Climate Fund a Climate Investment Planning and Mobilization Framework at COP28. In 2024, the Framework will be piloted in a few countries and an online platform will be designed to consolidate information across the different stages of investment planning and mobilization process, including the mapping of existing support, programs, and financial sources. • Implementing and Development Partners and the Support Unit will continue to develop and share guidance and best practices on climate finance, provide direct support to ministries of finance, including through a strengthened collaboration with the Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action launched at

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<p>to private sector involvement. Additionally, there is a need to foster greater exchange and technical assistance involving key stakeholders like ministries of finance, regulators, supervisors, and financial actors from the supported countries. This will ensure a more comprehensive and tailored approach to financial facilitation. Additionally, the SU should play a facilitating role in ensuring technical and advisory through support from IPs/DPs and MDBs on policy and regulatory reforms, capacity building, and strengthening Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs). With shrinking ODA budgets, it is equally important that developing countries explore alternative sources of finance – blended finance, private sector, which can materialize through improved enabling environments. Lastly, in collaboration with the Partnership platform and global boards, it is crucial for Developed Countries to engage closely, facilitate, and influence MDBs and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to streamline and simplify their processes and systems. [Steering Committee, MDBs, Development Partners, Implementing Partners, and SU]</p>	<p>COP28, and continued targeted support to Central Banks and regulators through the Greening Central Bank Initiative.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Support Unit will pilot the use of a Project Status Checklist to better understand the characteristics and needs of priority NDC investment projects seeking support from the Partnership. • The Support Unit will continue map finance initiatives based on input from members and beyond to improve knowledge for the matchmaking of countries’ finance needs with existing support programs. • Steering Committee members, as agreed at its Fall 2023 meeting, will increase engagement with the Philanthropic sector, reaching out to strengthen existing, and establish potential, relationships, including through bilateral outreach and in high-level convenings led by the Co-Chairs. • Development Partners will deeper engagement with Ministries of Finance in their bilateral engagements related to climate change and sustainable development. • The Support Unit will deepen its direct engagement with the private sector, including through sharing of relevant country needs, promoting private sector engagement in the design and implementation of NDCs and related implementation and investment plans, and by helping to design and match blended finance solutions with country needs. • The Support Unit will promote wider policy discussions to foster systemic change through the hosting of the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) knowledge center, in support of the Taskforce on Access to Climate Finance. This will ensure a direct link between the learning and needs in country, through to the NDC Partnership Steering Committee who will be equipped to inform improvements in the climate finance architecture, including recommendations to facilitate and streamline access to climate finance. • Steering Committee members will use their roles as stakeholders in MDBs, climate funds, and other financial institutions and initiatives to promote a greater alignment and more effective mobilization of finance based on country needs surfaced through the Partnership. These inputs should also cover global efforts to streamline and facilitate access to climate finance, reducing the burden on developing countries and reducing transaction costs. • MDBs will strengthen their engagement in the Partnership processes, leveraging their extensive knowledge, expertise, and financial tools to support country requests, finance NDCs, and increase the mobilization of private finance. This should also include concerted and additional efforts to increase early-stage project preparation, collaborate and share information with different stakeholders, and increase financial flows to adaptation and low-income countries. • The Steering Committee will establish a Finance taskforce to continue to refine the direction of the Partnership’s finance work.
<p>Gaining Political Traction: For improved traction, the Partnership’s engagement needs to move up the political ladder and directly or indirectly align and support key development (and political) priorities of developing countries. Additionally, Climate mitigation and adaptation are both technical and political processes. Therefore, it is vital for the Partnership to</p>	<p>For the Partnership’s engagement to move up the political ladder:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Support Unit, in close consultation with the Co-Chairs, members and partners, will work together with the UNFCCC Secretariat to present a common vision and messaging around the critical links between the results of the Global Stocktake (GST), the 2025 NDCs, and their implementation. • Steering Committee members will use this shared vision and draw on common messaging to amplify the importance of NDCs, promote ambitious climate action and give visibility to the Partnership in events like the Copenhagen Climate Ministerial, World Bank/IMF meetings, United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), and

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<p>be present in international political discussions and exchanges to unfold its full potential across the table. [Steering Committee, Development Partners, and SU]</p>	<p>in other relevant fora including regional meetings such as the annual meetings organized by Regional Development Banks (RDBs), in which they can champion the role of the Partnership. Steering Committee members will draw on their representatives across these fora to support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing Countries will link climate and development agendas and generate a clear mandate for the engagement of the whole of government when developing and implementing their NDCs, with ownership and guidance from the highest posts in government. They will continue to use the Partnership as a platform to communicate their priorities and increasingly do so in a way that demonstrates alignment to all partners.
<p>Re-Focusing Knowledge and Learning Efforts: To bolster knowledge and learning, the Partnership should prioritize initiatives that enhance usability, broaden reach, and increase usage of resources. This entails a targeted focus on country-specific information, key thematic areas, and the practical aspects of NDC implementation. At the country level, there should be a concerted effort towards technical analysis and the facilitation of learning events and exchanges. [Support Unit, Implementing Partners, and Development Partners]</p>	<p>The Partnership's Knowledge and Learning Strategy presents a range of knowledge product types and convenings to help countries strengthen peer exchange, build the capacity of in-country facilitators, and to help partners better target their resources to country-identified needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing and Development Partners will target their events and knowledge products against common country needs. • The Support Unit will continue to seek opportunities to align activities with ongoing member products and events. • The Support Unit will continue to provide capacity building training to in-country facilitators.
<p>Operational Recommendations</p>	
<p>Strengthening the Steering Committee's Governance Mechanism: The Steering Committee can be made more inclusive and transparent. The SC meetings must be utilized as a space for decision-making. Quality of discussions during the meetings can also be improved by involving all members in setting the agenda for the Annual meetings ahead of time. Transparent sharing and discussion on financial decisions and budget utilization and reporting to instil a sense of ownership and trust. [Co-Chairs and Support Unit]</p>	<p>The Support Unit, on behalf of the Co-Chairs, shares indicative Steering Committee meeting agendas for input and facilitates calls with the Co-Chairs – both group and bilateral calls upon request – to discuss the agenda and prepare for the meeting. Moving forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Co-Chairs and the Support Unit will share proposed Steering Committee agendas, at an early stage to seek more input into the meeting design. This is foreseen for the upcoming 2024 Spring Meeting. • The Support Unit will continue to refine the format of agendas and preparatory documents to further clarify questions that will be surfaced for Steering Committee input and decision making. • Regarding financial and budget utilization decisions by the Steering Committee, and taking into account that there is no comprehensive budget for the Partnership, the Co-Chairs will continue to oversee the Support Unit budget and share with Steering Committee members the budget and anticipated activities each year through Support Unit Annual Work Plans and Budgets.
<p>Strengthening the Steering Committee's Governance Mechanism: Improved coordination among representatives from developing countries, especially before the SC meeting is critical to ensure that the voices from the Global South are amplified in the Steering Committee meetings. [Developing Country Chair and Developing Country SC Members]</p>	<p>To improved coordination among representatives from developing countries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Co-Chairs will promote increased engagement among developing countries on the Steering Committee, creating time and space to facilitate connections and relationship building and looking for opportunities to increase these points of connection. • The Support Unit will assist in these efforts by conducting onboarding calls with new Steering Committee members and support the Co-Chairs in doing so as well. • In the lead up to Steering Committee meetings, the Support Unit will continue to facilitate calls among developing countries led by the Co-Chairs.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In preparation for the Steering Committee meetings once on-site, the Co-Chairs will continue to hold a breakfast among developing countries to create space for internal coordination and alignment. Developing Countries members of the Steering Committee will guarantee active participation in governance proceedings, bringing the voice of this group of stakeholders to drive the discussions and set the strategic direction of the Partnership.
<p>Strengthening the Steering Committee’s Governance Mechanism: The Support Unit along with the Co-Chairs should institute some forum or process to engage with other major donors and critical partners who are not on the Steering Committee for better strategic alignment. [Co-Chairs and Support Unit]</p>	<p>While the Co-Chairs and Support Unit have ongoing engagement with development partners who are not on the SC, it is a priority to expand this network and deepen these relationships, including with philanthropies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Support Unit will continue to regularly engages with development partners who do not sit on the Steering Committee through the PAF Advisory Group and in an effort to support ongoing fundraising, meet with previous and potential funders on an ad-hoc basis to maintain and broaden relationships. Steering Committee members and the Support Unit, based on a new mandate from the Steering Committee, will initiate conversation with stakeholders from the philanthropic sector to identify opportunities for strategic collaboration. The Co-Chairs will host a high-level Development Partner meeting with potential funders and partners on the margins of UNGA, to support accelerated climate action and in preparation for the Partnership’s future multi-year work program.
<p>Reducing Transaction Costs: A comprehensive approach to streamline operations across different processes (country requests, PAF, etc), to reduce transaction costs, and ensure timely responses to avoid dampening IP’s interest. Practical actionable steps involve establishing a centralized request management system, leveraging technology to automate processes, and defining clear workflows. This not only expedites responses but also minimizes administrative burdens. [SU, WRI, and UNOPS]</p>	<p>The Support Unit works cohesively to intake, process, distribute, and track requests in a coordinated manner to expedite engagement and minimize transaction costs. The Support Unit’s centralized approach works as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Country Requests are centrally collected by the Country Engagement team, and periodically distributed to members (RSL circulation). - When Implementing and Development Partners respond to requests with their own resources, they take over direct interaction with the government. When bilateral coordination stalls, the Support Unit is often pulled in by either party to help unlock the process, facilitating among stakeholders as needed. - Country requests that are not taken up by partners become eligible for PAF. Funding decisions (e.g., whether funds will be deployed via WRI or UNOPS) are made in such a way that transaction costs are minimized, building off each hosts competitive advantages. <p>The Support Unit has continually adjusted PAF timing, templates, and processes to increase efficiency for both Developing Countries and Implementing Partners, and to balance out the need for strong partner proposals and recruitment – both competitive processes - and streamlined, agile support deployment. This has resulted in the reduction of the average grant preparation times by approximately 20%. To further streamline operations across different processes and reduce transaction costs for members and partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Support Unit will continually adjust its request management process, request feedback from partners and countries, and enhance its efficiency where possible. The Support Unit will deploy larger grants (in value) through PAF, and work closely with UNOPS, WRI and Implementing Partners to identify the best type of arrangement to deploy resources in each Call for Proposals while minimizing the number of grants issued. WRI and UNOPS will review internal process and advise on solutions to improve the efficiency of processes and reduce the burden on Developing Countries and Implementing Partners.

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<p>Improve MEL culture, Reporting, and Supporting with MRV Systems: The Support Unit should adopt standard results-based management practices in donor reporting highlighting achievements (outputs and outcomes) against financial spending. The inclusion of qualitative aspects in Steering Committee reports focusing on the effective depth of engagement will make results reporting more comprehensive. Strengthen data collection processes and validation mechanisms through participatory assessment techniques. This includes a more robust assessment of the quality of engagement, the content and impact of NDCs, and the overall results achieved. Establish a strong culture of learning from data and evidence beyond accountability needs within the SU. Specifically, better utilize the M&E and Member Survey data for the Annual Work Planning process and periodic reflections. [Support Unit and Steering Committee]</p>	<p>The Support Unit exists to facilitate the implementation of the Partnership’s Work Program and measures its own progress against the Partnership’s M&E Framework impacts, outcomes, and outputs. Given the M&E Framework is designed to capture the impact of the full membership (not just the Support Unit), it has not been possible to disaggregate the impact of the Support Unit’s spending vs. members spending (the Support Unit’s budget represents less than 3% of the NDC Partnership’s total resources).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Support Unit will continue to work on improving the quality of measurement and reporting, including better indicators to measure its success (e.g., around coordination, speed). A consultant has been brought on board to support impact reporting in 2024. With a full M&E team in place, more dedicated effort will be placed on creating a culture of learning around M&E, including regular seminars and reflection sessions. • The Support Unit will propose improvements to reporting to better enable Implementing and Development Partners to contribute to the Partnership’s reporting, and facilitate better communication of impact in country, including by working with UNFCCC and UNEP.
<p>Improve MEL culture, Reporting, and Supporting with MRV Systems: Strengthen support to country governments in establishing MRV systems. This is critical to measure the impact of the interventions on emission reduction and adaptation. This will also help the programmes to take course corrective actions. [Implementing and Development Partners, and Developing Countries]</p>	<p>Countries can submit requests focused on MRV systems to the Partnership at any time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cognizant of the crucial importance of robust MRV systems in the lead to the submission deadline of the first round of Biennial Transparency Reports (2024), and the linkages between MRVs and the construction of a more robust, credible and ambitious 2025 NDCs, since late 2022 the Partnership is offering targeted support to enhance data collection for NDC preparation (institutional arrangements, improving transparency, consistency and accuracy – covering both adaptation and mitigation) via the Global Call on NDCs 3.0 and LT-LEDS. To ensure countries and partners are aware of this opportunity, in 2024, the Support Unit is doubling down on outreach and communication efforts on this program and offerings from partners and other coalitions. • Implementing and Development Partners will strengthen their capacity and align/program resources to support MRV-related requests from Developing Countries, including links or efficiency with other reporting efforts (e.g., CBIT). • Developing Countries will prioritize actions to develop their MRV systems and request support as needed to the Partnership.