

Developing Country Support Needs for the Implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)

Results from a Survey conducted by the United Nations Development Programme

April 2016

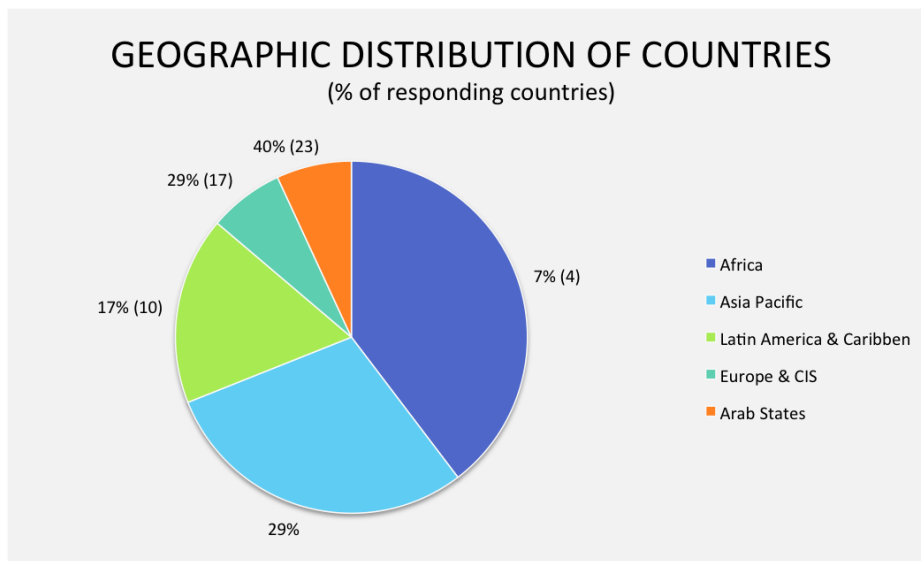


UNDP Survey on NDC Implementation Support Needs

Building on its previous country support in the run up to the Paris Agreement, UNDP conducted a survey to assess countries' capacity development support needs as they prepare for implementation of the Paris Agreement and, in particular, their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The survey addressed countries' progress on NDC implementation planning, as well as capacity development or technical assistance needs related to NDC implementation. While the survey was conducted to inform UNDP's internal discussions on NDC work, UNDP is sharing the results as they may prove useful for other organisations and partners providing NDC-related support.

The survey was distributed to countries that participated in UNDP's past NDC regional technical dialogues as well as in sub-regional technical training workshops that were organized by UNDP in collaboration with the UNFCCC Secretariat. Responses were received from 72 respondents (66 valid), representing 58 developing countries (17 from Asia-Pacific, 10 from Latin America & the Caribbean, 23 from Africa, 4 from Europe & CIS, and 4 from Arab states). Eleven of the countries were Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and 19 were Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

Figure 1. Distribution of Responding Countries by Region

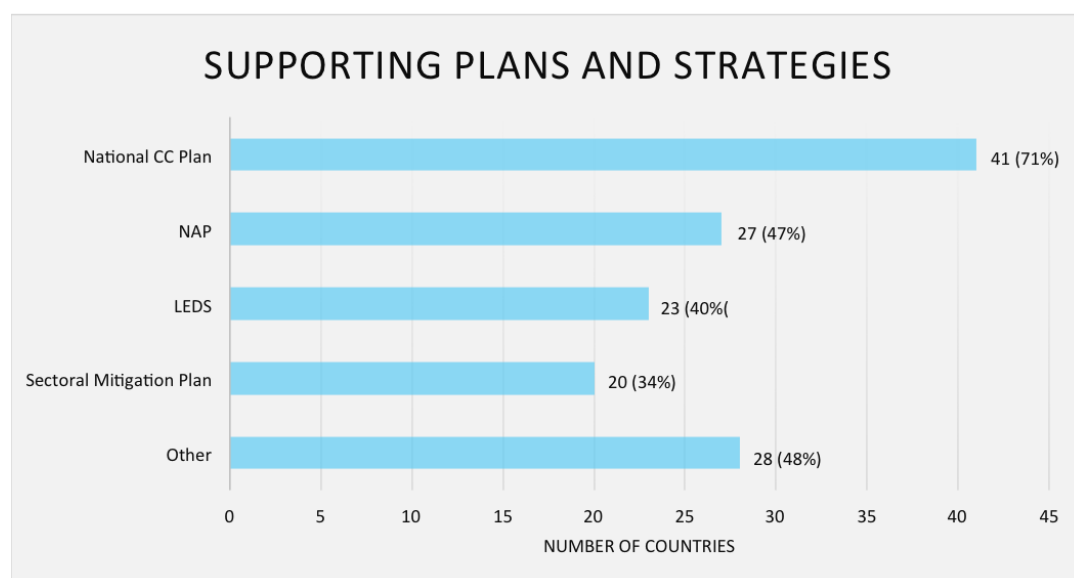


Current Status of NDC Planning in Developing Countries

With the successful adoption of the Paris Agreement, countries are now beginning to plan for implementation of the NDCs that they submitted in the lead-up to the climate change negotiations. However, countries are at different stages in developing plans or strategies that will guide national implementation of their NDCs. The survey found that more than two-thirds of the responding countries have either not yet started with planning for NDC implementation (34%) or are in initial discussions with stakeholders (33%). Technical support for NDC planning and readiness will therefore be crucial over the coming years in order to achieve successful implementation of NDCs.

In most cases, countries' NDC planning and implementation will build on existing climate change-related plans and strategies. The survey found that over two-thirds (71%) of responding countries have already developed a national climate change strategy or plan; nearly half (47%) of the countries have a national adaptation plan; more than a third (34%) have developed sectorial mitigation plans; 40% have a low emission development strategies (LEDS); and 48% have other plans or strategies that will contribute to NDC implementation (e.g., national development plans, sectorial adaptation plans, climate change laws, energy policies, etc.). These plans and strategies will play a key role in national efforts to translate NDCs into concrete actions.

Figure 2. Existing Plans and Strategies to Support NDC Implementation

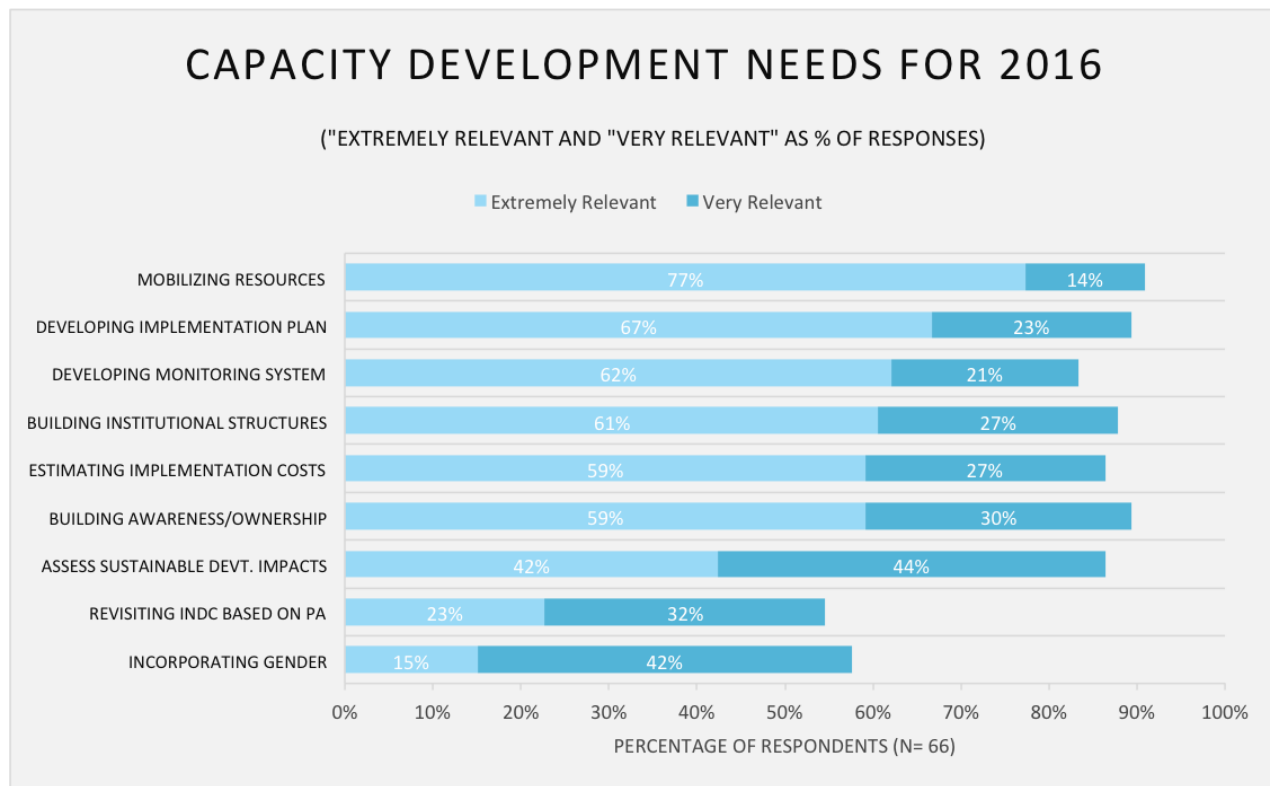


Identified Support Needs for NDC Implementation

The primary objective of this survey was to identify key capacity development/technical assistance needs related to NDC implementation. The top four needs identified by respondents were capacity development/technical support for: 1) mobilizing resources for NDC implementation (77% answering “extremely relevant”), 2) developing NDC implementation plans (67%), 3) developing/improving information base and monitoring systems (62%), and 4) building institutional structures and coordination mechanisms (61%).

Other key areas identified as extremely relevant were estimating NDC implementation costs (59%) and building awareness and ownership of NDCs at the national level (59%). Linkages to sustainable development goals play an important role: respondents noted the need for support to assess sustainable development impacts of NDCs (42% noting extremely relevant). Furthermore, respondents noted the relevance of technical assistance for revisiting NDCs based on the Paris Agreement and for incorporating gender considerations in NDC implementation. Responses received from the 66 respondents are summarised in Figure 3.

Figure 3. Capacity Building Needs of Developing Countries



In addition to the support areas identified above, qualitative comments received from respondents noted the need for trainings or consultations with stakeholders in key economic sectors, IPCC greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory methodologies, and emission factor studies. Other areas of interest include understanding the application of market mechanisms, and developing the capacity of industry and local and federal governments to identify opportunities for mitigation and adaptation.

Key Themes Identified in Survey Responses

Areas of Support Needs:

- 1) Moving from INDCs to NDC Implementation
- 2) Building Support for Climate Action
- 3) Assessments & Priority Setting
- 4) Developing an Information Base and Monitoring Systems
- 5) Institutional Arrangements
- 6) Sector-specific Approaches and Access to Technology
- 7) Mobilizing Resources and Private Sector Participation for NDC Implementation

1) Moving from INDCs to NDC Implementation

Respondents expressed uncertainty around the next steps required to move from submitted INDCs to NDC implementation. Translating these submitted INDCs into concrete policies, programs, and projects will be key to successful implementation. Respondents identified a need to develop capacities to institutionalize robust NDC processes that link sustainable development with ambitious mitigation and adaptation efforts. They highlighted the need for support for the development of NDC implementation plans, including guidance from technical experts and the sharing of experiences between countries.

Furthermore, respondents noted the need to increase technical capacities for GHG inventories; policy assessments; enabling policies and regulations; cost estimates for NDC implementation; and preparing for future rounds of NDCs. The need to develop capacities of national and sub-national actors was stated as well. One idea championed by respondents was to facilitate peer-to-peer learning among countries based on similar NDC contexts.

2) Building Support for Climate Action

The lack of awareness and/or knowledge about the Paris Agreement, climate change, and NDCs provides a significant obstacle to successful NDC implementation. Respondents recognized the importance of building political support at the highest level, and requested technical support for education and awareness raising among political leaders, decision-makers, and the general public.

Respondents thereby saw awareness as a key step to securing political approval and commitment. The lack of clarity among policy makers with respect to international support for finance and knowledge of NDC implementation is one of the most fundamental challenges. It was further suggested that questions regarding the mobilization of climate finance could be addressed through roundtables or dialogues with partners. Overall, the need for communication and awareness strategies around INDCs and NDC implementation was emphasized.

3) Assessments & Priority Setting in the context of the NDC

Given the scale of NDC implementation, respondents saw a need to disaggregate NDCs into sector based reviews to define priority areas and interventions. Countries requested support for the development of baselines and scenarios which are key to designing clear road maps of mitigation measures. Support would include exercises on how to establish the baseline for key sectors, targeted sectorial exercises (including REDD+) to understand economy wide mitigation action, as well as exercises in scenario building for mitigation and adaptation. In addition, countries identified the need for support for GHG projections and the impact of policies and measures on the mitigation target.

Developing the capacity to understand markets and the application of market mechanisms for mitigation actions was identified as another key support area. Furthermore, countries were interested in enhancing skills for economic modeling and economic instruments for the design and implementation of mitigation projects. Conducting feasibility studies for mitigation actions and developing technology roadmaps were identified as support needs as well.

The integration of adaptation emerged as another strong concern. Specifically, the need to strengthen capacity for technical assessments and methodologies for assessing vulnerabilities and adaptation needs (including community-based assessments) was identified.

4) Developing an Information Base and Monitoring Systems

Respondents identified the need to develop capacities for data collection, reporting, monitoring and evaluation and/or verification mechanisms for the national as well as the subnational level. Training has been requested for emissions accounting, as well as for understanding processes relating to compliance (including reporting to UNFCCC process).

Countries need support for developing and strengthening Measuring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) systems in the context of their NDCs, strengthening monitoring capacities, and carrying out gap analyses on data availability and sharing. The question of how to ensure robust data sets from various sectors was raised as well.

5) Institutional Arrangements in the context of the NDC

Another key challenge identified was how to create robust institutional structures to manage the NDC implementation process. As countries begin preparing for NDC implementation, institutional arrangements will be critical. In many cases countries will build on the institutional arrangements that are already in place for climate action, however more work will be needed. This may include strengthening the capacity of lead institutions to develop and implement NDC-related policies and programs, coordinate with sectorial line ministries, and engage stakeholders in the NDC implementation process.

Respondents identified the need of support for intergovernmental coordination and development of institutional structures for the coordination of NDC implementation, as well as support from bilateral or international cooperation.

6) Sector-Specific Approaches and Access to Technology

A central component to NDC implementation will be disaggregating national NDC targets to various line ministries and determining mitigation potentials to be achieved. Part of this exercise will involve working with sectorial representatives (including industry and other private sector representatives) and aligning mitigation efforts with sectorial priorities.

Countries requested support for sector specific training on mitigation and adaptation action implementation and support for sectors during the implementation process. The integration of climate change into sectorial policies would provide an enabling environment, as would the development of sector-specific standards or guidelines for implementing the NDC. Support for developing clear road maps with time frames for identified actions was also identified as a priority.

The majority of mitigation actions involve new technologies and the challenge arises in how to best provide access to them. Our respondents are interested in increasing their capacities to adopt new, clean technologies, including the development or transfer of energy and other technologies. Countries requested support in identifying opportunities for the transfer or acquisition of clean technologies, as well as for the mobilization of funding for those interventions. Capacity development for project design and management that involve new technology deployment has also been identified as a support area, as were opportunities for knowledge sharing on successful, relevant low cost technology.

7) Mobilizing Resources and Private Sector Participation for NDC Implementation

After assessing the cost of implementation, transforming NDC implementation plans into investment-ready projects is one of the primary concerns. Countries anticipate the need to review financial requirements, identify national public resources (especially for unconditional targets), and attract international financial support. This will involve carrying out a gap analysis of existing institutional financial frameworks and recommendations for effective institutional mechanisms, including the potential use of carbon or new market mechanism to access international climate finance. Countries stated the need for increasing their capacities to develop appropriate financial proposals or requests for funding assistance from different sources and for the specific sectors identified in the NDCs. The creation of pilot projects that demonstrate new investment schemes was likewise suggested to accelerate mitigation actions.

As of now, awareness about the Paris Agreement, climate change, and NDCs remains low among private sector entities, which provides a significant barrier to move forward with concrete action. Dialogues with industry and private sector companies were identified as a high priority, as was the need to share experiences and lessons learned from involving the private sector. Countries are specifically looking for tools and approaches related to engaging private sector actors in the NDC implementation phase and the opportunity to build on experiences from public-private partnerships and other relevant initiatives.

UNDP's Support for the Preparation of INDCs

In the run up to the Paris Agreement, UNDP supported 43 countries – nearly half of them least developed countries – with the finalization of their climate pledges or Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs). With the generous support of our partners, UNDP also held 12 international INDC regional technical dialogues and one global workshop, sharing expertise with over 1,000 participants from governments around the world. The insights gained resulted in the development of a pioneering guidebook on INDCs with the World Resource Institute. This guide was used by countries globally for INDC preparations.

UNDP's on-going work on climate change also contributed to the successful submission of INDCs from developing countries as countries built upon existing frameworks and used the INDC process to anchor their previously developed actions. For example, since 2011 UNDP's Low Emission Capacity Building (LECB) Programme has been supporting 25 developing countries on the development of nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs), low emission development strategies (LEDS), strengthening greenhouse gas inventory and monitoring systems, and other topics related to INDC implementation. UNDP's MDG Carbon Programme promoted countries' experience with NAMAs and Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects with high development benefits and inclusive, scaled-up mitigation approaches to achieve sector transformation at scale.

Furthermore, over the last 20+ years, UNDP and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) have been working with governments, civil society and private actors on thousands of mitigation and adaptation actions globally. UNDP has thereby supported more than 140 countries access more than \$2.3 billion in grant finance to develop and implement climate change initiatives since 2008 alone. Together, these actions will help countries directly contribute to the implementation of the Paris Agreement.