

African Partnership Facility for Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

Background

Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) are the cornerstone of the Paris Agreement, and aim to limit the increase in global average temperature, to below 2°C, and preferably below 1.5°C. Building on the Paris Agreement, Parties are now turning their intentions into concrete contributions. As countries move beyond simple expressions of intent, there are potential complexities and intricacies in the implementation of nationally determined contributions, for which facilitation and coordination will be crucial in Africa.

The affirmation by African Heads of State and Government in the Malabo Declaration of 2014 that “adaptation is a priority in all actions on climate change in Africa” reiterated the importance of including adaptation to climate change in Africa’s intended nationally determined contributions, while calling for “continued participation in global efforts for climate change mitigations that support sustainable development in the continent”. Article 4.7 of the Paris Agreement states that “Mitigation co-benefits resulting from Parties’ adaptation actions and/or economic diversification plans can contribute to mitigation outcomes under this Article”, while article 4.15 specifies that “Parties shall

take into consideration in the implementation of this Agreement the concerns of Parties with economies most affected by the impacts of response measures, particularly developing country Parties.” The sixth special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, held in Cairo from 16 to 19 April 2016, further called on the ‘African Climate Policy Centre of the Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency, the Regional Office for Africa of the United Nations Environment Programme and other partners, to continue to provide targeted support to member States with the implementation of the Paris Agreement’. There is, therefore, a clearly established need to support African countries with the implementation of nationally determined contributions, helping them to strike a balance between adaptation and mitigation and ensure alignment with national development agendas.

ClimDev-Africa and Africa’s nationally determined contributions

Under the ClimDev-Africa Programme (a pan-African programme with the mandate to support African countries in responding to climate change and integrating climate change concerns into national development agendas), it is crucial for the African Climate Policy Centre to continue to play the important role of supporting African countries with their nationally determined contributions just like it did for intended nationally determined contributions. This will be timely in enabling countries to capitalize on the opportunities that intended nationally determined contributions offer in the re-orientation of their economies with the adoption of low-carbon and climate-resilient pathways. Despite the vast array of institutions that provide support to African countries, it is edifying to know that the African Climate Policy Centre is the only African regional institution that could be said to have in-depth knowledge of the process from the same prism view as member countries. Its learning-by-doing approach is quite outstanding.



Aim

Building on the same global solidarity framework upon which the intended nationally determined contributions were established, the African Partnership Facility for Nationally Determined Contributions aims to provide the space (both physical and virtual) to facilitate the sharing of information, knowledge and skill pooling to develop the ability to undertake and learn from the implementation of nationally determined contributions in a way that maintains alignment with national development aspirations and shapes future economic growth under climate change.

5. To develop a knowledge base and products for technical and policy support and to guide practical implementation of nationally determined contributions through the development of an African nationally determined contribution index and guidelines for targeted support to countries and tracking of progress.

Strategic orientation of targeted support to countries



Key actions under the targeted areas of support

Objectives

1. To promote synergistic implementation of nationally determined contributions across sectors, countries and transboundary systems through joint planning and implementation and the employment of regional approaches.
2. To harmonize technical approaches in a cost-effective way for implementation, monitoring, learning and facilitating of information-sharing, in addition to providing regular updates on Africa's progress regarding nationally determined contributions.
3. To support the alignment of nationally determined contributions with national development agendas and to facilitate the establishment of partnerships and collaborations, including regional approaches to nationally determined contributions.
4. To build the capacity of State and non-State actors, national and regional institutions and provide a platform for skill-pooling, learning and sharing experiences on nationally determined contributions.

A. Ensuring alignment and coherence with development agendas

1. Develop a governance/institutional framework for nationally determined contributions
2. Develop sectoral programmes on nationally determined contributions
3. Prepare a synthesis report on Africa's nationally determined contributions highlighting:
 - Level of ambition against level of greenhouse gas emissions
 - Distribution of sectors
 - Alignment to national development agenda
 - Alignment to national adaptation goals
 - Collective contribution/aggregation of Africa's nationally determined contributions to global emissions reduction targets
4. Mapping of Africa's nationally determined contributions to the key development agendas:
 - Sustainable Development Goals
 - Agenda 2063

B. Providing guidance and approaches for implementation

1. Develop a methodological framework for nationally determined contributions in Africa
2. Develop regional approaches to nationally determined contributions in facilitating regionally determined contributions, especially in transboundary systems
3. Promote joint planning and implementation of nationally determined contributions
4. Partnerships for nationally determined contributions
5. Trade in nationally determined contributions (regional trade facilitation for the implementation of nationally determined contributions)
6. Nationally determined contributions and regional value chains
7. Investment opportunities in nationally determined contributions
8. Analysis of nationally determined contributions by:
 - Structural orientation
 - Locational orientation
 - Benefits
9. Public-private partnerships
10. Evaluating gender perspectives and orientation of African nationally determined contributions

C. Training and capacity-building for humans and institutions

1. Build capacity at national and regional levels on intended nationally determined contributions
2. Hold training workshops
3. Establish youth engagement programmes

D. Knowledge development, delivery and sharing

1. Provide a learning platform for sharing experiences on intended nationally determined contributions
2. Provide advisory and support services to countries with their nationally determined contributions and projects and programme development

3. Establish a monitoring framework (MRV+) and indicators for nationally determined contributions that cover adaptation and mitigation
4. Capitalize on emerging opportunities from nationally determined contributions
5. Monitor other support initiatives in Africa and facilitate synergy
6. Support the global stocktaking process



Timeline

The time frame is the five-year implementation period of the Paris Agreement that is 2016 to 2020.

About ClimDev-Africa

The ClimDev-Africa Programme is an initiative of the African Union Commission (AUC), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the African Development Bank (AfDB). It is mandated at the highest level by African leaders (AU Summit of Heads of State and Government). The Programme was established to create a solid foundation for Africa's response to climate change and works closely with other African and non-African institutions and partners specialised in climate and development.



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