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TECHNICAL BRIEF

Discussion on SDG and NDC Implementation: Country Trends and Examples from the NDC Partnership

CONTRIBUTING ORGANIZATION

NDC Partnership

This technical brief is developed with the support of the contributing organizations to inform the 3rd Global Conference on Strengthening Synergies between the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The findings, interpretations, and conclusions expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect the views of any of the contributing organizations or the conference coordinating organizations.



I. Abstract

The NDC Partnership brings together more than 200 members, including more than 115 countries and more than 80 institutions to create and deliver on ambitious climate action that helps achieve the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Governments identify their NDC implementation priorities and the type of support that is needed to translate them into actionable policies and programs. Based on these requests, the membership offers a tailored package of expertise, technical assistance, and funding. This collaborative response provides developing countries with efficient access to a wide range of resources to adapt and mitigate climate change and foster more equitable and sustainable development.

The Technical Brief presents trends and examples of how countries are effectively linking SDG and NDC implementation. Although only 2% of all requests received through the NDC Partnership explicitly mention “SDGs”, sustainable development priorities are informally reflected in a much larger share of country requests, demonstrating strong alignment and mainstreaming efforts between climate and development. These requests for support, illustrate good practices on the ways in which countries can strengthen links between these agendas, particularly in their efforts to attract finance and investment, to enact and revise national strategies and plans, and to implement monitoring, reporting and valuation (MRV) systems.

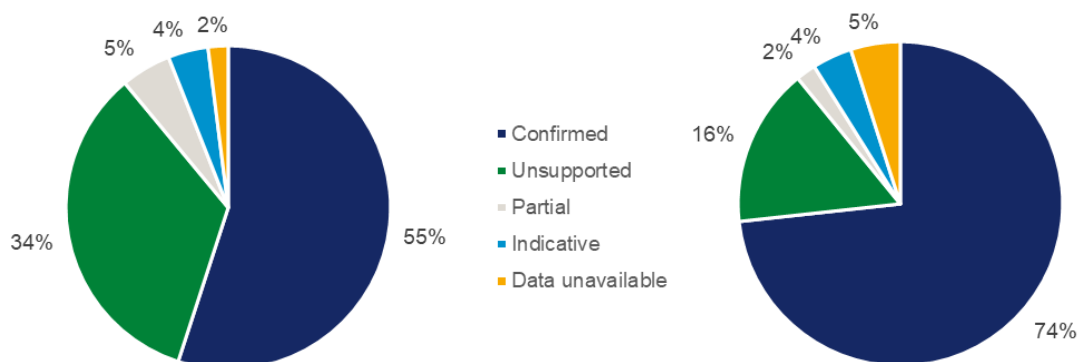
II. Interlinkages, synergies and trade-offs

The NDC Partnership is a major driver for implementation of both the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Importantly, member countries lead their own NDC planning and implementation, sharing their priorities and support needs through the Partnership. Developed countries and institutions then mobilize support in line with their comparative advantages and in coordination with others. Publicly shared implementation plans reduce the risk of duplicating efforts and improve the deployment of limited financial resources.

While only 2% of countries NDC enhancement and implementation support requests received through the NDC Partnership explicitly mention *SDGs*, 47% of countries submitting requests (36 out of 77 countries) have at least one request explicitly mentioning *SDGs*. Additionally, many more requests have clear linkages to the SDGs through references to co-benefits.

On average, 65% of all country requests submitted through the NDC Partnership have received support from partners. This average is even higher, 83%, when looking at those requests where SDGs are explicitly mentioned (see **Figure 1**). This higher rate of support could reflect the priorities of supporting partners to link these two agendas as well as a greater flexibility or availability of development finance to support SDG-linked requests.

Figure 1: Requests by Support Status for All Requests (Left) and SDG Requests (Right)



Country examples of interlinked SDG and NDC Implementation through the NDC Partnership are provided below.

- **Colombia's** updated NDC increased the ambition of its mitigation and adaptation targets, enabled by the technical support received through the NDC Partnership. Notably, the country increased its ambition by broadening the NDC's scope and integrating SDG sectors and themes into climate targets. For example, its adaptation strategy was expanded to include the themes of food security (SDG 2), biodiversity (SDG 15), health (SDG 3), and infrastructure (SDG 9), all of which were identified as vulnerable to climate change via a comprehensive risk assessment framework developed for the NDC. In addition, Colombia delivered an inclusive NDC update process by rolling out a significant stakeholder engagement plan to consult on and validate NDC targets in line with SDG 16's targets related to inclusive and participatory decision-making, with and the involvement of vulnerable communities including women, indigenous people, afro-descendants, and rural populations.
- **Uganda** is championing a whole-of-government-and-society approach to deliver climate action and development. The country's NDC Partnership Plan – its implementation framework – prioritizes five key outcomes one of which is boosting the capacity of public private, and non-state actors to effectively integrate Uganda's NDC and SDG commitments with a gender lens. In addition, Uganda is piloting the tracking of climate spending within the national budget and rolling out modified budget systems nationwide to ensure gradual adoption of climate elements beginning in 2022 and 2023. Uganda is developing new systems that will establish GHG inventories, monitor mitigation and adaptation actions, track climate finance, and ensure these efforts align with the SDGs.
- **Burkina Faso** has explicitly prioritized 16 of the 17 SDGs. As part of the revision of its NDC, Burkina Faso has developed sectoral plans for the implementation of the NDC in all sectors targeted by the NDC. These sectors include agriculture (SDG 15), environment (SDGs 13, 14, and 15), energy (SDG 7), transport (SDGs 9 and 11), water and sanitation (SDG 6), health (SDG 3), animal production (SDG 15), infrastructure (SDG 9), gender (SDG 5), and habitat (SDG 11). Notably, these sectoral plans were finalized in parallel with the NDC review process. Burkina Faso's updated Partnership Plan aims to further integrate the NDC across different levels of government, including 20 municipal development plans and five regional plans, in line with policy coherence objectives in the 2030 Agenda.

III. Lessons learned on opportunities and challenges

The NDC Partnership's unique, flexible, and country-driven model enables countries to shape their NDC implementation to meet their needs, including linking their climate and development agendas.

One of the most common activities which members are taking to advance both agendas is by **integrating climate and NDC implementation considerations across more sectors and national sectoral planning efforts**. As with Colombia's efforts to integrate more sectors into their updated NDC, deepening sectoral integration enables countries to create greater ambitions and realize development co-benefits. Similarly, with support from the NDC Partnership, Mongolia developed a reporting and coordination mechanism that aims to optimize SDG and sectoral integration and approaches.

In addition to sectoral integration, countries are increasingly **linking national development agendas with the NDC implementation process**. This climate mainstreaming of national development plans and policies ensures the greater sustainability of the development agenda implementation processes. For example, following an analysis of the linkages between the SDG roadmap and targets, sectoral policy targets, and the roadmap for implementation completed with support from the Partnership, Nepal has identified priority near-term NDC implementation actions.

National processes are a critical entry point to link and align agendas through intra-governmental coordination efforts, stakeholder engagement, partner coordination, and the improvement of MRV related to climate and development data. For example, Uganda's efforts to integrate gender considerations throughout its NDC implementation plan will improve its efforts to achieve and track progress on SDG 5 on gender equality. Additionally, Mali has recently requested support to develop a low carbon and climate resilience strategy integrating the SDGs and NDC involving a consultation of nonstate actors to inform the strategy.

A major challenge to both sectoral and development agenda integration relates to the **sequencing of national policy cycles**. Palestine’s efforts to link their NAP and NDC to the national development agenda demonstrates this challenge. Although all ministries have recognized this linkage, they have not yet mainstreamed these into ministerial policies due to mismatched policy cycles (with the NAP and NDC being only recently reviewed). However, the next policy cycle presents an opportunity to mainstream these commitments into national development plans and budgets.

Of the many challenges countries face, **insufficient access to climate and development finance** is a top concern. The Covid-19 crisis has exacerbated these challenges with many countries facing a growing debt burden and pressure on budgets for development and climate spending, both domestically and internationally. Effective financial and budgetary integration between the climate and development agendas is a means by which to improve the efficiency of domestic finance. For example, St. Kitts and Nevis has incorporated their NDC targets into their 2023 sectoral workplans and budgetary processes beginning in 2023. The country is working with the NDC Partnership to assist sector leads in mainstreaming climate action into project-level proposals to advance joint implementation.

IV. Recommendations for action: means of implementation and partnerships to accelerate progress

As countries further strengthen their NDC targets (through the Paris Agreement ratchet mechanism) there are opportunities to further align climate and SDG implementation, including building into other planning processes like National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Net Zero Targets, and Long-Term Strategies (LTSs).

Working through the NDC Partnership, countries can guide partners through a programmatic approach to their NDC implementation, ensuring alignment between their climate and development objectives and priority support needs. Through diversity in the partners supporting these efforts, drawing on their comparative advantages across sectors (e.g., energy, transport) or key topics (e.g., gender, youth, biodiversity), countries can not only fast-track their NDC implementation, but also maximize the sustainable development co-benefits.

V. Guiding questions

What challenges do countries face in articulating the co-benefits between climate and development action, and how can implementing partners help support?

How should countries reflect implementation of the SDGs in the development of their Long-Term Strategies (LTS)?

What opportunities exist to further mobilize climate finance by drawing on the SDG linkages, including through mobilization of both public and private finance?

References and additional reading list

- [NDC Partnership Website](#)
- [NDC Partnership Knowledge Portal](#)
- [NDC Partnership’s 2021-2025 Work Program](#)

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