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CONFERENCE REPORT 2025

Moving from ambition to implementation



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Shifting into sprint mode

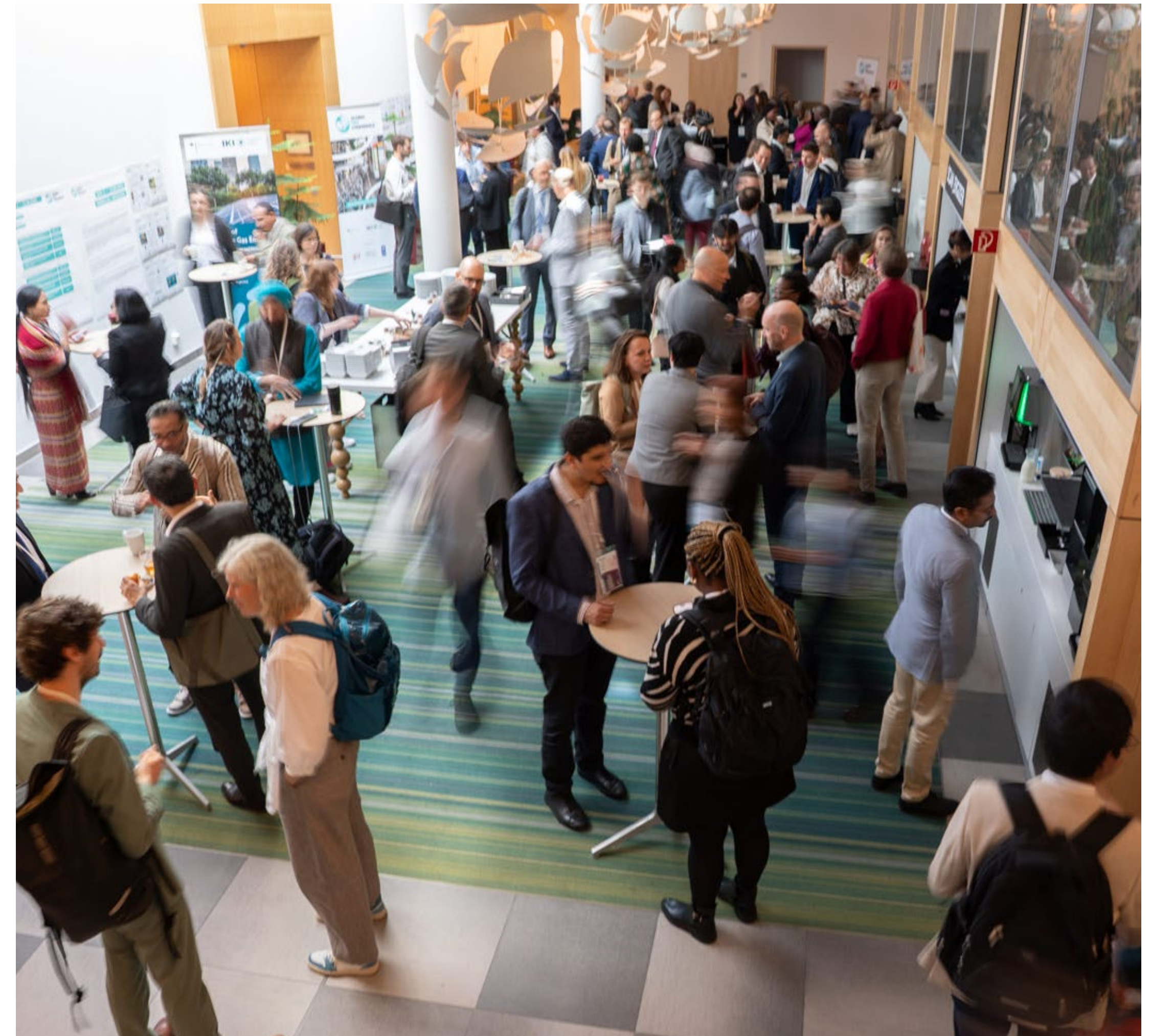
Since its first edition in 2017, the biennial Global NDC Conference has opened an inspiring space for dialogue, learning, and cooperation for the international climate community. It has contributed to enhancing the understanding between governments and non-state actors around the implementation and finance of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

With countries preparing to submit their next round of NDCs, and the outcomes of the first Global Stocktake (GST) shaping overall expectations, the Global NDC Conference 2025 came at a critical moment for international climate action. It served as a timely platform to align national **ambition** with implementation, **finance**, and innovative **solutions**. This year's themes reflected both a shift in urgency and a recognition that success in the Paris Agreement era depends not only on setting targets but on achieving them. The goal was to continue and deepen the dialogue on NDCs, fostering the rapid and effective translation of commitments into implementation and investment plans, while easing access to financial flows from a broad funding landscape.

More than 350 policymakers and practitioners from over 60 countries gathered in Berlin, representing a diverse group of stakeholders, including national, regional and local government representatives, private sector and philanthropic actors, the financial sector, multilateral organisations, think tanks and research institutions, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and implementing organisations. During the conference, participants engaged in a collective learning experience around NDC processes, contributing perspectives, discussing challenges, and sharing good practices in more than 25 plenary and parallel sessions, organised by over 30 initiatives and networks.

The three conference days each had a specific focus. Day one was dedicated to **raising ambition** and translating NDCs into workable implementation plans. Day two focused on the challenges and prospects of **unlocking finance** for NDC implementation, planning investable NDCs, and attracting private investments. The third day invited participants to think big and look ahead, **by showcasing proven solutions** ready for scaling and replication. This report provides a summary of the most important findings emerging from all the sessions and conversations at the Global NDC Conference 2025.

For more information and all conference resources, please check globalndcconference.org.



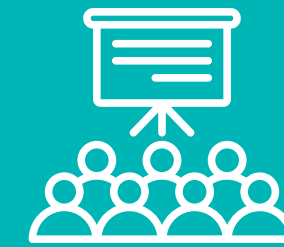
Our numbers in 2025



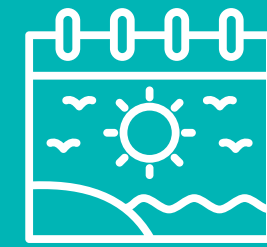
3
days



63
countries represented



359
participants



20+
plenary and parallel sessions

Our impact: Participant statements on the Global NDC Conference

The Global NDC Conference is about people coming together to make a change. Participants shared how this unique space has gone beyond traditional climate discussions. The following reflections capture the spirit of collaboration, ambition, and determination that defined this year's edition. More statements and interviews with participants on how they contributed to and benefitted from the conference will be published in an upcoming digital publication.



**Translating ambition into action:
What does NDC
implementation look like?**



**Unlocking potential:
What are challenges and
opportunities in climate finance
for NDCs?**

Part I



**Unlocking potential:
What are challenges and
opportunities in climate finance
for NDCs?**

Part II



**Raising the bar:
How can countries drive
greater ambition in their NDCs?**



Anika Terton

Senior Policy Advisor, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

"The Global NDC Conference provides an important opportunity to inspire practitioners and policymakers around the world to share, lead, and contribute to their country's NDC process."



Kevin Muli

African Network for Climate Action

"The Global NDC Conference gives the youth an opportunity to be part of a change."



Greg Briner

We Mean Business Coalition

"Events like this help us to make sure we understand what's happening and we can relay that to our network partners and the companies we work with. There was a strong focus on the role of the private sector, which is very useful from our perspective."



Jan Sindt

Climate Analytics

"Ideas materialise when they are found in a space like this, because all the national representatives and all the implementing partners align behind them."



Sung-Ah Kyun

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

"These conferences are very useful in taking stock of where everyone's at. Are we missing anything? Are we working across the aisles?"



Michal Nachmany

Climate Policy Radar

"It will allow us to gain a practical momentum into making all of these things happen in the many countries that are represented here."



Pacifica Achieng Ogola

Directorate of Climate Change, State Department of Environment, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Kenya

"This forum is very good in terms of exchanging knowledge and information from countries, private sector and civil society—all in the same room."



Day 1: Unleashing ambition—moving from climate pledges to progress

The first day of the three-day conference focused on ramping up **ambition**, accelerating NDC implementation, and turning policy into action. With an eye on the NDCs 3.0 as a commitment to elevate and accelerate climate action, Day 1 sessions and panels addressed the urgency and shortcomings of international climate efforts, putting the spotlight on climate leaders and early movers.

Jochen Flasbarth, State Secretary at the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUKN), welcomed the audience with an urgent call for action and ambition, in anticipation of COP30. He underlined that limited public funds must be used efficiently to unlock private sector investments through catalytic blended finance mechanisms that support the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) for international climate finance. He also reminded the audience that in times of rising populism and denial of climate change, it is vital to “convince people that we are doing the right thing.” One compelling argument according to Flasbarth is the economic reason. “It is crucial to counteract the narrative that climate change is a burden; instead, it is a positive opportunity for economies, preventing significant economic losses”, he said.



Jochen Flasbarth

State Secretary at the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUKN)

“We all need to do more, on the way to transforming our economies and societies towards climate neutrality.”



Sara Omi

President of the Coordination of Territorial Women Leaders of the Mesoamerican Alliance of Peoples and Forests

“Let us all make a genuine effort to open this much needed dialogue in this conference, so that it allows us to find climate justice, guarantee the rights of Indigenous Peoples, the women, and the youth.”



Dessima Williams, President of the Senate of Grenada, gave an inspiring and thought-provoking keynote speech. “Global Stocktake reveals that current pledges are insufficient, and we are on track for a 2.8°C rise in temperature,” Williams said, pointing to the dangerous climate events that are occurring more frequently, especially in Small Island Developing States (SIDS). These events can have far-reaching consequences, including food insecurity, income loss, and health challenges. “We must push for stronger ambition to end the climate crisis,” she said. Williams stressed that the NDCs 3.0 must be ambitious and based on strong practical implementation strategies, involving all sectors and stakeholders, with just transition roadmaps that consider gender inclusion and equity, and address poverty and industrial growth. She also pointed to the barriers many countries in the Global South and especially SIDS face when it comes to accessing climate finance, and emphasised the urgent need for agile, fast, and flexible financing to enable climate ambition. Finally, Williams highlighted the necessity of public understanding and ownership for the effectiveness of NDC processes. “It is critical that parliaments are fully involved in the NDC process, not just informed but engaged at all levels and from the very beginning,” she said.

The opening of the conference culminated in a speech by **Sara Omi**, representing the Emberá People of Panama and President of the Coordination of Territorial Women Leaders of the Mesoamerican Alliance of Peoples and Forests. She gave a cultural blessing, reminding the audience of the sacredness of Mother Earth and calling for an attitude of gratitude. Her speech was a prelude to a series of contributions from Indigenous Peoples during the conference.

A key discussion to get started: What makes a good NDC?

The first panel took up the central question “What makes a good NDC?”. Experts from diverse sectors shared ideas on how to strengthen NDCs to ensure they are not only aligned with the 1.5°C goal but also result-driven and impactful at national and local levels.

Key themes included the importance of designing NDCs that are ambitious, actionable and anchored—reflecting high climate aspirations, clearly defined implementation pathways, and integration into national development priorities. Speakers emphasised that robust NDCs require strong political commitment, broad stakeholder engagement, and governance processes that engage all parts of society.

The discussion also highlighted the need for increased capacity, particularly in developing countries, to support effective NDC planning, implementation, and monitoring. Ensuring financial sustainability was a recurring theme, with calls for aligning NDCs with national investment strategies and involving public development banks to support long-term financing. Integrating climate action into broader development agendas was seen as both necessary and an opportunity to drive progress across sectors.



Panelists stressed the importance of equity, inclusiveness and historical responsibility in shaping NDCs that are just and transformative. In a nutshell, a good NDC is more than a policy document—it is a strategic tool that connects climate ambition with real-world action, finance and inclusive development.



Cassie Flynn

Global Director of Climate Change at United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

“Integrating climate action with development is an engine for progress—it is just a smart thing to do.”



Åsa Persson

Research Director at the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)

“It is common sense to do more climate action, for instance invest in infrastructure that is climate resilient and sustainable.”



Harjeet Singh

Founding Director of Satat Sampada Climate Foundation

“Fairness, ambition and justice—they all go together.”



Good practices: Technical input on pressing issues of NDC implementation



In the afternoon, participants had the opportunity to learn from one another and share knowledge in participatory, thematic sessions on specific topics related to NDC implementation. Representatives from governments, the private sector, international institutions, and civil society shared good practices from different sectors, and the national, regional and local levels. All parallel sessions were designed to enable peer learning on day-to-day experiences, generate innovations, and elaborate context-specific solutions.

Driving climate justice: Opportunities for a just transition in NDCs

NDC Partnership, ILO, UNICEF, GIZ

This session addressed topics such as social protection, finance and policy alignment, assessment of transition impacts, stakeholder engagement and social dialogue, as well as skills and jobs. Participants recognised that climate action affects different groups in unique ways and responses should therefore be tailored to these diverse needs to create truly sustainable livelihoods.

Most NDCs do not yet reflect just transition efforts, although many countries have developed just transition roadmaps as an initial assessment to identify opportunities. Fewer than half of the NDCs 2.0 are youth- or child-sensitive, for example, representing a significant challenge in terms of achieving social protections. Disaggregated data is needed on age, gender, and socioeconomic conditions to ensure institutional sensitivity to the topic.

The discussions highlighted several examples of good practice, such as the NDCs of Malawi and Antigua and Barbuda for the recognition of social protection in climate action. Nigeria, on the other hand, is developing a just transition roadmap, while South Africa and Philippines are working respectively on the co-creation and localisation aspects of NDC planning.

Aligning long-term and near-term strategies for enhancing implementation and ambition

2050 Pathways Platform

As countries update their NDCs for near-term action and advance their Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategies (LT-LEDS), it is important to ensure coherence between both policies. As of June 2025, 76 countries had submitted their LT-LEDS and around 48 were in the process of preparing their first LT-LEDS or revising an existing one.

Countries are gradually aligning LT-LEDS with NDCs, linking climate and development goals and improving coordination between planning and finance. Dual-track planning processes can provide clarity, coherence, and a sense of ownership for countries and all stakeholders. It was noted that both policies can evolve and build incrementally. Common challenges to alignment include coordination gaps, stakeholder fatigue, and political shifts. Legislative frameworks and institutional arrangements are especially important to safeguard long-term strategies.

The session showcased good practices for effectively linking long-term goals with practical, near-term strategies. Four main components for a comprehensive LT-LEDS have been identified: 1) A robust long-term vision, 2) strong alignment of national goals and policies, 3) effective governance and stakeholder engagement, and 4) a solid financial basis with various sources of funding. A recent [GIZ publication on LT-LEDS development](#) gives insights into effective practices in eight countries.

Sectoral decarbonisation: A crucial foundation for achieving net-zero emissions and for sustainable development

UNDP, IISD, IEA (energy focus)

Two thematic sessions looked at reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in specific sectors. The first one focused on decarbonising the energy sector and addressed the challenges and opportunities in setting clear, quantifiable targets for renewable energy, energy efficiency, and fossil fuel transition in NDCs.

The session offered practical recommendations to strengthen clean energy ambition in NDCs. For example, in the context of the global energy goals (tripling renewables and doubling energy efficiency), participants expressed that it is fundamental to assess current energy use and emissions drivers to close data gaps. Moreover, sectoral targets should be aligned with existing energy and industrial policies and should be disaggregated to reflect sub-national targets.

Insights from countries such as Kenya, Canada, Grenada and the UK shed light on the opportunities and challenges of transforming the energy sector, which was seen as the foundation of sustainable economic development.

Climate Club, Global Matchmaking Platform (industry focus)

A second session on sectoral decarbonisation focused on the industry sector. Experts from governments, international institutions, and technical assistance providers examined how countries can integrate industrial targets into their NDCs. While the investment gap for decarbonising the industrial sector remains significant, countries are increasingly incorporating industry into their NDCs and supportive frameworks (like common standards) are emerging. Of the NDCs 3.0 submitted by June 2025, 85 percent mentioned industrial decarbonisation and 35 percent outline specific activities in the sector. Although many funds and programmes targeting the industrial sector lack specificity, there is growing interest among donors in creating funding programmes for industry decarbonisation.

The session showcased relevant support structures and tools. For example, the [Global Matchmaking Platform](#) of the Climate Club is helping bridge technical and financial assistance gaps on topics such as NDC enhancement, measurement, reporting and verification (MRV), transparency, sector-specific decarbonisation, financial support, and carbon leakage due to production relocation. Other examples included [UNDP's Climate Promise](#), UNIDO's Partnership for Net-Zero Industry, and a recent [NDC 3.0 Guidebook for Industrial Decarbonisation](#).

Bridging policies: Implementing and accelerating NDCs, NAPs, and NBSAPs

UNDP, FAO, NBSAP Secretariat

This session delved into the topic of integrated planning to align important policies and improve adaptation outcomes. It focused on bridging and implementing three different frameworks: NDCs, National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).

When developing NAPs, NDCs, and NBSAPs, it is essential to consider the synergies between climate, biodiversity, and agrifood systems from the outset. Furthermore, it is crucial to include youth and Indigenous Peoples in the process. Even though 94% of NDCs of developing countries include adaptation goals, there remains a huge finance gap for adaptation.

Participants explored opportunities to leverage finance for climate resilience and biodiversity protection. As there is an urgent need to shift the focus from planning to implementation, and account for the reporting and planning burden for developing countries, the argument was made that it would be more effective to provide support to developing countries to implement existing plans than to create more sophisticated plans for implementation.

The showcased country experiences demonstrated the importance of several success factors, including the institutionalisation of technical knowledge despite governmental shifts within an expert group and the continuous collection of data (e.g., Philippines). A marketplace at the end of the session gave participants the opportunity to engage on specific tools and initiatives like the [CIPMF Online Tool](#) for unlocking climate finance, a [checklist for national policymakers on NDCs](#), NAPs, NBSAPs Synergies, or the [NBSAPs Accelerator](#).

From reporting to action: The role of Biennial Transparency Reports in NDC enhancement and implementation

UNDP, PATPA

The Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs) are essential for monitoring a country's progress in implementing the Paris Agreement. However, there is still uncertainty regarding the reporting process. This session sought to provide clarity on the interlinkages between BTRs and NDC development and implementation.

BTRs are a tool to create more realistic NDCs and improve them over time. They can inform NDC investment plans by identifying specific sectors and areas with financing gaps. Four primary challenges relating to financing have been identified: 1) Data gaps and uncertainties in tracking climate finance, 2) unclear institutional arrangements and co-ordination mechanisms, 3) capacity and time constraints for tracking and reporting on climate finance, 4) a weak enabling environment and challenges in accessing and mobilising finance.

The participants discussed best practices for developing, implementing, tracking, and enhancing BTRs, as well as for aligning them with NDCs, financing strategies, and other implementation instruments. An [OECD publication](#) gives insights on finance from existing BTRs and offers lessons for the next round of NDCs. The session concluded that it is crucial to have a more integrated, collaborative and systemic framework in place, engaging various sectors and stakeholders to gather data. In particular, national statistics offices need to be more involved. Developing a legal basis for data sharing can greatly facilitate the development process. Investing in national MRV systems and institutionalising the process is of utmost importance to create continuity and country ownership.



The power of meaningful participation in NDC updates

For the first time, the conference hosted a roundtable on [NDCs and parliamentary engagement](#), in collaboration with GLOBE Legislators. Parliamentarians from several countries and climate policy experts exchanged experiences of the crucial role parliaments are playing in raising ambition, securing finance, accelerating action, ensuring oversight of implementation, as well as securing a public mandate for ambitious climate action.

Another highlight this year were the nine young changemakers from around the world and eight representatives of Indigenous Peoples from three socio-cultural regions who attended the conference, sharing their views on NDC review and implementation processes. These two groups are indispensable partners in achieving the climate goals of the Paris Agreement.



In a final reflection after the sessions, Indigenous and youth representatives stressed the need to include both stakeholder groups in NDC design and updates through meaningful participation. A common message was the importance of co-creation, inclusion, fairness, and respect for the human rights of vulnerable groups in NDC development and implementation. The reflection ended with a call for action, transparency and accountability.



KEY TAKEAWAYS

A good NDC...

- **...follows the triple-A-principle** by being
 - 1) **ambitious** and covering all sectors (1.5°C aligned, integrating adaptation, and reflecting GST guidance),
 - 2) **actionable** with clearly defined implementation pathways (supported by strong institutional arrangements), and
 - 3) **anchored** in national development priorities (reflecting a whole-of-society approach and national ownership).
- **...ensures high ambition in NDC 3.0** by including a Just Transition roadmap, addressing gender, inclusion and equity, and considering poverty, industrial growth and the sustainable use of natural resources.
- **...provides the accountability that is essential for building more capacity**, with all actors contributing their fair share and public finance institutions playing a key role in sustainable implementation. The more people are involved, the more diverse political ambitions can become, broadening the base of political will to serve more people. It is not only about consultation but about co-creation across sectors and actors to create trust.
- **...builds legitimacy and impact through inclusion and robustness**. Good NDCs need to include the highest level of governmental buy-in, a broad-based ownership, and stakeholder participation (including the private sector, Indigenous Peoples and the youth) with co-creation across sectors and actors to create trust. Recognising, empowering, and investing in community-led solutions can fast-track climate ambition and biodiversity conservation.
- **...respects equity and equality as core values**. Limited progress in climate action can partly be explained by a lack of equality and equity. For example, energy transitions around the world cannot be separated from addressing people's needs. Climate finance must give young people the opportunity to take part in the economy and provide safe, fair jobs.
- **...is driven by data to enhance their realism**. Support to developing countries must centre on implementing existing plans, not on drafting increasingly sophisticated ones. The BTRs can serve as a strategic tool to enhance the realism of NDCs by providing data-driven insights that inform investment planning.
- **... is aligned with long-term goals**. Countries are already aligning LT-LEDs with NDCs to link climate and development goals through more coherent, country-owned planning. However, coordination gaps and political shifts highlight the need for strong legislative and institutional frameworks to sustain long-term strategies.





Day 2 Driving finance into NDC implementation

Turning ambitious and workable plans for NDC implementation into measurable climate action requires the mobilisation of reliable financial resources. The second day of the Global NDC Conference focused on the role of **finance** as a crucial enabler for NDC implementation in the pursuit of global climate goals.

The plenary started with an emphasis on the positive economic impact of well-designed climate policies. **Jo Tyndall**, the Director of the Environment Directorate at the OECD, presented the new joint [OECD-UNDP report](#) “Investing in climate for growth and development: The case for enhanced NDCs.” As a main message, the report underlines that well-designed climate policies can strengthen economic development, while results depend on whether NDCs are implementable and investable. The report indicates that enhanced NDCs would contribute to a 0.21% increase in global gross domestic product (GDP) in the near term. However, there are many benefits to climate action beyond GDP growth, such as poverty reduction and health benefits. Additionally, the report provides strong evidence for investment in clean energy and energy efficiency increasing productivity and innovation.



Jo Tyndall,

Director of the Environment, Directorate at the OECD

“NDCs must provide strong and stable signals to investors and have got to be backed by critical financing strategies and project pipelines.”

Securing investments for NDC implementation from diverse sources

With the economic and social benefits of well-designed climate action in mind, panel conversations revolved around the key questions of how to increase investment in NDC implementation and bridge funding gaps between the private and public sectors, while ensuring efficiency and efficacy of spending. Conversations highlighted the need for clear frameworks and conducive environments (such as streamlined regulations, supportive policies, and institutional capacity) to lower investment barriers and risks for unlocking climate finance.

Another challenge addressed was the disconnect between the public and private sectors. This gap often stems from differences in language, expectations, and perceptions of risk and return. It was emphasised that governments—particularly Ministries of Environment, Finance, and Planning—must be equipped to engage effectively with investors and co-create convincing, investment-ready business cases that align national development goals with private sector interests.

A recurring point throughout the session was the importance of strong project pipelines that are structured for scale and long-term financial sustainability. For example, participants emphasised the importance of matching financial instruments to different project stages (i.e., development funds for early-stage, high-risk efforts; construction financing with blended capital; and institutional finance for scaling and long-term infrastructure).



The conversation also underscored the need for NDCs to be rooted in a broad-based national consensus and aligned with stakeholder interests. National public development banks were seen as well-positioned players (thanks to their deep understanding of local contexts) that are not used to their full potential. The success of innovative financial instruments will depend on addressing systemic gaps, weak financial infrastructure and limited trust among local actors.



Pablo Viera
Global Director, NDC Partnership
“Climate finance should be integrated into development plans and national budgets. There is a huge opportunity here.”



Kavita Sinha
Director, Department of Private Sector Facility, Green Climate Fund
“Public finance creates enabling environments, so governments enable investments, but the private sector must lead.”

Getting practical: Ways to make climate finance work



Four thematic sessions addressed specific challenges and proposed solutions related to climate finance. International finance experts from public and private institutions, NDC implementation experts, and scientific advisors gave valuable insights and sparked discussions and peer learning among participants. The day’s parallel sessions focused on financial challenges and opportunities in turning NDCs into executable climate action.

Attracting private investments through de-risking approaches

GCF

Countries are in a better position to attract private capital for meeting ambitious climate targets if they invest in understanding how the private sector operates—and what it requires. This session focused on identifying private sector needs and developing actionable roadmaps for mobilising capital.

Transition processes must be accompanied by strengthening skills and jobs that support sustainability, while educating the private sector on how to access finance. In this sense, Pakistan presented a good practice example on how to scale solar panel installation. Several development finance institutions (DFIs) and financial initiatives provided insights into their methods for mobilising capital and reducing financial risks for investors (de-risking).

Participants noted that many countries are hesitant to further enhance their ambitions due to the uncertainties around sources of financing. Consultative processes at ministerial level need to select the right private sector parties. Both de-risking mechanisms and step-by-step plans for mobilising capital need to be developed.

Mind the gap: Building bankable NDC pipelines in emerging markets

RMI

Limited funding for the early stages of project preparation is a major challenge when it comes to swiftly implementing NDCs and building bankable NDC pipelines in emerging markets and developing economies (EMDEs). Despite more catalytic finance being needed at the beginning of the project cycle, most of the Project Preparation Facilities (PPFs) provide mainly late-stage implementation support. This, combined with the lack of ready-to-finance projects, results in one third of projects never getting implemented.

Participants were tasked with co-designing country-driven models that would deliver investment-ready projects. The goal of this exercise was to transform pipeline projects into investment portfolios. Participants agreed that the language used needs to be understandable for all parties involved and left with a diagnostic checklist, three case-study playbooks, and clear asks for development partners to turn pipeline projects into investment portfolios.

The showcased initiatives included Colombia’s Climate Finance Broker Facility, Fiji’s Trust Fund for Climate Change Adaptation and Renewable Energies, the Caribbean Climate Smart Facility (CCSF) and the Africa PURE Fund.



Public-private collaboration for financing adaptation

Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action

Countries are facing significant economic, social, and political challenges due to climate change, reduced economic growth, increased government spending, mounting debt, and lower credit ratings. Adaptation finance remains the hardest to mobilise, despite each dollar invested in adaptation yielding high economic, social and environmental returns over a 10-year period.

The cost of inaction will be much higher than the needed investments in adaptation. This session explored how countries are translating adaptation priorities into investable plans, with a focus on the role of Ministries of Finance and private sector engagement. During the session, participants shared real-world experiences in investment planning, on country platforms, and combining public and private funding.



Chavi Meattle

Climate Finance Specialist, Climate Policy Initiative

“NDCs must evolve from vision statements into investment strategies—with clear priorities, credible data and catalytic finance aligned with country needs. Without these, ambition remains abstract.”

Catalysing private investment in climate action through innovative financial instruments

GIZ

Mobilising private finance is essential to meet climate goals. This session explored how innovative financial instruments can support the implementation of NDCs by catalysing private investment in climate action.

Moreover, the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) presented the participants with new research on the relevance of specific financial instruments for different country contexts, particularly least developed countries (LDCs), on enabling conditions, and on donor support. The conversation underscored five central instruments for the mobilisation of private sector investment: 1) Guarantees, 2) pooled investment funds, which combine capital from different sources to spread risk, 3) green and sustainability-linked bonds as debt securities issued to finance climate and environmental projects, 4) debt-for-nature and debt-for-climate swaps as ways to restructure public debt into climate or environmental action, and 5) adaptation benefits mechanisms with project developers creating non-transferable Certified Adaptation Benefits (CABs).



Lucca Maixner

Advisor, GIZ

“Mobilising private capital for NDC implementation means bridging public goals with investor needs. With the right incentives and risk-sharing mechanisms, we can turn climate ambition into bankable, impactful projects on the ground.”



From insights to action: Advancing finance for NDC implementation



Before the end of the second day, participants discussed unresolved questions and tried-and-tested practices for advancing finance for NDC implementation, tapping into their collective experience and creativity. During this interactive plenary session, it was stressed that NDCs cannot be implemented without financing, and so mobilising private and public investment using a context-specific mix of instruments is key for successful implementation.

Decision making remains a challenge that could be mitigated by good data and better coordination. Participants highlighted the importance of BTRs as a critical transparency tool for informing the next round of NDCs and for climate investment. Furthermore, partnerships on finance, as well as collaboration among development partners were deemed crucial to move forward.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Governments must create enabling environments** (policy, regulations, institutional set-ups) and use limited public finance strategically (e.g., easy-to-manage blended finance mechanisms) to de-risk and attract private capital. For example, by removing obstacles such as lengthy permitting procedures, foreign investment restrictions, and restricted access to credit or by deploying mechanisms such as public guarantees, concessional finance, and first-loss capital. Governments need to make a case for investment returns that outweigh investment risks.
- **Capacity building is needed to enable governments** (Ministries of Environment, Finance and Planning) to enter into fruitful conversations with investors and co-create convincing business cases. This can help to overcome the frequent disconnect between governments and the private sector.
- **Robust project pipelines and the right institutional readiness** are a prerequisite for **effective private sector engagement** in NDC delivery and for scaling up investments at different stages, especially for large-scale NDC-aligned projects. Invest types need to be matched with project stages, e.g., development funds for early-stage and high-risk efforts; blended capital for construction financing; and institutional finance for scaling and long-term infrastructure.
- **Innovative financial instruments offer strong potential to mobilise private climate investment in developing countries** (e.g., guarantees, pooled funds, green bonds, and debt swaps). However, successful implementation—especially in LDCs—requires addressing capacity gaps, weak financial systems, and institutional and political constraints. Current funding models lack flexibility and trust in local actors.
- **NDCs need to build on a broad-based consensus**, ensuring alignment with national priorities and stakeholder interests, while also including typically underrepresented stakeholder groups. National public development banks can play an important—often underutilised—role in the climate finance landscape, since they hold unique knowledge of national and local contexts, as well as sectoral and operational expertise.
- **Adaptation should be recognised as an investable option**. The private sector often sees adaptation as non-investable, yet local communities and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are already innovating on the ground. Partnership among actors is needed to overcome fragmentation in the access to finance.
- **Subnational governments should get more finance opportunities**. Cities are responsible for an increasing share of GHG emissions reduction and implementing climate action but face considerable barriers in mobilising finance that need to be overcome by enabling legal frameworks for direct access to finance.



Day 3 Solutions to make change happen

The final conference day turned to the practical side of NDC implementation and encouraged participants to think big and look ahead. It offered participants the opportunity to share concrete challenges, discuss best practices, next steps and learn about **solutions** around NDC implementation, scaling, and replication. All the sessions were held in participatory formats designed to move beyond presentations and inspire meaningful dialogue.

Ana Toni, the National Secretary for Climate Change at the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change of Brazil and the CEO of COP30, delivered a motivational keynote speech. She pointed to the importance of standing together in a polarised world and being part of the solution, and not the problem. She underlined the urgency to have all NDCs delivered prior to COP30 and in time for the UNFCCC NDC Synthesis Report by September. Toni also gave a brief outlook to COP30, emphasising its core spirit of cooperation and the acceleration of implementation through inclusive, participatory processes involving governments, Indigenous Peoples, finance ministers, civil society, the private sector, and other key actors.



Ana Toni

CEO, COP30 Presidency, Brazil

"We want to make COP30 very ambitious and at the same time very pragmatic. I would say the Global NDC Conference 2025 is part of the COP as well, we really need the involvement of everyone in the process."



Exploring real-life challenges around NDC implementation and financing



The **Case Clinic** format gave the opportunity to explore solutions to real-life challenges around NDC implementation and finance. Climate changemakers presented 16 concrete cases to groups of fellow experts. Each case was then carefully examined, questioned, and dissected into key components to find its underlying cause. Through a collaborative reflection and tailored feedback, each group worked toward a "diagnosis", identifying potential pathways forward, drawing on their diverse professional, sectoral, and regional experiences.

Cases came from countries and regions around the world (e.g., Brazil, Colombia, The Gambia, India, Kenya, Latin America and the Caribbean, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Seychelles, South Africa, and the Pacific Community). Main topics included tracking GHG emissions and NDC development, gender integration, inclusion of marginalised urban communities, unconditional emissions reduction targets, democratising access to climate finance, designing and harmonising carbon pricing instruments, ensuring effective youth engagement, and capacity development.



Tarik Lemrani

Government representative of Morocco, Case Clinic contributor

"My favourite part of the Global NDC Conference 2025 was the Case clinic because it allowed for practical, peer-to-peer problem-solving and deep discussions on real challenges faced by countries, making the experience highly relevant and solution-oriented."

Energising NDC implementation and financing: Ways forward for the energy sector

In a plenary discussion, experts from the private sector, international organisations, and youth conversed about solutions for successful NDC implementation and financing in the energy sector. Speakers stressed the urgent need for radical thinking—through reconsidering traditional processes and fostering mutual learning—to accelerate the energy transition. High impact at the local and global level requires new regulatory systems, strong governmental commitment, advances in technology, digitalisation, and improved financing conditions, especially for developing countries with higher risks for investors. Involving all parts of society, especially the youth, is crucial to support the transition of the energy sector.

Chibulu Luo

Global Energy and Climate Change Advisor, UNDP

“When it comes to the energy sector, implementation is most effective when guided by clear, time-bound, and quantifiable targets for the sustainable energy transition. It’s encouraging to see that new NDC submissions are already reflecting bolder energy sector commitments with this level of specificity—enabling more accountable and results-driven implementation.”



From finance to Article 6: Tried-and-tested solutions for replication and scaling

The **Solutions Labs** format opened the stage for governments, organisations and companies to showcase innovative and scalable real-world initiatives, approaches, and projects. In each lab, changemakers briefly presented their solutions and engaged in round table conversations around five topics: 1) Climate financing and funding, 2) subnational and urban solutions, 3) technology, artificial intelligence (AI) and data, 4) nature-climate synergies, and 5) Article 6 solutions. Participants were asked to identify potential next steps for applying the presented solutions in their country context and with different stakeholder groups.

Uzoamaka Nwamarah

Climate Change Advisor, Commonwealth Secretariat

“To turn NDCs into action, countries need clear, costed, and inclusive investment plans with priority actions, financing needs, viable instruments, and enabling policies—transforming ambition into bankable solutions and climate visions into investable realities.”



Financing and funding solutions

Commonwealth Secretariat, NDC Partnership

With a focus on NDC 3.0 implementation, this lab offered a timely space to shape **investable, inclusive climate action**. It enabled participants to move from climate pledges to funded projects, by showcasing practical tools to develop bankable projects and mobilise funding from public, private, and blended sources.

Real-world case studies by the NDC Partnership, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Mitigation Action Facility (MAF), and the Climate Policy Initiative (CPI) addressed ways to align national investment plans with climate finance opportunities. In this process, coordinated technical assistance across ministries (e.g., through Climate Finance Units or embedded advisors) was seen as a prerequisite for developing investment-ready climate projects. Other important success factors are strong coordination across ministries and stakeholders, and early engagement of private sector representatives and project developers (especially during political planning). The right investors and finance instruments need to be combined in the right project stages—incubating early, blending for construction, and scaling with institutional capital.

There is an urgent need for direct access to finance at the local and regional level, where climate projects are often too small, and government officials often lack the capacities to mobilise funding. Since supportive conditions are often shaped by national governments, local and regional government entities need to work together to demand changes and overcome barriers.



Subnational and urban solutions

Climate Group, GIZ

The Solutions Lab on subnational and urban solutions focused on multi-level climate action and programmes that are directed at cities and local or regional governments. Some of the challenges identified include the different levels of federalism, the unclear definition of the roles of local and regional governments, and their limited resources and knowledge to prepare projects efficiently and report back to the national level.

Greater cooperation between national and sub-national entities (such as federal states, local and regional governments, municipalities, and cities) is essential to align efforts, reduce fragmentation, and effectively finance and prioritise NDC implementation. There is potential for new partnerships, as well as the opportunity to strengthen local engagement, convene diverse groups of finance professionals, and enable more systematic reporting between the local and national levels.

Four initiatives presented approaches to multi-level climate action:

- 1) The [Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships \(CHAMP\)](#) for Climate Action;
- 2) the [Next Generation Budget](#);
- 3) [UrbanAct](#); and
- 4) the [Town Hall COP](#).

Nature-climate synergies and solutions

GIZ

Unlocking synergies between biodiversity and climate action offers powerful, mutually beneficial outcomes. By fostering a culture of collaboration and learning from global best practices, countries can design coherent, effective policies that tackle both challenges together. Participants discussed the importance of ensuring the integrity of ecosystems when taking climate actions, for example by applying nature-based solutions (NbS). Practical examples were given on how to inform NDCs with Indigenous and local community knowledge.

This session highlighted how integrated [synergetic solutions](#) combining biodiversity and climate action pave the way for more sustainable and inclusive development. Participants presented different tools like the [Food Forward NDCs](#), a [guide for including nature in NDCs](#), amongst other approaches.

Technology, AI, and data solutions

GIZ, UNDP, Climate Analytics

Digital solutions can enhance transparency, accountability, and collaboration. The Solutions Lab on technology, AI, and data showcased different initiatives and digital tools to better understand and make use of climate information for research, policy advice, and analysis. For example, the [Climate Policy Radar](#), [NDC Align](#) (pilot), the [Seychelles National Climate Transparency Platform](#), the [Low Emissions Analysis Platform \(LEAP\)](#), [NEST Africa](#), among other tools.

However, ethical and agency concerns exist when it comes to inclusion of vulnerable communities and Indigenous Peoples' knowledge.

Article 6 solutions

GIZ, German Federal Government

This Solutions Lab explored how Article 6 of the Paris Agreement can be used to mobilise finance for ambitious NDC implementation. The organisers presented a [concise overview](#) over the [negotiation status and functioning of Article 6](#), including [cooperative approaches](#) (Article 6.2), the Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism (PACM; Article 6.4), and non-market approaches (Article 6.8). The roundtable discussions offered insights into practical implementation solutions on the supply and demand side.

The session highlighted the role of NDCs and presented solutions to host [country needs](#) through key Article 6 building blocks. It explored how Article 6 can contribute beyond mitigation as a key to closing the adaptation gap and delivering biodiversity co-benefits.



Global Mutirão—bringing people together for a common future

The conference closed with a reflection. **Camila Romero**, coordinator at the International Indigenous Youth Forum on Climate Change, and **Mai Thin Yu Mon**, a dedicated Indigenous People’s rights activist based in Myanmar, pointed to the need to integrate youth and Indigenous People representatives more powerfully in NDCs and international climate conferences. Young people are often the ones that implement solutions and hold governments accountable, while Indigenous Peoples can contribute their diverse perspectives.



Camila Romero
Coordinator at the International Indigenous Youth Forum on Climate Change
“Youth and Indigenous Peoples need to be fully included in the national processes shaping and delivering NDCs—from design to implementation and monitoring.”

Philipp Behrens, Head of Division at the International Climate Initiative (IKI), closed the conference with a concise reflection on the learnings of the past three days. He stressed the importance to involve all parts of society and all government departments into NDC design and implementation. He also pointed to the financing of NDCs as the next big step to reach global climate goals—and stressed the importance of creating more knowledge on that topic during events like the Global NDC Conference. “The biggest success of the conference was seeing people from different countries, groups, and sectors working together,” he said, referring to the mutirão concept of collective action with a common objective of the upcoming COP30.

Participants left the conference carrying a toolkit of solutions and new ideas for engagement, clarity on next steps in the NDC process, and an expanded network of motivated peers.

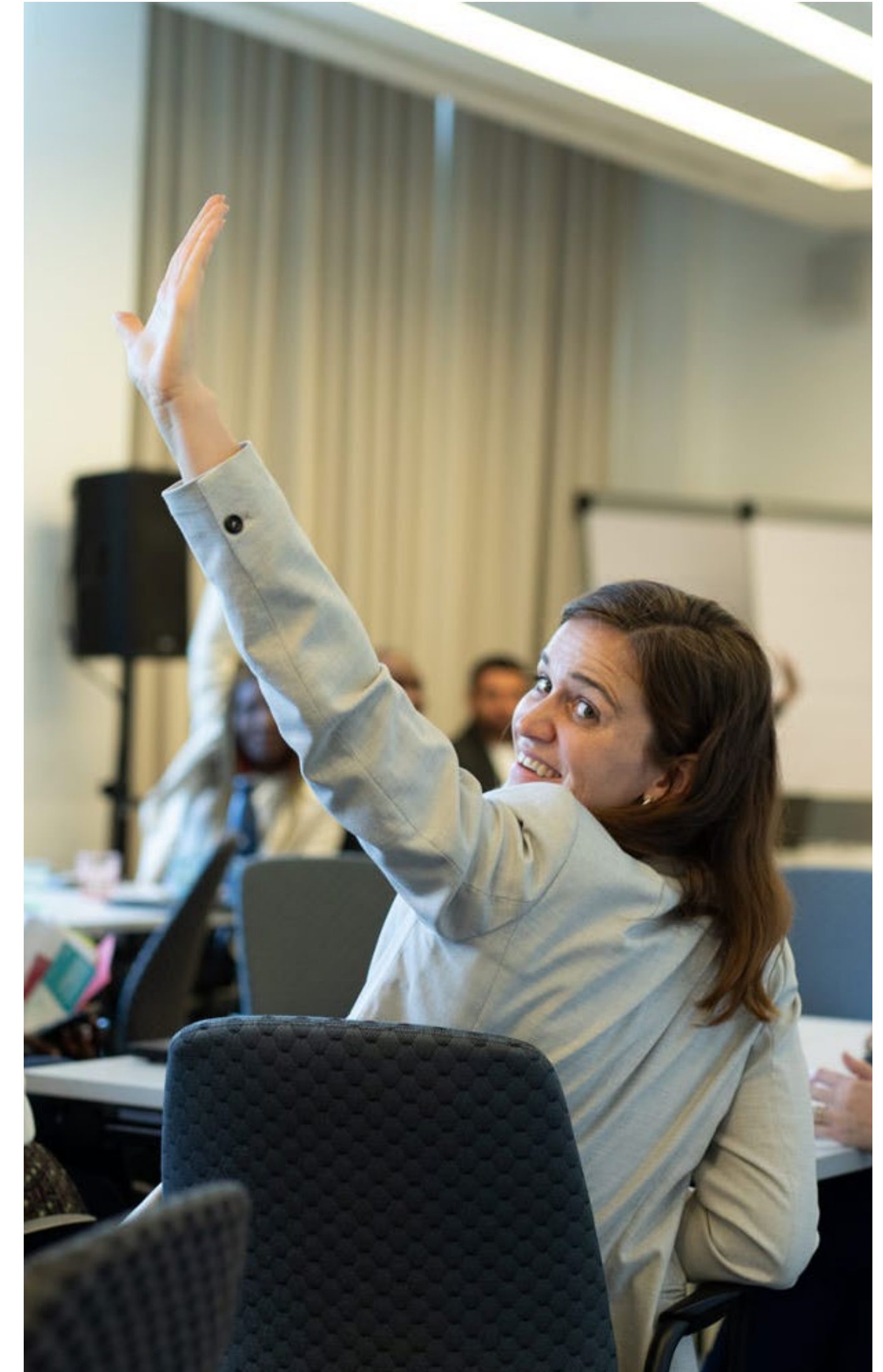


Philipp Behrens
Head of Division, IKI
“We are very proud of bringing this diversity of stakeholders together. The idea of this conference was to open up a space for frank discussion. This conference was one in which people engage.”



KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **The energy transition needs to be taken to the next level with radical thinking** to achieve the agreed **global goals on energy**. New regulatory systems, increased governmental commitment, innovative technology, enhanced digitalisation, and better financing conditions can ensure higher impact right from the local to the global level. Strengthening clean energy ambition in NDCs relies on assessing current energy use, emission drivers and data gaps, and aligning targets with existing energy and industrial policies.
- **Countries are increasingly aligning LT-LEDS with NDCs**, linking climate and development goals, and improving coordination between planning and finance. Dual-track planning can bring granularity, coherence, and country ownership. Alignment should be seen as an ongoing process that is built on the go.
- **Adaptation marks the intersection between climate and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. However, from 2021 to 2022 **only 5% of total climate finance** flowed specifically to adaptation annually. Synergies between climate, biodiversity, and agrifood systems should be considered from the start when developing NDCs, NAPs, and NBSAPs.
- **Time is ticking, and continuity remains a challenge for planning**. Institutionalised entities like climate commissions and technical expert working groups work independently from governmental shifts, allowing for continuous data collection and storage. **Recording all essential information** from recent NDC processes remains key to support planning for the 2025 cycle and strengthens institutional continuity.
- **Creating national tracking systems for more realistic NDCs**. There are strong interlinkages between NDCs, the Enhanced Transparency Framework, and the Global Stocktake. Common terminology ensures better cooperation and developing a legal basis for data sharing can greatly facilitate the development of green taxonomies. Some countries use their BTR to engage with donors.
- **Decarbonisation solutions need to be tailored** to the specific industry subsectors in each country. This requires a different set of approaches, and specific expertise and skill sets that should be built in-house. International dialogue can facilitate international standards for green industry products and align policies to reduce carbon leakage, contributing to de-risking investments in low carbon industries.
- **The private sector and project developers must be engaged early in the policy cycle** to align political goals with real-world investment needs. It is key to bridge knowledge gaps in the private sector by providing a holistic understanding of the risks and opportunities of climate action investments. Green skills and jobs need to be strengthened while the private sector needs to be educated on how to access finance to undergo the transition. Gap funding must be provided, and existing efforts need to be scaled up.
- **More catalytic finance is needed at the beginning of project cycles**. Even though support via Project Preparation Facilities (PPFs) almost doubled between 2021 and 2024, most PPFs offer support towards the end of the project development cycle. A diversification of the supported areas and more technical assistance on finance (instead of only grants) is needed at an early stage.
- **The cooperation potential under Article 6 should be exploited**. Technical assistance on emissions pathways is needed to decide which sector or activity is relevant to credit first.



Partners

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Host



Organisers



Contributors

We are grateful to all the contributors for their support in making the conference possible.



Annex: 2025 conference agenda

Day 1 | 11 June

Unleashing ambition—moving climate pledges to progress

09:30	Conference opening
10:45	Break
11:15	Plenary panel <div>Key question: What makes a good NDC?</div>
12:30	Lunch
14:00	Parallel sessions on ambition & implementation (Round 1) <div><div>1. Opportunities for a just transition in climate action and NDCs</div><div>2. Decarbonising the energy sector: From NDC targets to net-zero implementation pathways</div><div>3. Accelerating the formulation and implementation of adaptation priorities: Leveraging NAPs, NDCs, and NBSAPs for action</div><div>4. From reporting to action: The role of BTRs in NDC enhancement and implementation</div></div>
15:15	Break
15:45	Parallel sessions on ambition & implementation (Round 2) <div><div>1. Opportunities for a just transition in climate action and NDCs</div><div>2. Sectoral decarbonisation pathways for industry: Scaling assistance to implement industry de-carbonisation targets from updated NDCs in emerging markets and developing economies</div><div>3. Enhancing climate implementation and ambition through NDC and LTS alignment: Approaches, strategies, and best practices</div><div>4. From reporting to action: The role of BTRs in NDC enhancement and implementation</div></div>
17:00	Plenary reflection
17:30	Closing of the day
18:30	Evening reception at GIZ Haus, Berlin Representation

Day 2 | 12 June

Driving finance into NDC implementation

09:00	Plenary opening
09:30	Plenary panel <div>Key question: How can we secure more investment for NDC implementation from a broad funder and investor landscape, whilst ensuring efficiency and efficacy of spending?</div>
10:45	Break
11:15	Parallel sessions on finance (Round 1) <div><div>1. Planning ambitious, investable NDCs: De-risking approaches to attract private investment</div><div>2. Mind the gap: Building bankable NDC pipelines in emerging markets</div><div>3. From planning to implementation: Enabling adaptation finance through public—private collaboration</div><div>4. Catalytic finance for climate action: Unlocking private investment to accelerate NDC implementation</div></div>
12:30	Lunch
14:00	Parallel sessions on finance (Round 2) <div><div>1. Planning ambitious, investable NDCs: De-risking approaches to attract private investment</div><div>2. Mind the gap: Building bankable NDC pipelines in emerging markets</div><div>3. From planning to implementation: Enabling adaptation finance through public—private collaboration</div><div>4. Catalytic finance for climate action: Unlocking private investment to accelerate NDC imple-mentation</div></div>
15:15	Break
15:45	Group picture
16:00	Interactive plenary session “From insights to action: Advancing finance for NDC implementation”
17:00	Plenary reflection
17:15	Closing of the day
18:30	Dinner cruise with conversations on NDC implementation

Day 3 | 13 June

Solutions to make change happen

09:00	Plenary opening
09:30	Case clinic
10:30	Plenary fireside chat
11:15	Break
11:45	Solutions labs <div><div>1. Financing and funding solutions</div><div>2. Subnational and urban solutions</div><div>3. Technology, AI, and data solutions</div><div>4. Nature-climate synergies solutions</div><div>5. Article 6 solutions</div></div>
12:45	Transitioning back to plenary
13:00	Conference closing
13:30	Lunch
14:30	Time for bilaterals
17:00	End of conference

Imprint

The information expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect the official position of the Global NDC Conference 2025 organisers and partners. Rather, the document highlights key messages coming from a vibrant network of climate experts and practitioners.

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