

E-Discussion on NDC Implementation

National Experiences in Preparing for NDC Implementation



Summary Phase 3:

NDC Implementation Planning

9 – 29 January 2017

Objectives of Phase 3 Discussion:

The focus of this round of discussion was on the design of an NDC implementation plan and to learn from country experiences. Specifically, the discussion forum addressed real-world country experiences in this process, information needs, roles and responsibilities, links with national development plans and SDGs.

Participants

Government advisor and member of Climate Change Advisory Council, Ireland; GIZ/World Bank NDC Partnership Coordinator, Germany; Environmental Protection Agency, Ghana; Project Manager and BUR team from Macedonia; Energy & climate change consultant from New Zealand .

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.
- Double Helix of NDC development and implementation has been developed: <https://mitigationpartnership.net/indc-webtool>
- Stock Taking Tool: <https://mitigationpartnership.net/giz-2014-stock-taking-tool>.

Challenges and Support Needs

Use annual review/benchmarking of progress to move NDC implementation along. Climate policy being long-term in nature can face relatively low levels of priority or just within the context of 4/5-yearly electoral cycles. It is therefore vital to have an annual point for benchmarking where climate policy progress can/must be considered by political leaders. It is important to ascribe responsibility for target implementation to a particular line minister (e.g., energy, planning or environment) to be responsible for reporting on progress to Parliament. The process should be inclusive and target collaboration with Parliament/Parliamentary committee.

At the planning stage, countries should conduct a barrier analysis to assess the distributional impacts of policy measures considered, as multiple aspects (social, economic, environmental, and political) are critical for the success of NDC implementation. **Concentrated costs** (e.g., on particular a geographic area or social groups) **can result in highly mobilized opposition** to measures that might be beneficial overall. Barriers analysis can help in identifying vulnerable populations, and have a **beneficial impact on policy design** by identifying preferred design characteristics, or by helping a Government **develop a narrative around why a particular measure is being advanced**.

Besides lack of financial resources, accessing dedicated climate funds can be challenging for a small country like Vanuatu, given the high transaction costs involved, lack of capacity and expertise in this area. There is a very limited private sector presence in the Pacific Island countries mainly due to small size, dispersed nature of islands and population. This brings up the key issue of economies of scale which is crucial for active private sector participation. Small size and remoteness lead to high costs of production and trading and hence lower price competitiveness. A support mechanism to incentivize private sector participation is needed. A mix of both grant funding as well as incentives for private sector participation could work depending on the type and nature of the project/programme and the policies and priorities of the host country government.

Other key challenges identified during the e-Discussion were:

- proper coordination between the line ministries to manage the NDC implementation process and ensuring ownership among the ministries;
- ensuring proper coordination between government agencies to manage the process and it was noted a tracking tool might be useful on line ministry engagement;
- the lack of awareness about the Paris Agreement and climate change;
- the lack of clarity among stakeholders and policy makers with respect to international support for finance and knowledge of NDC implementation;
- technical support for education and awareness raising among political leaders, decision-makers, and the general public;
- evaluating the alignment with development policies to avoid duplication, align priorities and policies, and attract required support for implementation at the highest political level;
- assessment of the institutional capacities and organizational needs for implementing NDCs as well as strengthening the capacity of lead institutions involved in the implementation process where necessary; and
- identification and development of appropriate mitigation and adaptation measures for sectors prioritized under the NDC. This would include analysis of indicators, risks, assumptions, targets, and timeline to be achieved.

The Approaches

NDC development and implementation build on each other and form an iterative process to evolve the NDC and its sectoral targets, monitoring the implementation, reviewing the NDC, and ratcheting up the ambition of the targets. This iterative process includes a technical strand, a political strand and a multi-stakeholder process, which run continuously in parallel to and feed into the implementation planning. The 16 recommended steps of this **double helix of NDC development and implementation** can be found in the graphic [here](#) or see resources.

NDC Implementation and investment plans to meet countries' sectoral targets need to incorporate certain sectoral information for investors. In response, the World Bank scanned all submitted INDCs for all relevant information from the perspective of a development finance institution: <http://indc.worldbank.org>. The INDC information can serve as the basis for the analysis of support needs and the identification of sustainable development benefits as well.

Sustainable development benefits can help mobilize financing for NDC implementation from existing channels. Each (sub-)sectoral commitment should be checked for potential benefits to one or more of the SDGs. The NDCs and SDGs are widely complementary and mutually enforcing. The potential development benefits allow climate actions then to align with existing sectoral pipelines and budgets of line ministries and help mainstream climate change into day-to-day policymaking decisions. It was also discussed that some countries hold the perception that growth and sustainable development are mutually exclusive, that is, increase of one hinders the other, so this requires a focused strategy to overcome.

The NDC implementation and investment strategy should be embedded into long-term development planning to build credibility with the ministries and local government authorities. Ghana engaged its National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) into the NDC processes, to help align the NDC priority areas with the 40-year development plan and to get the Ministries to lock their sectoral NDC actions into the 40-year plan. Vanuatu has aligned its NDC with Vanuatu's 2030 plan, its National Energy Road Map and adaptation plans which set out a clear strategy for improving resilience, advancing development and transitioning to sustainable energy sources. The linkage would at the same time help avoid duplication of efforts and attract required support for implementation from the highest political level.

Linkages to development priorities can reduce some of the uncertainties that many sectors face for due to poor information about current and future policy conditions. A stock take on sectoral and background data, available studies, data gaps would serve to assess the needs and capacities. For example, the Macedonia consultative process focuses on several areas of assessment of the SDG targets (e.g., jobs creation, poverty reduction, energy access, resilient infrastructure), including current policy and legal framework / national priorities; level of integration of SDG targets into national strategies; and determination of whether specific SDGs are well addressed in national strategies.

It is important to allow the **Ministries to lead the NDC implementation and investment process**, including how to select, elaborate, mobilise finance, implement and monitor and report priority NDC actions in their respective sectors. Ghana has formed a multi-sectoral thematic group dedicated to prioritize and elaborate on sector NDC action plans using a set of agreed templates. For Ghana, the most efficient way of getting the ministries to track and report progress on sectoral NDC actions, is by **using its existing national M&E result framework**. The framework is implemented through the Annual Progress Report to help track, evaluate and communicate progress on implementation (MRV framework), and will incorporate NDC-specific indicators.

Linking NDC implementation aspects to priority focus areas for individual policymakers such as the SDGs (e.g., jobs creation, poverty reduction, energy access, resilient infrastructure) can be an effective approach for securing political buy-in to support climate change activities. Encouraging partnerships with bilateral and regional organizations and donors to develop sustainable NDC systems can attract the attention of policymakers who see this as an opportunity for future climate financial resource mobilization. Securing a local 'champion' to usher NDC-related proposals between line ministries, being persistent, encouraging cross-sector participation, e.g., between line ministries, and potentially coordinating efforts should not be overlooked as a critical behind-the-scenes component. Enhanced collaboration between ministries can conserve human and time resources.

In summary, to build a sustained effort that is reflective of the required 5-year cyclical ‘ratchet mechanism’ of NDC review and re-submission of targets, countries benefit from diverse and integrated participation of line ministries in NDC design and review, and this should include active involvement and contributions to such platforms as NDC project-related technical working groups, steering committees, and board meetings. Building on existing structures already in place such as UNFCCC Focal Point offices, CDM or NAMA project evaluation systems, GHG inventory reporting methodologies, etc., and scaling up partnerships within government are both key steps in achieving consensus and attracting consistent support among policymakers that NDC design and implementation remains a priority. , There is a risk that NDC implementation is seen primarily as a techno-economic process without recognizing the equally important political and societal aspects as well. Therefore, all these dimensions need to be considered for a successful implementation of the Paris Agreement.

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>