

Thematic Expert Group

BACKGROUND

About the NDC Partnership's Economic Advisory Support

The NDC Partnership has initiated support to integrate climate actions in recovery planning in response to the COVID-19 global pandemic. This support comes at a critical time when many countries are revising their commitments to the Paris Agreement in 2020, through the enhancement of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). While countries design stimulus packages and recovery plans in response to COVID-19, there is opportunity to ensure that national climate ambition is an integral component of short- and long-term recovery and economic growth strategies.

About the Thematic Expert Group

To supplement this country-specific support, the NDC Partnership is establishing a virtual Thematic Expert Group to provide thematic backstopping. This group will provide on-demand technical advice, research, or guidance on specific sectors or themes related to climate adaptation and mitigation issues incorporated in countries' recovery responses. This support will help align integration of economic recovery with a country's NDC and other national climate change planning documents such as low-emission development strategy (LEDS) and/or long-term strategies (LTS). This advice will be available, at no cost, to developing country members of the NDC Partnership.

Responses to country requests depends on two key criteria:

1. Availability of relevant experts; and
2. Ability to offer services that match the timeline of countries' needs.

The Expert Group will be linked with other similar services provided through existing projects and programs by NDC Partnership members (e.g. GIZ's Help Desk).

DURATION

The Thematic Expert Group will be established in early August 2020, and services are scheduled to conclude when the final deliverables by the economic advisors are completed in September 2021. The possibility of extending the operation of the group could be considered, based on continued supply of and demand for technical advice for ongoing NDC Partnership initiatives.

Once the group is launched, members will be invited to participate in joint outreach activities to ensure countries are aware of this service offering. The Support Unit will design a short brochure to promote through its regular outreach efforts (i.e. Country Engagement Opportunity Update; Monthly Newsletter; Quarterly Country Reports). In-country facilitators and embedded economic advisors will also ensure regular outreach to their respective government counterparts.

HOSTING

The Support Unit will host the Thematic Expert Group and take responsibility for overall management of this service. Key responsibilities include to:

- Develop outreach material and coordinate outreach events (e.g. webinars)
- Monitor the EconAdvisors email account and collect requests received, coordinate their review and circulate them to the Thematic Expert Group
- Organize coordination calls where needed and facilitate introductions between governments and the IPs who will respond
- Organize quarterly calls with the Thematic Expert Group to review results to date and discuss potential improvements to the process
- Track overall requests received and their responses
- Share learning with the Advisor Network to inform peer learning opportunities
- Draft progress reports (e.g. Steering Committee updates) and outreach materials (e.g. blogs, tweets)

HOW IT WILL WORK

The host of the Thematic Expert Group will manage a matching service, in which it will field questions or support requests from countries and circulate them to relevant implementing partners within the Thematic Expert Group. A listserv with relevant contacts of all members of the Group will be used. The service would be available to all developing country members of the Partnership, irrespective of their engagement status with the Partnership (i.e. support is not limited to those countries receiving economic advisory support).

Submitting Requests

Requests should be emailed by NDC Partnership government focal points of member developing countries to EconAdvisors@ndcpartnership.org. Requests can also come directly from the economic advisor in the country if it has been cleared with the focal point. A template email is provided in Annex 1.

Requests should include the following information:

- A brief description of the advice requested, related to COVID economic recovery, including the specific sectors or themes (e.g. water, energy, cities, green industry) and types of support (e.g. discussions, research);
- Which TOR deliverable(s), if any, this technical advice contributes to; and
- The estimated time needed from a technical expert and via what medium (e.g. a one-time 1-hour videoconference conversation,

continuous on-demand advice via email for an estimated 10 hours per month).

The specific expertise offered by members of the Thematic Expert Group will be consolidated into an online table (available in the Support Unit [Dropbox](#)) for countries to consult and reference the types of expertise available. This will be shared with all focal points of the Partnership as soon as the Group is launched.

Responding to Requests

Each request will be reviewed by the host for completeness and clarity before being circulated to the Thematic Expert Group for response. In countries where an economic advisor exists, the advisors themselves will complete the first review; in all other cases, the host will review the request. Where additional clarity is needed, the host will reach out to countries to discuss. If requests are relevant to reference materials, as a first effort, the host will look to see if existing knowledge resources (e.g. guidance documents or toolkits from the NDC Partnership Knowledge Portal) can be identified to fully meet the request or to help inform the response requested from the expert group.

Where it is determined that support is needed, complete requests will be circulated to the members of Thematic Expert Group for their response within 7 business days. Members of the Expert Group are invited to identify relevant experts and resources from within their organization to respond to the country's request. To signal their interest and availability to respond to a request, members of the Expert Group are requested to send the host:

- Confirmation of their availability to provide thematic support, including the amount of time and resources they will make available to respond (those organizations who have requested TAF resources to enable their participation in the Thematic Expert Group may be awarded a fixed amount of resources to draw on and apply towards specific requests throughout the year; this is subject to further discussion); and
- A short description of how they will respond to the request, including the medium of support (e.g. study, phone call).

If a member needs more information to determine if they can respond, the host will help to organize a coordination call with the government, including all organizations who have responded. Members are requested to coordinate with their country offices directly.

Once a match has been made, the country and the thematic expert will be invited to communicate directly with each other, keeping the host copied for lesson learning.

KEY RESULTS

The expert advice provided on specific sectors and themes, including on climate co-benefits, is expected to lead to more informed and robust decision-making by governments on their recovery plans and stimulus financing packages in response to COVID-19. This may be

achieved through the sharing of country- or context-specific data, information, and analysis as well as through technical discussions among the experts, economic advisors, and government officials. Key results anticipated include:

1. Number of requests received, and services provided disaggregated by
 - Regions
 - Countries
 - Sectors
2. Average response time between requests received and service initiation
3. Number of recommendations provided by the expert group incorporated in government documents
4. Number of delivery partners providing services
5. Satisfaction level of focal points of NDC Partnership countries who requested for services
 - a. High
 - b. Medium
 - c. Low

SUMMARY OF PARTNER SUPPORT, BY SECTOR/THEME

Sector / Theme	Partners Providing Expertise
Agriculture	Euroclima+, FAO, GIZ/LEDs GP, WRI
Biodiversity	Euroclima+, GIZ, WRI
Cities and Urban Development	Red Cross Red Crescent, UNCDF, UN-Habitat, WRI
Climate Modeling	FAO, UNCDF, WRI
Climate Planning and Reporting	Euroclima+, FAO, GIZ/PATPA, UNEP, WRI
Disaster Risk and Vulnerability	Euroclima+, FAO, Red Cross Red Crescent, WRI
Energy	Euroclima+, FAO, NREL, Rocky Mountain Institute, WRI
Fiscal Policy and Budgeting	FAO, UNEP
Forestry	Euroclima+, FAO, GIZ/LEDs GP, WRI
Health and Nutrition	FAO, WHO, WRI
Industry	ILO, NREL, WRI
Jobs and Skills	IDB (Colombia), ILO, WRI
Labor and Economic Policy	ILO
Land Use	GIZ/LEDs GP, WRI
Socioeconomics and Social Protection	Euroclima+, FAO, ILO, Red Cross Red Crescent, WRI
Subnational Governance	Red Cross Red Crescent, UNCDF, WRI
Transport	Euroclima+, GIZ/LEDs GP, WRI
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)	Euroclima+, Red Cross Red Crescent
Various	UNDP

ANNEX 1. EXAMPLE EMAIL FOR COUNTRIES TO REQUEST SUPPORT

To: econadvisors@ndcpartnership.org

Subject: Request for Thematic Expertise - [COUNTRY NAME]

Dear NDC Partnership colleagues,

The government of [COUNTRY NAME] would like to request on-demand, virtual support from the NDC Partnership to ensure that specific sectors or themes related to climate adaptation and mitigation issues are incorporated in our recovery responses.

[If request is not coming from the Focal Point, include the following: This request has been approved by the NDC Partnership Focal Point(s) in country, namely [NAME].]

The advice being requested includes support to [describe the objective of the support] and is directly related to our country's COVID economic recovery. The support focuses primarily of these specific sectors or themes: [List sectors or themes]. We anticipate the support to include [describe the types of support, e.g. desk research, expert guideline, economic analysis, various support with modelling work, etc.]. The expected time and medium of support is as follows [describe estimated time needed from the technical expert and via what medium, e.g. 1-hour videoconference, 20 hours of desk research].

The support directly corresponds to the following TOR deliverables from the economic advisory support we are receiving from the Partnership:

- [List relevant TOR deliverables]

Best regards,

Country Focal Point