



Regional Dialogue on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for Africa

26-28 September 2017
Rabat, Morocco

Dialogue Report

With support from/in collaboration with:



With the signing of the Paris Agreement in November 2016, a clear signal has been set that all countries, large and small, pledged to take ambitious action or Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to take climate action by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and by improving resilience to climate impacts. Africa, in particular, has demonstrated major support in the global climate negotiations and to contribute its fair share to meet the Paris Agreement with all 54 African countries signing the Paris Agreement and over 70% ratifying it. Africa is also destined to fill its growing role as its population is set to double to 2.4 billion by 2050.

As countries continue to move forward on climate action targets, it is imperative to build upon Paris Agreement momentum to actively turn pledged contributions into concrete action and move beyond political or diplomatic declarations. Based on discussions with country experts and a survey conducted by UNDP in 2016, the clear priority of country policymakers involved in developing NDC strategies is how best to implement the ambitious NDC. In light of the predominant need for NDC implementation support, the **Regional Dialogue on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for Africa** was conducted on September 26-28, 2017 in Rabat, Morocco with a focus on implementation, and with coordination support provided by the UN Development Programme (UNDP), UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Secretariat, and the Government of Morocco in collaboration with GIZ and the NDC Partnership. All presentations are available on the Dialogue website [here](#).

This was the 4th in a series of Africa Regional NDC Dialogues (18th in the worldwide Dialogue series), and it was designed to focus on the following main topics related to NDC implementation:

- Updating the global status of NDC implementation and experiences on NDC implementation at the national level;
- Clarifying capacity building gaps and needs with recommendations on support priorities to address these gaps;
- NDC implementation considerations at the local authority level;
- Finance needs and options for NDC implementation, including leveraging public resources and how to strengthen the role of the private sector; and
- Entry points to integrating gender equality and women empowerment into NDC implementation.

For each of the above, an emphasis was placed on discussing African country experiences, and on country-specific opportunities and challenges encountered. The Dialogue convened representatives from 50 African countries and hosted 226 participants who were principally policymakers and national focal points in areas related to climate change (e.g., UNFCCC focal points, Green Climate Fund focal points, NDC coordinators).

The Dialogue was fortunate for the inspirational words and contributions during the Day #1 welcome session from several high-level experts. During these interventions, it was highlighted the importance of ensuring a smooth transition and implementation of national climate actions and the Dialogue was credited for focusing on the issues most pertinent for NDC implementation in the African context. Creating these types of platforms was noted to be extremely beneficial in facilitating African nations to share experiences and knowledge on NDCs and work together. Participants also emphasized that, although Africa's contributions to global GHG emissions is still very low, Africa has a strong will to be part of the solution and NDCs are at the heart of national commitments. Keynote presenters during the Dialogue were as follows:

- Ms. Nezha El Ouafi, Secretary of State to the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Sustainable Development, Morocco
- Ms. Mounia Boucetta, Secretary of State to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Morocco
- Ms. Arlette Soudan-Nonualt, Minister of Tourism and Environment, Republic of Congo
- Mr. Mohamed Nbou, Ministry of Environment, Morocco
- Mr. Markus Woelke, German Embassy in Morocco
- Mr. William Agyemang-Bonsu, UNFCCC Secretariat
- Mr. Stephen Gold, UNDP
- Mr. Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi, United Cities and Local Governments of Africa

An over-arching message discussed during the welcoming remarks and expanded upon during the 3-day Dialogue was that climate change action is required on a global scale to make meaningful progress towards limiting global warming to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the increase to 1.5°C. Yet, the impacts of climate change will continue to be most felt in countries where climate vulnerability is the greatest, and which also hold mitigation opportunities to attract climate finance (e.g., there are currently about 634 million people in Africa whom are lacking access to electricity, and this is greater than 50% of the total worldwide). With this in mind, this Workshop Report is divided into the Dialogue’s broad topics of discussion.

*Climate change “is not an abstract finding. It is a daily reality.”
Ms. Mounia Boucetta, Secretary of State to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
and International Cooperation, Morocco*



Photo 1: Group Photo, Africa Regional NDC Dialogue in Rabat, Morocco - September 27, 2017

Overview of NDC Implementation in Africa

Many African countries are making considerable progress in preparing for NDC implementation, and this has materialized by taking such action as: undertaking consultations on NDC implementation (e.g., Mali, Namibia, Senegal), developing NDC implementation plans that prioritize specific sectoral climate actions, designing institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms to support NDC work, assessing how to attract or reorient investments toward climate actions, and designing monitoring systems (measurement, reporting, and verification or MRV) to measure progress toward the implementation of the NDCs. The NDC is an organic policy instrument with a clear element of periodic revision, and for many countries in Africa, NDC development/revision is a unique opportunity to scale up ambitions. For example, Morocco is increasing its unconditional target of reducing emissions below business as usual levels in 2030 from 13% in the initial INDC to 17% in its first NDC submitted in September 2016.

Several key considerations that were emphasized to advance NDC implementation in Africa were discussed:

- Adding detail to NDCs so they go beyond political statements of intent and rather are used as direct departure points for practical action;
- Converting NDCs into investment plans to turn concepts into actions;
- Enabling national stakeholders to take far greater ownership of NDC development and implementation and to secure greater political commitment;

- Enhancing capacity and access to scientific knowledge; and
- Enhancing the enabling environment (political, legal, technical, institutional, financial).

A major consideration of this last item regarding an enabling environment is the integration and alignment of the NDC into national development planning. Climate change and climate action affect all sectors and all line ministries in support of national planning and economic development. It is critical to mainstream climate change mitigation and resilience into national development plans, programmes, and strategies such as National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets.

Access to adequate finance, both in terms of public and private sources to bring to fruition NDC objectives and targets was obviously a critical issue, discussed during several sessions on Day #3, and is addressed in a separate sub-section below.

Establishing MRV systems that are accurate, consistent, comparable, cost-effective, and transparent plays a critical role in tracking NDC progress, creating a strong accounting framework to ensure NDC integrity, and informing policymaking. The design of MRV systems can also help develop a link between emissions measurement and social benefits. Day #3 offered important insights into MRV design as it pertains to NDC implementation. For example, Zambia described its REDD+ programme emphasis on independent monitoring where projects offer economic, and environmental social opportunities inclusively, including to marginalized groups.

Cameroon emphasized the key elements of its REDD+ MRV system. This includes identifying the right indicators to track the vision and efficiency of the system, collaborating with all stakeholders involved, prioritizing pools of carbon to consider, and establishing methodologies. Cameroon also set up a body responsible for MRV with sufficient capacity that has experience in providing training. The costs of an MRV system can be extensive so costing the system is critical, especially when considering the system may be decentralized in numerous sub-national regions with local implementing units. Particular difficulties with designing the system that were discussed include: engaging the right partners and securing ownership, data flow, understanding local priorities and needs, facilitating data collection, and human capacity limitations.

Capacity Building Needs for NDC Implementation

It is important to take stock in country strategies to update and implement NDCs, as well as identify key areas where further capacity building support might be useful. The Dialogue took advantage of convening climate change experts representing 89% of African countries to discuss areas where more capacity is needed in-country and where the most significant gaps exist. The primary reasons for this were to inform countries and international institutions, as well as better shape capacity building efforts in the future. This component of the Dialogue builds upon a workshop coordinated in March 2017 by the Morocco Ministry of Environment, Morocco Competency Centre for Climate Change, and the GIZ Morocco 4C project, and feeds into the upcoming Paris Committee on Capacity Building meetings.

*NDCs are a “key piece of the puzzle on how to implement the Paris Agreement.”
Mr. Markus Woelke, Germany Embassy to Morocco*

As became evident during preparation for the Dialogue, it can be difficult to gather information on NDC development in Africa and in other global regions despite the existence of the online NDC database platforms (e.g., UNFCCC interim NDC Registry). This is reflective of the limited, freely available NDC implementation data and advice available to countries. Capacity building also faces a challenge with the fast evolution and rapid pace of climate instruments and policies (e.g., NDC, NAPs, NAMA, CDM).

During the Dialogue, a panel discussion and the 1st of two interactive break-out sessions were coordinated to encourage interactive discussion between international and country experts, and to provide participants with opportunities to engage in open debate with colleagues covering a vast cross-section of African country NDC experiences. Strengthened institutions was highlighted as a main area where a capacity gap exists and going forward this should be targeted to improve the process of revising and implementing NDCs. Specifically, it was

recommended to establish a NDC coordination office with high-level leadership (e.g., to track progress towards NDC targets), and develop a concrete NDC implementation structure and strategy. Multi-level participation across sectors should be prioritized as currently, agencies often function as isolated islands, so support is recommended in the form of systems that facilitate coordination between different actors (e.g., line ministries, sectoral experts, non-government actors).

Improving national capacity to initiate strategies to strengthen participation of local government were also emphasized, as was awareness raising and communication strategies with key stakeholders to better mobilize potential partners. Capacity to implement an over-arching supportive legal framework in which the NDC implementation is anchored was recommended as well to provide legal basis, improve awareness, and increase reliability and credibility in climate action (e.g., Kenya's 2016 Climate Change Act and its Climate Change Council including the President as participant). Additional institutional considerations related to capacity building focused on proactively planning for staff turnover to minimize lost capacity for the organization and reaching out more to universities that offer local expertise to maximize.

Hands-on presentations of two decision-making tools were conducted by UNDP and World Bank Group. UNDP's [Climate Action Impact Tool \(CAIT\)](#) and the World Bank Group [Mitigation Action Assessment Protocol \(MAAP\)](#) Online Interface provide a cost-efficient approach to assessing the impacts of climate actions. Through the tools, contributions to sustainable development are evaluated, thereby serving to align global climate goals with the SDG 2030 Agenda. Through future outreach events, participants will have the opportunity to share their experiences with using the tools and provide feedback on how to further refine the tools.

Data management was noted as a key area where further support is needed. The areas where capacity was recommended were in: improving data sharing arrangements with organizational mandates to more efficiently furnish data and enhance transparency; clarifying who collects, processes, and analyzes data as climate-related data systems are often not systemic; and the creation of centers of data collection. Africa Development Bank presented its new data hub ([Africa NDC Hub](#)) that, when up and running, will serve as a resource pool where information is shared to encourage South-South learning.

In addition to the technical aspects of data management, capacity gaps were highlighted in the following technical areas as well: how to enhance the ability to submit Green Climate Fund proposals; the training of ministries on climate change issues as countries typically have one climate change unit at most that is not well resourced in terms of staff and budget, and this unit typically has a limited inter-ministerial mandate for sharing knowledge; and encouragement of peer-to-peer learning between countries.

Questions related to capacity needs in the area of climate resilience especially focused on how countries can learn what are the best methods to estimate adaptation needs and costs (e.g., data extrapolation, assumptions, time change) and how should adaptation be represented in NDCs?

Financial capacity gaps that were discussed focused on how countries can put themselves in the best position to attract finance from the private sector and to leverage public sector funds to mobilize investment. Receiving support to develop bankable projects was also highlighted as was raise awareness among finance actors on climate finance opportunities for resilience and mitigation to implement NDCs. With regards to budgetary constraints, it was recommended to develop a Funding Roadmap to help map predictability of funding, increase national budgeting for NDCs, and make funding for NDCs more systemic rather than only on a project basis that discontinues when the project ends.

Local Implementation of NDCs

Today, 54% of the world's population live in urban areas, and this number is expected to increase to 66% by 2050, corresponding to an urban population increase of 2.5 billion¹. In Africa, urbanization is particularly pronounced as the share of African populations in urban areas was 36% in 2010, and this number is projected to

1. United Nations. "World's Population Increasingly Urban with more than Half Living in Urban Areas." UN.org. <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/news/population/world-urbanization-prospects-2014.html> (accessed November 3, 2017).

grow to 50% in 2030 and 60% in 2050². With more than 64-74% of African GHG emissions currently originating from cities, there is a rising emphasis on the importance of cities on the NDC and climate action, and on scaling up local involvement and leadership. It is clear that country efforts and decision-making on these issues should not exclusively be centralized within the federal government. In the spirit of the focus on cities and climate change, a partnership agreement signing ceremony was conducted on Day #1 of the Dialogue between [Centre de Compétences Changement Climatique \(4C\)](#) and [United Cities and Local Governments of Africa \(UCLG Africa\)](#). The morning of Day #2 of the Dialogue was dedicated to discussions on local NDC implementation with a focus on presenting practical examples where local and regional authorities have taken the lead in climate action, followed by interactive discussion and Q&A.

Initiatives were presented on enabling municipalities and local authorities to prepare and finance studies on sustainable energy and climate action plans ([Cleaner Energy Savings Mediterranean Cities Project](#)), conducting a carbon footprint stocktaking exercise to prioritize emission reduction activities (Sfax, Tunisia); and set up of a municipal action plan, pilot projects like a solar-powered public swimming facility, and setting up an energy center to educate, raise awareness, and present achievements and energy innovations (Chefchaouen, Morocco).

Similarly, innovative local and regional initiatives offer an attractive opportunity to make local partners a part of the worldwide sharing of experience. For example, the [Global Covenant of Mayors](#) is an alliance of cities and local governments with a shared vision of promoting and supporting voluntary action to fight climate change and move to low carbon development. It is conducting its 1st world forum in July 2018. During the Mayor of Chefchaouen's presentation, it was highlighted civil society's participation to catalyze innovative urban approaches to climate action (e.g., through a participatory council on energy climate change and sustainable development), rather than placing the responsibility for action solely with elected representatives.

The panel of experts discussed the following concrete actions recommended to scale up local climate project implementation:

1. Focus on awareness raising, which can be very cost effective yet with strong impacts;
2. Identify where budgeting will come from (e.g., national budgets) before project proposals are issued;
3. Choose a national coordination group to help facilitation;
4. Create on-the-job training opportunities for young engineers (i.e., not theoretical trainings);
5. Generate a step-by-step approach to help cities prepare plans and identify where money comes from;
6. Specific initiatives should originate from the bottom up from local initiatives, civil society, and a long-term climate strategy; and
7. Cities need support from the state (e.g., access to funding and MRV) to ensure compliance with national standards.

Examples of mechanisms set up to facilitate or highlight opportunities for local authorities in NDC implementation include: creation of a national coordination group that facilitates decentralization rather than only focusing on Ministries of Environment, Planning, etc.; preparation of a National Coordination Report including what national focal points have agreed to do to help local authorities; demonstration at the local level effective MRV systems for the tracking of climate action; and drafting of Sustainable Energy Action Plans, which are also part of the support provided through the Cleaner Energy Saving Mediterranean Cities project where mayors commit to reduce city emissions by 20% by 2020.

Similar to Day #1, the Dialogue included an interactive break-out session to catalyze discussion among participants on potential NDC roles and priorities of local and regional authorities. In general, the break-out groups recommended using a combined top-down and bottom-up approach for governments to successfully implement NDCs. Sub-national government inputs should be captured in national climate and development policy (e.g., South Africa National Climate Change Commission includes representatives from larger cities). In addition, local / regional areas frequently have distinct goals that should be incorporated in the NDC planning,

2. African Development Bank Group. "Urbanization in Africa." AFDB.org. <https://www.afdb.org/en/blogs/afdb-championing-inclusive-growth-across-africa/post/urbanization-in-africa-10143> (accessed November 3, 2017).

and climate actions are often more likely to succeed if communities are part of the solution rather than when policy decisions are handed down unilaterally from a national authority.

Sub-national authorities can also have greater flexibility for NDC implementation planning and innovative projects than policymakers at the national level. Depending on the country, governments at the national level can also focus primarily on policy and delegate roles and responsibilities, whereas implementation can primarily be the responsibility of local governments so this is where much of national technical experience and skills can reside.

*“Everybody’s business is nobody’s business.” Roles and responsibilities must be clearly identified and followed through in NDC implementation.
Ms. Tanzila Watta Sankoh, UNDP, Sierra Leone*

Other concrete recommendations stemming from the working groups were provided as well:

1. Laws that fall under the umbrella of the NDC and its relevant sectors can be diverse and disconnected, so an effort is recommended to harmonize such laws to better reflect climate change issues in all sectors as well as to encourage implementation of laws by local councils;
2. Local / regional authorities may be best placed to provide platforms for stakeholder engagement;
3. A climate change focal point(s) should be assigned at the local / regional level; and
4. Several participants noted that after budgetary planning is strategized at the national level, it can be unclear how local / regional authorities can access this funding so greater information symmetry was recommended. Similarly, awareness raising sub-nationally and packaging information well must be a key focus so there is enhanced integrated governance and transparency.

By re-thinking a top-down approach to sustainable development, including NDC considerations, regions and municipalities can become more empowered and in turn become integral parts of the country’s climate contributions.

Climate Finance for NDC Implementation

A core pillar of the Paris Agreement is to ensure that financial flows are adequate and sufficiently consistent to reach country mitigation and adaptation targets. Towards this objective, comprehensive financing strategies for NDC implementation with potential country-specific financing solutions can be developed, and how best to attract finance should be a central component of country planning efforts as the NDC can be considered a blueprint for securing climate finance. Day #3 of the Dialogue focused on funding strategies to facilitate access to finance NDC implementation and to best ensure that NDC-related measures are implemented.

A couple of notable trends relevant for NDC investment funding were discussed during the Dialogue: about 58% of climate-related investment originate from the private sector; new investment in renewables has grown significantly in the last decade (USD 241.6 billion in 2016 excluding large hydro as compared to total energy investment worldwide at USD 1.7 trillion); and private investments in forestry are around USD 4.2 billion annually and global investments in energy efficiency are about USD 90 to 365 billion annually. In addition to the general global appetite for renewables, forestry, and energy efficiency investment, securing resources for NDCs should be aligned to broader national sustainable development priorities so climate change is mainstreamed into routine fiscal planning, budgeting frameworks, and institutional systems of public financial and economic management.

With stronger climate budgeting, governments potentially gain more control over meeting the unconditional NDC targets through domestic resources, as budget allocations are relatively more stable, especially if fiscal and medium-term expenditure frameworks are aligned to NDC targets. In Mali, for example, the National Planning Directorate and Ministry of Finance work closely with NDC development to mobilize funding from the private sector locally. NDC implementation strategies indicate how measures that contribute to NDC goals will be funded, and this includes accessing domestic public finance, private sector investment (both domestic and foreign), and international climate finance (e.g., channeled through multilateral funds and investment banks).

The following were discussed as possible components of an effective NDC financing strategy:

1. Review of governance, regulatory reforms, and institutional arrangements;
2. Financing scenarios and gap analyses;
3. Climate budgeting;
4. Pipeline development and financial planning;
5. How to catalyze investment and other financial flows; and
6. Measuring, tracking, and reporting.

Public sector funding strategies to encourage private sector engagement were discussed with the following general categories of action: policy and financial de-risking and aggregating investments (e.g., development bank guarantees, political risk insurance, public equity co-investments), strengthening capital markets, addressing bottlenecks, and supporting project development to mobilize private capital (e.g., project preparatory grants, facilitated permit process, tax incentives, providing technical guidelines). The government should involve the private sector in deliberations on planning for increased private sector investment, and work to stimulate an enabling environment such as by providing market guarantees and facilitating scheme frameworks such as public-private partnerships (e.g., Malawi public-private partnership or PPP forums to gather inputs and encourage collaboration).

Possible approaches for mobilizing climate finance for projects include seeking blended finance comprised of public and private sources, including a strong MRV component to attract investors, and adding a GHG emissions reduction component to a project to potentially attract certain investors and improve cosmetics of the enterprise. Sizing the renewable solutions appropriately in terms of energy generation is also an important consideration. It was also highlighted that each potential funding source has a complex set of application procedures and instructions and that submitting multiple proposals for NDC funding can be resource-intensive, so identification of sources to target should be selective, based on a clear understanding of scope and interests of the funding sources.

Financial support options for NDC implementation were presented as well. Green Climate Fund (GCF) is available to potentially help countries get ready for a pipeline of transformative set of projects and programmes. The key building blocks for this support is a visionary country programme and accredited entity programme (GCF Readiness funds help country programmes to access GCF support, support National Designated Authorities, and develop NAPs). As an example of mobilizing GCF funds, Agence pour le Développement Agricole presented its experience in developing a manual to describe the step-by-step process of GCF proposal development and submission.

UNDP has supported development of 38 country NDCs submissions and has a US\$ 737 million climate change portfolio in Africa covering a combination of adaptation, mitigation, and forests. African Development Bank mobilizes concessional finance for NDC implementation with a focus on adaptation and seven climate-related funds (most of which are grants and concessional finance, quasi-equity, and junior equity). The African Development Bank [Adaptation Benefit Mechanism](#) was also introduced, and is a mechanism that supports private sector investors in developing adaptation projects. Participants highlighted that often there exists a different perspective between mitigation and adaptation project intentions where adaptation projects are often predicated on saving a business (e.g., investment is required to secure a coastline) whereas mitigation projects have broader GHG emission reduction targets and greater potential to raise funds.

Gender

Women are often the 1st victims of climate change. They currently represent 70% of the poor worldwide, and represent a major part of the global economy most vulnerable to climate change impacts. For example, women comprise 43% of the world's agricultural labor force, which rises to 70% in some countries, and in Africa where 80% of the agricultural production comes from small farmers, most of this is performed by rural women. Gender equality and female empowerment are closely linked to national climate change and development goals and the linkage offers opportunities for mutual support. To date, 40% of NDCs referred to supporting gender and

women's equality, which is indicative of the high priority afforded to gender at the highest levels of national governments. Women are recognized as powerful agents of change and continue to make increasing and significant contributions to sustainable development, despite there often being structural and sociocultural barriers to gender equality.

During the Dialogue, an afternoon on Day #2 was dedicated to exploring what can be done to support gender-responsiveness in NDCs, identify points of entry to increase awareness and trainings, and overcome gender inequality. Country presentations from Ghana, Kenya, and Morocco focused on approaches to establishing gender-responsible NDC strategies. As an example of a pioneering approach in gender-responsive climate policy, in Ghana, where women account for 52% of the labor force and contribute 49% of the GDP, a technical advisory body has been established to oversee implementation of gender-sensitive policies and build capacity of gender desk officers. For an Adaptation programme, gender screening was conducted to see where gender could be incorporated. In Morocco, a gender-sensitive budgeting system has been implemented in 23 ministerial departments, including sensitization efforts with top management, institutional support, and focusing on developing a pool of experts. Kenya presented its experiences in mainstreaming gender into its current National Adaptation Plan, which emphasizes adaptation actions will "be implemented with gender considerations and all data collected for monitoring and evaluation purposes is gender disaggregated."

Overall, the following recommendations were made for policymaker colleagues:

1. Sex disaggregated data should be used to support gender-sensitive law frameworks and facilitate monitoring and tracking progress;
2. Institutional structures focused on NDCs should incorporate gender by:
 - a. Improving coordination between ministries and other agencies on gender tracking;
 - b. Ensuring key stakeholders (e.g., finance and private sectors, local government, academia, and civil society, etc.) and not only policymakers are involved with design and implementation of the gender agenda;
 - c. Establishing an oversight body for tracking gender equality monitoring; and
 - d. Developing a nationwide Climate Change Gap Gender Action Plan (ccGAP) – thus far, there are 25 worldwide.
3. Climate action models may not incorporate gender components so this should be assessed for possible entry points;
4. Conduct a gender-responsive public education strategy; and
5. As implemented in Ghana, a gender CSO was given the mandate to conduct gender screening for climate projects.

In general, seven key entry points for integrating gender into the NDCs were discussed: (1) nationwide analysis, (2) assessment of institutional climate change and gender equality frameworks and coordination mechanisms, (3) integration of gender equality into climate change policy and planning, (4) engaging in multi-stakeholder consultations, (5) capacity building, (6) monitoring, evaluation, and reporting, and (7) gender-responsive climate finance mechanism.

Overall, Dialogue participants were uniform in their assessment that countries are not doing enough institutionally to raise the level of gender-responsiveness in climate policymaking, and the NDC process offers the opportunity to create more awareness for gender integration.

Conclusions

During the 3-day Dialogue, climate finance, institutional capacity, and technical capacity were singled out as key areas to focus on to bridge the gap between the ambitious climate targets indicated in NDCs and concrete actions implemented on the ground. The Dialogue convened panel discussions and an interactive working group exercise to stocktake on country strategies and priorities for further building capacity to support NDC implementation. This effort was directed to identify technical and institutional gaps and improve future capacity building efforts.

Participants at the Dialogue emphasized it is critical to change attitudes of leadership in NDC implementation. Climate change and economic development are closely intertwined, thus the notion that climate change is mostly an environmental issue is outdated and false. Similarly, it was recommended that climate-related components (contributions to NDCs, mitigation of GHG emissions, and climate resilience) should be evaluated for all projects, not just those focused on climate.

In addition to providing overviews and advice on the diverse breadth of key NDC implementation issues, the Dialogue also explored specific aspects that are critical to successful NDC implementation. Notably, strategies for attracting climate finance were discussed that focused on countries developing funding strategies to mobilize private sector investment and strengthen the role of the public sector and institutional systems to encourage private sector engagement. Cities already play a key role in implementing national climate action priorities in many regions so the Dialogue explored various options and real-world success stories featuring collaborations between local, regional, and national levels. This is particularly critical as all sectors and levels of government have distinct laws, regulations, and priorities and it is important to harmonize these efforts to create a strengthened institutional system. Lastly, the critical nature on focusing on gender empowerment and gender equality in NDC implementation was also discussed and included such key areas as possible entry points for gender integration into NDCs and policy options that should be considered.

For more information on specific country perspectives, support programmes, and private sector initiatives, please refer to the dialogue presentations [here](#).