



COUNTRY COORDINATION MECHANISMS

BEST PRACTICE BRIEF

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NDC 
PARTNERSHIP

INTRODUCTION

For governments to implement increasingly ambitious climate actions, as laid out in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), they must mainstream climate as a cross-cutting policy issue across all sectors and levels. This requires sustained and effective coordination mechanisms across government, with partners, and with civil society, to help deliver the transformative change needed. Governments use many types of coordination mechanisms, varying in their purpose, composition, functions, and governance structures, each adapted to national circumstances and the institutional context.

Coordination mechanisms can help governments to plan and implement climate targets by:

- › Promoting climate policy integration throughout government and society;
- › Consulting key stakeholders regarding how to more efficiently identify, plan, and implement policies that serve their constituencies;
- › Creating accountability for climate commitments assumed by each stakeholder;
- › Mapping financing efforts for climate action across government and partners;
- › Facilitating opportunities to minimize conflicts in decision-making processes;
- › Reducing duplication and misaligned policies.¹

This brief presents three areas of coordination that often play crucial roles in NDC processes, drawing on best practices from across the NDC Partnership: 1) inter-ministerial coordination, 2) implementing and development partner coordination, and 3) whole-of-society coordination. While each of the areas is presented separately, they often overlap and or are approached together. The guidance presented here is non-prescriptive and should be tailored to individual countries' unique experiences, circumstances, and capacities.

¹ The challenge of policy coordination. Policy Design and Practice, 1(1), 1–11. Peters, B. G. (2018). <https://doi.org/10.1080/25741292.2018.1437946>



INTER-MINISTERIAL COORDINATION

NDCs outline targets and actions to mitigate emissions and adapt to climate change across all major sectors (i.e., energy, agriculture, water, food and land use, waste, transport). A coordinated and cross-sectoral approach to NDC enhancement and implementation should seek to build synergies and minimize trade-offs between sectors in alignment with sustainable development plans.² Coordination among public sector bodies helps draw consistent frameworks for understanding linkages across sectors, harmonizing decision-making processes across ministries and specialized agencies, setting responsibilities, and outlining accountability mechanisms that enforce or promote effective climate action.³

Many governments have sought to coordinate cross-sectoral climate actions through inter-ministerial commissions or committees on climate change. The ministry in charge of environmental issues generally has an important role in these bodies, along with central agencies that supervise or support line agencies in pursuing their priorities, such as ministries and agencies related to finance, budgeting, and planning [e.g., Colombia].³ These bodies typically include line ministries and agencies focused on sectoral priorities, especially in sectors where NDCs mandate significant mitigation and adaptation actions [e.g., Colombia, Philippines]. Cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms can also include key national non-state stakeholders such as civil society, private sector, and indigenous peoples, implementing partners, and development partners – with further examples highlighted later in the paper.

Governance structures vary according to the country's institutional context. Successful coordination mechanisms will provide support, frameworks, and incentives for each stakeholder to integrate climate policy into their mandates. Their effectiveness may depend on:

- › The strength of high-level political backing;
- › Formal encodement of climate policies into legislation;
- › The technical expertise and well-defined mandate of public sector bodies that lead NDC-related coordination efforts;
- › An appropriate distribution of roles and responsibilities throughout government with corresponding accountability mechanisms for the monitoring, verification, and enforcement of climate commitments;
- › Institutionalization of open, meaningful, and inclusive multi-stakeholder engagement practices; and
- › The designation of focal points and teams within ministries, departments, and agencies operationalizing sectoral climate action, especially in central agencies.

2. Cross-sectoral perspectives. In IPCC, 2022: Climate Change 2022: Mitigation of Climate Change. Contribution of Working Group III to the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [P.R. Shukla, J. Skea, R. Slade, A. Al Khourdajie, R. van Diemen, D. McCollum, M. Pathak, S. Some, P. Vyas, R. Fradera, M. Belkacemi, A. Hasija, G. Lisboa, S. Luz, J. Malley, (eds.)]; Babiker, M., G. Berndes, K. Blok, B. Cohen, A. Cowie, O. Geden, V. Ginzburg, A. Leip, P. Smith, M. Sugiyama, F. Yamba, (2022); Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK and New York, NY, USA. doi:10.1017/9781009157926.005

3. Institutional and Coordination Mechanisms: Guidance Note on Facilitating Integration and Coherence for SDG Implementation. United Nations Development Programme. (2017). <https://www.undp.org/publications/institutional-and-coordination-mechanisms-guidance-note>

For example, **Colombia** has a highly institutionalized inter-ministerial coordination mechanism that incorporates government participation across levels and sectors through the legally encoded National Climate Change System (SISCLIMA)⁴, illustrated in Figure 1. The central mechanism for inter-ministerial coordination is the Inter-Sectoral Climate Change Commission (CICC), composed of 12 members, including heads of ministries (9) and specialized agencies (3). The Presidency and the Technical Secretariat of the commission alternate annually between the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MADS) and the National Planning Department (DNP). The MADS coordinates environmental policy and climate change as an extension, guiding technical expertise for climate action. The DNP complements coordination efforts as a central agency with significant influence, preparing and delivering the National Development Plan, allocating investments at the territorial level according to the plan, and holding discretionary power in the cross-governmental budgeting process.

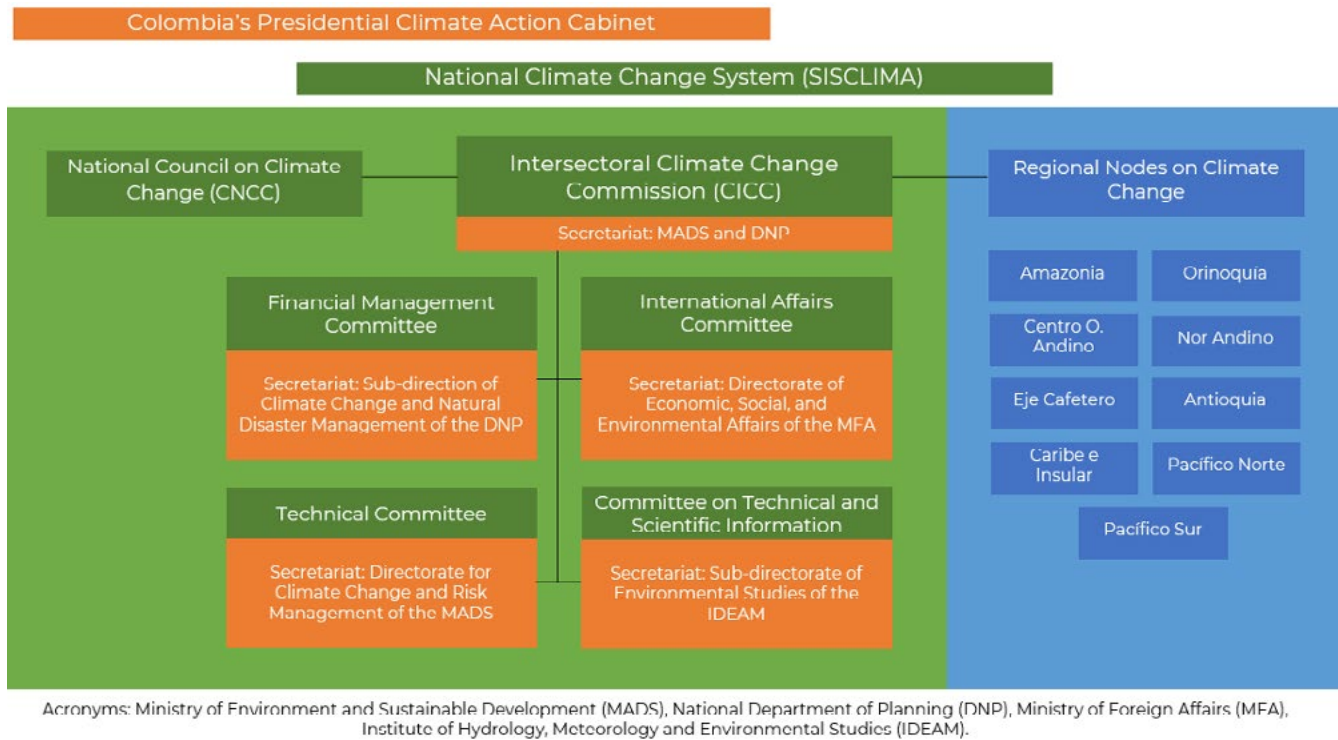
The CICC's Secretariat ensures line ministries meet regularly to discuss climate action and ensures participating Ministers host technical and operational meetings. Additionally, the CICC has four committees through which it delegates technical and operational functions, each led by technically expert agencies as secretariats: the Financial Management Committee, the International Affairs Committee, the Technical Committee, and the Committee on Technical and Scientific Information.⁵ In addition, the CICC is complemented by 9 Regional Nodes on Climate Change, as described in Figure 1 below. SISCLIMA builds on over a decade of climate policy integration within ministerial sectoral plans, facilitating cross-sectoral climate action coordination.

4. Decreto 298 "Por el cual se establece la organización y funcionamiento del Sistema Nacional de Cambio Climático y se dictan otras disposiciones"; Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible, República de Colombia; 2016; <https://www.minambiente.gov.co/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/11.-Decreto-298-de-2016.pdf>

5. Conozca que es el Sistema Nacional de Cambio Climático en Colombia; Alcaldía de Acacias, Sede Electrónica De Acacias; 28 July 2023; <https://www.acacias.gov.co/publicaciones/11086/conozca-que-es-el-sistema-nacional-de-cambio-climatico-en-colombia/>



Figure 1: Organigram for Colombia's National Climate Change System (SISCLIMA)



High-level political backing can help secure accountability and follow-through of line ministries and agencies responsible for designing and implementing NDC actions. Some countries have sought to institutionalize political backing in inter-ministerial coordination through mechanisms such as climate change commissions that incorporate executive oversight at the highest level. For example, the **Philippines**, established the Climate Change Commission (CCC) as a national government agency under the Office of the President which acts as the lead policy making body of the government tasked to coordinate, monitor and evaluate government programs and ensure mainstreaming of climate change in the national, local and sectoral plans.⁶ The President of the Philippines chairs the CCC, the Secretariat to an inter-ministerial NDC Technical Working Group (NDC TWG). The NDC TWG is responsible for the overall direction and implementation progress of the NDC, including reporting to the executive and legislative branches. The participating ministry or agency is responsible for delivering results in their respective sectors.⁷ The CCC also holds responsibility for monitoring, reporting, and verification efforts, establishing timelines for updating NDCs, integrating climate finance streams into implementation efforts, cooperation with international bodies and reporting requirements, and assessment of high-level opportunities and challenges for NDC implementation.⁸

6. Our History; Climate Change Commission; Office of the President of the Philippines. (2024). <https://climate.gov.ph/our-story/our-history>

7. The Philippines Aligns its NDC to the National Agenda and Sets About Building Investment Capacity |. (2020, December 9). <https://ndcpartnership.org/news/philippines-aligns-its-ndc-national-agenda-and-sets-about-building-investment-capacity>

8. Draft Implementation Plan for the Republic of the Philippines Nationally Determined Contribution (2020-2030). Philippines Climate Change Commission. (2023).

IMPLEMENTING AND DEVELOPMENT PARTNER COORDINATION

Governments establish coordination mechanisms with implementing and development partners to align new and existing technical assistance and funding support for NDCs. These coordination mechanisms can ensure that NDC planning and implementation are country-driven, maximizing implementing and development partner support in alignment with national priorities and existing development plans and strategies. Government-partner coordination mechanisms help avoid duplicated efforts and identify implementation and funding gaps where partner support can be most catalytic.

Nonetheless, engaging with numerous implementing and development partners across many projects and policy areas can prove challenging. Partners often have international headquarters, national teams, and sub-national work on local projects. Additionally, each partner may have a different approach to working across sectors, may have developed relationships within specific ministries and departments, and governments tend to have bilateral relations with international cooperation agencies of developed countries. Amidst the challenges of such contexts, establishing coordination mechanisms can streamline support and information sharing to benefit all stakeholders involved, addressing the complexities of accelerating transformative climate action.

Implementing and development partner coordination mechanisms should seek to follow and amplify the principles of aid effectiveness¹:

- › **Ownership:** Governments exercise effective leadership over their NDC processes and coordinate development actions; partners help strengthen the government's capacity to exercise this role.
- › **Policy alignment:** Partners are aligned with national NDC and development priorities, providing technical assistance and funding according to country-driven requests and offering support through local institutions and procedures.
- › **Harmonization:** Donor countries and partners coordinate amongst each other and with the government, simplifying procedures for cooperation, seeking the complementarity of partner support, and reforming procedures to strengthen incentives for collaborative behavior.
- › **Shifting focus to results:** Coordination mechanisms help align partners' focus on attaining development results for developing country populations rather than merely reaching internal goals, linking country programming to the country's NDC-related monitoring, verification, and reporting frameworks and targets.
- › **Mutual accountability:** Donors and partners are accountable for development results and identify gaps in responsibilities, funding, and actions to provide support and solutions.

1. Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness; OECD; (2005). In OECD eBooks. <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264098084-en>

Institutionalized coordination mechanisms with implementing and development partners can have a variety of structures, varying in their functions (directive, consultative, executive, operative) and governance (formal or ad hoc, leadership, membership, decision-making processes).⁹

In **Cambodia** implementing and development partners are often included within government coordination mechanisms. Partners are invited to join the two inter-ministerial Climate Change Technical Working Group's (CCTWG) meetings every year to review progress and plans. Additionally, the National Council for Sustainable Development's Department of Climate Change (DCC) developed the Cambodia Climate Change Alliance (CCCA) between the government and partners to coordinate a unified engagement point to pool resources for mainstreaming climate change into national and sub-national policies and programs.¹⁰ The CCCA has been active since 2010, operationalizing a grant facility that has supported 42 government and non-governmental organization projects related to climate change and fourteen associated action plans developed by key ministries.¹¹ The DCC also serves as the CCTWG's secretariat, a node between high-level and more operational coordination mechanisms.

In some countries, implementing and development partners have created their own coordination bodies that streamline coordination efforts with the government. In **Tanzania**, development partners established a Development Partners Group (DPG) with a working group on environment (DPG-E) in place since 2004.¹² The DPG-E seeks to structure dialogue and engagement between development partners and the government in high-level forums to harmonize actions and reduce transaction costs. Cooperation between the Government of Tanzania and development partners around environmental issues was channelled through the Vice President's Office (VPO), which holds five to six meetings a year with development partners. Additionally, the DPG-E's members share information on the projects each one is executing, ensuring synergy among development partner's efforts in alignment with the government's plans and priorities. In addition, the DPG has a sub-group for climate change which has been inactive, and partners have started considering reviving given the growing importance of addressing climate change.

In-country facilitators can also provide important support for activating or strengthening coordination mechanisms between the government and implementing and development partners. In-country facilitators can also play an important role in supporting efforts to build the capacity of the relevant ministries and agencies. The NDC Partnership currently supports over 50 in-country facilitators to provide such support. The Government of **Benin** mapped partners according to their sectors and initiatives. The NDC Partnership Support Unit and the facilitator conducted meetings with partners to understand the existing partner coordination groups together with focal points from the Ministry of Environment

9. Institutional and Coordination Mechanisms: Guidance Note on Facilitating Integration and Coherence for SDG Implementation. United Nations Development Programme. (2017). <https://www.undp.org/publications/institutional-and-coordination-mechanisms-guidance-note>

10. Cambodia Climate Change Alliance (CCCA). The National Council for Sustainable Development. <https://ncsd.moe.gov.kh/dcc/program/cambodia-climate-change-alliance-ccca>

11. Cambodia Climate Change Alliance – Phase 3 (CCCA-III). United Nations Development Programme. <https://www.undp.org/cambodia/projects/cambodia-climate-change-alliance-%E2%80%93-phase-3-ccca-iii>

12. Environment, natural resources, and climate change. Development Partners Group Tanzania. (2023, October 19). <https://tzdpg.or.tz/clusters/environment-natural-resources-and-climate-change/>

and Ministry of Finance. Instead of creating a new coordination mechanism, the relevant stakeholders decided to re-activate an existing climate and environment partner group to coordinate on Benin's NDC and NDC Partnership Plan. A Terms of Reference established roles and responsibilities for the partners, the government focal points, and the facilitator. The in-country facilitator is helping the focal points organize the partners meetings three to four times a year to share information on the sectors updated priorities, seek alignment across partners interventions around the NDC and its PP, coordinate resources mobilization, and share lessons learned and technical expertise.¹³

The support for NDC Partnership in-country facilitators offer an example of international cooperation strengthening existing interministerial climate governance structures and capacity. The NDC Partnership currently supports over 50 in-country facilitators to provide such support.¹⁴ For instance, an in-country facilitator has been embedded in the Government of **Liberia** within the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) since 2020, coordinating NDC revision and implementation efforts in nine priority sectors and facilitating regular engagements with sectoral focal points within government and partners through quarterly calls. ¹⁵Through NDC Partnership Action Fund, the Government of Liberia is also receiving support from Conservation International to establish a Climate Change Desk (CCD) within the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP)'s Division of Planning to incorporate climate actions within the planning and budgeting process. By employing the facilitative nature of the in-country facilitator, Liberia's MFDP's Division of Planning has mobilized technical and financial support to set up the CCD.

13. Benin. NDC Partnership. <https://ndcpartnership.org/country/ben>

14. In-Country Facilitators. NDC Partnership. (2024). <https://ndcpartnership.org/facilitators>

15. John Forkpa Kannah. NDC Partnership. (2024b). <https://ndcpartnership.org/staff/john-forkpa-kannah>

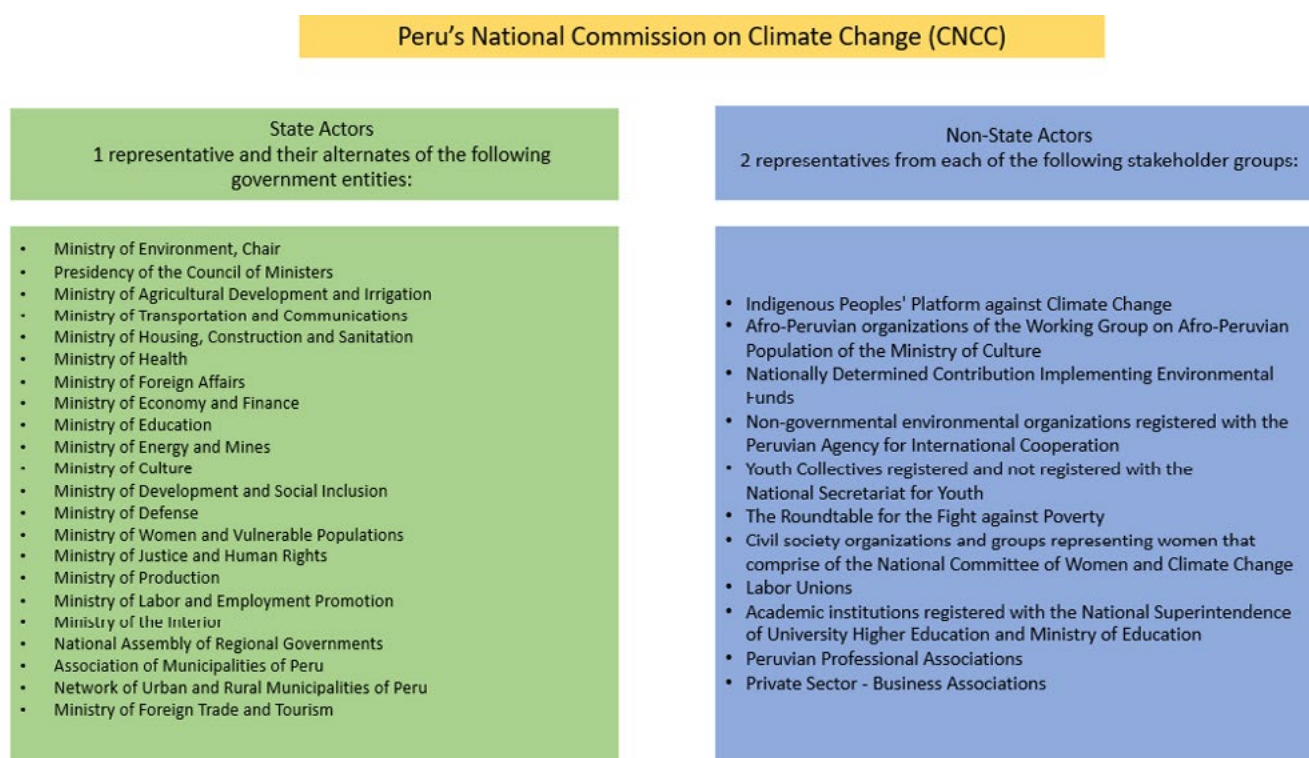


WHOLE-OF-SOCIETY COORDINATION

Governments can establish coordination mechanisms with non-state actors to ensure consistent and continuous engagement in the planning and implementation of their NDCs. Non-state stakeholders include women's groups, youth groups, civil society organizations, private sector associations, trade associations, unions, academia, indigenous peoples' organizations, and local communities, among many others. Non-state actors can be formally incorporated into government coordination mechanisms like inter-ministerial climate change commissions. Governments can also designate focal points and teams within different sectors and levels of government with mandates to consistently engage non-state stakeholder groups in an open and meaningful manner, mainstreaming a whole-of-society approach.

In **Peru**, for example, the government has formalized non-state actor participation in the inter-stakeholder climate change coordination mechanism, illustrated in Figure 2 below. Eleven different non-state stakeholder groups can elect two representatives to participate in the National Commission on Climate Change (CNCC) alongside representatives from 22 ministries and agencies. These stakeholders include indigenous peoples, Afro-Peruvians, NGOs, youth groups, women's organizations, worker unions, professional associations, academic institutions, and the private sector. This level of non-state stakeholder participation is built upon previous participatory processes regarding climate action in the country. For example, indigenous peoples are represented in the CNCC through the Indigenous Peoples' Platform against Climate Change (PPICC), an institution that arose from agreements during the consultation process for the country's 2018 Climate Change Law. Additionally, Peru ensures sustained engagement between government and non-state actors through a team within the General Directorate of Climate Change and Desertification in the Ministry of Environment, provide technical assistance to 8 of the 11 stakeholder groups for the implementation of climate actions, and support the daily management of the climate governance spaces (CNCC, CANCC, PPICC).



Figure 2: Organigram of Peru's National Commission on Climate Change (CNCC)¹⁶

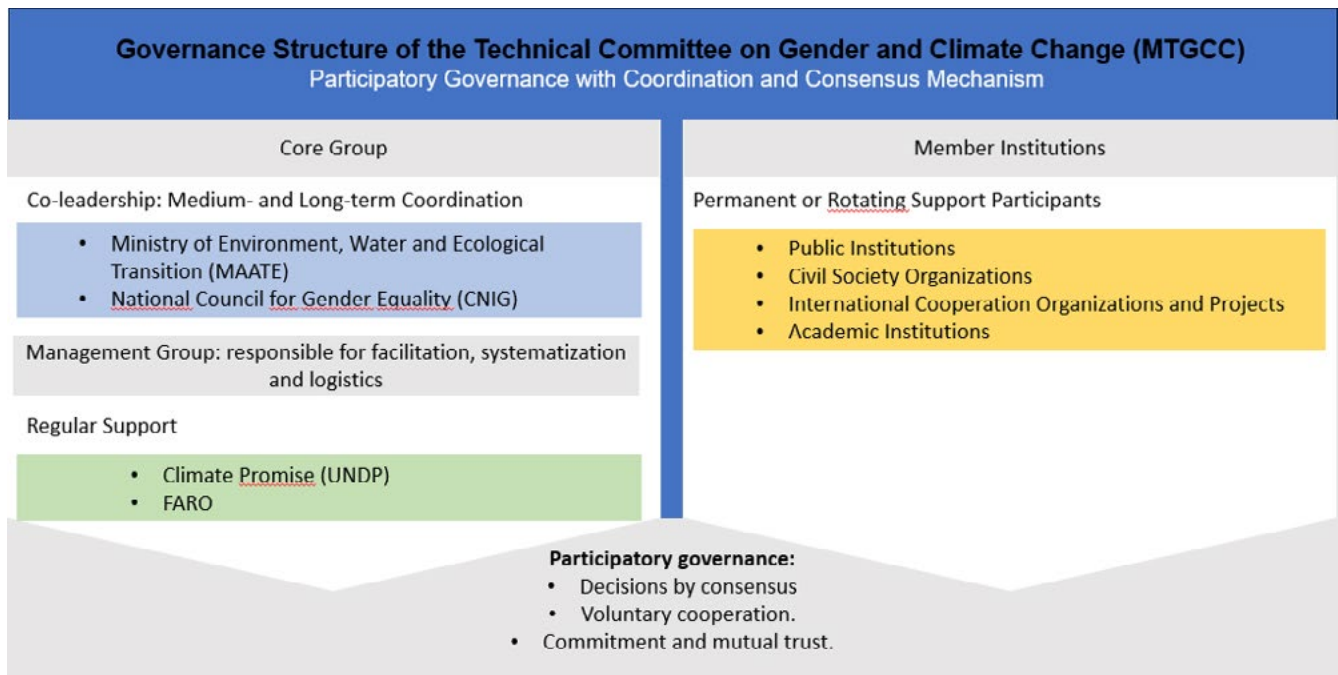
Governments can strengthen climate actions by collaborating with non-state actors through informal coordination mechanisms. In **Ecuador**, the Ministry of Environment, Water, and Ecological Transition and the National Council for Gender Equality co-lead an inter-institutional network called the Technical Committee on Gender and Climate Change, shown in Figure 3. This committee is collectively formed by 18 institutions encompassing public sector entities, private sector firms, academic institutions, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). While specific memberships may evolve, this diverse coalition underscores a commitment to inclusive, participatory governance.¹⁷ The technical committee was established in a bottom-up fashion, based on a participatory governance model that prioritizes consensus and meets every two months. The technical committee has been key in the development of the Gender and Climate Change Action Plan (PAGcc) and is currently connecting actors working on gender and climate issues at a sub-national level.¹⁸

16. Decreto supremo que adecua La Comisión Nacional sobre el Cambio climático a la ley N° 30754, Ley Marco sobre cambio climático; Ministerio del Ambiente, Estado Peruano; 17 June 2021; <https://www.gob.pe/institucion/minam/normas-legales/1971939-012-2021-minam>

17. Mainstreaming Gender and Youth in Latin America: Experiences from Panama and Ecuador. (2023, July 26). NDC Partnership. <https://countries.ndcpartnership.org/news/%E2%80%8Bmainstreaming-gender-and-youth-latin-america-experiences-panama-and-ecuador>

18. Mesa Técnica de Género y Cambio Climático; In Fundación Futuro Latinoamericano; 2021; <https://www.ffla.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Propuesta-Brochure-Final.pdf>

Figure 3: Organigram of Ecuador's Technical Committee on Gender and Climate Change (MTGCC)



Seychelles has adopted a whole-of-society approach to reach its NDC target of increasing renewable energy production in the electricity sector to 15% by 2030 by consistently coordinating efforts with private sector. Private photovoltaic (PV) energy producers play a pivotal role in government discussions around technical, financial, and regulatory energy topics. They engage with the Ministry of Agriculture, Climate Change, and the Environment's (MAACE) Climate Change Department and the Seychelles Energy Commission (SEC) as private sector energy producers, helping to implement the NDC's renewable energy targets. The Government of Seychelles has received support from the World Bank, the EU and IRENA through the NDC Partnership to strengthen energy policies and facilitate private sector engagement in energy production and grid integration for electric vehicle charging.¹⁹ The SEC maintains regular engagement with private sector PV providers as constant changes in the electricity system require strong coordination among this set of stakeholders. Non-state actors represent the interests and priorities of social groups whose involvement is often crucial for implementing the ambitious and transformative climate policy targets established in NDCs. Establishing coordination mechanisms with independent non-state actors ensures that government and partner actions are aligned with development results that benefit the country's population.

¹⁹ Seychelles - NDC. (2021, November 10). NDC. <https://pia.ndcpartnership.org/country-stories/seychelles/#renewables-and-green-transport-to-decarbonize-the-economy>

CLOSING

Governments and societies already function through elaborate systems of coordination. Mainstreaming climate action should build upon existing coordination mechanisms, strengthening the understanding of each sector's linkage to the country's climate targets and climate impacts and adjusting decision-making processes to incorporate climate action systematically. Within government, inter-ministerial commissions play an important role in generating such cross-sectoral linkages. This helps ensure central coordination of and effective engagement in the development, implementation, and financing of the country's NDC.

Clear and institutionalized coordination mechanisms help mainstream climate into national, subnational, and sectoral plans and budget; strengthen country ownership, ensuring that the technical and financial support from implementing and development partners are aligned with government priorities and efficiently used to leverage and mobilize additional public and private funds; and support meaningful input and engagement from across all parts of society. When well established and lasting, coordination mechanisms can be leveraged to not only implement and finance climate action, but to also continually raise the country's NDC ambition to the highest possible levels.





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BEST PRACTICE BRIEF

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