UNDP/UNFCCC
Regional Dialogue on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for Africa

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Overview

Climate change is the defining issue of our time. According to the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), to limit the global temperature rise below 1.5°C, global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions must peak in 2020, then fall rapidly by half in 2030 and reach net-zero emissions by mid-century. Simultaneously, scaled up efforts to significantly increase adaptation and resilience of the most vulnerable must now be in place. To achieve this, we need to transform our economic and social development at an unprecedented scale and pace across all societies. This requires scaling up usage of a wide range of innovative technologies, a massive shift in behavioral change and, importantly, in investment patterns across all sectors at all levels. We have a rapidly shrinking window of time to accelerate climate action but we still have time to act.

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement present an important opportunity for countries to transition to a climate-resilient, zero-carbon development pathway. The joint UN Development Programme (UNDP) and UN Climate Change (UNFCCC) Global Outlook Report offers the most comprehensive review of countries’ NDC progress since the Agreement with many countries now in the process of preparing second-round NDCs with increased coverage, clarity, and ambition – as well as long-term, low-GHG emission development strategies – ahead of the 2020 deadline.

The year 2019-2020 is a critical period and presents a window of opportunity that should not be missed. Several significant events will take place during this period, which all aim to help re-energize countries’ efforts, raise ambition and make concrete commitments for climate action. Among these events are the UNDP/UNFCCC Regional NDC Dialogues which aim to provide a platform for countries and key partners to share knowledge and foster cooperation in support of NDC implementation and enhancement.

The Regional NDC Dialogue for Africa was one of three in the UNDP/UNFCCC dialogue series that took place in 2019, as part of the Regional Climate Weeks, with the goal of increasing momentum for more ambitious and accelerated climate action. In doing so, the event also served as a contribution to the UN Secretary-General’s Climate Action Summit that took place on 23rd September in New York and the 25th Conference of Parties (COP25) that will take place in December in Santiago, Chile.

The Regional NDC Dialogue for Africa was co-organized by UNDP and UNFCCC Secretariat, in collaboration with the African Development Bank, as part of the broader Africa Climate Week (ACW). The event built on past Regional NDC Dialogues hosted by UNDP and the UNFCCC around the world and was the 20th such dialogue in the broader series. The Accra event aimed to achieve the following objectives:

1. Introduce and discuss the outcomes of COP-24, including those outcomes from the Paris Agreement Work Programme and the Talanoa Dialogue that are relevant for the preparation of future NDCs and implementation of ambitious climate action;
2. Jointly consider the gap to meet the long-term goal and the need and avenues for raising national, regional, and global ambition;
3. Exchange experiences and lessons learned to address challenges relating to NDC preparation, implementation, and finance; and
4. Discuss synergistic implementation of NDCs, national development plans, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The dialogue was hosted by the Government of Ghana and funded by the European Commission and the Governments of Germany and Spain and was held in collaboration with the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ) and in contribution to
the NDC Partnership. It convened over 195 participants, including government representatives from 46 countries on the continent, as well as international organizations and technical experts involved in NDC implementation. Participants represented a variety of ministries, including environment, planning, finance, and sectoral line ministries, as well as other institutions – reflective of the cross-cutting nature of NDCs and the need to involve a range of stakeholders in NDC implementation planning processes.

The dialogue was launched with welcoming remarks from Ms. Levina Owusu, Chief Director of the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI), Ghana; Mr. Paolo Dalla Stella, UNDP Ghana (on behalf of Ms. Gita Honwana Welch, Resident Representative a.i, UNDP Ghana); Mr. Yero Baldeh, African Development Bank (AfDB); and Mr. William Agyemang-Bonsu, UNFCCC Secretariat. Colleagues highlighted strong political will, sufficient financial streams and the alignment of the climate and development agendas as key drivers to unlocking the substantial economic and social benefits of climate action in the region.
Key Messages

• **NDCs must be deeply rooted in the development priorities of countries.** This was echoed by policymakers and financiers alike, in the Dialogue and the ensuing ACW. The integration of NDCs in national development plans would provide an opportunity for African countries to leapfrog carbon-intensive energy infrastructures, although it became clear that the question of energy transition in the face of ambitious development plans poses one of the biggest challenges for fast growing countries.

• **Discussions around ambition are still timid.** Countries discussed sectors where ambition could be increased (e.g., energy) and actions by local governments that could be better captured in the NDC but there is a concern that new targets will remain underfunded considering the low level of funding flowing to current targets.

• **Adaptation and disaster risk reduction are the priorities for Africa.** There is a need to integrate mitigation and adaptation actions especially for Long-Term Strategies (LTS) and NDC implementation plans as countries and sub-national actors tend to look at climate actions on an issue or sectoral basis.

• **Few African countries are currently considering mid-century LTS** and in most cases, conversations around LTS have yet to begin within the relevant ministries. Challenges include lack of awareness and understanding of LTS as well as lack of political will to plan beyond presidential or legislative term and weak vertical coordination between central and local governments. However, Benin highlighted the linkage between its LTS (2016-2025) and enhancement of shorter-term NDCs to achieve its LTS targets.

• **Local governments are emerging as key actors to achieve the NDC,** with often more ambitious climate targets that are driven by local development needs. Nowhere else is the linkage between climate and development so clear. Cities such as Accra, Dakar, and Cape Town show some of the most innovative climate planning, especially in regard to LTS and resilience planning. While many national governments have institutional mechanisms to work with local governments in place, strong vertical integration of climate planning and action depends on a number of factors, including the degree of decentralization and budget design. National governments can enhance the potential of local governments by enacting strong sectoral policies as signposts and by promoting decentralization and local ownership.

• **Greater alignment between climate, development and sectoral plans and policies is needed,** especially in terms of aligning implementation and budget/funding timelines. This is also a relevant concern and barrier for vertical alignment of NDC planning and implementation.
Outcomes of COP-24 & the Talanoa Dialogue and NDCs in the Region

This session explored the outcomes of COP-24 and the Talanoa Dialogue, looked at their relevance for 2020, and provided a snapshot of NDC progress in Africa. Mr. Bernd Hackmann, UNFCCC Secretariat, explained several outcomes, including Decision 1/CP.24, which stresses the urgency of enhancing NDC ambition and support to developing countries. He also emphasized the COP’s strong outcome on capacity-building support for the preparation, communication, and accounting of NDCs. Finally, he explained the Paris Agreement’s mandatory cycles of NDCs every five years; listed several reasons for updating NDCs in 2020 (including reflecting reality on the ground); and underscored the Agreement’s invitation to also communicate long-term, low-GHG development strategies in 2020 (not mandatory).

Ms. Daisy Mukarakate, UNDP Africa Regional Hub, presented the outcomes of a recent UNDP survey that received responses from 37 African countries. Among the results of the survey, she highlighted that: 1) most countries have a coordinating body driving the NDC agenda; 2) 65% of countries have begun NDC implementation; 3) 77% do not yet have a financing strategy (although some have made progress in establishing national funds, green bonds, etc.); and 4) the vast majority do not yet have NDC tracking systems in place. She concluded that key needs in the region include support for NDC tracking, financing, and updating.

Mr. Anthony Nyong, AfDB, discussed the Bank’s support of African countries on NDCs, including upcoming guidance on mainstreaming NDCs. He emphasized the business/market opportunity of NDCs and the need for the private sector – including Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) – to “come in heavily.” He commented that discussions always revolve around money, but that money is useless without specific project proposals. The Africa NDC Hub is building capacities to develop such proposals.

Ms. Margaret Barihaihi, NDC Partnership (NDCP), explained the NDCP’s country-driven, whole-of-government approach to address NDC gaps in countries, with a focus on country engagement, knowledge/learning, and finance. She presented an overview of Africa NDCP support requests and enumerated prevailing needs/gaps in the region, including for economic analysis, project scale-up, modeling, GHG accounting, financing solutions, and resource mobilization.

In discussion, one participant suggested adopting the term “sustainable NDC.” Responding to questions on accounting and capacity-building, panelists underscored the role of NDC mainstreaming in enhancing ambition, the need for more African NDC experts, and the opportunity for NDCs to reflect countries’ realities (no need to go beyond what is possible).
This session invited country representatives to reflect on progress made in a specific area of their NDC.

Mr. Washington Zakhata, Zimbabwe, discussed the establishment of a Climate Change Committee, the approval of an NDC implementation plan, the implementation framework as well as the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) framework that will be developed with support from the World Bank. The country’s upcoming work on their Low-Emission Development Strategy (LEDS), supported by the UNDP Russian Trust Fund, was also highlighted. He also noted the development of a climate smart agriculture manual and a strategy for energy efficient appliances with the Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN) as well as the enactment of a National Climate Change Act before the end of the year.

Ms. Pemy Gasela, South Africa, shared that South Africa has an Inter-Governmental Committee on Climate Change (IGCCC) and a National Committee on Climate Change (NCCC). The IGCCC is comprised of line ministries while the NCCC includes ministries as well as the private sector and sub-national governments. South Africa has integrated the NDC in its 2030 National Development Plan (NDP) and ministries are using this NDP to develop their own sectoral plans.

Mr. Daniel Benefor, Ghana, discussed the work being done to reduce short-lived climate pollutants (SLCP) such as SO2, NOx, black carbon, particulate matter, etc. Environment ministries have been combating SLCP for years to improve air quality and even though these pollutants contribute to climate change, they are not included in the country’s NDC. SLCP reduction presents health and livelihood co-benefits that can take the NDC debate beyond GHG reduction and will likely convince finance ministries to allocate more funding to climate action. In Ghana, the objective is to 1) showcase the benefit of reducing SLCP; 2) include SLCP in the GHG inventory; and 3) highlight the co-benefits of climate action.

Mr. Lee Chileshe, Zambia, explained how Zambia is integrating NDC and SDG goals in its national development planning. First, a project manager within the Ministry of Land and Natural Resources is responsible for ensuring that all projects estimate their contribution to the NDC during their conception phase. Then, the National Development Plan (NDP) is subjected to a Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) which considers the NDC, the SDG and the Sendai Framework. Volume 1 of the NDP – which is a high-level policy document - was found to be only 52% aligned with the NDC. In developing the second volume – which breaks down the 1st volume into programmes and projects – efforts were made to engage a climate change specialist and gender specialist. This volume was 72% aligned with the NDC. Finally, when implementing projects, a particular attention is paid to their alignment with the NDC and SDG agendas.

Mr. Michael Okumu, Kenya, gave an overview of why it is important to take gender into account in implementing the NDC and shared that his country has conducted an in-depth gender analysis in the energy, agriculture and water sectors. The analysis found that although gender was only considered at the grassroot level, it enabled the government to determine what organizations it should partner with and what programmes it should adopt to enhance gender integration in the NDC.

In discussion, Gabon mentioned that it was particularly difficult to mobilize the private sector for the implementation of the country’s gas flaring strategy when the price of oil fell. Meanwhile the largest climate finance funds refuse to invest in gas flaring -because it is fossil fuel - even though
it is clear that significant GHG emission reduction can be achieved. **Cote d’Ivoire** shared what it is planning to do in the coming years to implement its NDC. It will create an enabling environment for the private sector by de-risking renewable energy; issue green bonds for development projects that reduce emissions, integrate the NDC objectives in its national development plan and develop a climate and gender strategy. **Uganda** indicated that it has been difficult to get the population behind the NDC. Communication materials have been developed but the means for disseminating them in all the different languages remain a challenge. On the revision of NDC, **Liberia** mentioned that it has started mobilizing all the sectors and is planning to involve the health sector this time around because there are opportunities for using renewable energy in all health institutions. **Gabon** pointed out that it is important to assess climate change projects for both their mitigation potential and their resilience to climate change. For instance, countries are rushing toward hydroelectricity because it is a clean source of energy without assessing whether the installations will be viable with decreased rainfall.

The Global Ambition Gap & Implications for 2020: Opportunities for Bold Climate Action

This session looked at where we need to go globally in the context of the Paris Agreement and what low GHG and climate-resilient development looks like for the Africa region. The session also explored countries’ visions for long-term sustainable development and at NDCs as 5-year stepping stones toward these long-term visions. Finally, it explored implications for 2020, including opportunities and anticipated challenges in preparing (or updating) countries’ next NDCs.

Ms. Maddalena Dali, **European Commission**, highlighted that countries have two main tools at their disposal: 1) NDCs for short-term action and 2) long-term strategies (LTS) to help guide short and mid-term action. The **EU Net-Zero Carbon Vision 2050** is an economy-wide and people-centered strategy which aims to allow for a just transition. She also emphasized that cities are frontrunners that can help develop innovative sectoral solutions.

Ms. Katie Ross, **World Resources Institute (WRI)**, emphasized that the science is clear. The **IPCC report** notes that limiting global warming to 1.5°C requires action on all fronts, across all sectors and should include all GHG and pollutants that drive...
climate change. Ms. Ross highlighted that current NDCs, even if fully achieved and enhanced by 2030, do not limit warming to below 1.5°C. The impacts of the climate crisis, such as land temperature increases and water availability, will be most felt in Africa due to its high exposure to climate change and its low adaptive capacity. However, she also emphasized the opportunities for the region and explained the various ways in which a country can reflect a long-term vision in new or updated NDCs to ensure transformational change.

To date, the first and only country in Africa to submit a LTS, for the period 2016-2025, is Benin. Mr. Wilfried Biao Mongazi described the national context and processes involved in the development of their LTS. This included defining the institutions that would be involved and signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Environment and other agencies; developing a Roadmap and establishing 6 thematic groups (energy, agriculture, forestry, water resources, sanitation, human resources) that would identify challenges and bottlenecks for the strategy; engaging Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to help develop the thematic focus areas; and ensuring ministerial buy-in. He mentioned that the LTS has 3 pillars: 1) resilience of local community and local production; 2) reduction of GHG and strengthening the potential of carbon sequestration; and 3) natural disaster risk reduction and resilience. Mr. Mongazi underscored the importance of in-depth consultations with a wide range of stakeholders to ensure that all sectors were included and that ownership would result in concrete action. Regional and national validation of the LTS and sectoral reports as well as approval by the Council of Ministers was critical.

In the interactive roundtable discussions, participants mentioned the challenges they face in putting in place a next-generation NDC, which included deficits in technical expertise and capacity as well as insufficient financial resources. Despite these difficulties, participants agreed that LTS were important as they would not only give countries direction but would also add clarity and ensure the sustainability and continuity of projects.

Breakout Sessions: Concrete Climate Action on the Ground

This session explored concrete opportunities for mainstreaming climate change (mitigation and adaptation) in three contexts related to NDCs in the region: energy transition; agriculture and nature-based solutions; and cities and local action and how these opportunities can enhance the next generation of NDCs.

Discussions in the energy transition session focused on opportunities to raise NDC ambition in the energy sector. Ms. Elizabeth Press, International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), highlighted that many countries are seizing the NDC process as an opportunity to increase access to energy through off-grid renewable energy technologies. She also noted that since most national energy plans had higher renewable energy targets than the country’s NDC, countries could increase ambition by aligning their NDCs with their national energy plans. However, Côte d’Ivoire mentioned the disconnect between its energy policy, which calls for the construction of two coal power plants, and its NDC. Côte d’Ivoire added that increased ambition in the energy sector could only be done with support from the private sector since the energy ministry is not inclined to develop more renewable energy projects.

Ghana added that the government has been increasing renewable energy sources with the installation of a wind farm and the piloting of rooftop solar panels on houses. The energy ministry was involved in the development of the NDC and both its energy policy and NDC are aligned. Uganda shared an example of a project that reduces biomass consumption, installs solar PV in health centers and facilitates community ownership of rooftop solar PV and mini-grids. Mauritius added that the country’s share of renewable energy is at 21% - it is therefore on track to reach its renewable energy target – that of 25% renewable energy in the energy mix by 2030.

Gabon highlighted that energy efficiency (EE) is still an untapped opportunity for raising ambition. EE is largely left out of energy policies because energy
ministries are under pressure to increase energy access rather than reduce consumption. Ghana gave an example of energy efficiency labels and standards for refrigerators and how the country was able to get citizens’ buy-in by translating energy savings into monetary savings. Seychelles also shared that the country is providing a US$50,000 loan to homeowners for making their houses more energy efficient but the success of the program is questionable as old, inefficient appliances are given to other family members who continue to use them.

Senegal mentioned that strengthened political will in the country led to a shift towards cleaner energy sources. A representative from Climate Analytics noted that many countries in the region are hesitant to raise ambition because of difficulties in mobilizing funding for current NDC targets. He also cautioned the importance of anchoring NDCs in national development plans, otherwise they risk being underfunded.

In discussions on cities and local action, Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) highlighted that local governments are emerging as key actors to achieve a country’s NDC, with often more ambitious climate targets being driven by local development needs. Nowhere else is the linkage between NDC and SDG agendas so evident. Coordination between national governments and sub-national governments is key to effective NDC implementation (e.g., strengthened local ownership) and raising ambition.
This session focused on experiences and success stories related to governance arrangements and tracking of NDC progress, with a view toward countries’ next NDCs.

Mr. Drissa Doumbia emphasized that climate is a top priority in Mali. He highlighted that one of the three pillars of the National Development Strategy 2043, which was validated one week prior to the Dialogue, is climate action. However, in terms of evaluating climate action, Mr. Doumbia mentioned that they have yet to evaluate the impact of their NDC as they are in the process of developing a MRV system. He noted that a challenge they face is developing a MRV system for resilience and building the capacity of local governments to contribute to this MRV system. Fortunately, Mali has a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system upon which they can build. For example, focal points in different ministries are tasked with collecting data at the regional level and 3 MRV experts in the energy sector provide overall advice. He also mentioned that there is a budget allocated to the NDC which is deducted from the Ministry of Environment’s budget and transferred directly to the Environment and Sustainable Development Agency. In fact, the budget expanded from 0.76% to 2.2% for climate action. Furthermore, 70% of the programmes in the country’s Investment Plan include activities that target women and youth. Sub-national priorities are also aligned with national priorities through community and local authority consultation and engagement. This has strengthened local ownership and laid the foundations for transformational change. The government is also providing information to the private sector to help promote the inclusion of climate change in business plans.

Dr. Meggan Spires, ICLEI, emphasized the importance of engaging local governments as urban centres account for approximately 70% of all energy-related GHG emissions worldwide. Dr. Spires highlighted that the alignment of national and sub-national priorities is key to climate action and engagement across sectors and at all levels is critical. This also includes defining roles and responsibilities for all actors at the various levels. Dr. Spires also mentioned that gender mainstreaming should no longer be done in a ‘tick-box’ fashion but fully integrated in climate policy, otherwise gender-responsive activities will not be funded or implemented.

In terms of tracking NDC progress, she mentioned that there are systems in place such as the Carbon Registry whereby sub-national governments can communicate their activities and ICLEI is now linking both sub-national and national governments to determine how all activities contribute to their country’s NDC targets. One challenge, however, was standardisation – different sub-national governments are using different MRV systems. She emphasized the importance for countries to see what is going on across different cities to be able to compare, scale up activities and ensure targets are being met. By using the same MRV systems, this process will be facilitated. Dr. Spires underscored that sub-national government targets are often more ambitious than national targets but they cannot be achieved without the engagement and partnership of national governments. Therefore, there is real potential for national governments to tap into and learn from sub-national experiences to raise ambition and through various tools and methodologies, such as mapping exercises and dialogues, national governments can successfully engage with sub-national governments and other actors and key partnerships can be built.

In discussion, Mr. Jean-Pierre Elong Mbassi, United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA), shared that one of his key takeaways from the session was the benefits of mapping all stakeholders, including civil society and private sector actors, to ensure inclusive dialogue. Although not all priorities
among different stakeholders may align but these dialogues are critical if we are to reach 1.5°C. Ghana also pointed out that NDCs in the region focus on sectors such as water and agriculture which are key areas (and opportunities) for gender mainstreaming. The role of women and vulnerable communities must be featured in these NDC actions to ensure no one is left behind.

Mobilizing Finance for NDC Implementation

This session focused specifically on the challenge of mobilizing finance for NDC implementation as a key component of “how do we get there?”. It looked at attracting private investment, in the context of NDCs as investment plans, as well as securing funding from national budgets for climate action. The session also explored the types of policies that governments can put in place to address barriers and create enabling environments for investment – especially in the context of energy, agriculture, and local action.

The cost of NDC implementation in Africa is estimated at approximately US$3 trillion by 2030, with about 75% expected to be invested by the private sector, according to the AfDB. This can be achieved by leveraging finance from International Finance Institutions (IFIs), the private and public sectors, and climate funds.

Ms. Davinah Milenge-Uwella, AfDB, asked what governments had been doing that worked well and what they were planning to do to reach NDC targets on finance. Mr. Samuel Muchiri, Kenya, stated that in 2017, the National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) was accepted by government as the official national document for climate change action. The government built on previous climate change plans to ensure it was aligned with 4 other agendas and included 7 priority areas. Mr. Muchiri noted that to successfully mobilize private sector engagement, the NCCAP had to be as clear and concise as possible. He also mentioned that all actions were investable and within the medium-term. Furthermore, national climate priority areas were integrated into the national budget. The Climate Change Act, which is chaired by the Head of State, was a clear signal to stakeholders. However, he confirmed that communicating
successes and opportunities, e.g. Lake Turkana wind, has proven difficult.

Ms. Naima Oumoussa, Morocco, shared that the country’s conditional NDC commitment is to reduce GHG emissions by 42% by 2030 and depends a lot on mobilizing public budget, investment from the private sector, and funding from international institutions. Nonetheless, Ms. Oumoussa highlighted that the government is evaluating public spending related to climate change (with UNDP’s support) and is also pursuing a fund for national climate issues as well as international funds for project development (in line with the country’s NDC).

Mr. Florian Mugabo, Rwanda Green Fund (FONERWA), mentioned that Rwanda’s NDC was aligned directly with the country’s Green Growth Climate Resilience Strategy (GGCRS), which was developed in 2011. He added that Rwanda has mobilized US$157m with local and international donors and partners. He mentioned that the government wants to diversify sources of funding and to increase domestic collection of finances. In doing this, 3 success factors were identified: 1) strong political will; 2) transparency; and 3) accountability.

Mr. Pascal Martinez, Global Environment Facility (GEF), informed participants that the GEF-7 round in 2018 had mobilized approximately US$4b in grants, including funding for climate change. He explained that in order to access these funds, project ideas should be submitted to the national GEF Focal Point (FP). The GEF FP then selects the project according to country priorities (stakeholder integration is key for selection process), confirms the implementing agency, and supports the elaboration of the project. Mr. Martinez mentioned that there are also GEF Trust and GEF Adaptation Funds. Therefore, it is possible for countries to receive support to enhance NDCs and in the past, the GEF disbursed approximately US$200,000 per country.

From AfDB, Mr. Anthony Nyong commented that the US$100b promised to countries by 2020 at the 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) drew a lot of excitement but unfortunately, since 2015, this amount has not materialized. Similarly, NDCs were negotiated without negotiating the source of funding. Mr. Nyong noted that historically, African nations have fared poorly in GEF rounds as they have difficulty developing proposals and competing. Also, there needs to be an enabling environment for private sector investment and funding from financial institutions – NDCs need to be presented as an opportunity. He also mentioned that NDCs need to focus on Micro, Small and Medium-size Entreprises (MSMEs) as well as SMEs. The AfDB established an Energy Inclusion Fund (EIF) for smaller-scale projects. It is worthy to note that AfDB does not finance NDCs, it rather finances low-carbon, climate-resilient development projects. He highlighted that more funding would be accessible if climate change projects are integrated within the country’s development agenda.

Mr. Victor Acquah, Enio Energy, confirmed that the levels of risk are very high for Renewable Energy (RE) projects. He also mentioned that the private sector doesn’t understand sectors with high risk premiums that may not be warranted. Mr. Acquah stated that countries may set up their own green funds to raise finance and develop their own risk development frameworks on a project basis.

In relation to financing adaptation efforts, Ms. Julie Gonnet, Agence Française de Développement (AFD), highlighted that financing needs for adaptation are on the rise (from US$280b to US$500b per year by 2050). For AFD, 50% of funded projects need to focus on climate co-benefits and consider climate risks. She also mentioned that by 2020, €1.5b will be dedicated to projects with adaptation co-benefits (with particular attention to Africa) and through the Adapt’Action Facility (2017-2021), €30m will be dedicated to supporting countries operationalise the Paris Agreement, with a priority focus on Africa, Least Developed Countries (LDCs), and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).
Mechanisms for Funding NDC Implementation

Building on the previous discussion, this session focused specifically on mechanisms that can be used to fund NDC implementation. It aimed at building a wider understanding of potential finance solutions: how they work in practice, why they are effective to unlock funding for climate actions, and how they could work in different country contexts. Participants rotated around to two different stations for ~30 minutes each to hear an overview of specific mechanisms and how countries have put these in place, as well as to identify related challenges and solutions.

Station A: Green Bonds
Dr. Eugene Itua, Natural Eco Capital, outlined the benefits and challenges of issuing green bonds as well as the opportunity green bonds present for many countries where they cannot mobilize domestic or international resources. Dr. Itua highlighted that not only do green bonds facilitate investment in climate projects but they also help promote fiscal transparency, high degree of regulation, and private sector participation. However, he noted that for green bonds to be successful, a robust financial system is required and the stock exchange should be aware of any deals. Therefore, weak institutional capacities can be a barrier. Other challenges discussed included complications provided by an unstable economy, policy inconsistency and currency volatility. Dr. Itua emphasized the need to establish an appropriate regulatory framework, boost investor confidence, make the funds inexpensive and exercise fiscal discipline with no diversion of funds. Mauritius, Uganda and Morocco indicated their interest in implementing green bonds.

Station B: National Climate Funds
Ms. Josephine Uwababyeyi, FONERWA and Mr. Adugna Nemera Gedefa, Climate Resilient Green Economy (CRGE) Facility, discussed establishing national climate funds and emphasized involving a diverse group of stakeholders, notably the private sector and government to demonstrate national commitment. The main opportunities discussed included the capacity to finance green projects, particularly adaptation projects. The sustainability of a national climate fund was highlighted as a main challenge e.g., if there is political instability such as a change in administration or if the project is not prioritized due to political inaction. As a key solution to facilitate the fund, Ms. Uwababyeyi suggested prioritizing the project in the context of development rather than climate change.

Station C: Loan Guarantees
Mr. Moubarak Moukaila focused on building a wider understanding of loan guarantees from the level of microfinance to large-scale enterprises, offering the perspective of the West African Development Bank (BOAD). Where countries are unable to provide funding for guarantees for the private sector, green funds can help mobilize resources and build public confidence. Mr. Moukaila emphasized guarantees need to be adapted to African countries when states can cover costs of the guarantee. One opportunity noted was setting up a loan guarantee by accessing central banks. Mr. Moukaila highlighted the benefits of maximizing relatively little national budget resources to facilitate large infrastructure projects. Cross-sectoral opportunities were also discussed, such as incorporating lighting improvements in the areas of roads, health, and education.
This session was organized around 8 round table discussions during which a “case-giver” at each table presented a challenge his/her country was facing in relation to NDC implementation and other participants provided feedback/solutions to the challenge. At the end of the session, each “case-giver” was asked to share 3-4 main takeaways from the discussion.

Capacity Building for NDC Actors
Mr. Beausic Chongo, Zambia, presented his country’s challenge on accessing climate finance. Following the discussions with his peers, Mr. Chongo highlighted the 3 main takeaways: 1) solicit support from Capacity-Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) to build national capacity; 2) prioritize 10 project concepts out of the 33 project concepts identified during the country’s NDC preparation and develop them into bankable project proposals; and 3) engage local academic institutions in building national capacity for the development of bankable project proposals and encourage government to use an incentive mechanism to motivate academia in doing so.

Climate governance and access to climate finance was presented as a challenge by Mr. Julien Koundja Koularambaye, Chad. Mr. Koundja Koularambaye’s takeaways were to: 1) establish a coordination body with representation from all main stakeholders; 2) place the coordination body at the highest level of government; and 3) within the coordination body, have a political level and a technical level and create sub-committees on adaptation, mitigation, finance and negotiations.

Developing an NDC Implementation Plan
Ms. Mookho Monnapula, Lesotho, discussed difficulties in establishing an NDC implementation framework. After discussion, key takeaways included: 1) conducting an assessment of barriers and gaps; 2) developing a framework to address those gaps; 3) making sure that all stakeholders are involved, including the private sector, and defining the roles and responsibilities of said stakeholders; and 4) ensuring that the Ministry of Environment remains a coordinator and puts in place a system where all stakeholders can play a role.

Mr. Sawaba Ale, Togo, presented Togo’s challenge on ensuring coherence of sectoral actions for NDC implementation. Mr. Ale reported back that 1) improving the regulatory and institutional framework; 2) reinforcing the awareness of all sectors; and 3) ensuring coordination across all sectors were key to aligning sectoral NDC actions.

NDC Coordination
Mr. Frederic Zakpa, Côte d’Ivoire, sought peer advice on establishing a National Climate Change Commission (NCCC). Mr. Zakpa found that Côte d’Ivoire would need to: 1) assess why other NCCCs of this kind have failed in the past and build from the lessons learned; 2) secure buy-in of all ministries and have the NCCC be presided by the Prime Minister; 3) in the Decree that will create the NCCC, include a clause that the operation of the NCCC will be financed from the national budget; and 4) take advantage of training provided by other projects to build the capacity of members of the NCCC.

Including sub-national governments in NDC coordination was presented as a key challenge by Ms. Barbara Mgutshini, Kwazulu Natal, South Africa. The main takeaways to help overcome this challenge were: 1) highlight opportunities that sub-national governments and actors can bring to the table; 2) maintain climate change in sub-national agenda; 3) in providing basic electricity service, favor renewable energy; and 4) to shield climate action from high political turnover, work with technical staff and involve the media.
Mobilizing Financial Resources for NDCs

Ms. Nadine Koussoube, Burkina Faso, was interested to hear peer advice on elaborating an NDC investment plan. Ms. Koussoube highlighted that it is important to: 1) involve decision-makers; 2) secure the commitment of the Ministry of Finance; 3) take into account the conditional and unconditional targets of the country’s NDC; and 4) become a member of the NDC Partnership to catalyze support.

With regards to securing funding from government budgets, Mr. Golivati Gomani, Malawi, noted from peers that a country must: 1) anchor climate-related funding to the law to increase likelihood of getting an allocation from the national budget; 2) secure political buy-in for climate change; 3) develop tools and indicators for tracking climate expenditures; and 4) strengthen the country’s coordination system.
Reflections & Closing

In the final session, Mr. Antwi-Boasiako Amoah, Ghana, underscored three key takeaways from the dialogue: 1) NDC implementation must be part of countries’ development agendas; 2) countries must work with policymakers to achieve political buy-in; and 3) engagement/consultation processes must be broadened to involve key stakeholders. Mr. Martin Kipping, Germany BMZ, mentioned BMZ’s work to mainstream climate change into partners’ development agendas and the importance of leaving no one behind. He suggested changing the climate change narrative from one of risks and threats to one of opportunities, including for private sector engagement and investment. Finally, Mr. William Agyemang Bonsu, UNFCCC Secretariat, thanked the Government of Ghana on behalf of the co-organizers, lauded the engagement of country participants, underscored the importance of local government engagement and innovative financial mechanisms in NDC implementation, and highlighted the Secretary-General’s Climate Action Summit in September in New York.

All materials from the Africa NDC Dialogue can be found on the NDC Support Programme website here.