

E-Discussion on NDC Implementation

National Experiences in Preparing for NDC Implementation



Summary Phase 2:

Institutions, Awareness, and Engagement

1 – 21 December 2016

Objectives of Phase 2 Discussion:

Learning from countries about the state of their capacities to engage stakeholders and carry out the NDC implementation plans. In particular, participants discussed:

1. National processes to determine **institutional arrangements** for NDC implementation
2. Experiences with increasing national level NDC **awareness**, stakeholder engagement and maintaining **momentum**
3. Assessment of institutional **capacity** needs for NDC implementation

Participants

Principal Renewable Energy Officer from Samoa; Energy and Environment Programme Officer from Lebanon; Senior Technical Consultant from Ricardo Energy & Environment, UK; Author on Climate & Irrigation from India; and Technical Expert from GIZ/World Bank, Germany.

Resources:

- The NDC Implementation Quick-Start Guide (<http://www.cdkn.org/ndc-guide/>) by the Climate & Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) and Ricardo Energy and Environment outlines key activities for putting in place governance structures and processes for NDC implementation.
- Institutional arrangements from NAMA and MRV work can be built on for NDC work (GIZ recommendation):
 - UNEP Risoe: Institutional aspects of NAMA development and implementation, 2014 http://orbit.dtu.dk/files/93296914/Institutional_aspects.pdf
 - Int. Partnership on Mitigation and MRV: Institutional arrangements for MRV, 2013 https://mitigationpartnership.net/sites/default/files/institutional_arrangements_mrv_fin_al.pdf
- Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture, a multi-stakeholder platform led by FAO (recommendation by expert from India): <http://www.fao.org/gacsa/en/>.

Insights on Institutional Arrangements and Capacity Building

Building on existing institutional mechanism and agendas

- **Lebanon's** NDC implementation process **built on existing committees**, as not to create an additional burden on the already overstretched national institutions. These committees had been set up to coordinate the climate change agenda, and built on structures previously developed during the NAMA development process. The benefit of this coordination mechanism is that representatives from various Ministries are **largely familiar with the committees' members**, offering a good basis for **work continuity and efficiency**.
- **Using existing ministerial and national thematic agendas** as a starting point for NDC design, allowed Lebanon for a smoother acceptance of NDC targets.
- Keeping momentum amidst political and economic instability and the current refugee crisis, poses a major challenge and makes **continuous dialogues and awareness raising** at the policy level necessary.

Similar to Lebanon, a number of other countries were able to rely on previously established institutional mechanism such as those established for the development of mitigation actions (f.ex. NAMA and LEDS), and data collection for National Communication. Institutional arrangements for NDC implementation take advantage of these existing foundations in related, interlinked areas.

Effective governance and overcoming barriers

- **Balancing the need for an effective central organization driving NDC implementation with the need for ownership of climate action in all line ministries**, which hold the levers for action, is key. The goal is to mainstream NDC implementation into key government initiatives as not to be seen as a separate process. (**Ricardo Energy and Environment**)
- **NDC implementation needs to be embedded in all relevant policies and plans**, including its five year plans, economic policy and sectoral plans. However doing this takes time and requires careful planning and resource allocation. There are various barriers, such as limited capacity, changing political will, and timeframes that are often misaligned (e.g. planning and development policies may not be due a refresh for a number of years).
- These barriers can be overcome with a **sectoral approach to NDC implementation**, in which one central NDC implementation organization or ministry has a clear mandate for coordinating the development of sectoral plans for NDC implementation. These plans should be owned by all relevant sectoral line ministries, to ensure political buy-in and strong lead from the central NDC coordination unit.
- Effective governance for NDC implementation also includes **engaging non-government stakeholders** and **developing legal frameworks to formalize NDC governance arrangements** (as e.g. in Kenya, Mexico and the UK). The governance arrangements need to cover all NDC aspects – mitigation, adaptation, MRV and climate finance – and should align with relevant governance structures at the sub-national level (e.g. cities and regions).

Based on UNDP's experience working with countries, this two-pronged approach, combining a central organizing framework coupled with sectoral actions is a promising approach.

Suggested functions of institutional set ups

- Based on **GIZ's** experiences with institutional arrangements for LEDS, NAMAs and MRV, institutional arrangements must be country-specific. But there are some **universal best practices for institutional design** that can be distilled: When designing the institutional arrangements, the design must address (1) structures, (2) procedures, and (3) external relations of the institutions involved. A legal formal mandate can facilitate the procedures defined.
- Important building blocks for institutional arrangements include MRV, inter-ministerial coordination and **sectoral investment plans**. In regards to the sectoral investment plans, GIZ noted that they should be regionally coordinated (for capacity building and efficiency), and that national & multilateral development banks should lead on them to attract other investors.
- **Synergies between NDCs and the SDGs can help to mainstream climate change in the decision making of other sectoral line ministries** (GIZ). Hence, sectoral NDC targets should be systematically assessed for potential development benefits, as financial resources for sectoral NDC targets can be better mobilized if they contribute to sectoral development targets.
- Functions of the institutional arrangements should include the following:
 - Coordination of scientific/ technical analysis based on sector expertise; hosting an outreach and collaboration platform and promoting learning through best practice;
 - Providing political endorsement by embedding in existing policies for sustainable development and LEDS
 - Providing oversight through monitoring and tracking progress; Planning oversight, supporting, guiding and coordinating line ministries and Communication/ information dissemination
 - Supporting Implementation through finance and resource allocation (including human capacities, knowledge)
- **Lebanon** analyzed institutional capacity needs during the first workshop on NDC implementation when ministries presented their national climate change agendas. The national climate change programme has since worked to enhance technical capacity of key stakeholders; progress on INDC implementation and gaps is to be reported periodically to the Council of Ministers.

Alignment of different reporting and monitoring streams (for NDC, Biennial Update Reports, National Communications), and relevant global processes (Paris Agreement, SDGs, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Reduction) is necessary. UNDP sees integration efforts in a number of countries in this regard.

The Role of Awareness and Consultations in Keeping Momentum

- In Samoa, **stakeholder consultations, including the energy sector, shed critical insights** on its ambitious renewable energy target (100%) and NDC implementation (according to **GIZ**):
 - **Fragmentation of control** - NDC implementation is under the control of a number of Ministries, with limited collaboration, different roles and objectives.
 - **Stimulation of demand** - To increase the demand for renewable energy, awareness and knowledge on renewable energy sources needs to be enhanced at the community level.
 - **Private land tenure can be an issue for RE developers**, as developers need to consult with individual owners and may have to pay compensation for RE installations.
 - **Financial constraints** for INDC implementation.
- **Lebanon engages high level officials** such as the Prime Minister and the Minister of Environment to push the agenda forward. In between UNFCCC sessions, workshops and national events were organized to **keep climate change high on the political agenda**.
- GIZ recommends that outreach can be improved by hosting a platform for collaboration with stakeholders; and ensure learning by identifying and disseminating best practice

About the e-Discussion

UNDP, UNEP, UNEP-DTU, and the WRI, in cooperation with the UNFCCC Secretariat, are currently developing joint guidance to be used by countries as they prepare for NDC implementation. The guidance is being prepared as part of the discussions under the UNDP Low Emission Capacity Building Programme and the NDC Regional Technical Dialogues.

In this context, UNDP has launched an [online discussion](#) to exchange and gather national experiences on the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) across a number of thematic areas, including Institutions, Awareness and Engagement; NDC Implementation Planning; Funding Strategies and Mobilizing Resources; Monitoring and Transparency; to support the development of the practical guidance document on NDC Implementation. The online discussion runs from November 2016 through March 2017.

The purpose of the online discussion is to engage stakeholders, practitioners, experts and policy-makers across the globe in a dialogue to capture real-world national experiences on NDC implementation.

Access the online-discussion here: <https://www.unteamworks.org/NDCimplementation>