Regional Dialogue on Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for the Caribbean

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Rodney Bay, Saint Lucia

Dialogue Report

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Overview

In the wake of the historic signing of the 2015 Paris Agreement, 179 Parties submitted their Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). These NDCs are the main tools used by countries to implement the Paris Agreement in the hopes of strengthening the global response to climate change, keeping global temperature rise well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the increase even further to 1.5°C. With the next round of NDC submission in 2020, and the upcoming COP-24 in December in Katowice, Poland, countries are now in the process of updating data, assumptions, models, and conclusions in advance of the 2020 deadline, simultaneously with planning on how the NDCs would be implemented. The Regional Dialogue on NDCs for the Caribbean conducted in Saint Lucia on October 8-10, 2018 was therefore well timed to support countries in developing the next, more ambitious iteration of the NDC and inform countries on implementation strategies. The event webpage can be found here, and includes the agenda, presentations, and other related content.

The Dialogue was conducted just after the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) released its Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas (GHG) emission pathways. News from the Report was foreboding, noting that human activities are estimated to have already caused approximately 1.0°C of global warming above pre-industrial levels, with an expected cumulative increase of 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 at current rates. The Report goes on to elaborate projected impacts and risks of climate change, as well as emission pathways and system transitions consistent with these levels of increased temperatures.

The Caribbean is already experiencing heightened impacts and vulnerability to climate impacts such as rising sea levels and changing weather patterns, notably extreme weather conditions, so the Special Report was particularly grim. This was particularly obvious during the Dialogue, which was conducted during hurricane season with storms approaching and rebuild / recovery efforts continuing. It is clear Caribbean islands are among the most vulnerable populations worldwide to climate disruptions despite the region having very small GHG emissions (0.2% of global emissions); however, Caribbean countries are still taking significant steps to reduce national GHG emissions, assuming roles of global leadership in climate discussions, and are on track to achieve innovative climate strategies covering renewable energy and energy efficiency (RE/EE), adaptation, data management, eco-tourism, gender, natural resources management, and transport.

The Dialogue convened 84 participants from 12 Caribbean countries and was co-organized by United National Development Programme (UNDP) and the Secretariat of UN Climate Change (UNFCCC). The Dialogue was made possible with extensive support from the host country of Saint Lucia and its Department of Sustainable Development, continued generous support from the European Commission and the Governments of Germany, Japan and Norway, in collaboration with the NDC Partnership. Other Agencies contributing to the design and implementation of the Dialogue included Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre, Climate Analytics, GIZ, Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), UN Women, and World Bank. It was the 19th in a series of regional dialogues on NDCs carried out around the world since 2014, engaging over 2,000 participants from 150+ developing countries, and the first such Dialogue located in and focused on the Caribbean. The Saint Lucia event sought to accomplish three primary objectives:

1. Exchange experiences and views related to NDC implementation planning – particularly in the energy sector, including linkages to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other planning processes, and opportunities to advance gender equality;
2. Discuss how to implement, finance, and monitor Adaptation in the framework of the NDC; and
3. Discuss future steps for NDCs, including finance considerations of implementation, NDCs in the context of the Talanoa Dialogue, raising ambition, and long-term development strategies.

The online event page can be found here, and includes all presentations, the agenda, and photos. The Dialogue convened government representatives from throughout the Caribbean (including from Ministries of Energy, Environment, Finance, and Planning) and representatives of international organizations and other institutions involved in NDC implementation. The Dialogue was conducted in collaboration with the first Caribbean NDC Finance Initiative Forum (NDCFI Forum) on October 11-12 that was organized by the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), UNFCCC and Germany, in parallel to a wonderful exhibition to raise public awareness of the impacts of climate change on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) organized by the European Union and OECS and welcoming local schoolchildren.

Dialogue keynote welcome remarks were provided by H.E. Dr. Gale T.C. Rigobert, Minister of Education, Gender, and Sustainable Development for Saint Lucia. Minister Rigobert highlighted the Dialogue comes at a critical time when peer exchange, inter-country support, and technical advice are critical for countries to enhance their abilities to strategize on NDC delivery and climate negotiation processes while practically providing assistance on tackling climate change. The Minister further stressed NDC processes require a ‘people-centered response’ to ensure buy-in from the whole government and success of the Dialogue will depend on where countries stand when the Dialogue is finished, and Caribbean countries move in the right direction, working together as a group.

Ms. Yoko Ebisawa, UNDP Project Manager of the Japan-Caribbean Climate Change Partnership (J-CCCP) next highlighted the opportunities presented through the Dialogue for countries to fine-tune NDC implementation roadmaps. If the 1.5°C target is not achieved, then this will have enormous ramifications in the Caribbean as highlighted by IPCC. NDCs encompass a wide spectrum of sectors with sustainable development at the core with NDCs offering countries opportunities to streamline and improve efficiency, bridging gaps between climate and development measures potentially including SDGs, National Adaptation Plans (NAP), and development plans.

Quick Reference: Caribbean NDC Activities & Programmes discussed at the Dialogue

- Adaptation Community.net [Germany]
- Caribbean Climate Online Risk & Adaptation tool (CCORAL) [CCCCC]
- Caribbean Climate Smart Accelerator
- Gender-Responsive National Climate Policy & NDCs [UNDP]
- IRENA / Abu Dhabi Fund for Development Project Facility
- Japan-Caribbean Climate Change Partnership (J-CCCP) [UNDP]
- NDC Assist [Germany]
- NDC Partnership Plans [NDC Partnership]
- Partnership on Transparency in the Paris Agreement [Germany]
- SIDS Dock [IRENA]
- Aligning NDCs and SDGs [UNDP]
- Climate Support Facility [EDF, Intra-ACP GCCA+]
- Introduction to Gender & Climate Change [UNFCCC]
- Natural Disaster Risk Management Programme [CDB]
- NDC Invest [IADB]
- NDC Support Cluster Help Desk [Germany]
- Sustainable Energy Marketplace [IRENA]
Mr. Bernd Hackmann of the UNFCCC emphasized that Caribbean countries are a key partner in the UN Climate Change negotiations process, undertaking a leadership role globally. Mr. Hackmann noted the Dialogue plays a significant role in clarifying what is important to know to achieve NDC targets and why as well as recommended methodologies to take forward and sharing experiences from other countries within the region.

**The NDC Process & NDCs from the Region**

In this session, Mr. Hackmann provided an overview of the NDC submission process and updated participants that 180 Parties have already submitted their first NDC. With 13 of 14 Caribbean countries ratifying the Paris Agreement and all 14 as signatories, the response from across the Caribbean has been strong. In the Caribbean, 1 NDC has an absolute target, 4 have policy and action targets, and 9 have a Business-As-Usual (BAU) target with emission reductions as high as 44% below the baseline. In addition, 12 Parties from the Caribbean have conditional targets between 10 and 44.7% for additional emission reductions. Mr. Hackmann summarized upcoming milestones in the NDC cycle, key meetings, areas of focus in ongoing NDC negotiations (e.g., to clarify features of NDCs, NDC accounting of emissions, where and how to store NDCs, common timeframes, and market-related initiatives and internationally transferred mitigation outcomes (ITMOs), and discussed a key question – What are countries doing to get ready for NDC implementation? To this, Mr. Hackmann noted most countries were: aligning NDC actions with policy priorities; improving regulatory and institutional frameworks; identifying and prioritizing

### Key Messages on NDC Implementation in the Caribbean

1. Although Caribbean nations are responsible for minimal (0.2%) global GHG emissions, the Caribbean is among the regions hardest hit by climate change impacts. The response from across the Caribbean has been strong through ambitious NDCs, contributions to the global climate processes, and innovative climate actions;
2. Three main gaps were emphasized in NDC implementation thus far: governance, finance, and tracking progress in climate action or MRV;
3. Institutional coordination and communication needs to be horizontal across ministries and development partners, and vertical at national, sub-national, and local levels;
4. NDC targets will not be successful unless private capital is mobilized and creating an enabling environment is a necessary 1st step. Regional approaches and collaboration can be further explored;
5. Caribbean NDC mitigation efforts focus on the Energy Sector, which is cross-cutting with potential to impact development benefits such as jobs, health, sustainability, and income;
6. In climate, like all areas, women are agents of change like men. It is critical to make NDC processes more people-centered and gender-responsive;
7. Enhanced data systems would increase political buy-in and support policy making; and
8. Adaptation has been under-represented in NDCs and will be more elaborated in the revisions. Emphasis was placed on aligning NDC/NAP, costing (incl. Loss & Damage), tracking progress, and local involvement.
policies and measures; developing an NDC Implementation Plan; conducting analyses that underpin the NDC; and making updates to the NDC based on recent data.

Mr. Cayetano Casado of the **NDC Partnership** led the discussion on Caribbean NDCs by noting that of the 14 (I)NDCs submitted from the region, all included mitigation components and all but one had adaptation components. Eight of the mitigation targets consist of reductions from baseline emission reductions, four are in the form of policies and actions, and two are reductions compared to BAU. Energy is by far the primary sector of focus in mitigation, followed by land use, land use change and forestry or LULUCF, and waste. NDC adaptation measures for the Caribbean focus predominantly on water and agriculture, followed by coastal measures and health. GHG emissions by country are provided in Figure 1.

**Figure 1: Caribbean GHG Emissions [Mt CO₂e]**

Source: Climate Watch ([www.climatewatchdata.org](http://www.climatewatchdata.org))

Ambassador (Ret.) Dr. Neil Parsan represented the **Caribbean Climate Smart Accelerator**, and mapped out the objective of the Accelerator, which is to transform the region’s economy through fast-tracking sound public and private investment opportunities that support climate action and economic growth, through sustainable development. The over-arching goal is for the Caribbean to become the world’s first climate smart zone. Dr. Parsan provided an overview of key partners, summarized key areas of engagement (convening, advocacy, matchmaking with solution providers and financing), packaging and aggregating initiatives, and monitoring implementation. The Accelerator is in the process of looking at five transformative projects that use innovative financial models to circumvent barriers and has invited Caribbean countries to reach out for further information. Target sectors are RE/EE, electric vehicles, innovative financing, resilient infrastructure & smart cities, and land & water ecosystems. Dr. Parsan highlighted projects supported by the Accelerator that will help countries achieve NDC targets regarding the measures involved and impacts such as improving project maturity and readiness to receive finance.

**Country Progress on NDC Implementation in the Caribbean**

With initial (I)NDCs drafted and revisions underway, countries moved to the stage of planning how to efficiently realize climate strategies on the ground, including resources available and where gaps (e.g.,
technical, financial) exist. In support of Caribbean countries planning NDC implementation, Mr. Bernhard Huber of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) presented sets of tools available online:

- [www.adaptationcommunity.net](http://www.adaptationcommunity.net): Adaptation-related information, webinars, trainings on vulnerability and risk assessments, NAP mainstreaming, private sector partnerships, and M&E;
- [www.transparency-partnership.net/documents-tools](http://www.transparency-partnership.net/documents-tools): NDC accounting and national MRV; and
- [www.ndc-cluster.net/helpdesk](http://www.ndc-cluster.net/helpdesk): Support service for NDC implementation.

Ms. Verania Chao of UNDP presented an overview of what comprises a NDC Implementation Plan, primary objectives, key elements, and challenges and recommendations countries are facing. Factors affecting how Plans are developed include: government structure, geography/demographics, existence of a national mandate, tracking data, costs of implementation, and consultations and inclusivity from key local actors.

Country perspective was provided by Ms. Shanna Emmanuel who presented on Saint Lucia’s main areas of NDC focus: energy efficiency and water systems; renewables and energy generation; and transport. Going forward, Saint Lucia is prioritizing donor coordination, developing a NDC Partnership Plan, stakeholder engagement (e.g., with the private sector), and securing resources for NDC implementation. Ms. Emmanuel highlighted three Critical Success Factors for creating the bridge from NDC planning to implementation:

1. Governance – supportive an enabling environment with strong political support;
2. Finance – national budget plus external support; and
3. MRV – data availability tied to a sound mechanism.

In a discussion on the NDC in Dominican Republic, Mr. Guenter Eberz of GIZ focused on project development and securing support. He observed development projects historically were a one-off effort, but now NDC-related projects are broader and arise from different sources (national budgets and strategies, private sector, civil society, etc.). For example, Mr. Eberz categorized projects as either infrastructure, socio-economic, and climate mitigation/adaptation and most donors and agencies often have affinity towards only one of these areas; NDCs however don’t follow this trend and can contain all these components. Furthermore, a high volume of projects can create a management capacity issue so established processes related to project idea evaluation and tracking were highlighted as critical (especially because many projects are not explicitly labeled as NDC).

Mr. Eberz recommended countries should develop projects from the context of – [What is best for the country?](http://whatbestforthecountry.com) rather than designing projects to comply with donor requirements. Donors should be brought onboard at an advanced stage. For example, Dominican Republic is now developing waste, coffee, and cacao NAMA concepts and will then sit with donors to discuss.

Ms. Jamila Gregory of Antigua and Barbuda described the strategy behind the country’s NDC, notably the sectoral focus (buildings, water, energy) with solid existing foundations in the national Department of Environment Core Work Programme, Environment Protection and Management Act, and Medium-Term Development Strategy. Institutional structures established for the NDC include a cabinet-appointed multi-sectoral Technical Advisory Committee, Project Unit in the Dept of Environment, and a Project Management Committee with Government and NGO representatives that focuses on stakeholder engagement. Thus far, the main challenges have been data collection, grid stability for renewables generation, and inability to achieve economies of scale from renewables.
NDC Actions in the Energy Sector

As emphasized earlier, every one of the Caribbean NDCs target the Energy Sector. Priority areas in the sector for the Caribbean consist of: generation from renewables; EE related to electricity generation, transmission, distribution, and consumption; and EE in infrastructure and transport.

Ms. Claire Best of Barbados noted their Energy Sector is well-positioned to lead efforts of resuscitating the Barbadian economy, following the 2006 Energy Policy and 2010 roll out of several actions designed to drive RE development. This includes an Energy Fund, electrification of the government vehicle fleet (now there are 50 charging ports for electric vehicles), larger energy users were retrofitted with solar PV, RE demonstration projects by Global Environment Facility (GEF), and a national analysis of the energy mix including RE/EE potential. As examples of policy approaches taken to support large solar farms, rights were granted to enable private operation of a solar plant and close partnerships were forged with the private sector to develop the right type of policies to scale up the solar sector. A delegation comprising 11 government representatives as well as national utilities also visited the Orkney Islands, Scotland, to learn from Orkney’s marine renewables success story.

Guyana’s Mr, Gavin Bovell outlined the rather unique situation where Guyana relies heavily on imported petroleum fuels as the primary source of energy (~ 85%) but has set a very ambitious target of 100% RE in the power sector by 2025, and has recently discovered significant oil and natural gas reservoirs. In the face of this period of transition, Guyana has set the following NDC priorities for their energy sector to support domestic businesses and strengthen energy security: develop renewable and clean energy, fortify the national grid, and reduce energy demand. Shortlisted technology applications were highlighted as well through a Technology Needs Assessment.

Ms. Judith Ephraim of OECS emphasized that energy is a cross-cutting, development-relevant issue requiring both national and sectoral coordination and solid links to the public sector (policies, planning, finance) and private sector (finance, insurance, bankability). Ms. Ephraim emphasized countries have a critical need for political commitment at the highest level in part to create an enabling environment that addresses: transparency and communication, enabling legislation, capacity building within the public sector, and financing strategies for NDC programmes and projects.

From a global perspective, Mr. Leighton Waterman discussed the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) support for NDCs in the Caribbean. He observed that although NDC RE targets in the Caribbean are very ambitious, often the NDCs do not match national policies and links with enabling policy frameworks need to be stronger. A main challenge of RE projects was noted to be failing to prove bankability to funding institutions to get projects off the ground. In the Caribbean, most of the new 100MW/year of RE installed is in solar and wind (Figure 2). IRENA supports countries and project development by conducting Quickscan assessments of needs and opportunities, Roadmaps, and Renewables Readiness Assessments. Other resources include the IRENA investment catalyst Sustainable Energy Marketplace and the IRENA-supported Abu Dhabi Fund that provides RE concessional loans.
Day 1 Breakout Sessions - Working Groups to explore: (i) bridging the gap from NDC planning to implementation on the ground; and (ii) energy sector strategies for NDC implementation

In this session, participants broke into groups to discuss how NDC planning can better translate into implementing projects on the ground or NDC opportunities specific to the energy sector. Discussions were informal and very animated.

Much of the discussions centered around institutional structures. For example, it was recommended that countries need a single lead agency to direct efforts on implementation that can bring together all actors (e.g., ministries, utilities, regulators) and this would enhance ownership and buy-in. Mapping stakeholders and NDC-related projects was highlighted, and the Ministry of Finance was singled out as needing to be involved early in NDC planning processes to facilitate funding. Continuity and leadership were seen as priorities at the highest levels of government, e.g., to avoid inconsistency in the event of changing administrations. Reconciling different national policies (e.g., NAPs, sectoral, Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action or NAMAs) was also prioritized.

Data related to the costing of measures and monitoring frameworks were noted to be lacking, and these will impact the degree of commitment. Access to funding requires a robust database and this can be facilitated by developing a NDC finance plan for conditional and unconditional NDC components. Scaling up technical training was emphasized for engineers, project developers, and finance experts to operationalize the NDC at the ground level. Countries retaining people with technical capacities was also identified as a challenge.

Despite common knowledge of the dire impacts of climate change, some officials are still unaware of what are NDCs. To broaden stakeholder involvement in the NDC cycle and sensitize the broader population, countries need to develop a NDC communications and outreach strategy. A warning was also levied against consultation fatigue, especially in SIDS where the same people may be involved in multiple processes.
Specific to the energy sector, working groups noted there are varied options on how to achieve NDC targets: energy policies on a whole vs. drilling down further, through interconnected policies, feed-in tariffs, green stability studies, renewable readiness studies, RE and EE policy, and sectoral approaches. To encourage energy sector transition, recommended solutions also included looking at building energy efficiency standards and energy management system incentives. For the energy sector for SIDS, it might be better to look at policies implemented at the regional level such as the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and how national centers adopt those policies to fit into their needs. Strong recommendation was also made to clarify energy transition plans when implementing NDCs.

**Adaptation Action in the NDCs**

Caribbean nations have experienced among the world’s most harmful climate change impacts over the past decades and recent studies project these impacts will continue and get worse. Impacts on key resources and economic sectors such as coastal zone management, freshwater resources, and agriculture will be significant and require a coordinated global response, mostly in the form of finance. The Paris Agreement asked countries to reflect on priorities, needs, and actions related to adaptation, and this session of the Dialogue focused on how countries are incorporating Adaptation into their NDCs. Overall, adaptation sections are less concrete than mitigation due to limited data, small understanding of local vulnerability, and high costs; NAPs can help fill some of these gaps.

Ms. Vicia Woods of **Saint Kitts and Nevis** noted the country’s NDC makes no reference to adaptation finance; however, the country is developing a National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy which will address this issue. In addition, Saint Kitts and Nevis is one of the few countries that incorporates specific adaptation indicators. Ms. Woods highlighted the USAID-funded Rallying the Region to Action on Climate Change program as a good example of securing feedback and inputs from communities, awareness raising, and demand-driven market development. Similarly, the discussion panel in general emphasized people must be at the center of adaptation measures and policies. Securing international finance and engaging the private sector have been a challenge.

Mr. Trevor Thompson of **Grenada** provided an overview of the climate resilience landscape and strategic links between NAP and NDC processes, both of which advanced in parallel and are closely coordinated. The NAP was country-led with GIZ support and had the primary goal to deliver project ideas on climate resilience to potential donors and funding agencies. The Ministry of Climate Resilience has responsibility for the NAP, which is also the foundation of the NDC adaptation component to create solid linkage. Grenada takes a sectoral approach to resilience where each sector identifies the actions to be taken.

Mr. Valbrun Odré of **Haïti** addressed the country’s vulnerability profile and climate risks faced. According to the 2018 **German Watch** climate risk index, Haïti had the highest level of climate risk worldwide in 2016. The challenges faced by Haïti to integrate adaptation in its NDC included limited data availability, lack of sectoral vulnerability studies, how to account for Loss & Damage, estimating adaptation costs (cost estimates from the National Adaptation Programme of Actions, or NAPA, were used), synergies with other initiatives, and national ownership where climate change was previously seen mostly as a mandate of the Ministry of Environment. The next steps include a NDC revision in 2019, defining adaptation indicators and targets, evaluating capacity needs, and guaranteeing policy synergies. Quantifying Loss & Damages was acknowledged to be difficult - *How do you value the loss of a cemetery that has become underwater?*

Mr. Carlos Fuller of the **Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC)** described the history and objectives of the Caribbean Regional Climate Change Strategic Framework and its Implementation Plan for Development Resilient to Climate Change. CCCCC prepared these at the request of CARICOM heads
of state. Mr. Fuller elaborated on initiatives supported by the Centre, including potable water systems in Saint Vincent and Grenadines, a water system and upgraded building code in Saint Lucia, and forestry management in Belize. The Regional Strategy and Implementation Plan are being revised and consultations are underway. Mr. Odré of Haiti emphasized the importance of capturing NDC benefits and not only costs, and as an example, Mr. Fuller indicated CCCCC estimated what were the benefits of an irrigation system it worked on (e.g., increased agricultural yield).

The emphasis of adaptation measures is clearly on local action, including engaging in consultations at the local level and integrating climate change into community plans. This model has been successfully implemented with GEF Small Grants Programme that partners with registered Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and community groups, e.g., Mr. Thompson noted Grenada runs a community college program on running community-based organizations or NGOs.

Ms. Ana Bucher of World Bank highlighted the critical issue of tackling and planning for the slow onset of climate risks rather than solely responding to extreme weather events. This can be harder to address than extreme events but funding agencies need to consider long-term climate impacts. E.g., CCCCC’s CCORAL online risk assessment tool was adopted by Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) for new projects to apply climate risk management.

Integration of NDC Targets into National Planning

Mr. James Vener of UNDP presented linkages between NDCs and SDGs and opportunities for aligning their similar agendas. Mr. Vener outlined central benefits of alignment: (i) foster mutual goals with less duplication, accelerate processes, and mainstream climate change in development; (ii) increase efficiency and optimize resources; (iii) simplify monitoring of indicators; (iv) mutually informing review cycles (NDC, 2030 Agenda, planning); and (v) strengthen the whole-of-society approach at national and sub-national levels and across stakeholders. Aligning SDG/NDC work can help to coordinate institutional arrangements, MRV/data indicators, reporting processes and targets, and efforts to secure finance. NDC Partnership Plans were also highlighted as a tool for donors to understand national priorities and to anchor NDCs and align processes.

Mr. Colin Mattis of Belize explained the main goal of the NDC is to strategically transition to low carbon development and strengthen climate change resilience. The NDC was developed using the “Guide to Preparing an INDC for Caribbean Forum Countries” developed with CCCCC and Global Climate Change Alliance Plus (GCCA+) support and was built upon existing frameworks, which facilitated government approval since Cabinet approval was already secured. Also, demonstrated policy linkages would help secure funding for implementation. Specific linked strategies include the vision document Horizon 2030 that is based on a pillar related to the environment with key strategies to achieve targets, and the NDC areas of concern related to Belize’s emission profile are aligned with these strategies. The NDC is also aligned with two of the same critical success factors and necessary conditions of the Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy, and the NDC shares areas of focus with the National Energy Policy Framework. Forestry and Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) is important for the NDC and will be incorporated in the 2nd iteration of the NDC.

Dr. Marlon Bristol of Guyana discussed how the NDC synergies to the Green State Development Strategy (GSDS), which highlights targets such as low-carbon resilient development. To strengthen ties between the two policies, the NDC accentuates social and economic aspects and other SDGs in addition to environmental. Dr. Bristol emphasized it was important to anchor the NDC commitments in development strategies and to conduct a robust consultation process at the local to national levels. Central themes of
The GSDS were linked to specific SDG goals and targets. For example, there are several unconditional commitments in the forestry sector (improved sustainable forest management, indigenous people support, monitoring for legality) and conditional commitments (concession issuance, reduced impact logging, stakeholder participation for avoided deforestation) that are reflected in both the GSDS and NDC.

The Jamaica NDC focuses primarily on energy. Mr. Omar Alcock presented the Jamaica NDC in the context of its alignment with national development planning. Jamaica’s Vision 2030 has four national goals with 15 outcomes so the NDC has concrete links to four of these outcomes, focusing on energy security, EE, natural resource sustainable management, and climate change adaptation. Jamaica is currently revising the NDC to include more sectors, such as forestry and transport.

Dr. Pendo Maro of GCCA+ Intra-ACP presented the Climate Support Facility that provides technical support (e.g., feasibility studies, determining funding requirements) and training. Dr. Maro summarized the finance needs outlined in the Caribbean NDCs, notably that a cost of about US$ 35 billion was noted for mitigation and US$ 23 billion for adaptation (only seven Caribbean countries included a costing analysis and there were four partial analyses). Regarding NAP, Saint Lucia is the only country to submit a NAP to date and three countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Haiti) have begun the process.

**Integrating Gender Equality into NDCs**

This session explored entry points for integrating gender equality and women’s empowerment into climate change planning and policy across ministries and sectors. Ms. Fleur Newman of UNFCCC provided an overview of UNFCCC Gender Action Plans, emphasizing priority actions (Figure 3).

![Figure 3: UNFCCC Gender Action Plan Priority Action Areas](image)

Ms. Verania Chao of UNDP highlighted the NDC as an opportunity for countries to enhance focus on gender equality – gender, climate, and social goals are inter-linked in the context of development and they strengthen one another. Ms. Chao outlined entry points in a UNDP policy guidebook countries can use for integrating gender into NDCs (e.g., assessing institutional gender equality frameworks and integrating into NAPs, LEDs, and REDD+ instruments). Conducting a gender analysis is an important first step to integrate gender into climate change projects. Improvements can be made to better reflect
gender roles and contributions – one example provided was men go fishing while women clean, gut, and descale the fish before going to market, yet men are highlighted as key actors in the fishing sector.

Ms. Gerty Pierre discussed that in Haiti, gender equality is a priority in social reform and was incorporated into the country’s NDC. Ms. Pierre highlighted a coastal adaptation project with 60% female participation rates, implemented through the National Adaptation Action Plan (PANA in French). Gender inequalities are rooted in political, socio-economic, and cultural issues, and although a Gender Equality Policy and Action Plan were drafted, mobilizing resources to implement the strategies has been a challenge.

Dr. Siddier Chambers of Jamaica emphasized Ministries, Departments, and Agencies undertake initiatives to integrate social and economic issues in the NDC, e.g., gender is integrated into climate change and disaster risk management through workshops, trainings, and strengthened collaboration between gender and climate change focal points. Jamaica underlined the need to ensure that initiatives reflect the interests, views, and needs of project beneficiaries. Mr. Iwan Samoender of Suriname highlighted the sectoral approach to gender and climate change with a focus on agriculture. Mr. Samoender provided case studies that demonstrated increased food security and stability, women empowerment, capacity-building, resilience, and entrepreneurship after women were included in the programme. The case studies found that women were disadvantaged when it came to land ownership and access to finance, and Mr. Samoender underscored the importance of equal access to training and education and the engagement of youth.

Day 2 Breakout Sessions - Working groups discussions to explore country challenges, key issues, and solutions in three areas: (i) Incorporating adaptation in the NDCs; (ii) Gender integration in the NDCs; and (iii) Integration of NDCs, SDGs, and national development planning.

Similar to the 1st day, interactive Breakout Sessions were conducted covering the major NDC topics of Day 2 (adaptation, integration into national planning, and gender). Questions were posed to each group related to NDC implementation and participants led discussions based on their country experiences.

The key issues related to adaptation focused on institutional set-up, representing non-GHG emission aspects of climate change impacts, data and tracking, and finance. A historic lack of urgency to incorporating adaptation into NDCs was noted due to lack of clarity and concrete NDC guidance specific to adaptation (e.g., costing of adaptation activities, loss & damage, how do you track progress), and this has affected the building of institutional capacity in this field and enhancing the decision-making process.

An in-depth analysis of adaptation indicators is missing as well. Closer discussions are needed with the Ministries of Planning and Financing to frame adaptation needs and costs, and there was also a perceived shortage of community awareness and knowledge about key issues surrounding adaptation impacts.

Regarding integrating NDCs with national development and SDG processes, it was recommended that National Development Plans should be the starting points for NDCs to be aligned with. The importance of cross-agency consultations was prioritized but coordination was emphasized as a challenge. Local community engagement was highlighted as well as a significant need, and one suggestion that was emphasized was to set up an advisory board to help with communication on the NDCs and SDGs.
During the 3rd breakout session, it was recognized that women are agents of change and climate change impacts are not gender neutral. Women of the Caribbean have made significant progress in education and other priorities including addressing economic empowerment and unemployment, and gender-based violence. One recommendation emphasized was to scale up skills training in new energy markets like RE to help tackle the employment deficit.

**Financing & Private Sector Engagement for NDC Implementation**

On this discussion of how the costs of NDC implementation should be addressed and the private sector engaged to mobilize investment, Mr. Narine Charran of Trinidad and Tobago began the discussion by describing how the country recently suffered a severe economic crisis due to its reliance on oil and gas prices, being an oil and gas dependent economy. Gross Domestic Product (GDP) shrank, and the public deficit almost doubled. This promoted a re-thinking of how to deliver public services. There was a shift in the position that the public sector should not finance everything and partnerships with the private sector and civil society were essential. Mr. Charran noted the right type of energy incentives can reduce the burden of paying fossil fuel subsidies, and added taxes and duties were removed on certain renewables and CNG infrastructure were constructed to stimulate the markets.

Multilateral Development Banks have reacted to emerging needs stemming from the NDCs to facilitate and accelerate implementation. Mr. Raul Delgado of Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) advised that if countries are to achieve climate-related objectives, the country focus needs to be holistic and include solutions at the policy level, stakeholder engagement, national planning, market development, and private sector investment. Mr. Delgado provided an overview of two initiatives: NDC Invest, a one-stop shop that offers technical assistance and financial resources to translate national climate commitments like NDCs into investment plans and bankable projects; and Caribbean Basin Sustainable Islands Platform, which looks at mobilizing public and private investment while applying the principles of the Blue and Circular Economies.

Mr. Derek Gibbs of Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) described the bank’s key priorities in scaling up climate resilience in vulnerable sectors like water and agriculture, and delivering on NDCs for resilient infrastructure, e.g., on coastal assets. The Bank has a strong focus on energy policy with a push to mainstream RE/EE across member countries and a climate resilience strategy it aims to mainstream throughout its portfolio to make all investment projects screen its climate risks. Examples of projects include Climate Risk Vulnerability Assessment studies in the water sector in Saint Kitts and Nevis, road transport in Saint Lucia, and EE streetlight retrofits in several countries.

From Gridspan Energy, Mr. Alec Macklis provided the perspective of a technology entrepreneur in the field of providing for an economy’s electricity needs remotely. In this case, the private sector plays a key role as an innovator, developing technologies and helping to de-risk them so utilities can scale them up. Mr. Macklis and Gridspan Energy mobilized support from organizations and foundations, helping the company throughout the technology development cycle, from idea to implementation.

There are limited capacities within governments to produce well designed bankable and investment-ready projects. In many cases, good ideas exist, but elements are missing (e.g., social and environmental studies licenses, permits, collateral, etc.). Another important challenge towards NDC implementation is that the Paris Agreement is about scale; it is not enough to have a few good projects. Pursuing regional opportunities was recommended as well.
There is a strong desire globally to invest in technology development; however, the energy market is risk averse and the public sector needs to help set up the enabling environment to facilitate these investment flows. Some priorities identified include: (i) creation of accelerators and incubators to help develop ideas; (ii) foster networks between different accelerators; (iii) create a public entity that provides institutional support; (iv) give incentives to establish industry partnerships to make strong competitors; and (v) make grants and awards available for small companies.

**Directed Table Discussion on encouraging Private Sector Involvement in NDC Implementation**

In this session, Dialogue participants gathered in informal working groups to discuss opportunities and challenges related to the prior session on NDC investment and finance. The main challenges participants highlighted to encourage private sector engagement were the lack of security for investors (e.g., guarantees, policy continuity), lack of legislation and standardized regulations across countries, high cost for transportation of materials, and grid limitations.

To encourage more engagement by the private sector in NDC implementation, participants emphasized lowering transaction costs for investment, de-risking, tax breaks on RE/EE, strengthening the private sector’s ability to lobby for changes, providing training labs for RE/EE technologies, governments providing energy audits to help companies see the potential of scaling up EE, setting up a one-stop shop for permitting, cutting red tape, removing monopolies/market liberalization, setting up regional initiatives, and setting up local sovereign funds for NDCs to enable more efficient fund dispersal.

Participants were asked their thoughts on Caribbean investment trends and innovation. The response was varied and included introducing EE technologies and building the community tourism and eco-tourism sectors; hotels can serve as a hub for local capacity building and hotel services are multi-sectoral so offer many opportunities for climate measures. Other sectors highlighted as trending upward were agriculture, micro-grids, geothermal and solar energy, blue economy, and transport.

**Closing Remarks**

In the final session, Ms. Dawn Pierre-Nathoniel of the Government of Saint Lucia, Ms. Fleur Newman of the UNFCCC, and Mr. James Vener of UNDP provided final remarks to wrap up the Regional Dialogue on NDCs.

Limiting the global average temperature increase below 1.5°C requires reducing GHG emissions by 45% by 2030 and reaching net zero emissions by 2050. This serves as a reminder that the time for climate action is now and there has never been a better time for investing in climate solutions. Technology costs have fallen drastically, and governments including those in the Caribbean are setting up policy frameworks and incentives to encourage those investments. Participants emphasized the NDC process is ongoing and must be inclusive in nature. As Minister Rigobert indicated, we “must remain cognizant that in no point in time will individual governments be able to move forward on NDCs without input and support of partners.”

Although the concept of the NDC was developed at the global level, to be accepted within countries and driven locally, it needs to be communicated as a mechanism for national sustainable development. The Government of Saint Lucia, UNFCCC, and UNDP emphasized during this closing session that this was clear during the course of the Dialogue that NDCs are not just an environmental issue but rather climate impacts affect every aspect of national development and planning. Participants emphasized the Caribbean focus
of the Dialogue was a highlight and this sort of peer-to-peer knowledge sharing event helps countries on the path for revising their NDCs. The co-organizers will extend the NDC regional dialogue series into 2019 to continue to support countries in these critical years ahead.