INTRODUCTION

While the NDC Partnership’s model of collective action catalyzes immediate support, there are instances when countries’ requests for climate action go unanswered. The need for a flexible and fast mechanism to deploy support is evident. To meet this need, the NDC Partnership launched the Partnership Action Fund (PAF) at COP26 in Glasgow.

The PAF supports developing country members in fast-tracking the implementation of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by bridging gaps in support. These resources are deployed to supplement existing support or respond to unsupported requests only once members have responded with their own resources and programs. By pooling funds and making them more readily available, the PAF ensures countries have better access to technical and financial resources and the widest possible range of Partnership members can respond rapidly to the needs of developing country members.
Through extensive consultation with NDC Partnership members, including country recipients, funders, and Implementing Partners, the PAF has been designed with the following attributes:

- **Serve as a complementary source of funds** to fill gaps in support from country member requests. PAF resources will only be considered after exhausting support available from NDC Partnership members.

- **Respond with flexibility and speed**, ensuring funding is readily available to Institutional and Associate Members to support all developing Country Members in their urgent climate needs.

- **Engage more members**, ensuring their technical expertise and experience are best matched to country needs.

- **Maximize coordinated engagement with members**, including country recipients, Implementing Partners, and funders.

- **Leverage existing NDC Partnership structures and strategies**, including staff, governance, and resources.

- **Act as a neutral broker** to match unsupported requests from all NDC Partnership developing Country Members to financial resources and technical expertise.
PAF resources are deployed in line with the NDC Partnership’s Country Engagement Strategy:

1. The NDC Partnership receives requests for support from a Member Country and circulates the country support needs to the full membership.

2. Members respond and the Partnership leverages its members’ available capacities, technical expertise, and resources to align support with country needs through existing programs or projects.

3. When the Partnership needs to supplement support offerings from members, or address unsupported requests to meet a country’s needs, the country’s request will be considered for PAF support. During this process, the Partnership may reach out to country governments to revise and prioritize those unsupported requests and consolidate a list of PAF’s eligible requests. Further details on how members can request resources are provided below.

The PAF operates through two funding windows.

- **WINDOW 1: FACILITATION SUPPORT**
  Facilitation support provides resources to engage In-Country Facilitators, reporting directly to NDC Partnership Focal Points in environment and finance ministries. The In-Country Facilitators provide support to coordinate, implement, track progress, and mobilize resources for NDC implementation.

- **WINDOW 2: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND SCOPING SUPPORT**
  Technical assistance support provides funding for urgent or strategic country needs that have not received member support. Scoping support allows Institutional or Associate members to lead the initial engagement with a Country Member on behalf of the Partnership, including needs
identification, preparation of the NDC Action Plan, and initial resource mobilization through the consolidation of support offers from Development and Implementing Partners. Thematic calls may also be issued periodically by the Support Unit on behalf of the Partnership, inviting countries to request support on specific topics identified as priorities by the Partnership’s Steering Committee.

HOW CAN MEMBERS ENGAGE WITH THE PAF?

The NDC Partnership Support Unit will manage the PAF through the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and the World Resources Institute (WRI). PAF resources are deployed to respond to country requests for support, but countries cannot apply for these resources directly. Instead, the resources are made available to Implementing Partners, who are Institutional and Associate Members of the NDC Partnership, to deliver the requested support under the leadership of the NDC Partnership government Focal Points.

HOW IS THE PAF FUNDED?

The PAF is a pooled-funding mechanism with contributions from multiple Development Partners, including: Belgium (Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation), Denmark (Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Germany (Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety), Netherlands (Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Norway (Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation), Sweden (Ministry of Foreign Affairs), and the United Kingdom (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy).
To learn more about the PAF, please contact the Support Unit at: ndcpaf@ndcpartnership.org.

The PAF will run through the NDC Partnership’s 2021-2025 Work Program.